ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Monday, July 28, 2011
6:00 p.m.

Location
Yavapai County Board of Supervisors
Board Hearing Room (1st floor)
1015 Fair St,
Prescott, Arizona 86305

Attending
Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Joseph Kanefield, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
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Chairperson Mathis: This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

For those of you watching from home or at work, we're coming to you live from the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors board hearing room.

And it's wonderful to see this amazing turnout here in lovely Prescott, Arizona, tonight where it's softly raining.

And we also have a remote location in Cottonwood, Arizona, tonight. And we welcome all of those folks who are in Cottonwood.

Thank you for being here. And thank all of you for coming out tonight.

Let's all start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Mathis: I'd like to start by recognizing a few folks around the room tonight who help make this happen.
Of course to my left here is Vice Chairman Scott Freeman.

I'm Chairman Mathis.

And our other commissioners aren't here tonight, but I'm sure they're watching online. That's Commissioner Herrera, Commissioner McNulty, and Commissioner Stertz.

We also have Joe Kanefield, our legal counsel.

And Mr. Willie Desmond from Strategic Telemetry who will be giving you a presentation soon.

Marty Herder is recording tonight for us, so this public meeting and all of your comments will be taken into the public record.

Buck is our chief technology officer.

And Kristina Gomez is our deputy executive director, whom you'll probably see, but she's not here at the moment, but she's around.

Thank you all, staff, for getting this organized for us tonight. We appreciate it.

We also have a couple of translators, I believe. We have Mr. Alfred Yazzie, who will be translating into Navajo, and I think a Spanish translator, but I haven't seen him or her.

So if that person is here and wants to translate into Spanish for us later, that will be helpful.
We've got a number of request to speak forms. These are the yellow forms that you should have seen on your way in. And if you didn't, if you would like to address the Commission tonight and be part of the public record, be sure to fill out one of these and give that to Kristina, and she will pass that up to us.

We also have blue forms that are public input forms, where if you don't want to speak tonight at the microphone you can fill that form out and submit it to us and it still be part of a public record, official record. It just won't be a recorded item.

I think that's -- is there more?

Was there something in Cottonwood?

Oh, I think we have some coordinators in Cottonwood too. Lisa and Christine are there helping us coordinate input from there.

And I also forgot to acknowledge our public information officer, Stu, who's roaming around in the yellow shirt in the back.

So with that, I think we're ready to roll with the translation.

Mr. Yazzie, would you like to make some opening remarks?

(Whereupon, Mr. Alfred Yazzie made a statement in Navajo.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
And do we have the Spanish translator by chance?

THE INTERPRETER (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE): Yes, we do.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, wonderful. Great.
Would you like to make some opening, also like to make some opening remarks too?

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

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you -- (loud audio feedback.)

Sorry about that, everyone.

With that I think we can move to the next item on the agenda, which is item two, presentation on the redistricting process. And that will be given by Mr. Willie Desmond.

WILLIE DESMOND: All right. Thank you, all, for allowing me to be here today to speak to you. I'm going to be giving -- again, my name is Willie Desmond. I work with Strategic Telemetry.

We were the firm contracted to provide technical assistance to the Commission as it does this redistricting.

I believe this is the 7th in, I think, 17 first round public hearings designed to collect input from the public about what criteria and communities of interest and
other things that they would like considered as we begin
this process of drawing maps.

    Once the first map is completed, the first draft,
there will be a 30-day public review period, and another
whole series of public hearings to discuss what's in that
first map.

    So I encourage anyone who's listening at home
and would like to come to a meeting to try to come to one of
the future ones or to come to one of the second round
hearings.

    With that said, I'll begin the presentation.
    It should just be a short background on the
redistricting process and why we have a Redistricting
Commission here.

    And, you know, the background of that all.
    Anyone who's following at home can download this
Power Point presentation from the IRC website and follow
along if they like.

    All right.

    So, we'll be covering seven things.

    The first of which 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 be followed when drawing new districts?

What are the steps in the redistricting process?

And how can public input be submitted to the AIRC?

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 established in 2000 when the voters of Arizona passed Proposition 106, which not only created the Commission but also laid out process and criteria for drawing new district lines.

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

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

In 2011 the AIRC members are Vice Chair Scott Freeman, here tonight; Vice Chairman Jose Herrera; Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, who's also here tonight; and Commissioners Linda McNulty and Richard Stertz.

All right.

What is redistricting?
Simply put, redistricting is the process of
derrawing congressional and legislative district lines.

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

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

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

In 2012, Arizona will have nine congressional
districts while it currently has eight.

And, again, redistricting is simply the process of
drawing the new lines based on the new census information.

All right.

Why do we have to redistrict?

Well, first of all, because Arizona gained this
ninth congressional district, new lines will have to be
drawn to add it in.

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
population.

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

And also because of the rate of population
growth is different in different areas of the state, the
existing districts no longer meet this one person, one vote
criteria.

Some districts have added people in them. Some
have less.

All right.

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

Well, first of all, they must comply with the

Next, they must have equal population.

These first two criteria are federally mandated
and any plans that are submitted must satisfy these two
criteria.

Proposition 106 also laid out four other criteria,
the first of which is that 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 that they must
create competitive districts with no significant detriment
to others goals.

All right.
The Arizona redistricting process.

Again, the first step is these meetings right here.

So, like I said, there will be several meetings all across the state, that have been going on this past week, and will be continuing to go on for the next week and a half.

After that, it's mandated that we start with a grid map.

In some states you start with the existing plan. However, this is not the case in Arizona. Proposition 106 specifically lays out that the starting point must be 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.

The best way to think of this is just a map that looks as much like a checkerboard as possible.

This initial map will likely only meet two of the six criteria: Equal population and compact and contiguous districts.

All right.

Following the completion of the grid map, it must be adjusted to meet the other criteria, 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.

Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' rights.

And finally, the presence of discrimination will be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

All right.

Once these criteria have been met, we move on to the other ones, which are equal population, compact and contiguous districts, and respect communities of interest.

And, again, the goal of these hearings is to solicit the public's input and put as much as we can on the record about what Arizonans want to see in a new congressional and legislative district.

There are forms available here.

If you would like to speak, you can fill out one
of the yellow forms and turn it in, and you'll be called on to speak.

If you want to put your input in but don't feel comfortable speaking today, you can fill out one of the blue forms, and this will also go on the record.

Additionally, if you've brought any other prepared materials that you'd like to turn in, you're welcome to do so.

We ask that if you do, you please put your contact information, if you feel comfortable, on there, so that we may reach out to you if we have any questions about the criteria you're trying to establish.

After communities of interest, we then go on to use visible geographic features. Again, county boundaries, cities and towns, and census tracts.

Luckily, census geography typically follows these same types of visible geographic features.

Lastly, the map is adjusted to create competitive districts where there is no significant detriment to other goals.

Okay.

How can you submit your input to the AIRC?

First of all, you can fill out a request to speak form, or you can turn in just an input form.

You know, criteria for these types of things are
what communities of interest you care about, anything else
you want to talk about redistricting, or the actual six
criteria, how you define them.

You can submit this to Stu or Kristina or -- and
we'll get to you tonight.

Or else you can visit us at
www.AZredistricting.org or call 602-542-5221, and speak with
someone at our office who would be happy to take your
comments and listen to whatever you have to say.

So, thank you again for coming tonight. We very
much look forward to hearing your input and understanding
what matters to you here in Prescott.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thank you,
Mr. Desmond. Thank you very much for the presentation.

We have about 32 request to speak forms. About
ten of those are coming from Cottonwood.

So I thought we'd go back and forth, maybe every
few speakers.

So what I thought I would do is name the firstour speakers in town here in Prescott, and that way if your
name is called you can be ready to come up to the microphone
and address us.

Just a few ground rules. If we could limit our
comments to four minutes, if possible. If you end up going
over, it's okay. No one will pull you out of here. But
we're trying to be respectful to everyone's time limit.

So, with that, we'll go ahead, and I'll name the
first four.

These are all in Prescott.

Joy Staveley, Laramer Mace, Tom Kayn, and Mike
Siavelis.

So, if you all -- if you four could be getting
ready to speak.

And our first person is Joy Staveley.

JOY STAVELEY: I am not that tall.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And I should also say, and I
should have said this in the beginning, if you could state
your name for the record and spell your last name so that we
get an accurate recording, who you're representing, or if
you're just representing yourself, if you could state your
city, town, or county where you reside.

JOY STAVELEY: Can you hear me?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes.

JOY STAVELEY: Okay. I am Joy Staveley. Last
name is S-T-A-V-E-L-E-Y.

And I'll hand in a paper afterwards.

Madam Chair and commissioners, I'm -- I am a
co-owner and president of Canyoneers, a whitewater rafting
company based in Flagstaff and operating in Grand Canyon.

There are half a dozen licensed river outfitters operating in Grand Canyon who are Flagstaff based.

My husband and I also own and operate Kaibab Camper Village, an RV park and campground located by the north rim of Grand Canyon.

Excuse me for reading, but if I do that it will go faster.

I am here tonight to testify even though I live in Flagstaff. Unfortunately I will be out of town when the Commission comes to Flagstaff. This was the next closest venue.

In addition to being a business owner in Flagstaff for the past 33 years, I'm also past chairwoman of the Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce and advisory board member of the Small Business Development Center, Northern Arizona vice president for the National Federation of Independent Business, and a past delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business.

So as you can see my interest here tonight is to speak on behalf of small business and as a small business owner myself.

So I stand before you this evening as a small business owner with a 33-year history of involvement in small business on the local, state, and national levels.
I believe that northern Arizona is heavily tied to tourism in and around Grand Canyon. And as such, we are very different from, shall we say, Maricopa County.

While Flagstaff is the largest city in northern Arizona, it is still rural, and really does not have much in common with the urban areas of our state.

We here in Coconino County have much in common with Yavapai County, Mohave County, and the other northern and western communities of Arizona.

And therefore we believe we should be placed together in a common congressional district.

As an example, northern Arizona communities such as Flagstaff, Prescott, and the Verde Valley share economic interests, transportation, education, forest restoration, water management, medical and health care interests, and of course tourism.

We currently work together on common legislative issues such as the Greater Arizona Mayors Association, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, and the Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The majority of forested lands lie within northern Arizona, and this is of great concern for Coconino and Yavapai Counties.

Additionally, Grand Canyon National Park is
located within, within the counties of both Mohave and Coconino, and we think we will be well served being in the same congressional district.

The business community believes that whole counties and whole cities should be placed in a single district to the extent possible while following the criteria spelled out in the Arizona Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and the U.S. Constitution, along with the rules that govern this Commission.

We recognize that the Commission must follow the law, and we appreciate your efforts in making sure that our congressional districts contain community of interests as I have just described.

Concerning another issue the Commission must address, since Latinos make up 29 percent of Arizona's population, they should get at least two congressional districts in which Latinos are able to elect a candidate of their choice.

It's the law, and it's the right thing to do.

Also, we believe that Native American communities should probably not be split among districts.

But, it would be perfectly acceptable, for example, to put Hopi along with Flagstaff, Holbrook, Show Low, Payson, Prescott, Kingman, Havasupai, Sedona, and Bullhead City, as these are all rural areas all with similar
economic interests, especially as respects tourism.

While competitive districts should be favored,
this is not the only criteria.

And as I researched under Title 4, Part 2,
Section 114(F) of the Arizona Constitution, it says: To the extent practical, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals.

We believe that respecting communities of interest is very important.

Districts should not be gerrymandered solely for the sake of competitiveness.

This was clearly rejected by the voters when they passed Prop 106 in the year 2000.

So for business, for small business, the communities of interest is really very critical.

So, in closing, the Commission must be sure that districts comply with the U.S. Constitution and Voting Rights Act, make sure that congressional and legislative districts have equal population where to the extent practical, be geographically compact and contiguous, respect communities of interest, use lines that follow geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and then, and only if these criteria are met, consider competitiveness.
I ask that while complying with the law and rules that you are faced with that you please respect the communities of interest, especially within rural Arizona, which are so different from the urban areas.

Thank you very much for your time, and thank you for letting me speak early, because I have to drive back to Flagstaff tonight.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Drive safely.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Laramer Mace.

LARAMER MACE: My name is Laramer Mace. I'm known as LG Mace. Last name is M-A-C-E.

Speaking for Yavapai County, I am from Groom Creek, which is an unincorporated area just south of Prescott. So actually I live in Prescott.

I really wish to speak to the fact that Yavapai County is a contiguous area. We work together. We are one.

I actually want all the counties as much as possible to be within single congressional districts. This can be done.

Maricopa and Pima will be the exceptions.

The proposals I've seen, which are, I guess, unofficial, actually show great gerrymandering. They show
areas that split counties.

And this should not be done.

The counties as much as the extent is possible should be in single congressional districts.

That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Tom Kayn, representing self, and from the city of Prescott.

TOM KAYN: Thank you, Madam Chair and commissioner.

In my researching data regarding the community of interest topic role in this process, I came across some information that I believe will help you to stay on that topic in the few comments that I do have.

First of all, in referring to unwarranted gerrymandering in voting districts. Unwarranted.

In a July 18th article, written by three former members of this very same Redistricting Commission, this was stated.

They said: Certainly a retirement community, for example, deserves representation without manipulation.

And then another article states that districts should be structured so they do not carve up separate groups of people living in an area that have similar interests.
Now, the 2010 census shows that Yavapai County is 10 percent -- 10.7 percent higher in residents aged 65 and older over the state average.

That's a 23.8 percent versus 13.1 percent.

With a county increase in general population of being only about 1.5 percent above that same state average.

With that in mind, we can conclude that the retirement age community of interest group is showing more significance in Yavapai County, just by looking at the census numbers.

And we also know that -- with that we also know that retirement aged people tend to have a similar interest that leads toward more conservative lifestyles, and thus they also tend to vote more conservatively.

But because they do that, because they do so does not make for an argument that this community of interest, the retirement community, should be chopped up and its pieces divvied out into other voting districts, whether they be federal or state.

That's my comment on the community of interest being the retirement age community of which we have seen an increase in Yavapai County.

And as a brief note, please be reminded that Yavapai County is classified as rural in its makeup and its rural nature, and that is also considered to be a legitimate
community of interest.

And I'll close with just a few points that you may find helpful.

Perhaps the gentleman from Strategic Telemetry may find this helpful too.

Though it is near the very top geographically in size, please keep in mind that only 25 percent of Yavapai County's land by area is privately owned.

Only 25 percent of it.

The remainder of that land is owned by the federal government and the state of Arizona.

And also, and I got this from a mining source, it lists that there are 251 mines in Yavapai County.

So this should also be considered a community of interest, the mines, the mining industry.

Also, the Voting Rights Act that was shown in your Power Point states that redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive.

That is, the plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' rights.

And regarding the existing boundaries of Congressional District 1, I'm talking about the ones that exist today, please be aware that the district as it is now drawn is home to more Native Americans than any other district in the United States.
So the Native American population is well represented in Congressional District 1.

And then, finally, please note that Congressional District 1 as it is now drawn has a human development index of .0 -- 0.898.

The telemetry people will understand what that is.

Which is quite close to the state average, which is .928.

And this is another indicator that the district as it is now drawn should be seen as quite well balanced and it should remain with its existing boundaries.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We have Mike Siavelis, but I'd thought I'd also just tee up those in Cottonwood, if could you be getting ready to speak after Mike.

Victor Goldie.

Gary LaMaster.

Stephen Williamson.

And Suzann Trout.

So Mr. Siavelis.

MIKE SIAVELIS: My name is Mike Siavelis. I reside in Prescott Valley.

I want to speak to communities of interest first
in regard to Legislative District 1 and 4.

About ten years ago it was changed. It used to be that District 1 was Yavapai County.

And then for a few reasons that I don't want to get into it was -- four came all the way up and crossed in a small area past Highway 69.

Well, geographically and for the community of interest for the legislative area of what I'm talking about, it makes it very difficult for people that are in the Republican or Democrat party, it doesn't make -- well, it makes some difference for the Independents also, but you can't go to the meetings easily when you got meetings down in, oh, heck, down in Sun City from up here.

It worked fine.

It wasn't broken.

I believe the legislative district for this area should be Yavapai County.

On the congressional side, for communities of interest, it's pretty well balanced as it is now, with CD 1. You might have a little bit of tweaking, but there's not too much to complain about now.

You can only possibly make it worse.

So be careful in what you fix, because it's not really broken right now.

If you look at competitive districts.
If you look at the term competitive districts, I would like to see everybody get pissed off in this state, and they have to compete to win their election.

I don't like to see people with sweetheart deals, and they don't even have to put a sign out to get elected.

Everybody in Arizona should have to compete.

And that's where I look at ten being competitive, make it competitive.

But, like I said, in regards to legislative districts, we need to adjust for District 4 and 1 and make it so it's community of interest.

That's what we really need here. Good luck with the competitive districts.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Spell your name.


CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our court reporter needs a minute to reboot.

(Brief pause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Ready to go.

Looks like we have a speaker in Cottonwood. Mr. Goldie.

And if you could spell your name for the reporter. And also, again, tell us who you're representing or, if it's yourself, tells us where you live.
Thank you.

VICTOR GOLDIE: My name is Victor Goldie. And my last name is G-O-L-D-I-E. Victor, it's V-I-C-T-O-R.

I represent myself.

Not to want to make this into a debate, I just have to preface my own advocacy for having the lines drawn so that Verde Valley is aligned along with Flagstaff, Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Sedona.

In other words, the east, the eastern part of what would be a new district.

But, you say it's not broken, why fix it.

That to me is simply a semantic device that I don't think registers what we're saying.

I have a lot of points that I want to make. But I think actually, two big groups, which I haven't heard the first one mentioned yet, since I agree that there is a high retirement community, Or older people, whatever name you want to give them, and I myself fit into that, that health care availability is certainly one of the most important, if you want to call it community of interest, that I can think of.

And in Yavapai County, what would be an eastern side of a new district drawn, the people go to the Verde Valley Medical Center, which is right nearby here in Cottonwood, and also to Flagstaff Hospital, both of which
are part of Northern Arizona Health Care. Verde Valley Medical Center being the other part in Cottonwood.

And not only that, but people from Sedona, Camp Verde, and smaller, people in that area avail themselves overwhelmingly to those two facilities primarily.

There's also a clinic in Sedona.

In my experience here, in health issues, you do not drive over the mountain to health facilities there.

So I think if you want to call it a community of interest or simply practical dividing, that health availability constitutes a core point why this line should be drawn in that regard, those entities being part of that district.

Something else, and I -- you know, that I've noticed, in the years that I've been here, from this part of the country, is I-17.

And I think we could call this area an I-17 corridor, places like Cottonwood, Verde Valley, Sedona, Rimrock, Camp Verde, and Flagstaff, all around that corridor.

And that certainly would be an argument to draw a line that they stay there and they are part of whatever -- however you want to call it, but an eastern part of the line being drawn.

And just a final point that I think is personal to
the people in this room and the people that I teach in Yavapai College and to my friends, to my knowledge no resident of Yavapai College of Yavapai -- I'm sorry, of the Verde Valley has been part of representation in the legislature.

There should be -- draw the lines according to that eastern I-17 corridor, and that would happen. And whenever you give a group of people who have -- I wouldn't say disenfranchised, but who have not been representative -- represented in a meaningful way, and we give them that opportunity, then we can say a democratic process was being followed. And that's why I urge the lines being drawn accordingly to the argument I've made.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks, Mr. Goldie. (Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Goldie, do you mind stating where you reside, just either the city --

VICTOR GOLDIE: Verde Villages. Verde Villages, which is right --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Got it. Verde Villages. Thank you.

And our next speaker is Gary LaMaster.

GARY LAMASTER: Yes, my name is Gary LaMaster, and that's spelled L-A, capital M-A-S-T-E-R.
I live in Cornville, and I am a small business owner who's partially retired. And I want to start by thanking you for your efforts. I know that you have a very difficult task ahead of you.

I'd like to reiterate some of the same points that the previous speaker made.

As you may know, or as you probably know, Yavapai County is one of the largest geographic counties in the country.

And CD 1 is an unwieldily huge district that is bigger than some states geographically.

As a result, the people in the Verde Valley, even though we're part of Yavapai County and our county seat is in Prescott, we have much more in common with Sedona and with Flagstaff and some of the other areas, Jerome, et cetera, that rely on tourism.

Further, my wife works at the Verde Valley Medical Center, which is actually owned by Northern Arizona Health Care.

So, again, we have something more in common with Flagstaff. Indeed, Verde Valley Medical Center is, I believe, our area's largest employer.

And, conversely, we have almost nothing in common with the Prescott area other than the fact that they're our
county seat.

    Mingus Mountain presents quite a barrier for us to travel over.

    Additionally, we have virtually no representation in the Verde Valley.

    Chip Davis is our county supervisor. To my knowledge, he is the only public official who represents, you know, our area who's near our area.

    Finally, I guess that's all I really have to say, is I feel more in line with Sedona, and that's what brought me here originally.

    I feel more aligned with Flagstaff, and I would like to see our district carved up in a manageable way that would better represent us.

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

    (Applause.)

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Stephen Williamson.

    STEPHEN WILLIAMSON: I want to thank the Commission for its work --

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Williamson, I'm sorry, do you mind stating who you're representing or where you reside?

    STEPHEN WILLIAMSON: Yes.

    I work in Sedona, Arizona. And my last name is

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

STEPHEN WILLIAMSON: So, again, I want to thank the Commission.

But you'll notice that the meeting is taking place in Prescott. And we're, we're on satellite. And I think a lot of people in the Verde Valley feel that our representation is always as a satellite community rather than a center.

There are no elected officials at the state level from our area. Sedona, Jerome, Flagstaff, Cameron, Tusayan.

So many of our areas in northern Arizona, the most important, sometimes the only industry, is tourism. And that's something that we all have in common here.

But people do not come to northern Arizona to go to our restaurants or see our art galleries. They come here because we have three national monuments in the Verde Valley. We have a great national park, the greatest national park perhaps, in the Grand Canyon.

We have the Painted Desert.

We have a series of the most beautiful places in the United States.

And what we have in common, and whether you're in tourism or you're interested in environmentalism, is
protecting these areas.

They provide not only our job, but they provide our sort of duty to preserve nature.

I they appropriately share with us this love of nature.

I think that's essential to why we have more in common with the folks north of here than we do across the valley.

People here encourage you -- you probably heard people talk about over going the hill.

Prescott feels very, very far from Sedona, where I'm from. It is a long drive.

We go to Flagstaff. We don't go to Prescott.

As long as the Verde Valley is attached to the rest of the Yavapai County and population is dominated on the other side, we won't have a chance to have indigenous representation, people from our area representing us, in congress, and particularly also in the legislative area.

So I too feel that as many of the other people have mentioned, we have more in with common because we have things like the Coconino National Forest, we have a national scenic area, we want to have these areas preserved for both economic and spiritual, environmental reason.

So I feel we have more in common to the north and east than we do, with all due respect, to Prescott and the
area over on the other side of the map.

Again, I'd like to thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next and last speaker for now from Cottonwood is Suzann Trout.

While she's coming up to the microphone, let's tee up the folks up here in Prescott.

Suzanne Allender will be next up after Ms. Trout, and then we have Judy Sulltrop, Malcolm Barrett, Jr., and Dawn Knight.

So, Ms. Trout.

SUZANN TROUT: Hello. My name is Suzann Trout, T-R-O-U-T.

I live in Cottonwood, and I want to thank you for holding these hearings.

I also want to speak very strongly for making our area part of the Flagstaff northern Highway 17 corridor.

I have -- I and my daughter, who's in this room, have a small jewelry studio in Jerome at the old high school.

That's not meant to be a plug, but we depend on tourists.

There are many of us in this area who count on tourists.
And we need ideally better representation and representation on the part of someone who can really help develop both the tourists and the arts and the beauty of the area and the specialness.

You don't just fly in to Jerome. You just don't drop by Cottonwood. You have to want to go there.

And we would -- we need to have all the help we can in this area.

And I truly believe that it also would make us a more competitive district and more successful economically.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And, Cottonwood, we'll come back to you in a little bit.

Right now we're back in Prescott.

And we have Suzanne Allender. She's representing self and from Yavapai.

SUZANNE ALLENDER: Thank you very much and thank you for your service, all of you.

I want to speak briefly about the competitive districts.

I noticed that that's the last one on the list. I hope it's not the least important.

I've been interested in politics almost all my
life. I started when I was 12 stuffing envelopes for Adlai Stevenson.

That's a few years back.

And ever since then I've voted in both parties at different times in my life.

I think that having competitive districts makes everyone responsible once they've gained office. Because they know that when they go back to the voters the next time around, they may or may not win.

Okay.

Not just because of their membership in one party.

And therefore I think it makes for better government overall when we have really competitive districts.

And since I've lived in Prescott for -- well, I live actually in an unincorporated area just outside Prescott city limits in the Williamson Valley corridor.

But, since I've lived here for the last 15 years, I have seen very few of one party be elected, and the vast majority of folks being elected are from the other party, even though I know that they're, in Yavapai County, overall there are more or less the same number of registered voters in each party.

So that strikes me as a bit odd.

But it's because of the way the legislative
district and the congressional district is drawn.

I think that we tend to get candidates from only one party being elected most of the time.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Judy Sulltrop.

Oh, I should say representing self and from Prescott, Yavapai County.

JUDY SULLTROP: Thanks for your time tonight.

I am Judy Sulltrop. My last name is S-U-L-L-T-R-O-P.

So, I am a small business person here, and have been here for 19 years.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Speak into the microphone.

JUDY SULLTROP: So, I have been a small business person here for 19 years.

And I am in favor of splitting into two rural districts.

Because I feel like small business in the rural area is not well represented.

Because in the Prescott area and the rural areas, we really depend on our small businesses. And we're not a metropolitan urban area.
Sorry, I'm nervous.

And so I feel like our needs are different, and it's not represented.

So I'm in favor of splitting that so that we have two rural areas and better representation for the small business people and for the families.

So, you know, I think like an east west would work, or however that would work with population, but I'm in favor of having another rural district so that we can get our needs met.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Before we get to the next speaker, our legal counsel, Joe Kanefield, is just going to make an announcement about what you see here on the screen.

Joe.

JOSEPH KANEFIELD: Thank you, Madam Chair.

It was brought to -- a request was made by one of the speakers that if we could -- if the Commission could put on the screen the current map.

I just wanted to let everyone know what we've done is put up on the screen the existing congressional lines and maps for northern Arizona, including this area and this part
of the state.

Please understand -- these maps are available for all of you to see at WWW.AZredistricting.org, so you can see the existing congressional maps and the existing legislative maps.

Please understand that these -- the population has changed significantly. That's why the Commission is here, to readjust these maps.

So we ask only that you, in looking at the map, understand that these are the existing maps and that they will have to be changed in light of the population.

Happy to answer any questions after the hearing.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Okay. This -- the CD 1 actually goes further down one below.

Can you zoom out a little bit on the map --

JOSEPH KANEFIELD: We'll zoom out so you can see --

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You can see the whole --

JOSEPH KANEFIELD: So you can see all of CD 1.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Joe.

I apologize. Malcolm Barrett, Jr., is our next speaker. Chairman of Yavapai GOP, he's representing himself, and he's from Yavapai County.

MALCOLM BARRETT, JR.: Thank you, Madam Chair, and Mr. Vice Chairman.
I truly do admire your efforts.
I'm speaking for myself because I do not have a consensus or nor did I try to get a consensus from the Yavapai Republican Committee.

But as a 31-year resident of Prescott, Arizona, I would like to address you today on the issue of equal population, communities of interest, and geographic compactness.

Despite what we've done in the old legislative and congressional districts, we do have a new opportunity to establish what I think are more fair districts based on the top three priorities of what the Commission has stated, in addition to the Department of Justice requirement.

First off, the ideal legislative district consists of 213,000 residents. According to the 2010 census, Yavapai County's population totalled 211,033.

The population of Yavapai County alone is within two percent of the population required or target population for a legislative district.

Yavapai County, I believe, should be placed in its own legislative district and most fairly meets all of the ten requirements listed by the Redistricting Commission.

Secondly, along the lines of congressional
districts, the ideal congressional district population is about 710,000 residents.

The total population of the state of Arizona, outside Maricopa and Pima County, is 1.5 -- 1,594,000 people.

That means of the 15 counties in Arizona, 13 of them should qualify or can qualify for the other two districts of congressional districts.

And in following along the line of geographic compactness and communities of interest, by keeping together the other 13 counties in Arizona outside of Maricopa and Pima, we can create all rural districts representing the north, the west, and to the river on one side, the north, and the eastern Arizona communities, and still have balanced rural districts.

So along the legislative district side, I think Yavapai County should qualify for its own congressional districts.

I support the 13 additional counties in Arizona be represented by two rural districts.

Now, in closing, keeping communities of interest whole is especially important to counties outside Maricopa and Pima because of our rural nature.

We're united around interests of water, economic development, the environment, and education.
Keeping us together makes our voices stronger on these issues.

Including our Yavapai County College District, which does encompass and have taxing authority for the entire county.

Thank you for your time today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Dawn Knight.

And we're going to jump to Cottonwood after Ms. Knight speaks.

So let me just tee up those folks quickly.

In Cottonwood, it will be Michael Cosentino.

Jon Graham or Jan Graham, apologies in advance.

Virginia Goldie.

And Bill Regner.

So right now, though, Dawn Knight, representing self, from Prescott.

DAWN KNIGHT: Good evening, and thank you very much for all the work you commissioners have been putting in on this very important path.

And we appreciate all your time and effort.

I am a resident of Yavapai County, and I've been a resident since 1952.
And of course Yavapai is a wonderful place to live, and I'm not going to speak anything about the legislative districts, but I really would love to see that the congressional districts, since we all have enough -- I you agree with Malcolm Barrett that we have enough population to make two rural districts at least. And I would love to see those kept in the north and east and west of the state.

So hopefully from that you can keep at least two rural districts.

Because we have the same interests, and I think you can make them competitive also.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So we're going to go to Cottonwood for the next four speakers.

Michael Cosentino is next.

And if you could again be sure to state either who you're representing, and if it's yourself, tell us what city or town or county you reside in.

Thank you.

MICHAEL COSENTINO: I reside within the city limits of Cottonwood.

My name is Mike Cosentino, C-O-S-E-N-T-I-N-O.
Quick comments. I surely agree with many of the things said here tonight with Vic Goldie and Steve Williamson, but I really love the process.

Taking this power away from the Arizona legislature was a very, very good thing. The Independent Arizona Redistricting Commission is a very, very good thing and a very good idea.

So to that, my humble thank you for doing this.

Like others have said there is no Verde Valley representation legislatively.

They, all three of them, both the senator and the two representatives, come from the other side of the mountain.

And as far as competitiveness goes, it goes, the other checkmark I had, that there are, depending on who is counting, lots of, quote unquote, safe districts, noncompetitive district in Arizona.

And, as others have said, not a good idea.

So for this Commission we'll do well to make as many competitive districts as possible.

And I too am a small business owner, retired small business owner, to look for live music in the Verde Valley Google my website, Arizona Riffs.

And get to know Arizona.

Thank you.
(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And our next speaker is Jan Graham.

JAN GRAHAM: My name is Jan Graham, G-R-A-H-A-M. And I live in Cornville, which is right next to Cottonwood.

And I have been a resident of the state of Arizona for almost eight years, as a permanent resident.

I still work as a substitute teacher. I am a lifetime credentialed teacher, retired.

And one of the issues that I agree and am in agreement on is I am thankful that I live in one of the 37 states that has an Independent Redistricting Commission. So I thank you for your service in that capacity.

I also agree that we need to divide the northern Arizona rural area into two congressional districts, not necessarily making one of them Yavapai County.

Yavapai County is so large that, in my opinion, it would actually be better to make the eastern congressional district include the Verde Valley, this side of the Black Mountains, including Mount Mingus, up to Flagstaff, and also incorporating the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Nation, which I understand the last redistricting there were some issues with these two tribes that have since been resolved.
And I am hearing from my connections in those tribes that they actually would invite being a part of this new rural district.

So thank you again for your service.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker in Cottonwood is Virginia Goldie.

VIRGINIA GOLDIE: Yeah, Virginia Goldie, G-O-L-D-I-E.

I represent myself.

I'm an artist and part of the artistic community here in the Verde Valley, and Sedona, and Cornville, and Camp Verde, all the way out to Rimrock, and up to Flagstaff.

All of my friends are in these areas, my artistic friends.

We don't go over the mountain to Prescott. We just don't.

When we want to do something as a group, as a cultural group, we stay -- going up the I-17 corridor.

We even go over to Strawberry and Payson.

We don't head over to Kingman.

So, my point is that I think that we are forgetting some important points here, and that is tourism.

We have worked very hard to build a wine industry
in this area, along with our artist groups.

To keep -- one of the things that I'll mention is that Sedona is partially in Yavapai County and partially in Coconino.

And to say that Yavapai County should be its own district seems like you're breaking up Sedona.

So I think you should really take thought to that also.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And our next speaker in Cottonwood is Bill Regner.

But before we get to Bill, let me tee up the folks here in Cottonwood.

Our next speaker will be Lindsay Bell, followed by Jane Alley, Virginia Garcia-Bunuel, and Ralph Harris. If these people could get ready.

So, Mr. Regner.

BILL REGNER: Thank you, Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chair and members of the AIRC. My name is Bill Regner, R-E-G-N-E-R.

I live in Clarkdale. I'm an elected official of Clarkdale, but I'm here today not in any official capacity. I'm here for myself.

First, I want to thank you for coming to our
community, and thank you for the service to Arizona in determining the new legislative and congressional districts for our state. Thank you for including the communities of the Verde Valley through simulcasting. I hope that sometime in the future an IRC will see fit to conduct a meeting in our beautiful region.

I understand that the task of legislative and congressional redistricting is a major undertaking and personal commitment on your part.

I recognize what personal commitment and sacrifice means when you were a public servant.

As you're well aware, your role and the decisions you make in the weeks ahead will have a long-term impact on all Arizonans for the decade ahead.

I've been to the areas that you're visiting. The Verde Valley is home to a diversity of cultures.

There are very visible reminders of Native American people that have inhabited in the valley for thousands of years and still do today.

Mining, ranching, agriculture, tourism, and retirement brought the Hispanic, Asian and Anglo cultures.

Agriculture and technology appear to be an important part of our future.

We see this as a stable quality of life that includes economic development, education, health care,
the preservation of some pretty spectacular natural resources.

We want to raise our children here and be able to live down the street from our grandchildren.

That is why what you are doing is very important to us.

I would hope that the AIRC would support legislative and congressional districts that incorporate the following principles for the Verde Valley.

First, competitiveness. So that voters have legitimate choices. Very important.

Secondly, communities of interest. So that we can work together regionally for common goals.

And I'm not going to suggest a map to you, only that you approach whatever map that you are designing with that idea that we need to work regionally for common goals in regional economic development, transportation, infrastructure, ecotourism, health care, the use of public lands, education, primarily through higher education, technical and continuing ed, sustainability of our natural resources, ensuring that we enjoy them fully and future generations do so as well.

And moving forward with our Native American brother and sisters emphasizing our common interests and goals.
On the point of higher education, we hold a strong value on institutions of higher learning in our area. Yavapai Community College campus in Prescott -- Prescott Valley in Sedona is a driver of our future workforce development, economic development, and quality of life for our families.

And as a member of the Yavapai Community College Foundation Board Greater Verde Valley Chapter, it's important to me that the districts that you create lend themselves with a spirit of cooperation and support for education.

In closing, I appreciate the dedication of the IRC members and staff and for the opportunity to provide my perspective.

I look forward to seeing the draft maps in the weeks ahead so that we can assist and do our part and give our perspective with the input that is so important to your decision-making process.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Lindsay Bell, representing self, from Prescott.

LINDSAY BELL: Lindsay Bell, B-E-L-L.

And I'm a resident of the city of Prescott.

And I'm representing myself, but in the interest
of full disclosure, I am an officer in the Yavapai County Democratic Party, but I'm not authorized to speak for them tonight.

I want to first indicate my support for the independent redistricting process.

I was an enthusiastic voter for the citizens' initiative in 2000, and I am very glad that Arizona is a state that conducts this process as objectively as possible through an independent Commission.

And I want to thank each of the commissioners for stepping up, taking on the challenge of what can be a very thankless job.

And it is a lot of work, and I have to tell you from my perspective I think you guys are doing a great job so far.

In terms of legislative districts, my concern is the competitiveness of those districts.

Now, statewide, we're about one third, one third, and one third between Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

But, Legislative District 1 does not reflect that, and hasn't been a competitive district for nearly 50 years.

I have lived here in Prescott and in Yavapai County for 38 years.

I'm retired after working more than three decades
in the nonprofit sector.

I've always been active in the community and active politically.

I've served on the Prescott City Council, and I was, in fact, a candidate for the state house from LD 1.

But in the last nearly 50 years, it has never been a competitive district. Very skewed to one party, almost two to one in terms of the skewedness of the domination by the majority party here.

And I would like to see that changed and be more reflective of the state as a whole, which is one third, one third, one third.

So I would urge you to consider the competitiveness of Legislative District 1.

As for the congressional districts, I also have a concern that they be competitive. And I know that it's easier to do that with congressional districts. But with the congressional districts, I also feel strongly about the community of interest regarding the rural nature of the outlying counties that aren't in the state of Maricopa as we refer to it up here.

So I would very much urge the creation of two largely rural districts that don't take in any population from Maricopa County, so that the rural interests that do bind at least 13 of Arizona's counties together are
represented in congress.

So I would urge the competitiveness and the rural nature in terms of communities of interest for the congressional districts.

Thank you very much for your time.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Jane Alley, and representing self, and from the county of Yavapai.

JANE ALLEY: Good evening. I think I can reach.

My name is Jane Alley, and I live in Prescott Valley, Arizona.

And I am here speaking for myself, but also as a gerontologist for the population I have served for 37 years.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We'd like the spelling of your name for the record.

JANE ALLEY: A-L-L-E-Y.

There's one in every town, a back street, back alley.

In fact, up in Kayenta, they introduced me as Jane Backstreet.

I have lived in and out of Arizona since 1977.

Educationally and professionally Arizona has been my heart place because I've completed my studies at NAU in 1989.
I sat for my exams for my doctoral degree, and have served the social behavioral sciences profession ever since.

I serve the older adult population, and I say advisedly because they are a passion with me as you will see.

I'm referring to the gentleman who spoke about not separating categories of older adults simply because they tend to vote conservatively.

I will share with you that I have done many, many clinical studies in and around the state of Arizona since 1974 when I was stationed with the government with the Social Security Administration in Blythe, California.

And my territory included Quartzsite.

Now, in the summertime Quartzsite is a desert.

In the wintertime, January and February, it becomes a booming town of more than -- at this point in time I heard last 700,000 people.

That's a lot.

We desperately need two rural communities.

Please don't wash out those who tend -- and many of them are snowbirds who have been in the snowbird population, the RV folks who go from place to place. No longer is the Thanksgiving turkey served at their home.

It's under that second saguaro in Quartzite or up in
northern Arizona depending on the weather.

But they were not a pocket group.

Those who find permanent homes, and we came here to Prescott by choice, they're very, very different, and their needs are very different when they choose a retirement community than those who are still traveling and living up in the rural areas.

They are not a -- you cannot generalize.

Yes, they have some similarities. They mostly all have white hair. They mostly are very, very determined in their feelings.

But I will share with you, after 37 years of observing this population, I have found lots of conservatism, but I have found such activism you would not believe in the other direction as well.

And so, I urge you, please, to consider not a blanket attitude when you are thinking about the rural communities, but think of their purposes for being there.

If they are there as retired people wanting to make a home from which they will be carried out, if they burn the boxes, and they don't want to travel anymore, then they are entirely different from the people who are still looking for Valhalla, the people who have full timed it and choose to do so.

I have many people with whom I'm still in contact
who go from Show Low, to Flagstaff, to the Grand Canyon.

And I'm 78. These people are my peer group. So that should tell you something.

I ask you to please consider that.

Again, I thank you all for what you are doing.

I think it's imperative, I think it's important, and I celebrate you for giving your time to do so.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Virginia Garcia-Bunuel, representing self, from Yavapai County.

VIRGINIA GARCIA-BUNUEL: Thank you.

I live in Yavapai County just outside the Prescott city limits.

My name is Virginia. My last name is G-A-R-C-I-A, hyphen, capital B-U-N-U-E-L.

I want to thank this Commission very much.

I know how much work volunteers do. It takes big chunks out of your life. And we all thank you so much for your work.

We trust in you to be even handed and fair in your work, and it's my hope that this Commission, in spite of the political storms around the state, can stay fair minded and independent --

(Applause.)

VIRGINIA GARCIA-BUNUEL: It's my understanding
that Arizona has the population to support two congressional
distincts, rural districts, and eight rural legislative
districts.

My personal feeling is the competitive districts
are in the public interest, and that includes doing
something about Yavapai County.

So if you could accomplish this whenever possible,
it would be very healthy for District 1 to become more
competitive.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker in Prescott
is Ralph Harris, but let me go ahead and get the folks in
Cottonwood ready too.

Evelyn Witt will be next in Cottonwood. Harry
Sweet, Susan Hall, and J.R. Murray.

So with that, we have Mr. Harris, representing
self, from Yavapai County.

RALPH HARRIS: Good evening.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening.

RALPH HARRIS: My name is Ralph, R-A-L-P-H,
Harris, H-A-R-R-I-S.

I'm a long-time resident, rural resident. Mail is
delivered to me through a Kirkland Post Office mail carrier.
I live close enough to Prescott but yet far enough away.

I have two water wells, I haul my own trash, I can see the stars at night, and I like it that way.

And I would like to state for the record that the independent Commission I feel is doing a great job in providing a fair and balanced process for Yavapai County and our state.

I feel the communities of interest indeed need to be reflective of the quality of life and the economic issues.

Also that the competitiveness -- it's been a long day -- is equally important to us all, including the greater Arizona legislative and congressional districts. And I believe this Commission is an important asset to the rural Arizona and the people of the state.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So now we're going to Cottonwood for the next four.

Evelyn Witt is up next.

Again, remember to tell us who you're representing and, if it's self, what county or city you reside in. And to spell your name too for the record.
EVELYN WITT: Yes, Madam Chairman, commissioner
members, my name is Evelyn Witt, and I live in Cottonwood.
And my husband and I retired three years ago
there.
And having lived in both rural areas and urban
areas, I know that the interests are -- tend to be more,
more different, and it follows that the voting tends to be
somewhat different.
But my concern, and I'm echoing those that went
before me, about the health care and Medicare, medical is
much more convenient here. We wouldn't go down into Phoenix
or somewhere like that.
We go to Cottonwood, or, if necessary, up to
Flagstaff.
And we have also enough -- well, the main thing,
the main point I want to get is the fact that there's a
difference between a rural and urban area, and I think we
should be aligned more with the Flagstaff and the interest
there and be represented in this new redistricting.
And I thank you again.
(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
Ms. Witt, I'm sorry, do you mind spelling your
name for the record?
EVELYN WITT: Oh.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I apologize. Do you mind spelling your name --

EVELYN WITT: I'm sorry. I'm very sorry. The last name is spelled W-I-T-T.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Harry Sweet in Cottonwood.

HARRY SWEET: Hello. Harry Sweet, and it's spelled S-W-E-E-T.

I live in Peach Springs, as well as Verde Valley, and I have a small business there which does depend heavily on tourism.

Hello, IRC. Thank you for the work you're doing.

I would like to see the Verde Valley represented congressionally and legislatively in a district ideally to take Flagstaff as the Sedona, Cottonwood area, and Flagstaff is so interconnected economically and socially.

Tourism, health care, watershed, education, and national forests are a few of the common interests that bind the Verde Valley, Flagstaff area, Grand Canyon, and the northeastern Arizona.

I believe a new district with these communities would make a balanced and competitive district and encourage more citizens to get involved in the political process.

Thank you and good luck.

(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Susan Hall.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Shouldn't you have J.R. Murray next?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, sure, J.R. Murray.

J.R. MURRAY: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you, IRC commission.

My name is J.R. Murray. Initials J-R, M-U-R-R-A-Y.

And I am the general manager of the Arizona Snowbowl Ski Area outside of Flagstaff.

But I am speaking tonight as the chairman of the board of directors of Flagstaff Forty. Flagstaff Forty is an organization comprised of business and organizational leaders in the Flagstaff greater community and the largest employers and several nonprofits.

Flagstaff Forty is very concerned about the state of Arizona, the current financial straits that we are in. And we are also working very diligently with other groups around the state to improve the education, quality of life, economic development opportunities, and to make sure that Arizona not only pulls itself out of this economic downturn, but rises to the top in the country.

And that takes leadership.

And leadership starts with who runs for office.
And people need to know where they're going to be running for office first.

And that is where redistricting comes in.

Redistricting is important to Flagstaff Forty, and I would like to touch on competitiveness first.

Ten years ago, the IRC split greater Flagstaff. We found ourselves with one very safe Democratic district and one very safe Republican district.

Then we know that you have a safe district, the competitiveness is missing, and for the most part the candidate that prevails is determined in the primary.

There are not opportunities for many people to participate in the political process when you have such safe districts.

It is our intent to share with you the need for competitive districts in northern Arizona, in rural northern Arizona.

Everyone deserves a fair opportunity to be heard and to share their views and to run for office if they so choose.

Lopsided voter registration determines that one party stays in office.

We are, we are supporting more competitive districts in northern Arizona.

Communities of interest is another concern of
ours, and I would like to share with the group many of the
items or areas of interest that were shared earlier this
evening.

When we are working with ADOT, the five-year plans
and funding, it's I-17, and we find ourselves sharing the
room with many of the people here with us today.

I-17, 89-A, the Verde Valley, Sedona, reaching up
above the rim to Flagstaff, Williams, the Grand Canyon,
Tusayan, those communities are very linked together.

We've mentioned tourism.

People do not get to Flagstaff without coming
through the Verde Valley.

They stop at Verde Valley.

And when we go south for whatever reason from
Flagstaff, we stop at the Verde Valley.

The public lands that surround our communities and
the large percentage of public and state lands that are
controlled by state and federal reach down below the rim,
and they go east towards Payson and west towards Prescott.

We believe that the school system is very, very
linked.

The only time I've ever been to Cottonwood is to
bring my daughter down here to volleyball games, because we
share the same athletic conference as many of the schools
down here.
That's just one example.

Higher education. We have people driving, commuting up and down I-17 to work, either in Flagstaff or down here in the Verde Valley.

We've mentioned the medical center. The medical care and health care is only going to become more important. And to have quality health care and not rely and not need to go to Phoenix or to a metropolitan area is going to continue to be forefront in all of the residents' minds in northern Arizona.

And right now Northern Arizona Health Care manages the hospital in Flagstaff, a hospital here, in the Verde Valley, and a hospital in Winslow.

We believe that the gateway to the Grand Canyon is I-17 to Flagstaff. People leave the metropolitan area on vacation, they go through Sedona, up the switchbacks, stop in Flagstaff, go to the Grand Canyon.

It's a wonderful experience.

Those are communities of interest right there.

And if you go from northern Arizona and go a little east and a little west and come south, you will find that the needs of the competitive district and communities of interest are satisfied when you're working on your map.

I would also lastly mention with the congressional district, the Congressional District 1 is very, very large.
We do not have a lot in common with Casa Grande.
And that is the southern reach from the Utah border of CD 1.
I share the views of many that we need rural congressional districts. But I would suggest, as others have, that CD 1 could be more compact and more -- and include more communities of interest.
And I would just share for those there in Prescott and here in the room that the Mogollon Rim is not a geographical barrier.
Thank you.

(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
So our last speaker in Cottonwood, Susan Hall?
UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: She left.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh.
UNIDENTIFIED MAN: She had to leave.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.
Well, we'll jump then to here in Prescott. And I'll read -- I'll go ahead and read the next four.
Mike Flannery, Bill Halpin, Shirley Dye, and Jim Muhr.
If we could get you folks ready, and we'll start with Mike Flannery.
He's representing quad cities, from Yavapai
MIKE FLANNERY: Good evening, Madam Chair, Mr. Vice Chairman.

Welcome to Prescott.

I want to, along with everyone else, thank you for volunteering for your journey you're about to embark on.

Last time they told the Commission members 12 months to 18 months.

It took, like, eight and a half years.

So, I hope you're prepared.

Let's hope it's not going to take that long this time. I hope some of the kinks have been ironed out.

Well, there are many things to address tonight.

I will, I will take my time to discuss the communities of interest, because I think that's very important.

Quad cities, when I mention quad cities, should I -- that would be Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Dewey-Humbolt, have a strong community of interest.

And, in fact, I believe that community of interest extends to Yavapai County.

And that community of interest includes economic development, construction standards, transportation planning, education, and quality of life.

Let me elaborate on that just a little bit.
Economic development.

Yavapai College is the largest of the educational facilities here. They offer a small business development center, which reaches out to small businesses and facilitates a lot of their small business, small business development throughout the county.

And as a college, it is broken down into districts which covers the entire county. So that in and of itself is an interest.

So when you look at that, you have to recognize that it's college districts which cover the entire county.

Also both this side and the other side are -- their economic development is geared by regional -- or they're trying to do regional redistrict development.

And we have two enterprise zones. They have just formed a Yavapai foreign trade zone now. And they are serviced by the NACOG local workforce development investment board.

So they have that commonality as well.

As well as the tourism, as you heard a lot about tonight.

Construction standards. Now, that may be an odd connection, but because of where we are, and the terrain, the environment that we live in, standards were actually developed here for construction that are suitable for our
area.

And we've had to work with other entities for that.

And we operate under the Yavapai area or YAG standards.

So just a little bit there.

And you heard about transportation planning.

Before we had the -- we used to have a transportation planning organization here. And because we had hit a 50,000 threshold, we are now a metropolitan planning organization, or CYMPO, Central Yavapai Planning Organization.

Education. We have a number of unified school districts, but one of the things that you may or may not know is the amount of charter schools. Yavapai County has probably one of the highest densities of charter schools of anywhere in Arizona.

And charter schools are open. They're open enrollment, so they cross over into other districts as well.

So I bring that to your attention, because I think that's something that you can consider in looking at that.

We have a joint technical education district, which also crosses over some boundaries.

And as I mentioned, Yavapai College, for
education, they do joint projects with Northern Arizona University. They are in conjunction with Old Dominion. We have another university here called North Central University.

Embry-Riddle University, it's aeronautical. It's a huge aeronautical university. There's only two in the United States.

Lockheed Martin training center is here. And they do all of the training for all of the air traffic controllers, small air traffic control for all of the United States here.

And also Northern Arizona Regional Training Academy, which is a public safety training academy.

Just a little bit about our area here.

And we have a regional communication center, which is public safety, and the -- probably underlying of all of our communities of interest is water.

And sometimes we don't always agree with water, but one of the things that we are trying to do is solve them on a local level before we go to legislature to have that resolved.

So, Prescott is within an AMA, and so I think that we have a rather strong community of interest.

And I think the Commission would be fortunate to look at this as Yavapai County having one legislative
district, as you've heard before, and I think it's extremely, extremely important that the Commission go ahead and form a definition for community of interest and apply it as soon as possible and be as transparent about that as possible.

And, and one thing that I would like to echo that I've heard a lot about, and that is the rural districts in terms of congressional districts. I think that that is an outstanding idea, and I would totally support that in terms of congressional districts.

So, thank you.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Would you spell your name for us.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I sat back and said, I'm not going to do that.


CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Bill Halpin, representing self, from Prescott valley.

BILL HALPIN: Thank you, and welcome to Prescott. Hope you're enjoying the weather.

Bill Halpin, H-A-L-P-I-N.

My comment is more or less a question about the maps, and the gentleman from Strategic almost came that close to answering my question, and I thought I was going to
have to just sit down.

But can I ask a question as far as the plans, the grid maps?

It was stated that they're going to be ready in August, and Monday is August 1st. Any idea when we're going to be able to view these maps?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, unfortunately we can't answer the questions tonight. We're only to accept hearings.

Is that right, Counselor Kanefield?

Yeah.

BILL HALPIN: Even though you came that close to answering my question.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, I apologize.

BILL HALPIN: How can I go about asking that question? If I can't ask it here, how do I go about getting an answer?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, I think you can submit that question. Our staff, I'm sure, is taking notes. If not, I will make sure that we get that question answered.

And maybe we could respond to you outside of this venue if we get some contact information, like e-mail address, if that would work.

BILL HALPIN: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Maybe if you could add that
to your sheet.

    BILL HALPIN: I'll do it now.

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thanks very much.

    I'm sorry we couldn't answer your question tonight.

    And our next speaker is Shirley Dye, representing self, and LD 5, from Navajo, Apache, Graham, Greenlee, Gila.

    SHIRLEY DYE: Thank you, commissioners.

    I have given to you a block level equivalency file for LD 5. And it's submitted by the friends of LD 5.

    And we have a plan that you have a copy of in your packet with our talking points.

    But basically we have the plan of Legislative District 5 now contains Navajo, the southern part of Navajo, the southern part of Apache County, Greenlee County, all of Graham County, and all of Gila County.

    And we are 21,000 people short of having our target number of 213,067 people per a legislative district.

    It just so happens that the Camp Verde area has that 21,000 people.

    And I would like to tell you about how our Legislative District 5 would be if it included this area on your map right here -- see, guys, it's this little area right here.

    UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That's gerrymandering.
SHIRLEY DYE: It's not gerrymandering. It's keeping right off the edge of existing LD 5.

Okay.

This does include Camp Verde and Lake Montezuma and Rimrock and Cordes Lakes.

All of those areas are on the east side of Interstate 17, and are currently part of Yavapai County. The only place where it crosses Interstate 17 is where Camp Verde crosses Highway 17 and has a section of their town across there.

As you can see, most all of this is rural Arizona. And a lot of the area that is being picked up on the map is forest service and BLM land.

And I would just like to let you know that Camp Verde does come up to Payson, Pine, and Strawberry. They come up with their truck loads of vegetables, they come up with their crafters, and they come -- you know, we have very similar tourist interests in almost all of Legislative District 5.

We have timber. We have cattle, ranching. We have truck farms. And we have mining.

And Camp Verde has very similar values.

When -- if and when Camp Verde would be part of Legislative 5, we would become compact, contiguous, and competitive.
We would be competitive in that we would be 37 percent Democrat, 37 percent Republican, and 21 percent Independent, and the rest would be other.

And we are contiguous in that we have a nice big block of people all together in -- with our forest and our BLM lands.

Sorry to say, this does not include Spring Valley, which is just west of 17 across from Cordes Lakes. And it does not include Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Cornville, or Sedona, which are very much more, with similar communities of interest, to Flagstaff, as they have been telling you.

So, anyhow, let me see where I was here.

So we have -- oh, it's very contiguous because it's got natural boundaries. We have Highway 40 up at the top up here.

We have New Mexico down here.

We have Pinal County.

We have -- this is the area along Maricopa County area.

This is Maricopa County line.

We have Coconino County line here.

And we have Interstate 17.

So we have natural boundaries for the district should you allow us to include Camp Verde into our legislative district.
With the addition, we come within 700 to 750 people to the exact number of the 213,069 people.

So we have our pioneering families, like there's pioneering families down in Verde Valley and Camp Verde.

We have our small truck farms.

We have our ranching.

We have all those things that they would meld very well into as far as communities of interest.

And so I think that's it, so I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

SHIRLEY DYE: And we don't want to be carved up into three other districts.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Jim Muhr in Prescott.

And let me just get the folks in Cottonwood ready.

I think I only have three more speakers in Cottonwood, if they're there.

John O'Donnell, Anita Goss, and Stephanie McKinney.

So we'll go to Mr. Muhr, representing self, from Payson, Gila.

JIM MUHR: Thank you, Madam Chair and Vice Chairman and the committee members, I believe, that are in Cottonwood.
I have heard many speakers tonight ask questions or make statements about having certain, certain areas in other certain areas. And the only one I've seen that's given any map of any direction to the board has been the previous speaker.

My question -- it's a question, and I know that you cannot answer the question, but I'm going to ask it. And my question goes to this.

Is it -- I understand that the Department of Justice gives the final okay and the final authority for either the congressional and the legislative maps.

My question is: Is there any computer aid or assistance available for us, the people here in Arizona, the citizens of Arizona, to go to so that we can actually look at those maps, draw some, draw some map areas both in our concern of legislative districts and also the concerns in congressional districts?

I find I feel that that would be an appropriate thing for the consultants to offer to both you and to ourselves.

And basically that's it.

I just want to know if there is a map that we could use or if there is an aid, a computer aid that we can use so that when we address the committee that we can actually make presentations like the lady before me.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If you'd like to add your e-mail address -- Mr. Muhr, if you'd like to add your e-mail address, we can have our staff respond.

Oh, can we get a spelling of your last name?

JIM MUHR: M-U-H-R.

And I have it underlined so I would do that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Okay. We'll go to Cottonwood. John O'Donnell is our next speaker.

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: He left.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

Anita Goss.

ANITA GOSS: Anita Goss. The last name is spelled G-O-S-S.

And I would like to thank the Commission and everyone for staying this late at night.

This is very important work, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing it.

I own a small business in Cottonwood, and I have a bed and breakfast, and I have tourists come from all over the world.

I have guests coming from Germany, from England, from India, from Japan.

And they come to see the Grand Canyon. And they
come to Sedona, and thereby Cottonwood.

    And I'm very careful to make sure that I say I'm near Sedona, because they know that.

    To broaden the first little bit to what works for tourism.

    The Grand Canyon is something that is known to people throughout the world, and they even come to the Sedona area.

    I think it is important to include all of the Verde Valley, including Flagstaff.

    I think our interests are more common and aligned with each other.

    In the interest of developing the economic opportunities here in the valley, I think it's very, very important that our district be represented with Flagstaff.

    And I would also like to say that the education piece of this is very important. The connection with NAU, being a former teacher, this is something that I value very highly.

    And, again, I think the draw of Flagstaff is very important to our communities, and I would vote that the new district reflects that concern.

    Thank you for your time.

    (Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
And we have Stephanie McKinney in Flag -- I mean, sorry about that, Cottonwood. And our next -- that's it for Cottonwood, unless there's others that I don't know about.

Let me just name the next four here in Prescott.

Matthew Perry, Susan Ghen, Don Ascoli, and Wendy Schops.

And so, Ms. McKinney.

STEFANIE MCKINNEY: Good evening, Madam Chair and members of the Commission.

My name is Stephanie McKinney. I'm going to spell it. M-C-K-I-N-N-E-Y.

I'm here representing myself. I am from Flagstaff.

I have spent a number of years in the business industry both as a financial professional, I had the privilege of serving as the economic development director for Flagstaff for seven years, and I'm also a business owner with my husband.

Since I've lived in Arizona for 20 years, I try to be as involved in being a good citizen. I've served on both state commissions as well as commissions on Coconino County and the city of Flagstaff.

I would like to address you on three points this evening.

The first would be a comment in general about
competitiveness.

The second two points would be relative to communities of interest related to both the state legislative level as well as the congressional level.

One of the things that strikes me as a stark contrast in looking at the Arizona population is how evenly distributed the voter registration is between Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and others, and how that distribution does not really bear out in only 3 of 30 districts being competitive around the state.

It would seem to me that that's an opportunity to improve somewhat and to have that help us to have good elections and good spirited campaigns with our election process going forward.

I would also like to tell you that sitting in Flagstaff the last ten years I have seen this robustness in the competitive process at our congressional level.

The fact over the last ten years we've had three or four candidates that have been from either party back and forth, I would imagine for the county it wasn't much fun, but for the citizens we were able to see a robust process and to clearly see differences in candidates and their approach to governing.

Whereas at the state level we have not had that experience. In fact, there's been many times in the last
ten years in Flagstaff there's not even been a person running on the ticket of the opposite party that is not represented in the majority. In moving to the state legislative communities of interest, in my role as an economic development professional, it's very important to pay attention to transportation, education, tourism, how economic base is established, health care.

These are the types of things that I dealt with with prospects all the time. And I will tell you that on many occasion I was discussing not only Flagstaff but I was also discussing the Verde Valley.

I believe that Flagstaff and the Verde Valley have much in common, but I will also profess to you that Flagstaff and the Verde Valley together do not come up to the 213,000 population that will be necessary to create a new state district.

I would advise any other northern Arizona rural area that shares these same common interests you've heard this evening about wanting to be competitive and wanting to work together on regional issues, that we would invite an opportunity to work with them as well.

Moving to the congressional district, I personally support the idea of having two rural congressional
districts. Ideally, we would like to see both of them be competitive, but I think at a minimum one ought to be.

Additionally, I would like to close by telling you that I personally would be happy to be represented by a statesman that could come from Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Sedona, Camp Verde, Flagstaff, or any other northern Arizona rural area that shares these values.

Thank you for your time.

I know you have a rough road ahead of you, a lot of hours listening to public hearing. I would like to thank you in advance for volunteering for this job.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks to everyone in Cottonwood that provided input tonight. We really appreciate you guys coming out and participating.

It's about 8:00 o'clock, five minutes to 8:00. And I wanted to see if our court reporter felt okay in terms of proceeding.

You're okay? You're good? No Power Bars or anything?

Okay.

We will then move on, and we have a handful left here in Prescott.
So our next speaker is Matthew Perry, representing

self, Prescott.

MATTHEW PERRY: My name is Matthew Perry, and my

family name is spelled P-E-R-R-Y.

This is my first time in one of these. I'm a

little nervous, so if I go over, I apologize in advance.

But I wanted to talk about two issues:

Competitiveness and communities of interest.

First, competitiveness.

I think it's great that everyone here is so

passionate about having two competitive districts.

But, I want to refer back to the presentation made

earlier.

And the goals that were put up there aren't just

goals. They're also part of our state constitution and the

law of our land that was voted on in Prop 106.

And I think we should, according to our

constitution, put communities of interest before

competitiveness.

I've noticed just going to different events and

volunteering, that when you put local issues at the

forefront, people are more likely to get involved more.

And I think that's why that's included in part of

our constitution.

That way we can have a stronger civic society, if
we divide our districts based on local interests and not just on the elusive and not very definite notion of competitiveness.

And I also wanted to speak about our local issues, because as someone from Prescott, I have feelings like everyone else in this room about how we should divide up our district.

And I think that for the legislative district, I think that Yavapai County should have at least one legislative district.

And I know some of the people from Verde Valley may not believe me, but I drive the 17 and the 89-A at least three days a week for work.

And I have no problem whatsoever sharing a state senator or a state representative with you.

And for the congressional district lines, I like sharing with the counties that share my economic interest. Most notably, Coconino, Mohave, and Gila Counties.

I think because we're very geared to tourism and because we have a very strong passion for our national monuments, whether it be the Grand Canyon up in Coconino, Mohave County, or whether it be Lynx Lake or Willow Lake here in Prescott, I think that forms a strong bond between us, and I think that we will be served well if we share that same congressional representation.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Susan Ghen, if I'm mispronouncing it.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Is she here?

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. We'll move on to Don Ascoli, and correct me if I'm mispronouncing that, and he's representing self.

And if you could tell us where you're from.

DON ASCOLI: Perfect job of pronouncing my last name. Don Ascoli, A-S-C-O-L-I. And I'm from Payson, Arizona.

Thank you, Madam Chair and commissioners and fellow citizens.

Though I'm representing myself, I have many roles I play.

One of which is I am chairman of the Gila County Planning and Zoning Commission.

So when I -- in that role, there are nine of us total, spread across the whole county. We look at our county as a unit, as a whole body of people with common interest. Common interest.
And you heard that mentioned by many speakers before me.

And it is most important.

We're not pieces. We do not want to be pieces of a political pie.

I know that -- in fact, Joy, when she came up here, she used the term, we should look at keeping whole counties and whole cities kept together.

And I think that's what your -- one of your top goals needs to be.

Now, from a practical standpoint, we know that there isn't a perfect population in each county, so you put two, three, or four together or as one, as you heard from Yavapai County.

But, that's got to be one of your starting points. I believe that's one of your responsibilities.

And it's not only fair, but I think it makes sense.

Now, there have been some plans proposed publicly, I know several from Flagstaff, that to me are plans of what you should not do.

Not plans what you should do.

And I find that pictures are worth a thousand words.

This is what has been termed scenario three.
Four districts. Two -- one, two, four, and five.

And I've color coded them because I think that's the only way you could understand what is being done here.

This is when it slices and dices Gila County into four parts.

Now, one of the things I do on the Planning and Zoning Commission, we have done in the past, is we coordinate with our state representatives and state senators.

I can't imagine having to work with two, three, or four sets of representatives to get a job done.

If you recall in your history, the state of Arizona felt also that a county was a community of interest because each county only had one state senator.

It wasn't until a Supreme Court ruling in 1962 took that out and went to one man, one vote on the state senate side.

Totally contrary to what we have in the United States Senate, which is two senators per each state.

It doesn't matter what size or shape the state is.
It doesn't matter what the political format of that state or city is, because the registration, predominantly Republican, Democrat, whatever, it don't matter.

The community of interest is the state.

Below the state is the county.
So, if you hear me a little passion about it, I am.

Keep the counties as whole as possible.

They have county supervisors, county sheriff, county attorney.

You can go right down the list.

Recorder.

All to take care of the interest of the county, the people of the county.

When you slice and dice, you destroy that community of interest. Okay?

Now, part of the map that Shirley Dye showed before was a proposal for District 5, Legislative District 5, which took a little piece of Verde Valley. Otherwise, it keeps the thing whole, the current district.

And if you can see here there's some other proposals of other districts for the northern Arizona area.

And if you look at that, it pretty much keeps the counties whole or as whole as practical.

That's what you should do as part of your job.

I live in Gila County. You come from either Maricopa or Pima County.

We have a lot of folks here from Yavapai County.

We each have an interest.
When you say where you live, you name the town and
you name the county you live in.

Okay.

So, one, as Joy said earlier, keep the towns as
whole as possible, and above that, and you're going to do
that because our rural counties, except maybe Yavapai, I
haven't studied them specifically, you need more than a
whole county to get to your requirement for the 213,000.

So I submit to you that your responsibility is to
tweak and refine the boundaries.

Because, remember, ten years ago, when we went
through this process, districts were laid out that met the
Justice Department requirements.

They have served this state and the people of this
the state very well for ten years.

Don't fix it if it ain't broke.

You do have to be requirements of population. I
understand that.

And there's other criteria.

But if you're within the guidelines, and you can
keep, I believe, the counties as whole as possible, you meet
that.

Now, I'd like to make -- and I guess I'm mostly
speaking from the legislative district side. I'll make one
comment on the congressional district side.
It's intriguing, and I like the idea that Malcolm Barrett mentioned, of possibly having two rural congressional districts.

Thirteen counties make the rural. I don't know if Pinal still is qualified as a rural district. I don't know what the actual definition is.

But there is some value in that, and I find it of interest personally to look at two rural districts.

And that leads me to my observation and recommendation here, which I don't think anyone's caught.

If you look at Flagstaff, as you presented earlier, guideline B, it talks about equal population.

But when I look at slide three that you presented earlier, of the five Commission members sitting before us, three are from Maricopa County -- I mean, sorry, two are from Maricopa County and three are from Pima County.

There's not a single commissioner from a rural county.

Yet you heard Malcolm mention earlier, over 20 percent of the people from Arizona are from rural Arizona.

Now, if we're going to be represented, I believe this Commission should have at least one rural representative on the Commission.

So I would make a recommendation to you and a
recommendation to our legislature to change the law. If 20 percent of the people, which is one fifth of this member board, is rural, then one member needs to be chosen from the rural communities to represent our interests.

We're talking about representation for the districts. But here on this very board, who represents us? I use that term in the generic sense.

So, anyway, I would suggest you consider that for the future.

I don't know what all the legal requirements are, but if there is someone who would step forward, I would sure be in line to support that.

Thank you very much for your interest, your help, in listening what I have to say.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Just to let everyone know, I have four more request to speak forms.

Our next speaker is Windy Schops.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Is she here?

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

And Jeff Schops.
(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: They probably left together.

Our next speaker is Chip Davis.

Is he here?

Great Yavapai County supervisor District 3 representing Yavapai County.

CHIP DAVIS: I was going to say welcome, but I might as well tell you guys good night.

Welcome to Yavapai County.

And thank you for coming up to visit with us. We appreciate the opportunity.

I myself am I fourth generation Yavapai County Arizonan.

I have a residence in Clarkdale. That's where I live. That's where my office is. That's where my district is. That's the Verde Valley, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Sedona, Jerome.

And then I also have regular meetings over here in Prescott, which is convenient today, because I was over here all day.

And then my parents have a ranch in Walnut Grove, which is south of here, and is currently in Legislative District 4, so I've had the experience of the redistricting process.

And what I've learned on my folks being in LD 4 is
that the ranchers up in that area are in no way connected or
have anything in common with the folks in Sun City.

And so for the past ten years when they did the
redistricting, my folks and the folks out there felt that
they didn't really have a voice or representation.

Folks didn't come up and visit with them.

The communication process wasn't taken too
seriously because they knew it was a pretty small voting
block over there.

So, when the new redistricting process came up
this time, I felt it would be a great opportunity, and so I
wanted to probably be the very first person to tell you guys
that I have the easiest, simplest, best laid out plan of the
whole state.

I say that in jest because everything I read says
everybody has the best idea for it.

But in Yavapai County it would make sense to be
its own legislative district.

We do have the population.

The boundaries are very simple.

I think folks understand it.

Right now Yavapai County is in the process of
redistricting, so I can relate to what you're going through.

We're in the process of going from three to five
supervisors.
And the issues and concerns of folks that have come out is very concerning.

One of the things I like to point out to them is that when we create new districts, it doesn't mean you have to quit doing business with that other community and go to another district.

It's merely an election district.

And so a lot of the fears I've heard this evening are if the Verde Valley doesn't go with Flagstaff, then, you know, commerce will end, and people will quit going up I-17.

I don't believe that to be true.

Let me catch up with my notes here.

In regards to the rural congressional districts, I support that also.

In our work with the congressional districts, it's been very helpful to have congressional members that understand that rural issues are very different than metropolitan or urban issues. So I do support that, however you end up divvying that up.

And the consideration of Yavapai County of being its own legislative district, we could include that portion of Sedona that's in Coconino County, that's a population of approximately 2,000 people, so that would put us right at 213,000 if we added that little Sedona piece in there.
I think, lastly, you guys are very patient. All of you, staff members included, to go through these things.

But I think in the process what you find is you find about 10 percent of the very active, passionate Republicans are going to come out, 10 percent of the very active, passionate Democrats are going to show up, and they're very concerned about trying to convince you of reasons why they want to make elective districts is what it boils down to, but they'll tell you different reasons to get there.

But 80 percent of the common public just want government to make sense.

They want to be able to know, you know, this district makes sense. It doesn't make sense when I'm in one district and the guy across the street is in a different district.

So in your work, if you could bear that in mind, that 80 percent of the people, and probably the ones that don't show up here, they just want some common sense stuff.

I'd appreciate any work you can do on that.

And to dispel any fears on both sides, the biggest trend growing around the state of Arizona and Yavapai County too is our Independents. So no matter which party you're
in, if you put up a viable candidate, they've got a good shot at being elected.

It's not about that. I think it's more about common sense.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Please spell your last name.

CHIP DAVIS: D-A-V-I-S.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

And I just want to thank you for -- and please extend this to the other supervisors. We really appreciate you being in the hearing room tonight and this opportunity to be in Yavapai County and the support we've got from law enforcement and everyone, so thank you and please tell your fellow colleagues.

CHIP DAVIS: We'll do that. And, if you want to have another meeting over in the Verde, we can video it back over here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: The reverse.

Our last speaker, at least the last form I have, is for Smith Horton, representing self, and from Yavapai County.

SMITH HORTON: My name is Smith Horton, and I live at Prescott Country Club, which is an unincorporated area.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If you could spell name to
the record. Sorry.

SMITH HORTON: Oh, Horton, H-O-R-T-O-N.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

SMITH HORTON: I'm not going to take too much of your time. It's getting late, so . . .

I just wanted to mention that when you brought up the topic of compact and contiguous, it struck a note with me because ten years ago before the other redistricting, we did all of our voting right where we were in the Prescott Country Club.

And then that changed, and we are now in, I think, in all the versions that you have, it shows District 1, over to Black Canyon City, and Peoria, that I didn't even think was that far north, but it is, and so it's not compact. And it's not -- it's not contiguous for sure.

We are across the street from Prescott Valley.

We all get our water from Prescott Valley.

We are totally surrounded by Prescott Valley, plus they're doing a lot of annexation over the years.

And so I know this was -- this put to us in the beginning of this session that we're having, that those two things, compact and contiguous, are pretty damn important.

And I know you also are faced with all kinds of rules and state law, and you probably run some places where you just can't do anything about it.
And I know that.

But I was hoping there would be some way that we could change so we are put into maybe Prescott Valley, whatever part of the Prescott Valley, if you could put us in that, could keep us so we could vote in that area, and not have -- I know we can still vote where we are, if they put the voting place there. It just seems like we have so much more to do with that, and we spend all of our -- most of our money in Prescott Valley. We go there and know those people.

And we don't know anybody in Black Canyon. And there must be a lot of nice people there, but I don't know any of them.

So when we have an election, which includes people that are just for local government positions, the Courier does not cover that for us. So we know when we got the ballot, and it's got names on there, somebody down there for just a local job. And so we're kind of disenfranchised in a squeaky way, but that's how I look at it.

So I really would like to get that so we didn't -- so that district, we could be -- it could be more contiguous and compact.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Appause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, I think we've gone through all the request to speak forms.

I just want to thank everyone here tonight, and even those who departed too. You have been an amazing group, and you all took time out of your lives to come and participate in this process, which is hugely important. And we really respect that.

And thank you for coming here tonight, and thank you for listening to us here.

It's been delightful.

And I don't know if Vice Chairman Freeman would like to say anything.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I want to echo those comments, and thank you to the people in Cottonwood as well, if there's anyone still there as well.

Thank you for getting me out of the heat from Phoenix. And I'm very happy the air conditioner eventually turned on, because it was getting warm.

When I applied to be on this commission, I thought one of the great privileges would be to get out in the public comment things and across the state.

This is -- and I was born and raised here.

And just about everywhere in this state, although I've never been to Window Rock, and that's where Chair and I that will be tomorrow.
It's fun to be on those roads less traveled.
And I -- my roots are pretty deep.
My father was born in Bisbee back in the early '20s.
My grandfather on my mother's side farmed all over the southwest, spent some time in Douglas.
So I've got that kind of background.
I really love coming up to a place like Prescott.
My sister used to live up here. I love the rodeo and even did the boot race. I didn't win.
So thank you, and I really appreciate everyone being so involved and interested. It's very important, because this is the key part of this process.
And this is a great thing about Prop 106, because the public's involved. They have the same -- we need to listen to you, and the first step in that processing is you telling us how you think and being involved.
Thank you for having us and have a good night.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So this meeting is adjourned.
(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.)

* * * * *
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 99 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 8th day of August, 2011.

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