ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 3, 2011
6:05 p.m.

Location
City of Glendale Council Chambers
5850 West Glendale Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85713

Attending
Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair

Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162
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PROCEEDINGS

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening.

This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

The time is 6:05 p.m. It's Wednesday, August 3rd.

And it's great to see so many folks in Glendale out to talk to us tonight.

Let's begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So, again, I just want to thank everyone for taking time on a Wednesday evening to leave your homes and come talk to us about what's important to you in the redistricting process.

It's delightful to see so many folks here.

In order to comply with federal law, there's a Spanish translator here at the meeting to help translate questions and comments into English.

And tonight it is Carlos Reyes. Is he in the room?
Great.

Carlos, would you like to come up to the podium and say a few words?

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

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Carlos.

So just to continue the introductions, I'm Chairman Mathis.

To my left is Vice Chair Scott Freeman, and to my right is Vice Chair Jose Herrera.

There are two other commissioners, who are based in Gila County, and I'm sure they're watching online if they're back home yet.

We just had a meeting here today in Phoenix. So they're probably on the road. So I hope they're not watching if they're on the road. Otherwise they would be definitely tuned in.

Just to introduce other folks here.

We've got Mary O'Grady, who is our legal counsel tonight.

Our mapping consultant, we have Ken Strasma and Korinna Kubena Belock.

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: You got it right.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And we have also staff in the room.
I believe Kristina Gomez is here in the back, deputy executive director.

And we have a public information officer, Stu Robertson. I'm not sure if he's here tonight.

Any outreach directors, other coordinators here tonight?

Is that Lisa Schmelling?

Great. Lisa is here to help.

And please feel free to ask our staff any questions if you need any assistance tonight.

There are request to speak forms in the back. You should have seen them on your way in. They're the yellow sheets.

If you would like to address the Commission, simply fill one out and turn that in to Kristina, and she'll bring that up to us, and we'll make sure that you are part of the public tonight.

I'm being told that Buck Forst is here. He is our chief technology officer. I just don't see him at the moment, but -- oh, there he is. Great.

That's Buck.

We also have Marty Herder, who is our court reporter tonight. So that he'll be taking in -- all this in. So make sure, when you come up to the microphone, to state your name and spell it and say who you're representing...
and also what county, if it's yourself, just if you could
tell us where you reside, your city, county, or town, that
would be very helpful, and that all gets into the record.
And I've told you about the request to speak
forms.

There are also some blue forms in the back. If
you don't want to go on public record tonight and address
the Commission formally, you can still fill out a blue form.
And that information will also come to us. You just won't
be recorded tonight, but the information will get recorded
that you put on that blue sheet.

So if you choose not to address us on the podium,
that is another way to supply your input.

I want to make sure I've covered everything.
Okay.

I think we're ready to roll.

I wanted to -- I did want to mention, I guess we
have a few distinguished guests tonight. Maybe they can
stand and wave or be acknowledged.

State Representative Anna Tovar from District 13.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And Mayor Thomas Schoaf from
Litchfield Park.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And State Senator Rick
Chairperson Mathis: And a few council members tonight. I assume these are from Glendale. If I'm mistaken, you can correct me.

Manny Martinez from the Cholla district.

Chairperson Mathis: Joyce Clark from Yucca district.

Chairperson Mathis: Norma Alvarez from Ocotillo district.

Chairperson Mathis: Okay. And I think that's it. Are there others?

Those are the ones I have notes of.

Vice Chair Herrera: Richard Miranda.

Chairperson Mathis: Oh, I'm sorry, Representative Richard Miranda, District 13.

(Applause.)

Chairperson Mathis: We have Michael LeVault from -- the mayor from the town of Youngtown.

(Applause.)

Chairperson Mathis: And I think that's it.

I'm sorry about all that. That's great. I'm so
glad everybody is here and joining us tonight.

We'll move to the next item on our agenda, which is the presentation by our mapping consultant about the redistricting process.

So Korinne will be giving that to us this evening.

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: So, good evening. My name is Korinne Kubena Belock with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be here tonight and in Glendale for the first round of hearings to discuss the Arizona redistricting process.

The goal of these meetings is to hear comments from you about the redistricting process. So thank you for taking the time to attend.

This is 1 of 15 in the first round of public hearings.

There will be a second round of hearings once the draft map is published.

Before I begin the presentation, I just want to highlight again the forms. We have the yellow form and the blue form, and they can be found in the back of the room. The form's in Spanish as well.

And so on to the presentation.

Unfortunately to see the presentation I'm going have to face this way.

I apologize. I'll try to do this from the side as much as possible.
A brief overview tonight of why -- of what all
should you know.

The first topic, the first one is why do we have a
Redistricting Commission.

What is redistricting?

What is the difference between redistricting and
reapportionment?

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 the public input be submitted to the
AIRC?

So, first, why do we have a Redistricting
Commission?

This is the second time the Arizona districts will
be redrawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting
Commission.

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

The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two
Republicans, and an Independent chair elected by the other
commissioners.
The fifth member shall not be registered with any party already represented on the Commission.

The 2011 AIRC members are:

Scott Freeman, Vice Chair, Republican, from Maricopa County.

Jose Herrera, Democrat, from Maricopa County.

Colleen Mathis, Independent, from Pima County.

Linda McNulty, Democrat, from Pima County.

And Richard Stertz, Republican, from Pima County.

So the second question, what is redistricting?

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

What is the difference between redistricting and reapportionment?

The two terms are often used interchangeably.

There is a difference.

Reapportionment is the process of allocating congressional districts among the states based on changing populations.

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

So going from eight to nine districts.

And redistricting is the process of drawing the actual boundaries of the districts.
So why do we have to redistrict?

Touched on this a little bit, but because Arizona gained a congressional district, new lines will have to be drawn to add the new district.

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

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

So because the rate of population growth is different in different areas, the existing districts will now have different populations.

So what guidelines need to be followed when drawing new districts?

First, it complies with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

Equal population.

The criteria A and B are federally mandated. All plans must satisfy these two criteria.

The districts have to be compact and contiguous and must respect communities of interest.

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

And, finally, create competitive districts where
no significant detriment to other goals.

So a little bit about the Arizona redistricting process.

And I'll look over here for a minute.

I do apologize.

First, public hearings just like this are being conducted all across the state to collect input.

The goal is to obviously start with a grid map.

So, in some states the previous plans are used as a starting point for the new plans. This is not the case in Arizona.

In the state of Arizona, the starting point is the grid map per Proposition 106.

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

The initial grid map will likely only meet criteria B and C, meaning you'll have equal population and compact and contiguous.

So, continuing, the grid map will need to be adjusted to meet the six criteria we discussed previously.

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 it can take effect.

To get preclearance, Arizona has to demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate in its 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.

The presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

So, continuing, adjusting the grid map to equal population.

That districts are compact and contiguous. That they respect communities of interest.

One of the goals at IRC's public hearings is to solicit public input about communities of interest.

We discussed the forms. We can build that information.

You must use visible geographic features to draw the districts, which means county boundaries, cities and towns, and census tracts.

And usually census geography follows visible features.

And, finally, create competitive districts where
no significant detriment to other goals.

So, finally, the AIRC wants your input.

You can fill out a request to speak form at the public hearing and provide the Commission with your input. Examples of input that we're looking for is talking about the criteria, the six criteria that we talked about tonight, communities of interest, and anything else about redistricting.

You can speak at public hearings or submit your form to submit input on a form to be included on public record.

And, finally, please visit us at www.AZredistricting.org, or call (602)542-5221, with any thoughts.

Thank you so much. Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Korinnee.

Apologies. I've learned of a few other distinguished guests in the audience and wanted to acknowledge them.

Raise your hand and wave.

Rick Moreau, president of Valley Community Council.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mark Herrington, chairman of Graham County Board of Supervisors.
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(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And State Representative Jack Harper is also here this evening.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you all, thank you all for being here.

We've got a number of request to speak forms.

I don't know what our total is.

Okay. We'll tell you what that total is in a little bit.

We'd like again for you to come up to the podium when your name is called, and I'll try to name the first four, so if you can be ready to come to the front, and prepare to hear your testimony.

And you're also welcome to submit any documentation, maps, anything you have for us, or a written statement. And give that also to our executive director, the executive director Kristina Gomez. She'll get that and assure that it's part of our record.

And just a reminder to please speak into the microphone, give and spell your name for the court reporter, and specify the city or town in which you live.

And with that, we'll go ahead and get started.

Okay. We've got at least 30 some requests to speak forms. And in order to move through this as
efficiently as possible, if we could ask speakers to limit their time to three to four minutes.

There will be someone timing, I'm hoping.

Apparently Buck has that.

That way if we're bumping up against that time limit, if you could try to wrap up your comments as expeditiously as possible, that would be helpful.

Okay. Three and a half minutes is what we'll do.

And let's start with State Representative Jack Harper, representing retirement communities and LD 4 from Surprise.

JACK HARPER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Can I hand you a map that kind of summarizes where I'm at?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sure.

JACK HARPER: Thank you, Madam Chairwoman, committee members, guests, and audience.


I'm here today to make a pitch -- well, let me start out by saying I believe fully under federal law that the Voting Rights Act would be upheld in federal court as the number one priority of redistricting, despite what the State Supreme Court might interpret it of the priority of the goals of Independent Redistricting Commission.
After the Voting Rights Act as the priority, I'd like to make a pitch for communities of interest to be respected as much as possible, especially in the northwest valley.

I would like to see retirement communities together.

Under reapportionment, the legislative district that I represent would have to lose, I don't know, somewhere around 100,000 people. I forgot the total.

So, assuming that districts would stay close to what they look like now, but be reapportioned, and then the priority would be keeping communities of interest together, I would hope that the amount of people that I would lose would be in the working communities rather than the retirement communities so they get to stay together.

So specifically I'm talking about northeast -- northwest Phoenix, north Glendale, north Peoria being split off from Legislative District 4 so the retirement communities can be kept together.

If for some reason the Commission decides to also put Sun City in with Sun City West, Sun City Grand, and Sun City Festival, and all the retirement communities in Wickenburg and north Surprise, then probably also split off the two thirds of Yavapai County that's also in that
district.

So, I'm trying to make a pitch first with respect to the Voting Rights Act and the next priority is communities of interest.

And I appreciate an opportunity to be heard.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Now I'll do what I promised, which was to read off a few names so they'll all be ready.

Rick Moreau, Mark Herrington, and Michael LeVault are the next three speakers.

So if Rick Moreau is ready, president of Tonopah Valley Community Council. From Tonopah.

City of Tonopah.

RICK MOREAU: Tonopah, that's right.

Good evening. My name is Rick Moreau, M-O-R-E-A-U.

And I'm the president of the Tonopah Valley Community Council.

Tonopah is located in the far west valley in an unincorporated part of Maricopa County.

As such, an unincorporated area, we do have a community spirit. We have what's considered a community out there of people, about 5,000 residents.

Currently legislative districts split us right down the middle.
We are 5,000 people, but both of us -- but we're in two different districts, which is really not fair. So we're advocating to have those boundaries moved in a manner that will keep us whole.

Currently, what we consider our boundaries are west of Hassayampa River, north of Elliot Road, east of 459th Avenue, and south of the Belmont Mountains.

So if you can see it to keep us in one district, we would really appreciate it.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Mark Herrington, chairman, Graham County Board of Supervisors, representing Graham County ECO/EECO.

Is that right?

MARK HERRINGTON: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

MARK HERRINGTON: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, I appreciate the opportunity to come here tonight, long distance from where I live, and having an opportunity to address you on these very important issues.

I want to talk about communities of interest and how important that is to southeast Arizona, specifically to LD 5.
And I worked hard ten years ago to be able to accomplish what we have today in LD 5.

And with the addition of Verde Valley, for numbers sake, I believe that we continue with LD 5 the way it's constituted pretty much and will serve these communities of interest.

We -- the communities of interest mainly that we have in common by ECO, and that's Eastern Counties Organization, of which I'm president, and the other is the Environmental Economic Communities Organization, which I am president. These constitute five counties: Greenlee, Graham, Apache, Navajo, and Gila County.

Which is all contained now within the LD 5.

But these communities of interest include mining, which are Gila County, Greenlee County, and Graham County today.

And the other communities of interest we have in common with all of these are agricultural, of course, is very important to us in southeast Arizona. Farming, ranching, and the greenhouse industry, which is a major economic engine that exists for us.

We have other communities of interest. Our family and cultural and historic communities. Pioneer ancestry, cultural ties are important to our citizens.

And all of these things make very successful what
we now have.

These things date back before statehood, so they have existed among us there for a long time.

But during the past decade, the Graham County citizens and the other citizens of these counties have had their voices clearly heard.

And what we ask you to do is please don't take away from us, in the realignment process, these things that are so important to us and help us to be able to stay in a contiguous way and to be able to represent each community of interest.

I'm also here to speak for support of the Pinal County Government Alliance congressional map.

And I have a new copy of that. There is a change. It was shown to you. And I will leave it here at the desk on my way out.

The other thing I would ask is that you consider having a meeting in southeast Arizona. Graham, Greenlee, and Gila Counties effectively were left out of the decision when the decision was made for meetings.

We'd like to have our people have an opportunity to share these same things with you as a Commission.

Again, I deeply appreciate you hearing me out tonight, and thank you so much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. And if you don't
mind, just spell your name for the record.


CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Michael LeVault, followed by Richard Miranda, and Mari Alvarado.

So if Michael is ready, you can come up. Mayor, town of Youngtown, representing Youngtown.


And thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Commission, for this opportunity to address you tonight.

I have a letter I'd like to read into the record.

Do you want a copy or shall I leave it in the back of the room? Would you like it now?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, we'll keep it up here, and you can read that into the record.

MICHAEL LEVAULT: This letter is dated August 2nd, 2011. Addressed to the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

To whom it may concern.

The mayor and town council of Youngtown unanimously ask that the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission consider the town of Youngtown to be a community of interest, or COI, for purposes of redistricting
legislative and congressional districts.

As a COI, Youngtown should be kept intact with the entire town being placed in the same district.

Youngtown was the country's first retirement community, incepted in 1954. However, since the town lost its age overlay in 1998, its demographics have changed profoundly.

Current consensus -- or I'm sorry, current census statistics show the retirement population in Youngtown to be around 20 percent of the total population. Consequently Youngtown has much in common with its neighboring communities to the west, El Mirage and Surprise.

We ask that you consider placing us in a district with which we are demographically compatible.

Sincerely, and then that letter is signed by me as mayor and by all six of my council members.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thank you very much.

MICHAEL LEVAULT: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Richard Miranda, from Arizona Minority Coalition, representing District 13.

RICHARD MIRANDA: Thank you.

I'm going to try and use this. I'm not quite sure how to close this screen.

I live in Phoenix, but I have a Tolleson ZIP code address. Go figure.

I'm not sure how to do this.

This good?

There we go.

I'm trying to get to down here at the bottom.

Go ahead. Get the first map on there.

There's a lot of information I want to go through.

I know that the coalition presented the map at South Mountain High School, community college. But very briefly, the green is traditionally what's known as south Phoenix, which includes south Phoenix and the area of Laveen. It includes Roosevelt School District, Laveen School District, and also the town of Guadalupe.

The entire city council of Guadalupe approved this map, along with other members, members from that area.

Moving on very quickly, the yellow district incorporates several traditionally large Hispanic communities all the way from the west side, which includes Latinas, Cashion, old Avondale, the city of Tolleson -- by the way, Tolleson city council has approved this map, along with the mayor of Avondale, and several school board members.

Ranging all the way from the Ironwood School District, which I know they have an issue, a little section
in the east needs to be included, not much population.

And then we have Fowler School District, and then we have Tolleson Elementary, Tolleson High School. We have the old community of Santa Maria.

I'm a Phoenix native here. I'm talking about communities that have been in this area since there was -- it was agricultural.

These have a rich tradition, and so we're asking that these communities of interest -- by the way, do these maps meet the first five requirements? Absolutely.

Communities of interest, we've got the boundaries, Voting Rights Act, population, it mirrors almost as close as to what the populations are.

If I could get some help.

Okay. The next two are the purple district, which we're going to have people here also speak, which incorporates communities of interest of old Glendale, the old Pendergrast School District, which used to be in a rural area when I was growing up. It was way out there off of 91st Avenue.

It includes Cartwright School District, includes Phoenix Elementary, parts of Phoenix Elementary.

These are all predominantly Latino communities, reaching into the 70 percent population.

It is where we live. It's where we shop. It is
where we as a community identify ourselves.

These are all typically old neighborhoods, and therefore belong together.

And the population requirements are absolutely met.

The Voting Rights Act, they're absolutely met.

The thing I want to point out is also the Orange District. It is a largely Latino-based population that reaches 53 percent.

I know the maps in the past were not consistent in trying to represent Latino communities, and in my opinion were gerrymandered. And so if you'll notice there's no, there's no etching here for anybody in particular.

We just -- they're very straight lines.

They're trying to, we're just trying to meet the requirements that are needed to keep, in my opinion, the communities of interest together.

We also have school districts almost entirely within the boundaries that I've shown.

We have support from -- I'm not sure how much time we have.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We don't have any, but if you can wrap up, that would be great.

RICHARD MIRANDA: But, you know, we have been open with this process.
We have shown our maps to other groups.

We haven't really gotten that kind of discussion with other groups.

We have not seen any maps, the paper, even though we know they're drawn. We are open to changes to our map, but we are not open to the dividing of communities of interest here.

So we're open to some changes to this, and to keep an open and honest dialogue.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Mari Alvarado, governing board member for LULAC, from Maricopa.


Representing the Arizona Minority Coalition. I'm also a member of the governing board of the Alhambra School District.

I live in Phoenix, Arizona, and I'm a member of LULAC.

I want to thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

I know that the task before you is very daunting, and I appreciate the time that you have to listen to us in the community.
I want to tell you that I strongly support the legislative redistricting maps that are proposed by the Arizona Minority Coalition and that were explained by Representative Richard Miranda.

Great thought, effort, and time have been included into forming these maps with several meetings that I have attended and that other local and state leadership together with many citizens have put these maps together.

These maps unite communities of interest, and also these maps provide the best opportunity for minority representation in the Arizona legislature.

So, in ending, I urge the IRC to adopt these proposed maps in your final redistricting position.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next three or four speakers, Jackie Rose, Rick Murphy, John Mireles, and Evelyn Shapiro.

So if we can have Jackie Rose, District 9, represent self, from Sun City.


I'd like to thank the Commission for meeting here in west valley in Glendale, and giving us, District 9, and the other west valley districts, an opportunity to express our gratitude to you for following the will of the voters
and carrying out your constitutionally mandated prerogatives.

We support you in your goals to create fair and competitive districts, and we want you to know that.

I think it's very important to maintain competitiveness in each district to more closely represent the one third, one third, one third voter registration.

No one party should dominate the state. That does not represent the voters.

It is important that you listen to the people of Arizona rather than special interest groups or organizations which are promoting the interests of elected officials rather than the citizens of the state.

Thank you for your attention.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is State Senator Rick Murphy, from Peoria.

RICK MURPHY: Hi. Good evening.

For the record, my name is Rick Murphy, R-I-C-K, M-U-R-P-H-Y.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

I think it would be really important when it comes to mid-northwest valley, as I call it, the town I live in, that the communities of interest is a very important feature to keep in mind.
And the current districts did a pretty good job of that, in the sense of we have Sun City as roughly about half of the voting population of this district, and it is contiguous, and it is all of Sun City.

And that is what the residents want. They want to all be in one district, as was expressed during the last redistricting. And other constituents I've spoken to, they prefer to be in one district to have a voice.

Equally important are the Glendale and Peoria areas of the district which, again, are about half of the voting population of the district.

I think that balance is relatively important, because what you don't want to have is only a segment of Sun City that is then dominated by the other family areas, or a small family area dominated by retirement areas, and then one of those areas might lose their voice.

The way we have it now, it's relatively well balanced in both areas. They are somewhat different, but contiguous, feel like they both have a voice and they're both listened, to and they're not dominated by the other.

So I think that balance is very important, and I think it's important to do that.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Appause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is John Mireles. Followed by Evelyn Shapiro, Kathryn French, and Dulce Gonzalez.

JOHN MIRELES: Thank you. My name is John Mireles, state director for Arizona League of United Latin American Citizens. I just want to express my support for the map proposed by the Arizona Minority Coalition, the map that was described by State Representative Richard Miranda. I think that map is very compliant with the civil rights laws and also the Voter Rights Act. I think it's compliant also with reflective of the communities of interest.

So thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Next is Evelyn Shapiro from Isaac School District No. 5, governing board member, representing herself.

EVELYN SHAPIRO: Thank you. My name is Evelyn Shapiro, E-V-E-L-Y-N, capital S-H-A-P-I-R-O. And I am a member of the school board, and I have been since 2001 when you all decided to have redistricting once before.

And during that time, before, we were broken up
into four districts.

And that made it very difficult, because to ask a house of representative or senator to do something, we were only 6.8 square miles, and they had one little bit of this or one little bit of that, so we never got any attention.

And you all listened real well last time when it came time for us being in one district, whether it's 13 or 14, but keep us all together.

And you got us all together right now, except for north of 39th Avenue and Thomas.

West of 39th Avenue, east of 43rd Avenue to Indian School, that segment is left out of your yellow design that you've got there for the map.

But to the canal is a proper domain where we have homes. After the canal it's all commercial.

And that -- but if you could keep us until the canal, then we would all be together and working.

And Mr. Miranda, our Senator Miranda, was there for us, and he worked with us and helped so much at that time.

I would ask you please consider and bring it back and keep us back as one district. Like I said, we're only 6.8 square miles. If you can help us out, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Kathryn French, president of Agua Fria Ranch HOA.

KATHRYN FRENCH: Hello, Madam Chair and commissioners.


I come today to speak to you about allowing the town of Youngtown to be aligned more with the community that has interests that are similar to it.

We do not align well at all with the Sun City areas.

The only thing we have in common is 111th Avenue, and there's quite a wide spread on that avenue if you've been on it.

We are a small town, but we've changed a great deal.

And I speak to you representing half of the community. Our HOA is a relatively new area that came to be around 2004, 2005, 783 homes. And those homes are all made up of young families.

And those families are not represented well in the district we are currently in, because it's overshadowed by the large number of retirees who are in our district in the Sun City area.

And so most of the time we are not listened to.
We're not seen, often not even asked what our opinion is, let alone what we'd be interested in a change. Anytime there's anything that's related to growth related to our area, it cannot be seen or heard because of that.

So we would really encourage you, with community of interest being the topic I'm speaking to, that you align us more with an area like an El Mirage or Surprise, as the mayor also spoke of, because that is something that would make us more similar.

When you have six and seven and eight year olds running around, and Sun City has no interest in that, they raised all their kids, is how you hear them speak, then you're in a position where it's hard to put forward those issues and have them held up in the way that's meaningful.

So we appreciate the opportunity to speak to you.

Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Dulce Gonzalez, and after Dulce will be Caroline Modeen, Rivko Knox, and Reid Rodger.

So Dulce Gonzalez, a student of law at South Glendale Community, Glendale.

DULCE GONZALEZ: Actually I'm a student at ASU. I live in south Glendale, and I am here as a resident of south Glendale, as a member of LD 13, and as a voter in
Congressional District 4, and as a law student.

The majority of my time I spend in south Phoenix. And for the last 11 years I've lived in south Glendale. And I see more and more household communities have so much in common. They're very similar.

South Glendale often feels like it's more a part of Phoenix, because in the neighborhood I live in, my brother still attends Alhambra School District, which is part of the Phoenix school district.

My sisters go to Phoenix College.

We go to church in Phoenix.

Our jobs are in Phoenix.

And so I feel that the way that all of the -- I'm happy to be a part of Glendale. Glendale has been good to us. To fulfill our municipal needs at the legislative level, I feel that with our community giving -- given our needs are social economic needs, cultural needs.

At the congressional level I believe that our boundaries -- or our districts, sorry, our neighborhood can fit into a congressional district, because I feel that this kind of issues that we bring up to the congressional level would not be fulfilled if they are taken by a congressional district that's in north Phoenix or northwest Glendale.

Just our issues are not the same.

Our issues are education, transportation, social
services.

And, again, our social economic needs and our cultural, cultural backgrounds are very similar with south Phoenix, with Guadalupe, with central Phoenix.

And like Avondale, and I feel that as it currently stands we can have a voice into those levels and I appreciate it if you keep it that way.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Would you mind spelling name for the record?


CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Carolyn Modeen, representing self, from Maricopa Sun City.


Thank you to the Commission for the work you are doing, including public input, to establish fair and honest voting districts for Arizona.

These districts should represent the distribution of party as declared by Arizona voting residents, one third Republican, one third Democratic, one third Independent.

You were also aware of community cohesiveness, so that boundaries include communities of people that operate as a unit.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Rivko Knox, representing self, from Phoenix.

RIVKO KNOX: Thank you, members of the Commission.

My name is R-I-V, like in victory, K-O. First name. Last name Knox, K-N-O-X.

I live in Phoenix. Actually I've lived in the same house since 1966.

I've always lived somewhere between four or five legislative districts.

I don't know if you can see my shirt. It does show that I'm a member of the League of Women Voters. I am not representing them as a member of the league. We've learned a lot about the redistricting process and are very concerned that it's well done.

And I thank you all for holding the public hearings.

My main point that I really want to share is the whole idea of competitiveness.

And what we have seen so often in this state, and obviously around the country in many ways, is the lack of competition.

And what that -- when that happens, you wind up with a very -- with a preponderance of either Republicans or
Democrats. In so many current districts they are safe for that party.

And more extreme candidates are likely to be elected.

People more and more need or want candidates that appeal to all sectors of population, which is why it's so important that districts be competitive.

I'd like to make a final brief comment, which is that as you, I'm sure, are all aware, there is a non-legislative entity, a non-public entity called the Arizona Competitive Coalition.

And they sponsored a contest to create maps.

And they have a Republican and a Democrat co-chairing their competitive coalition.

And they have opened it up to the public for maps.

And I would certainly hope that you will pay attention to the maps that are being created by the public, because they are not responding to any special interest. It's just whoever wants to go sit in and use their mapping system, and is part -- certainly aware of the, of the requirement for criteria.

I do want to make one final, and I apologize for that.

I think, unfortunately, although I support the Voting Rights Act in one way, I think its interpretation
many times has been skewed.

The idea is not to discriminate against minorities.

It is not to put them all in one district. And frequently members of minority groups tend to be of one party.

And you wind up with one very heavily -- a district very heavily one party, and then there's no representation in the other.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Reid Rodger.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next is Janet Baldon, Shirley McAllister, and Nelson Fink.

REID RODGER: My name is Reid Rodger, R-E-I-D, R-O-D-G-E-R.

I am chairman of the agricultural nursery greenhouse committee for State of Arizona Farm Bureau, and I am here representing myself and District 4 in Glendale.

I'd like to thank each one of you for the efforts putting in public input for issues that are critically important to our state.

In the Commission here you're trying to squeeze, what, yet another congressman on the state, and I think
it's, what, 30 legislative districts now.

    Now, that's a daunting task.

    I think it's got to be better you than me that tries to do all that.

    But it's very important that each of our citizens are correctly represented.

    And the community of interest that I have tonight, that I would like to talk to you about, is all of our rural districts. Not just in Maricopa County here in my district, but throughout the state.

    As a small business owner that's been over the last few years encroached by urbanization, and I have to say that the rural voice has been removed due to the sheer mass of the urban voice.

    I believe that each citizen chooses and has close to the same hopes, desires, and dreams as any other citizen, but the legislative needs are very much so different.

    If rural areas are merged with urban areas for whatever reasons, that rural voice inevitably gets drowned out.

    Maricopa County, which I believe has the largest number of voters in the entire state, and whatever the citizens might vote or voice from the legislation, the citizens get heard.

    As an example, if a rural community like Wikieup
were incorporated into urban Maricopa County, that voice might not receive the attention that's needed it.

The urban voice here might make demands or have needs perhaps of mass transit or public rail, Wikieup on the other hand might just need indoor plumbing. You know.

Merging a mass of rural land to add population to a mainly urban district, that rural voice will get lost. Let's not drown out that urban voice.

Rural communities share much in common with each other no matter how far apart. That rural voice can be drowned out by urban population that might be closer in proximity, but not on ideology or the needs and demands of a rural community.

Tonight I've heard pretty much a lot that represents that.

You've been invited to go to Graham County. I know those greenhouses down there. Those people have serious issues, legislative issues that are devastating to that industry.

Take them up on their invitation, go down and listen to people in Graham County. Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Before we continue, we're going to take five minutes.

(Brief recess taken.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Let's get in and get started, back into public session.

The time is 7:10 p.m.

And our next speaker, and apologies for the brief break, but Janet Baldon, Shirley McAllister, Nelson Fink are next.

Janet, representing LD 9, from Sun City.

JANET BALDON: Good evening. And I thank you, Madam Chair, and the board, for allowing me to speak tonight.

I'm concerned about the changes that might come about in LD 9.

My name is Janet Baldon, J-A-N-E-T, and the last name is B, as in boy, A-L-D-O-N.

I currently reside in Sun City, and Miramosa precinct, or Mimosa is the way it's pronounced, that's in LD 9.

For those of you that don't know Sun City, LD 9 as has Sun City, parts of Peoria, part of Glendale, and Youngtown.

Sun City is a community of interest to me, because I moved there recently to take care of my aging mother.

My community, all around me, my neighbors and the people that I know live in Sun City, all shop and go to the doctors and get their entertainment and restaurants from
Peoria and Glendale.

So it makes sense to me that economically those communities should continue together.

Westbrook is also currently in LD 4. And because of a lack of numbers in population, LD 9 needs to grow. And because Westbrook borders Sun City, and both areas have similar interests, it seems like it would be a good way to help LD 4 lose some of the population that they need to reduce themselves by.

The current boundaries are north to Union Hills, south to Northern Avenue, west to the Agua Fria Ranch, and east to 51st.

The proposed boundaries are the boundaries that I'm proposing tonight are to move it on farther north to Beardsley because the 101 is right there and that's a good natural boundary, to keep the boundary east at 51st because that is a natural boundary, it separates Glendale from Phoenix, and it would also keep the Peoria Unified School District in only two legislative districts.

And the southern boundary would dip just below Northern Avenue and then west to the natural boundary which is the Agua Fria River.

The reasons for these changes, well, as I said before, LD 9 only has 34,000 and needs to increase their population by 34,000 and LD 4 needs to decrease by 81,000.
Adding Westbrook would reduce LD 4, and Peoria would remain in just two districts.

Sun City and south Peoria, I feel, should be kept together because the residents primarily go to Peoria, like I said, for shopping and medical facilities.

I heard talk that, and I don't know if it's true or not, but there was some discussion about trying to combine the residents of Sun City and Sun City West into one district.

And I want to address that, because I feel that that would not be beneficial to either group.

Because we both have different utilities, different buyer districts, and what might be beneficial to one community would not necessarily be beneficial to the other.

The two communities also have completely and separate HOAs that govern them, and what is okay in Sun City might not be okay in Sun City West.

Most of Sun City's activities take place outside of Peoria or Glendale. By Sun City West, most of them go to Surprise.

And my last point, Sun City West recreation board is under Title 33, while Sun City's is under Title 10, and these differences might make some major problems if they're placed in the same district.
I thank you again for allowing me the time to speak.

And I do have a copy of my map here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Shirley McAllister, representing self, from Maricopa.


Thank you for serving on this important Commission. I recognize your task is a difficult one. In fact, you'll not be able to please all of us in coming up with your recommendations for our new district lines.

Your commitment for serving our state is commendable.

I've been a resident and voter in Arizona for 15 years, voting in every election since 1996.

When I voted in my first primary election, I understood why so few people did not vote -- why so many people did not vote.

We had very few choices on the Democratic primary ballot.

In many of our districts, voters have little or no choice even during the general election.
That is because we have so few competitive districts.

I know there are many considerations to be made before the new districts lines are drawn. Please keep in mind that with voter registration being closely divided among Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, it would make sense that there be more competitive districts available for the next ten years than have been available in the past.

Without competitive districts, many of us have no representation.

Those elected do not respond to our calls, e-mails, or letters.

Without competition, we have lost our voice.

So I ask that you give serious consideration to forming competitive districts, and I appreciate the opportunity to address you tonight.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Your next speaker is Nelson Fink.

He will be followed by Garrett Simpson, Steve Gallardo, and John Keck.

Nelson Fink, representing self.
And you'll have to tell us where you're from.

NELSON FINK: Good evening. My name is Nelson Fink, N-E-L-S-O-N, F-I-N-K.

I elected to come this evening to provide input to the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission and return my copy of the public input form.

My wife and I do the majority of our shopping, entertainment, belonging to our church, as well as being members of local organizations, within the current boundaries of LD 9. However, LD 9 needs to gain approximately 34,500 people, while LD 4 needs to reduce by approximately 81,172.

Therefore Westbrook, which is currently in LD 4, should be added to LD 9, still keeping Peoria in just two districts.

This action is recommended I feel because Westbrook borders Sun City. And they have similar interests, such as both being retirement communities and sharing the same shopping amenities.

That would also add to our 34,500 people that we need to increase.

Most persons living in Glendale, Peoria, and Sun City utilize the same shopping, churches, and entertainment within the above boundaries I'm about to mention.
I think the boundaries should be Beardley and the 101 Freeway. That would be the northern boundary. The eastern boundary, 51st Avenue. The western boundary at the Agua Fria River. And the southern boundary Northern Avenue. The 51st Avenue is a natural breaking point between Phoenix and Glendale.

The Agua Fria would be a natural breaking point between Sun City and Sun City West.

I've heard and seen some legislation that was causing some problems in our last legislative session.

And I think the lady before me has covered it pretty well, but I'd like to reiterate, because I think it's important that you folks understand that you just can't take two retirement communities or two communities that have been working together for ten years and decide now you're going to change it.

And that is you'll have problems by putting Sun City and Sun City West together, because of a Title 33 for the recreation centers in Sun City West, while Sun City is only using Title 10 for their recreation centers.

These differences can cause an awful lot of problems.

Again, you have separate fire departments for these folks.

You have separate homeowners associations.
And if any of you are familiar with the homeowners association, they make their own laws whenever they want to. And these people have been living ten years under these current laws that they've made for each one of these communities.

Thank you for your attention. The work you do is critical to the future of Arizona. I trust you will do it impartially and in the best interest of our great state.

Thank you. I'll turn this form in to the back.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Wonderful. Thank you. (Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Garrett Simpson, representing self, from Maricopa.

GARRETT SIMPSON: From Glendale actually. Ms. Mathis, Madam Chair, members of the Commission, thank you for having us here. I'm delighted to be here to share this open process.

This is the sort of thing that usually takes place in the back rooms and smoke filled rooms is the political cliche.

The Arizona that I grew up in was rather like
that, before Baker versus Carr, back when the rural communities were running everything in Arizona. Maybe you can remember, if you've lived here as long as I have, that the interstate highways were built from Yuma and the state lines were the agricultural communities were to Phoenix. Traffic in Phoenix and Maricopa County was messed up for years, as they slowly, slowly approached the city with freeways.

You can still see the Harold Giss Parkway in Yuma that was built -- overbuilt for a community that really didn't need it, because that's where the power was, that's where the power was before one man, one vote.

The reason I wanted to take your time was because the demographer's Power Point presentation talked about the concept of one person, one vote.

It's not a concept.

It's a constitutional mandate. Baker versus Carr is the law. It's a matter of equal protection of law.

I know you know that.

But I think it needs to be underlined because a lot of the fine people behind me that came up to speak were talking about things that were discretionary. Communities of interest are an important consideration. Discretionary.

Keeping fire districts in the same legislative district, not a bad idea. But it's discretionary and it's
subordinate to the need to make sure that the votes of human beings that are citizens of the United States don't get diluted, don't get diminished by political considerations that even while meritorious don't rise to the level of constitutional mandate.

The competitiveness that Ms. McAllister talked about is crucial because that's goes to the essence of the Voting Rights Act and the essence of equal protection. The one third, one third, one third is a natural place to do it. I agree with Ms. McAllister completely.

I just think it's important that as we go through this process, and, again, I'm delighted to see it happening in the daylight and sunshine, the things that really matter, the things that are requisite have to come first. The things that are dispositive are not suppressing the vote, and making sure that people have access to the ballot, and that their votes count as much as the votes in the next district, in the next congressional district as well as the next legislative district.

I think that's the essence of your Commission and of your duties, and I commend you for your service and hope that you'll take that to heart.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is State Senator Steve Gallardo, Cartwright governing board member as well, representing self.

STEVE GALLARDO: Good afternoon. Thank you, members of the Commission.

Real quickly for the record, State Senator Steve Gallardo from District 13, and also serving on the Cartwright elementary school board.

I come here in support of the Minority Coalition map that has been presented by Representative Richard Miranda.

It is a map that we have worked on profusely for quite some time now.

And when we first started looking at the area, one of the things that we know that not only the Department of Justice is going to be looking at, but also you all as commissioners, and that is what are the communities of commonality, what are those communities of interest.

And so we took a step back, and we looked at those areas, we took in a lot of different considerations, from property values, school districts, household income, language, graduation rates.

We looked at all those different type of category, and we were able to kind of draw an outline of what we would call communities of interest, communities of commonality.
From that outline we divided up what we hope to have for our legislative districts.

Those legislative districts have been presented to you all.

We did our best to try to keep them as compact as possible, at the same time looking at population.

We -- of course we have to make sure that they're equal in terms of population to the extent practical.

So we looked at all those factors when drawing this -- these minority districts.

They're not perfect. And even just standing out right there near the door, I got an earful by some folks that had some suggestions.

And we are definitely open to some suggestions on how we can make these districts fair and be able to represent those communities.

Just even this evening, this is interesting, I'd add another community of interest.

Currently right now I'm working with the project with Ranch Market, Wells Fargo, some other corporations, to give out back to school backpacks to kids. These kids are predominantly low income kids. They go to some of the public schools in those areas.

And we identified certain areas, and come and behold, those areas are within the boundaries in which we
are now looking at.

We did our first giveaway this evening of 600. We'll give out another 600 backpacks tomorrow and throughout the weekend. 4,000 backpacks altogether.

But, nonetheless, it is encompassed of those geographical boundaries, those four districts. Those are the areas in which we gave out backpacks.

So when we looked at these maps, we looked at it based on communities of commonality, communities of interest, what are those. And we drew those districts based on that.

And also when it comes to congressional lines, we have yet to sit down and even start focusing on congressional lines.

I know there are other folks that are working on the congressional lines.

But here's a perfect example of what a congressional district can look like, in Maricopa County, in terms communities of commonality.

You can look at that -- I'm not too sure in terms of the total numbers of people there, but here's a perfect ideal district in which a congressional district can be drawn from.

So with that, I would hope that you take into consideration the Minority Coalition map.
I know we're shopping around to more folks, school board members, community leaders. Anyone that is willing to sit down and talk and look at it, we are open.

And as we continue to shop it around, I would plan that we would have additional feedback or we would be able to present to the Commission.

But at this point, I am totally supportive of the Minority Coalition map and hope that you take that into consideration.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Senator.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is John Martin Keck.

And I'll read off the next three names, Bill Cheatham, Greg Hynes, and Steve Schallenberger.

JOHN MARTIN KECK: Good evening.


I do not represent any group, although I am a member of one of the major political parties.

I will paraphrase a quote from a former United States senator.

There are too many Democrats in the Arizona legislature, there are too many Republicans in the Arizona
legislature, and not near enough Arizonans in the Arizona legislature.

(Applause.)

JOHN MARTIN KECK: Gerrymandering is a practice to which I object. And if you look at the present map, you will see many examples of it. The prime examples appear in Districts 13, 14, and 15.

There is no way that a district can be extended over that much urban geographical territory and say that it represents either a community of interest nor is it a competitive political district.

I will say that two of these three districts are predominantly one ethnic group. As if any ethnic group votes as a block.

It is my personal belief that compactness of the district and the community of interest should be paramount for your consideration for redistricting.

With the rise in the Independent voters, you may find some new districts in which neither the Democrats nor the Republicans are the plurality.

In the past 30 years, I have lived in three different legislative districts and three different county supervisory districts.

I haven't moved.

From this experience I will say that I believe I
can be fairly represented in the legislature by persons who are of different political party than I am and of a different ethnic group than I am.

It all depends on the personality of the representative.

Registered voters are American citizens.

And I am a great believer in the one person, one vote.

But being American by birth or naturalization is the common bond we all have.

Please do not take your guidelines on redistricting from the seven dwarfs and their followers in Washington, D.C.

(Appause.)

JOHN MARTIN KECK: It is necessary to discuss, consider, and compromise to reach the best decisions.

If anyone is 100 percent happy with your final outcome, you will know there's something wrong with it.

I suggest you proceed with a fundamental fairness to all people who are involved.

I realize the United States Justice Department is the large pile of fecal material you must shovel through on your way to successful redistricting.

They have believed for over 50 years that the citizens of Arizona are not intelligent enough to conduct
our own business.

You are engaged in a great task.

Have patience and endurance, and may you be guided
by a power that does not reside on this earth.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is ready?

Bill Cheatham, representing self, from Phoenix.

BILL CHEATHAM: Chairperson Mathis and the other
members of the Commission, thank you for letting me speak.

In reviewing the provisions that you're following
in this important process, I'm most interested in community
of interest goal.

I'm a resident of Phoenix with a Paradise Valley
address. It actually starts right across the street from
me.

I lived in Scottsdale for ten years before moving
to my current residence.

I have found myself spending almost all of my time
in Phoenix since I moved seven years ago.

I work out of my home, and my wife works in
Phoenix, and my children work in Phoenix.

I have found that a move of only two miles has
changed my work, recreation, and shopping patterns to
Phoenix and Paradise Valley.
The exception is my cleaners, and you can't give up good cleaners no matter where they are.

We are active in many organizations, and almost all are based in Phoenix, including our church and our granddaughter's school.

Most of our friends and family live in Phoenix and P.V. And I have been far more cognizant of the direction the issues that affect Phoenix than I had been as a Scottsdale resident.

Tatum has replaced Scottsdale Road as my main thoroughfare.

In short, the fortunes of Phoenix are more important to me and my family. I believe that the communities of P.V. and Phoenix are strongly linked and should be in the same congressional district.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Greg Hynes, representing self, from Phoenix.

GREG HYNES: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, my name is Greg Hynes, G-R-E-G, H-Y-N-E-S. I live in downtown Phoenix in the historic Willo neighborhood.

I think that the historic districts in Phoenix, central Phoenix, should stay together.

Historic neighborhoods of central Phoenix are
located between 24th Street and 19th Avenue, east and west, and Bethany Home Road and Van Buren north and south, with a couple of neighborhoods outside of these boundaries, and a majority of the neighborhoods clustered south of Thomas Road and west of Seven Street.

Historic neighborhoods have similar concerns and have a history of successfully working together with issues regarding historic preservation, graffiti, reduction of crime, local traffic concerns, obtaining speed bumps, roundabouts, and overall neighborhood improvements.

Historic neighborhoods should stay together because they are a community of interest with similar histories, schools, transportation routes, culture, arts districts, concerns for historical integrity, festivals, home tours, very active neighborhood associations, voting histories, et cetera.

It is a very unique part of Phoenix, unlike areas that are located east of it.

In a congressional map, the historic neighborhoods of central Phoenix should be included with west Phoenix, Maryvale, Isaac neighborhoods, and south Phoenix.

There is a natural connection between downtown Phoenix and south Phoenix, which is Central Avenue, because of similar elementary schools, high school, and community colleges shared by the residents of the areas, as well as
frequently -- frequenting the same parks and transportation services.

People in these communities have very similar voting histories, and shop and worship in the same communities.

People in central Phoenix utilize the lightrail, and there are many active residents in the south Phoenix area that are currently working on connecting the lightrail from Phoenix -- from central Phoenix to South Mountain through Central Avenue.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS:  Thank you.

Our next speaker is Steve Schallenberger, representing self, from Glendale.

And the next three will be Celeste Pettijohn, Jim Larson, and Lisa Gray.

STEVE SCHALLENBERGER: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to speak.

My name is Steve, S-T-E-V-E, Schallenberger, S-C-H-A-L-L-E-N-B-E-R-G-E-R.

With that, I think half my time is up.

In all seriousness though, in the past few months the American people have been worn to a frazzle by the goings on back in Washington. Depending on who you talk to, the process has either been fair or it has not.
It is fairness, however, that this process is all about.

Each new district should be redistricted fairly, with as much as possible the mix being equal, such that the people of those districts can have a fair chance of being represented by those who understand their views.

Any district that is carved out strictly for the benefit of a single group of people is not a fair district. It's not a district that reflects the diversity, the melting pot that is Arizona, and indeed is the United States.

Fairness is all we ask.

I know that the IRC will do its level best to make that happen.

It's in the best interest of the people of Arizona, and to the spirit of fairness which is a true mark of all Americans.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Celeste Pettijohn, representing self, from Phoenix.

CELESTE PETTIJOHN: Madam Chairwoman, committee. My name is Celeste, C-E-L-E-S-T-E, and Pettijohn, P-E-T-T-I-J-O-H-N. And I am here to speak on behalf of competitiveness.

I think it is absolutely critical that
competitiveness be taken as one of the major aspects to be looked at in drawing these maps.

As a manager and district chair I can tell you in Legislative District 6 as it currently exists it is almost impossible to attract good candidates.

You cannot get quality candidates to run for a position they feel they have absolutely no hope of achieving.

And I believe the same exists in any of the other legislative districts that are so lopsided.

We have also a particular problem with the amount of acreage, for lack of a better word, that we cover. We extend all the way up through Anthem, and we currently now have representatives that basically don't consider the interests of Phoenix. They even refer to themselves as representatives from Anthem. Which of course isn't any form of any city at all.

So you can see it's vitally important that we have competitive districts where both parties can get together and get us people who are worthy to represent us.

And I thank you very much for your time, and I appreciate everything that you've done.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Jim
Larson, representing self, from Phoenix.

JIM LARSON: Thank you, chairwoman, members of the committee.

My name again is Jim Larson, J-I-M, L-A-R-S-O-N. And I am representing actually myself, but I also was a candidate for state senator in District 6.

And if you look at the demographics and the size of our LD, it runs all the way from basically Thunderbird south, a very urbanized area, all the way up to the Maricopa County border, very rural.

My issues at that time, and still are, I want to represent -- I want our people that are here in the legislature to represent all the people that are in the district.

So it's very diverse.

Unfortunately I didn't -- no matter really who you would get into the council, into the legislative positions, they're not really geared towards representing rural people with all the issues going on in the county, because there are a lot of county districts up there, as well as the urban districts down here, which is really heavily with crime, fire department, police department, density issues.

So when you're making your maps, please besides looking at the interests of your -- the interest of a people that are in the urban areas and in the residential areas,
make sure that you're also looking at the competitive side as well.

As was also spoken.

The people in the rural areas need to have a representative that fairly represents everybody in that district, which means also looking at the competitiveness.

People in the urban areas need to have the same thing.

And so basically that's what I'm looking for is making sure that the competitiveness in the districts match the members, the special interest groups and stuff, so you can't have one or the other. You need to balance it all out, which I'm sure you're all working on to get that done.

But that's just a very highlighted outline for that.

With that, I thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Lisa Gray is our next speaker, representing self, from Sun City LD 9.

I'll just read the next three. I believe this says Lord Hansen, Anita Christy, and Walt Gray.

LISA GRAY: Chairwoman, members of the Commission, my name Lisa Gray, L-I-S-A, G-R-A-Y.

I am representing myself, but I am the Republican
district chairman for Legislative District 9.

I want to agree with our Representative Rick Murphy that District 9 is a very well-balanced district. We currently have a representative that was elected that lives in Sun City, one lives in Peoria, and one that lives in Glendale.

So I really think that we have a great balance.

I'm going to reiterate some of the talking points or some of the things that were brought out today.

That we do have to grow by 34,500 people, while District 4 needs to shrink by 81,172.

So Westbrook, being just north of Sun City, would be a great addition into our district.

It, like I said, it borders Sun City. It has similar interests. They are both retirement communities, and they shop in the same areas, same shopping amenities.

And then that also by adding Westbrook it would decrease the Legislative District 4.

On the west side, the Agua Fria River makes a natural boundary between Sun City and Sun City West.

And then on the east side, 51st Ave is a good natural boundary line that separates Glendale and Phoenix.

It also separates the Peoria School District from the Washington Elementary.

So it would be really nice to try to keep PUSD in.
I mean, it's a very -- right now it's a majority is in four and nine, but it would be really nice to have all of the schools in at least just the two districts.

I don't think there's no way we can put that huge school district in one district.

I will tell you that I do live in Sun City, even though I don't look like I'm old enough to live there.

But I will tell you that in talking with people in my community, that they do not want to be together with Sun City West. They are -- there are distinct differences between the two communities, even though they are retirement communities.

Sun City West does a lot of their shopping and things in Surprise. Same with Sun City Grand and Sun City Festival. There's that river separation.

Those people are pretty much a community of interest.

While Sun City, the original Sun City, they do a lot of their shopping in the Peoria area.

So I'd like you to take that into consideration.

Also, as has been said earlier, Sun City and Sun City West, they do have separate fire districts and utilities systems.

Let's see, what else really quick.

The HOAs are different as well, as was said
The Sun City West rec board operates under Title 33, while the Sun City operates under Title 10. So it would be nice to keep all of Sun City together, as we have had in the last ten years. That is the preference of the people that live in Sun City. And, again, I think that we do have a good balance. It would be nice to bring in Westbrook Village and to bring in a little -- we do have to bring in more people. And, I think that's all. I just want to put on the record too that Rick (inaudible), they would agree with this as well. So thank you very much for your time. I know you guys will have a very long day. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next is Willerd Hansen. Does that sound at all correct? From Sun City West.

Okay.

(No oral response.)


CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: From Sun City West.
Okay. The next speaker is Anita Christy, representing Gilbert.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Are you Mr. Hansen?

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: No, I'm not.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, okay.

ANITA CHRISTY: I admire you being able to stay awake.

My name is Anita Christy, A-N-I-T-A, C-H-R-I-S-T-Y, and I live in Gilbert, but I couldn't make it to the Mesa or Phoenix meetings, so I traveled halfway to California to be here with all of you wonderful people.

And I'd like to just restate the obvious, although I don't want to put you asleep, there are portions of Article IV, Part 2, Section 1, of the Arizona Constitution which directs the IRC on how to map congressional and legislative districts, which appear -- and the following appears to be an order of priority.


B, congressional districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable and state legislative districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable.

C, districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable.
D, district boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable.

E, to the extent practicable, district lines should use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

F, to the extent practicable competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals.

I know you don't have any wiggle room on letter A, Voting Rights Act, and B, relating to equal population within the districts.

However, C, D, and E relating to compact, contiguous boundaries, communities of interest, and using visible geographic features in retaining the integrity of town and county boundaries are very important to the residents within those communities.

They take priority over the last criterion, F, related to competitive districts.

When you consider Gilbert or any community for that matter, please consider and respect the people within those communities and don't draw lines that resemble a malaria germ in order to divide an area into political units to give special advantage to one group or another.

If the IRC honors the criteria set forth in the Arizona Constitution, all should be well.
But if you ignore those criteria and lean toward one of them to the detriment of the others, that's not the intent of Prop 106 and violates the Arizona Constitution. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Walt Gray.

And he will be followed by Glenn Jacques -- do I have that right?

Angela Conterra, and Francine Dobkin.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Walt Gray, representing self, from Maricopa.

WALT GRAY: My name is Walt, W-A-L-T, Gray, G-R-A-Y.

I've lived in Maryvale, west Phoenix, for over 30 years, and I think a community of interest -- a basic building block of community of interest I believe should be a school district.

I think that that provides diversity and the public participation that's necessary for good government.

And I think that it's good to kind of think of this not only for the legislative boundaries and the congressional boundaries, but also for the city council boundaries, although I know that's not your job.
But the more that we can create a phylum, so that people have the same representatives at all levels of government, it will make those levels of government work together, better, and they'll know better who represents them.

Now, the boundaries are all mixed up, that it's very difficult for people to know who represents them.

So I think as far as west Phoenix is concerned, Maryvale, I think the Pendergast, the Cartwright, and the Isaac School Districts should all be in one legislative district. And shut off those parts east of I-17, up in Glendale -- or not Glendale, but east of I-17, or even to the west into Avondale.

And keep us -- because we're a natural community, and we'd like to stay that way, in my belief.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Glenn Jacques, from Arizona Competitive Districts Coalition.

GLENN JACQUES: Hi. Thank you for allowing me to address you. My name is Glenn, G-L-E-N-N, Jacques, J-A-C-Q-U-E-S.

I am the winner of the Arizona Competitive District Coalition for the best congressional and best state legislature map.
Ken Clark has forwarded the maps on to your Commission for you to take a look at.

You'll notice in my maps that for the congressional, four out of the nine are competitive, and for the state legislature I was able to come up with 7 out of the 30 districts being competitive.

I spent quite a bit of time working on these maps, and I certainly appreciate all the things that the -- all the challenges that this Commission is going to face.

I really believe that competitive districts are a way to give the voters a voice.

I believe it's the way to attract quality candidates from both political parties to run.

It's the way to get voters a real voice.

It's also a way for once a candidate is elected for them to be accountable to the voters to know that they're going to face a re-election.

So thank you very much for letting me speak.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Angela Conterra, representing self, from Avondale.


CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And I flunked reading.
ANGELA CONTERRA: Let me begin by thanking the commissioners and particularly Chair Mathis for your voluntary service as members of a very difficult, but actually vital commission.

I hope you all know how much you are appreciated.

(Applause.)

ANGELA CONTERRA: I have been a resident in Arizona for 44 years, and I've lived out in Avondale for 20 years.

I'm one of tens of thousands of west valley residents have who have had no voice in the Arizona legislature for over 20 years. Because we live in single party dominant districts.

In fact, because of the demographics of my legislative district, in 2006 we did not even have a choice in the general election.

There were three candidates for three legislative seats from one party.

Because I truly believe the democracy demands that voters at least have a choice, I ran for the legislature. And when I went out and talked with voters in my district who shared my priorities from all parties, they routinely told me how isolated and how voiceless they felt in the community.

Often they admitted they had stopped voting
altogether, they had stopped contacting the legislators, because their voice didn't matter and their votes did not matter in the district.

Certainly a foundation of the representative democracy is that all citizens have a right to have their voice heard through their elected officials. At least from time to time.

Furthermore, our elected officials must be accountable to the majority of the constituents.

Without competitive districts, however, election results and officials who can ignore the voice of any constituent who cannot or does not participate in the primary election without consequences.

For example, based on my district, my current representatives, they only have to be responsible for about 15 percent of the registered voters.

When 15 percent of registered voters are able to set the agenda for an entire district or for an entire state, we no longer have a true democracy.

Fortunately this year, the citizens of Arizona knew.

You have an historic opportunity to turn Arizona into a robust representative democracy.

Every vote must matter.

In forward for this to happen, elections must be
decided in general election.

This only occurs when districts are competitive.

So I'm here tonight to ask you to help restore my voice and the voice of hundreds of thousands of Arizonans who have been effectively disenfranchised for decades.

Please make the creation of competitive districts your number one discretionary priority.

Help Arizona take the first and most important step towards being a true reflection of all of her citizens, and the silent majority will be silenced no more.

Thank you for your service, again, and thank you for the opportunity to speak to you.

(Appplause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I've been told Francine Dobkin departed.

So our next three speakers are Joyce Clark, Harry Garawall, and Rosie Lopez.

Okay.

So Joyce Clark, council member, representing self, from Glendale.

JOYCE CLARK: Yes, good evening,

Madam Commissioner and Commission members.

Thank you for coming to Glendale.

We appreciate it, and thanks on behalf of our mayor and our entire council. Most of whom are on vacation
Did you know, or if you didn't know you should know, that Glendale is the fifth largest city in the state of Arizona?

It's got a population of approximately 236,000 people.

Before I go any further, I have to spell my name. J-O-Y-C-E, C-L-A-R-K.

Glendale, unfortunately, is part of six different legislative districts.

Now, to put that in context, Tucson, the second largest city in the state, has five districts.

Mesa, the fourth largest city in the state, has four districts.

Phoenix, the largest city in the state, has 11 districts.

So how come Glendale has six legislative districts?

Well, they plucked a little part of Glendale and put it in one legislative district, another little part of Glendale and put it in a different, and we ended up being in six legislative districts.

Which virtually guarantees us no voice in any of those districts, because the city is so diluted by being part of six different districts.
So I guess what I'm saying is Glendale is a community of interest.

We're not asking for much, but could you reduce the number of legislative districts that are in Glendale? If you could get it down to three or four, we would be ever so grateful.

Now, as a last parting comment, usually I'm on that side, not on this side. This is like a very difficulty zoning case where you have to sit up there and listen to people say the same thing over and over and over again.

And all I want to say is, I want to thank you for what you're doing.

You came to this voluntarily. You come to it with principles, ideals, mandates. And no matter what you decide, you're going to be damned if you do and damned if you don't.

It's just one of those things.

But I know that you will have given it your very best effort, that you will have lived up to whatever principles and guidelines you believe in, and you will be doing the very best that you can for the citizens of the state of Arizona. And for that I am grateful and very thankful.

Thank you very much.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Is Harry Garawall here?

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Rosie Lopez, founder Arizona Hispanic Community Forum, from Phoenix.

And I'll go ahead and read the next few names.

J. Woodfin Thomas, Manny Martinez, and Marian Barry.

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

I'm here in support of the Minority Coalition map. I think they did a very good job, and they worked very hard in accomplishing this task.

I want to thank you again.

I was with you at South Mountain.

I am in LD 16.

I live right by South Mountain, beautiful place, beautiful boundary.

And I spoke on behalf of District 16, the District 16 map that Leah Landrum, our senator, presented at that time.

But I'm also here today to speak about Congressional District 4.

I believe that we should keep those districts together, and District 16, 13, 14, and also Tolleson and
Glendale.

My husband lived in the Glendale area. We had a lot of friends here.

We have come to a lot of events here. We share the same commonalities.

We have the same -- we are communities of interest.

And also Tolleson, same thing, he had relatives there, and we were very close to a lot of people there. I still have a lot of friends there. He has too. He has family there as well.

So I used to live -- we used to live in District 13 and 14, which was 22 at one time.

It was all in one, and then they split them up to 13 and 14.

Eventually we ended up in 14, but then we moved to District 16.

So I'm very well familiar with all of the areas, of Isaac District, all of the school districts, Roosevelt, Isaac, Cartwright, all of those districts that are -- that have a lot in common.

We have the same transportation needs. We have the needs in our school districts.

I'm a retired educator as well, and I worked at -- in Phoenix Elementary District and Murphy District, which is
also part of that -- I believe it's 13, District 13.

But, anyway, we have a lot of commonality, as I said.

Our churches, places of worship. We're Spanish speaking and English speaking. We're bilingual, many of us. And so I urge you to and recommend to you the map that the Minority Coalition put together.

And, again, also, the Legislative District 4 that includes Tolleson, Glendale, and District 13, 14, and 16.

Thank you very much, and thank you so much for all the work that you do. I appreciate it.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sensitive to our court reporter. It's 8:02 p.m. And you're okay with going through. Okay. We'll keep rolling through then.

J. Woodfin Thomas, representing self, from Maricopa Litchfield Park.

J. WOODFIN THOMAS: Good evening.

Thank you, and thank you for saying my name right. You're one of the few.


I'm also known as Woody Thomas, former mayor of Litchfield Park.

And I live in LD 12.
And something I do believe I heard a lot tonight about how we want to maintain a district.

I was in District 15 when I moved here. Now I'm in District 12. I don't think there's any special thing of what was in the past.

I'd like to use LD 12 as an example.

Very extreme activity in one party, as you heard Angela Conterra speak clearly about.

And I find that this is really quite a challenge because when the last districting Commission got together, there was a concept of, I believe, the Voter Rights Act, according to Representative Miranda, that has to do with voter performance.

Voter performance is pathetic in my estimation.

There's been a lot of talk about, you know, this mandate that some people believe they had or whatever.

This last election in 2010, 55 percent of the population turned out to vote.

That may seem to be a significant amount.

Unfortunately only 59 percent of Arizona residents are registered to vote.

So that means that 32.4 percent of eligible voters actually showed up at the polls.

I don't believe that's your challenge to get more people to vote.
I'll give you an example. In my district I voted in a gated community where I had to go through a gate house, I voted in a country club that had member only signs out front.

This -- it did not bother me, but I can only imagine how offensive that was to a large group of people. And I think that, again, that needs to be considered in how you address our legislature, not how you address the prospect of legislative districts.

Need for competition is huge.

In this idea that voter performance comes in, I believe Legislative District 13 was overloaded with a minority group because of their lack of voting.

That then in turn meant my district was then predominantly one party.

That has since leveled out. We're about one third, one third, and one third. That's only been in the last election.

I've been on the equal opportunity -- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for my agency in the past, and I believe very strongly that we should give people an equal opportunity. That does not make any guarantees.

If people don't vote, I don't know what to tell you. I think it's a Russian adage, you get the government you deserve.
When I look at Congressional District 2, I think that meets the definition of gerrymandering. If you look at Litchfield Park and try to compare that with the Hopi Nation, I can't imagine anybody thinking that that would have any common interest or about competitiveness between the two.

The fact that they don't like the Navajo, or the Navajo doesn't like the Hopi, I don't know who or which, and I've done appraisal work up in that part of the world, that's not for the redistricting committee. Their common interest I would think is a lot greater than what it is with Litchfield Park.

And when I look at Litchfield Park being associated with Kingman, Lake Havasu, and other riverside communities, I would Yuma would be a lot more competitive or a lot more interested in their thoughts than what we have in Litchfield Park.

And, again, thank you for your time. And, again, being on that side of the dais, I do know the difficulties, and I appreciate your service.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Manny Martinez, council member from Glendale.

Hello. Council member, welcome to the city of Glendale. I'm speaking for myself this evening.

But I do want to tell you that we're very proud of the city of Glendale. We think it's a community. And it's a great place to live, work, and play.

And I'm really glad to see the great turnout that you have this evening, and giving of this input, from not only our citizens, but from the west valley.

And I want to thank you for I'm sure a thankless job. I've been following you with some of the comments made and some of the meetings that we've had. And so you have a very, very important job, I thankless one, and I do really appreciate that.

The although I'm here representing myself, the council very early on did come to a consensus that, as Councilman Clark said, we have too many districts.

The six, that we would like to get them reduced. I'm not here to tell you what the magic number is, but I think that it is something that I hope you would strongly consider, because I think that our -- when our citizens' strength is really diluted, and that they would be, I think, their voice would be heard a lot better if we had, you know, four districts.

Thank you for being here and having us speak this evening.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Marian Barry. And then I'll go ahead and read the next three.

Vince Ansellmo, Deanna Stropes, and Jay Humphrey.

Marian Barry, representing self, and also if you can spell your name.

MARIAN BARRY: Okay. My name is spelled M-A-R-I-A-N. Last name is B-A-R-R-Y.

I want to thank you for allowing me to speak this evening.

I'm from a small town, Tonopah.

We have about 5,000 people living out there. When I moved out there in 2003, there were about 2500 people living there.

Someone had the brilliant idea to take the I-10 and make that a dividing line for this small town, which happens to be home to the Saddle Mountain Unified School District, which is the largest school district in the state of Arizona.

They drew this line right across I-10. North of the I-10, you're in -- I forget the district number, I think it's two.

South of the I-10, your congressman happens to be down in Sierra Vista.

Now, whatever happens, how can you possibly build
a town that is divided in half where their congressman comes
from 150 miles away and doesn't care anything about those
2500 people or so in his district.

As a small town, we have a great fire department
that we built. We're unincorporated, yet we have one of the
best fire departments in the county.

We have great schools. They're building that
sense of pride in the community. And when it comes to
events like the 4th of July, our fireworks beat out Phoenix
every time.

This is all done by fundraisers, and just the town
coming together.

We are pleading with you tonight, make Tonopah one
town.

We have a natural boundary line with Belmont
Mountains, the Hassayampa to the east of us, Happy Valley to
the west of us.

We do our shopping right now in Buckeye, because
the economy -- Tonopah was scheduled for a Wal-Mart that was
originally to open 18 months after they opened one.

The economy took a downturn. The Fry's didn't
open. Wal-Mart didn't open.

So we still have to go into, into Buckeye.

But we want to grow.

We want to be a community.
And it's only going to happen when we have one district that services the entire county.

Thank you so much for letting me speak this evening.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Vince Ansellmo, private citizen, from Phoenix.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We'll go to the next one, Deanna Stropes, representing self, from Sun City.

DEANNA STROPES: I'm Deanna Stropes, D-E-A-N-N-A, S-T-R-O-P-E-S.

Until about two days ago, I knew next to nothing about redistricting. So if I get any facts wrong, I'm sure someone will correct me.

I'm here to support the work of this Commission based on my understanding of certain facts.

In 2010 the voters of Arizona demanded and won an Independent Redistricting Commission because they wanted fairness and representation for all of Arizonans, not just a segment that's willing and able to get in the system.

The outcome the first Commission was not what the people voted for.

According to the Arizona Competitive Districts
Coalition, 46 percent of all voters, almost 1.5 million people out of a total just over 3 million, still have no say after the primary.

It's taxation without representation.

Until human beings are perfect, there can be no perfect commissions.

As far as I can tell, this one has taken every reasonable precaution to meet the criteria for fair and effective redistricting.

The criteria that I care about include independence, transparency, competitiveness, and a focus on building districts around communities of common interest.

You seem committed to your mission of fair and balanced redistricting.

Based on careful consideration, this new Commission apparently chose a different mapping consultant, one that's actually willing to follow and provide documentation of best practices.

Only time will tell, but I believe that this current Commission is doing a commendable job in a very difficult political climate.

You deserve our respect and our support, and thank you for your hearing my comments.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Jay Humphrey.

And I'll read the next three.

Gene Diehl, Gil Fidler, and Ann Heins.

So Jay Humphrey, representing self.


I know that you're going to be able to please everybody that asks a favor tonight, but I live in Tonopah, Arizona. And it's an unincorporated area of Maricopa County.

And the big issue that we have out there isn't like she said before me. We are split right down I-10. So we're on the west -- on the north and south side of I-10, and we're trying to build a community that where the people work together and have enjoyment together and do things together.

We have the major event we have out there is the 4th of July.

That's the one event that everybody comes to. I think we had around 2,000 people show up this year for our event.

And so we would ask that you consider putting us at least in one district together, so we can work together as a community.
So, with that, thank you very much for staying so long, and we appreciate your help.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Gene Diehl, from Sons of Liberty Riders.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: They left.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

Our next speaker is Gil Fidler, from LD 22 in Gilbert.

GIL FIDLER: I'm not representing LD 22. I'm representing myself. I'm just from there.

My name is Gil, G-I-L, Fidler, F-I-D-L-E-R.

I just have a couple short comments.

The Democrats think they lost the last election because of unequal districts, but the Democrats are confusing results with opportunity.

Could it be the voters didn't like their message.

The Secretary of State's Office reported on July 1st that the number of Democrats dropped 8,000 voters. They now are under one million voters for the first time since 2008.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Ann Heins, representing self,
from Maricopa.

And I'll go ahead and read the next few.

Margaret Gallagher, Jeffrey Rich, Karen Mahon.


I'd like to congratulate the Commission. You have

allowed all the talking heads to make their points and

meanwhile the rest of the people with opinions have now left

after two hours. Thank you very much. And you just did

that in Tucson.

So we appreciate you're partisanship.

I came a great distance after watching the hearing

today.

I would like to say that the software chosen by

you should be publicized and be online. No more closed

door, no more behind scenes dealings.

Number two, Commissioner Herrera stated that we

are wasting the taxpayers' money. And it's a partisan that

the Attorney General is investigating your illegality.

Could this be because Commissioner Herrera refuses

to be interviewed or that he refused to take the oath of

office?

It could be due to the fact he's been accused of

bid rigging and vote trading.

Or is it the fact that the Commission has

destroyed their documents or the State Procurement Office
has called it illegal?

That is not reason and that is a waste of taxpayer money.

I voted for Prop 106 because I actually happen to be an Independent from Berkley, California. And I was disgusted the way they were treated before.

Now I come and see that you've chosen a mapping consultant who knows nothing about mapping, and whose only experience is handling President Obama's campaign and working for the SEIU, MoveOn.org, and AFL-CIO.

How do you think one side would feel if the other side now has the Hope Brothers, John Birch Society, Sarah Palin, Russell Pearce?

Stop it.

I don't believe it should be one way or the other way.

Just be fair.

Stop the corruption.

I want to have you throw out Strategic Telemetry. Start over. There's got to be some Arizona company that is nonpartisan that doesn't put -- have to have had to scrub his whole website of progressivism. He's so ashamed of his own clients.

It's scrubbed.

There has to be one nonpartisan mapping company
Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Margaret Gallagher, representing self, from Scottsdale.


I want to thank you for your participation in this Commission, which, as you know, was created by a voter proposition to ensure that our elected politicians did not control the process.

You have no doubt noticed how many voter propositions are appearing on Arizona ballots lately, specifically intended to direct or limit our elected politicians' actions.

Why do we have to circumvent our elected representatives with voter propositions? Because too many of our districts are not competitive and are controlled by the fringes of one party.

Please keep competitive districts a priority in your consideration so that Arizonans may truly have representative government and no longer need to resort to propositions to try to achieve the representation that we deserve.
Thank you for your efforts.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Jeffrey Rich, representing self, from Avondale.

JEFFREY RICH: Thank you, Madam Chair, members of the Commission.

Although I represent myself, I am also the chair of the Legislative District 12 Democrats.

And in several recent meetings, this Commission has heard public comments from lobbyists hired to represent a group called Fair Trust.

These are two Phoenix attorneys, Michael Thomas Liburdi, Jr., and Dave Cantelme.

And they have publicly stated their affiliation with Fair Trust, but what they have not publicly stated is who's behind Fair Trust.

The Arizona Capital Times recently reported that Fair Trust is actually funded and organized by Republican Senator John Kyle and Arizona's Republican congressional delegation.

Once you know who is behind Fair Trust, it's clear they're on a cynical mission.

The group appears to be distorting the public record with comments under the guise of promoting the Voting Rights Act.
The comments are implicitly against competition, which we all know would preserve the status quo of the current Republican power structure in Arizona.

Fair Trust has already testified in Nogales, Casa Grande, and south Tucson.

If these lobbyists intend to keep addressing the Commission on the public record, they should disclose who their group represents and disclose its donors also on the public record.

Given that Arizona's voter registration is sliced roughly into thirds, more competition should lead to more representation, representative government.

And that's exactly what Fair Trust does not want to happen.

The group exists solely to protect the interests of our state's most powerful Republicans.

I'd like to add to the public record that the so-called Fair Trust is not interested in fairness at all, but is attempting to highjack what is supposed to be a citizen led process.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I have four more request for speak forms, just so you all know.
Karen Mahon, precinct committee person, representing self, from Glendale.

And then it will be Dwight Amery, Larry Templeton, and William Crum.


It is my concern that the voters of Arizona will not be fairly represented in the redistricting process.

It has been reported that Strategic Telemetry, the mapping consultant chosen by this Commission, has known political ties. They're partisan in nature.

Its past affiliations with the Democratic party, the 2008 Democratic presidential election, and its involvement with recall efforts aimed at Republican officials in no way indicates that consultants will provide redistricting maps that are based on impartial and nonpartisan decisions.

I have little confidence that all voters will receive equal representation.

I am pleased that our Attorney General Tom Horne has authorized his office to conduct an investigation and to report on procedural practices of the Commission. And I hope the outcome will benefit all voters in Arizona, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike.

Thank you.
(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Dwight Amery, representing self.

You'll have to tell us where you're from.


I live a couple miles south in west Phoenix.

Thank you for sticking around. I had to cut out at 8:00. I had a two and a half hour school board meeting before this. Great, I get down there and I'm last in line.

And everybody tonight talked about protecting their communities and everything, yet Rich Miranda put up a map that cut Maryvale in half right down Thomas Road.

Two miles of Maryvale in one district and two miles in Maryvale in the other district. And split it right by down the middle. Thomas Road bisects Maryvale.

I'm president of Maryvale revitalization and also chair of the Maryvale village planning committee. It's as well known of a community as Ahwatukee or any of the other areas around the village of Maryvale, and I would like to keep Maryvale as one entity.

The people of Maryvale all work together.

The city did us so good. They split Maryvale three ways for the city council.
So it's like my office is within 200 yards of three different city council districts.

So, please, legislatively keep Maryvale as one whole. It's very compact as people talk about that. It's like four miles north to south and about eight miles east to west.

And there's over 200,000 residents, but almost half of them are under 20.

The other part on -- and the young lady that was going to law school really covered the congressional district very well, with trying to piece those massive land pieces together, with Glendale, Maryvale, south Phoenix, all sticking together in CD 4.

But, please, keep Maryvale as its own entity and its own district.

Don't start slicing it all up. If you cut it in half, as people have talked, you're taking whoever is representing the area is representing a majority of somewhere else and where that sliver was added on.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Larry Templeton, representing self.

You can tell us where you're from.

LARRY TEMPLETON: Hello. Thank you very much for
letting me speak.


In 2004 I was one of the probably large number of people that was moving in here, and I picked the area I wanted to live in.

I wanted to live in Surprise.

It's a nice area.

I would like for you to consider community as a big thing whenever you're doing your redistricting, because that's what we choose when we decide to move and get there. We pick the community.

So make sure you keep that as a priority.

Now, second thing.

I live in a retirement community. You haven't seen anybody hardly from the whole northwest valley.

Most of the people up there don't drive that well and don't want to drive after dark. And I would like to request that you have a redistricting meeting in the Surprise area.

You could service Sun City Festival, Sun City West, Sun City Grand, the people from Sun City that couldn't get here.

You really need to have it so that everybody can have an input.
And older people pay taxes too, and so we want to give them a shot at getting out and addressing meetings like this.

They need to be here too.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

And the last request to speak form is William Crum, representing self.

You can tell us where you're from.

WILLIAM CRUM: My name is William, W-I-L-L-I-A-M, Crum, C-R-U-M.

I'm not from one of the major parties, I can tell you that, because if they've had it their way for many years.

I'm a member of a Arizona Green Party.

Though I do not expect you to go out and balance the field by saying only so many of the party can live here, I do want something a little bit more fair.

I'm basically running as a candidate of CD 2. What we have out there is roughly 146 Democrats, 210,000 Republicans, and the other is just as big as the Democrats.

And I can't read that. I can't tell whether or not they're Independent or not.

So what I would like to see, and I understand this has been suggested by somebody, is maybe our new district
should be on the west side of the state.

One which we can include more rural areas and go all the way down, down as far as you want to go, Yuma. And the reason being as whoever's representing us now, whoever he may be, doesn't care of anybody in the rural area.

So let's not let the new district be a rural area congressman.

I mean, the problem is -- I mean, who listens? It's like not listening to your kids. Who cares?

Okay.

And as an Arizona Green, which basically we only have 5,000 members in the state, we don't -- we know what we're going to get when we go in there and run for an office.

But what I would like to see is people around us saying, well, maybe if we balance it out between the two, the big two, maybe some of those people will say maybe my vote will count if I vote for this man.

I mean, my first election on the ballot was basically about they had 300 Greens in my area, and I got 3600. So where did the other 3300 go.

I'd like to see truly District 9, I believe it is, right, go to the west side and take care of the entire thing.

Number two, I'd like to see the Hopis cut off my
That's ridiculous. That's crazy.

How can someone who represents the west side expect to represent the right as well.

Which I do not see.

Currently we have over 526,000 voters in my district. One of the largest people districts in Arizona.

I would like that down to about 400.

And with that, I want you to know that being the last speaker, thank you, and have a good night.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Crum.

Do you mind stating where you're from, what city you're from?

WILLIAM CRUM: What city I am is presently right now I'm in Phoenix trying to move to Glendale.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: All right.

Thank you.

Great. Well, unless there are other request to speak forms, we've gone through all of them.

I see the time is right now 8:31.

And I want to thank everyone who is still here for your patience and listening to each other, because that's how we all progress is to listen to one another. And it's impressive how many of you are still here and how many of you all came out to testify tonight. We really appreciate
and.

And I'll open it up to my two fellow vice chairs. And, Vice Chair Freeman, do you have any comments for folks?

Catching you right when you're getting a drink.

Sorry.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I'd just like to say thank you for the city of Glendale and the people hosting us. It's really an honor and a privilege to come out here and meet with you all and serve on this Commission.

I think, you know, some would say that we commissioners represent all 6.5 million Arizonans. In substance that's right.

But we weren't really elected by anyone. None of you really know who I am. We were appointed to fill a specific constitutional role.

And that is -- and that's the only promise I made when I was appointed, which was I swore to uphold the constitution.

And not the constitution that as I would like it to be, but as the constitution actually reads.

And that is to provide the people of this state with an independent, fair, politically balanced redistricting, and to do it in a way that builds confidence in the process and hopefully the result as well, and that's
what I think we're all trying to do here.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Vice Chair Herrera.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you all for staying here this late. And it's -- as a citizen, this is my favorite part of the meetings. I do enjoy hearing from people from all sides of the political aisle.

One of the things for me, I've been volunteering for campaigns probably since college, and both Democratic and Republican.

And the reason I volunteered is because I really felt that for each of the campaigns I volunteered for that they had a chance of winning, because I felt that, you know, I'm not wasting my time, that the candidate that I chose to support had a chance of winning in that district.

And that's based upon competition.

And I will feel a competition is important. It is not a subordinate goal. The Supreme Court in Arizona held on that they -- that that particular goal is just as important as the other ones.

So I, I encourage those of you who support competition to invite your friends to come to these meetings and state your opinion about what is important to you. And especially if competition is important to you, I welcome
your comments, because I think if -- without competition,
you know, I think people said it better than I did, there's
not a voice.

And we have competition in sports, in business,
and we should have competition in politics.

So I, again, thank you for coming and hopefully
will see some of you in Sierra Vista, if not in Phoenix on
Friday. Thanks again.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Yes, we have another hearing tomorrow evening in
Sierra Vista, and Saturday I know in Tucson.

So hopefully, if you're interested, you can tune
in via the webstreaming ability and watch us if you're
curious to here what those folks are saying.

So the time now is 8:34 p.m., and this meeting or
hearing is adjourned.

Thank you very much for coming.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:34 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 105 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 26th day of August, 2011.

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