

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Friday, August 5, 2011
6:15 p.m.

Location

**Burton Barr Library
1221 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004**

Attending

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair

Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist

Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162
www.CourtReportersAz.com

Phoenix, Arizona
August 5, 2011
6:15 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's go ahead and get started.

Thank you all for being here.

This is the -- I think the 14th meeting of the -- the last one for the first round will be tomorrow in Tucson, a total of 15.

And let me give you some quick information on how successful these meetings have been going throughout the state.

As I said, we've had 15 meetings, including the one tomorrow.

And -- oh, tomorrow is 16th?

Thank you, Mr. Freeman. We have -- Vice Chair Freeman.

South Mountain Community College we had about 136 people sign in, 71 speak.

So -- and Nogales we had 26 people attending, 17 speak.

At AWC, we had 119 people attend, 22 speak.

1 And at Parker, that was a satellite, we had -- so
2 out of the 15, I'm not including the satellite, that would
3 add obviously I think close to 20, if not over 20.

4 In Parker we had two people sign in, no one speak.

5 At AWC, that same time we were in Yuma, we went to
6 San Luis, we had three people sign in and three people
7 speak.

8 At Mesa, 114 people sign in, 50 speak.

9 Bullhead City, 82 sign in, 24 speak.

10 Casa Grande, 65 sign in, 30 speak.

11 And then, let's see, Maricopa United School
12 District, we had -- I think it was the same time as
13 Casa Grande, nine people sign in, two people speak.

14 Yavapai, 114 people, 23 speak.

15 Yavapai Cottonwood, the -- through the web, there
16 was 39 people signing in and 14 speak.

17 So what I'm trying to do is give you an idea of
18 how successful these meetings have been going for the first
19 round.

20 And obviously we'll do, we'll do a second round,
21 and that is on our website, I think the tentative schedule.
22 And we'll have the correct schedule or the updated schedule
23 pretty soon.

24 But before we start, let's go ahead and go with
25 the Pledge of Allegiance.

1 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I'd like to introduce some
3 people in the audience, starting with Vice Chair
4 Commissioner Freeman. And I would like for him to say a
5 couple words.

6 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you all for coming
7 tonight. Look likes another great turnout. And looking
8 forward to hearing your comments on the redistricting
9 process.

10 Please, if you would like to make a comment, fill
11 out one of the yellow request to speak forms. That will
12 allow you to speak.

13 Everything that's being taken down by our speakers
14 is becoming a part of our record. It's being take down by a
15 court reporter, Marty Herder.

16 If you do not want to speak in public like this
17 and would rather submit some comments in writing, we have
18 blue forms in the back as well that you can complete.

19 Andrew is showing you.

20 If you're here to make some comments about a
21 community of interest you believe the Commission should
22 respect, look on the back side of that form. There are
23 four questions written there designed to elicit information
24 about that community of interest.

25 And you can also submit comments now on our

1 website. We have a form available on our website to submit
2 comments there.

3 If you have maps, letters, anything else that you
4 want to submit to us in writing, please do so. You can give
5 them to our executive director, Ray Bladine, or send them to
6 the Commission, e-mail the Commission. Lots of ways to
7 contact us.

8 So turn it back over to Vice Chair Herrera, and
9 I'm looking forward to tonight's meeting.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Vice Chair.

11 I'd also like to introduce our attorney
12 Mary O'Grady, Andrew Drechsler with Strategic Telemetry, our
13 executive director Ray Bladine, our chief technology officer
14 Buck Forst, and our executive -- deputy executive director
15 Kristina Gomez.

16 And then we have two additional staff members,
17 Lisa Schmelling and Christy Olsen who are helping out.

18 And Marty, who is taking -- our court reporter.

19 And I think we have an interpreter.

20 We have a new staff member, Shane Shields.

21 Is he here?

22 Thank you, Shane.

23 Do we have an interpreter?

24 Carlos Reyes.

25 So if you don't mind coming up here, we, as part

1 of the Voting Rights Act, we are required to provide an
2 interpreter for people who do not speak English.

3 And this individual, Carlos Reyes, will translate
4 for me.

5 CARLOS REYES: Thank you. Good afternoon,
6 commissioners, ladies and gentlemen.

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

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Doesn't seem to be anybody.

10 CARLOS REYES: Thank you, commissioner.

11 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: So what we'll do is we'll
12 start off with a presentation with Andrew Dreschler from
13 Strategic Telemetry.

14 Make sure if you want to speak you fill out the
15 yellow sheet, as Vice Chair Commissioner Freeman mentioned,
16 and also the blue sheet, if you want to do both, you want to
17 speak or make comments, or just one or the other.

18 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much.

19 My name is Andrew Dreschler. I'm with Strategic
20 Telemetry.

21 And we just wanted to start, as we've been
22 starting all the meetings, with a presentation tonight, just
23 to go over the redistricting process to make sure everybody
24 has a good understanding of -- a high level understanding of
25 what we're doing and why we're doing it.

1 So, the overview is we're going to talk about --
2 I'm going to quick cover seven things tonight.

3 Why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

4 What is redistricting?

5 What's the difference between reapportionment and
6 redistricting?

7 Why do we redistrict?

8 What guidelines do we follow when drawing new
9 districts?

10 What are the steps of the redistricting process?

11 And how can public input be submitted to the
12 Commission?

13 So, first of all, why do we have a Redistricting
14 Commission?

15 Well, this is the second time that Arizona's
16 districts will be redrawn by an Arizona Independent
17 Redistricting Commission.

18 In 2000, the Arizona voters approved
19 Proposition 106.

20 They created the Arizona Redistricting Commission
21 and established the process and criteria for drawing the
22 redistrict lines.

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

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

3 The 2011 commissioners are -- tonight we have
4 Vice Chair Scott Freeman.

5 Also we have Vice Chair Jose Herrera.

6 Colleen Mathis is the chair. Commissioner Linda
7 McNulty and Commissioner Richard Stertz.

8 What is redistricting?

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

11 What is the difference between redistricting and
12 reapportionment?

13 The two terms are often used interchangeable.

14 Technically there is a difference.

15 Reapportionment is the process of allowing
16 congressional districts -- allocating congressional
17 districts among the states based on changes in population.

18 This is done in December -- this was done last
19 December when the census released their new numbers for all
20 the states, and this is simply looking at all the states and
21 dividing up the House of Representative seats among the
22 states.

23 Some states lose seats. Some states gain seats.

24 And Arizona was one of those states that gained
25 one seat.

1 And redistricting is the process of drawing the
2 actual boundaries of the districts.

3 Why do we have to redistrict?

4 Well, as I just mentioned, Arizona did gain a
5 congressional district. And so the new lines would have to
6 be drawn to add that district.

7 However, even if Arizona did not gain a district,
8 we would still have to redraw the congressional and
9 legislative lines to account for change in population.

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

13 Because the rate of population growth is different
14 in areas throughout the state, the existing districts now
15 have different populations.

16 As you know, some areas in the state gained
17 population, some lost. Some gained more than others.

18 So that's why we are redrawing all the lines.

19 What guidelines need to be followed when drawing
20 the new districts?

21 A, we must comply with the U.S. Constitution and
22 the Voting Rights Act.

23 B, equal population.

24 Criteria one and two are federally mandated. All
25 plans must satisfy these two criteria.

1 C, compact and contiguous.

2 D, respect communities of interests.

3 E, use visibly geographic feature, city, town, and
4 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

5 F, create competitive districts where no
6 significant detriment to other goals.

7 So the Arizona redistricting process is a little
8 different than other states.

9 In Arizona they started with a grid map. In some
10 states they usually take the existing lines, and what they
11 do is move around those existing lines based on population
12 growth.

13 This is not the case in Arizona.

14 In Arizona it's the starting point of a grid map
15 per Proposition 106.

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

20 The initial grid-like pattern will more likely
21 only meet criteria B and C, the equal population and compact
22 and contiguous.

23 The redistricting -- so once we have the grid map,
24 we start adjusting the grid map to meet the six criteria.

25 The Voter Rights Act, which is the Arizona's congressional

1 and legislative districts must receive preclearance or
2 approval from the Department of Justice or a federal court
3 under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they take
4 effect.

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

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

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

14 So, continuing, we adjust the -- after the
15 Voting Rights Act, we then look at equal population.

16 We take and consider compact and contiguous.

17 D, respect communities of interest.

18 One of the goals of the Commission's public
19 hearings is to submit public input about the communities of
20 interest.

21 There are forms available at public hearings or on
22 the Commission's website that can be used to define the
23 areas that you feel should be considered a community of
24 interest.

25 E, use visible geographic features, county

1 boundaries, cities, towns, and census tracts. Usually
2 census geography already follows visible features.

3 And, F, create competitive districts where no
4 significant detriment to other goals.

5 We want your input.

6 We want, as the commissioners, or as
7 Vice Chairman -- Vice Chair Freeman mentioned tonight, you
8 can fill out a public yellow sheet to speak tonight, which
9 many of you have.

10 Examples of input that we're looking for is
11 talking about the criteria, the six criteria that we talked
12 about tonight, communities of interest, and anything else
13 about redistricting.

14 So speaking at the hearings, submitting your input
15 using one of the blue forms that we talked about that are
16 available out front, or on our website. And our website is
17 [wwwAZredistricting.org](http://www.AZredistricting.org). Or you can call (602)542-5221.

18 As I should mention, this is being broadcast,
19 streamed over the Internet. And so those individuals who
20 are outside of the Phoenix area, we do -- we just have a
21 toll free number that's available, and that number is
22 877-REDISTRICT.

23 And you can also find that on our website.

24 Thank you very much.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

1 Thank you, Mr. Drechsler.

2 Now, let's -- as you know, we -- as I mentioned,
3 this is the 14th public hearing and the 15th will be
4 tomorrow.

5 So we try to attend as many as we can.

6 We all have full-time jobs, so we try to get off
7 work and travel to the locations throughout the state.

8 And I know that some of our commissioners weren't
9 able to make it tonight. Commissioner Stertz,
10 Commissioner McNulty, and our Chairwoman Colleen Mathis.

11 But as I said in previous meetings, if you don't
12 mind saying hi to them, because they are watching.

13 ("Hi.")

14 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: And also say hi to the people
15 that are watching, streaming the video. Obviously they're
16 not able to attend, but it's just as important as being
17 here.

18 So I thank you guys for being here.

19 And also thank the people that are in the audience
20 that are viewing the streaming.

21 Before we get started, what I want to do is just
22 recap the number of people that have signed in so far for
23 these meetings. It's a total of 915 people have signed in
24 for the 14 meetings -- for 13 meetings, not including this
25 one, and the total of 509 people have spoke.

1 Through the videostream, 785 people have watched
2 the meetings, from July 5th through August 5th.

3 Total number of newsletter subscribers on the
4 website, 855, through August 5th.

5 And also unique visitors to the website, 785,
6 through August 4th.

7 So that's -- we're definitely reaching out to the
8 community, and that is our goal. We want to get as much
9 public input as possible.

10 So if you have friends that are not yet involved
11 or participating, encourage them to come.

12 So, and the last thing before we get started,
13 Commissioner Stertz had mentioned in a couple meetings,
14 which I would agree with, he's asked us to identify or come
15 up with our own meaning of competitiveness.

16 And I would encourage all of you that care about
17 competitiveness, or they care about the other issues, to
18 come with your own definition.

19 And what I'm going to use right now as a
20 definition, not of mine, not of the Commission, but a fellow
21 member of the public, which I'm not going to use her name.

22 This is her definition of competitiveness.

23 It is one in which the ability to predict the
24 outcome of the election is a fairly -- is fairly low and
25 which no party fails to field candidates on a regular basis.

1 That is her definition.

2 And I'm assuming that most of you out there, if
3 not all of you, care about competitiveness, whether you're
4 Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, as I care about
5 competitiveness as I do. And I hope to hear your definition
6 of competitiveness to honor Commissioner Stertz' request for
7 definition.

8 So let's go ahead and get started.

9 And what we'll do, if you guys, when we get
10 started, please, in the audience, don't speak.

11 If you want to speak, please fill out this form.

12 And you're more than welcome to speak. But
13 when people are speaking, please keep it to a minimum out
14 there.

15 Our first speaker -- what we'll do is we'll have
16 four-minute presentations. And we will be timing them. But
17 I wanted to do -- four minutes is quite enough.

18 So we'll start -- our friend here, Buck Forst, our
19 CTO, will be doing the timing. And we'll do the
20 four minutes. We want to stick to those four minutes so we
21 can get as much people speaking as possible.

22 So our first speaker is Lynne St. Angelo.

23 Are you here?

24 LYNNE ST. ANGELO: Thank you. I am Lynne
25 St. Angelo, and I am speaking about communities of interest

1 in LD 20.

2 I'm representing not myself, but Kevin Spence who
3 could not be here tonight, but has been a resident of LD 20
4 for the last ten years.

5 Usually people gravitate to certain areas -- thank
6 you -- because they are drawn to the family atmosphere, the
7 work life, the surrounding culture, and the lifestyle it
8 supports. This is certainly true of LD 20, which presently
9 encompasses Ahwatukee, south Tempe, west Chandler, but oddly
10 includes a south Phoenix precinct on the other side of
11 South Mountain.

12 This area is mostly established families who own
13 their own homes and are on larger lots.

14 We chose this area because of the vast choice of
15 good schools, like Kyrene School District, Tempe School
16 District, along with choices of charter and parochial
17 schools located close to neighborhoods or in easy driving
18 because of the freeways, the 202, San Tan, the I-10, and the
19 101.

20 Even the charter school athletically is comprised
21 mostly of schools within LD 20's boundaries.

22 We will travel east or northeast for shopping and
23 urban recreation.

24 We do not travel west or south.

25 So it makes sense to expand this district east or

1 northeast, as that is part of our community of interest and
2 the flow of commerce that is already -- the district already
3 uses.

4 Thank you.

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

6 Our next speaker -- what we'll do is I will call
7 the next four speakers so that you can get ready to speak.

8 Jean Moriki -- and if I pronounce your last name
9 incorrectly, I apologize.

10 Kim Miller, William Crum, and John Gallagher are
11 the next speakers.

12 And I forgot to mention, to make it as easy as
13 possible for Marty, our court reporter, to please spell
14 your name, first and last name, and speak as clearly as
15 possible.

16 So Lynne St. Angelo, Marty, for the record,
17 L-Y-N-N-E, capital S-T, period, A-N-G-E-L-O.

18 Jean?

19 JEAN MORIKI: I just want to go on record to make
20 sure that the process is fair, that the Commission takes
21 into consideration the disabled. We seem to be a group with
22 no voice, and I'd like to see that changed.

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

24 As I mentioned, Kim Miller, William Crum, John
25 Gallagher.

1 KIM MILLER: Thank you.

2 My name is Kim Miller, K-I-M, M-I-L-L-E-R. And I
3 live in the Biltmore area neighborhood near the Biltmore.

4 And I want to first of all thank you on the
5 Commission for taking on this important task. This is very
6 important, as you know, for the state of Arizona. And I
7 appreciate your service to this cause.

8 I just would like to add my perspective as a
9 nearly lifelong resident of Arizona.

10 And over the last 20 years, my family and I have
11 lived in the Arcadia, Biltmore, north Central areas.

12 And each time we've moved for reasons that -- for
13 our accommodating growing family, but we've chosen to stay
14 in that area because it truly encapsulates our community.

15 We found that really our church, our schools, our
16 sports clubs, our favorite shops, my husband's work, and
17 most of our friends live within these areas.

18 And when we vote, we feel most represented by this
19 community.

20 And I just think it's so important to have
21 candidates who come out of home communities, candidates who
22 people know or know of.

23 And we need our legislative and congressional
24 process to most accurately reflect the communities where
25 people live and work and serve.

1 And that's why I'm urging you to honor the
2 importance of the fourth and fifth provisions of your
3 mandate. That it would be to respect those communities of
4 interest and the city boundaries as much as possible.

5 We just have so much in common with east Phoenix
6 neighborhoods as well as the north Phoenix and the Anthem
7 area where we have several relatives who live in that area
8 as well.

9 And I just would ask that you please work to
10 preserve our communities accurately as much as possible in
11 this process.

12 And I realize that competitiveness is very
13 important as well, but we have to make sure that it
14 isn't done in a way that is of a detriment to those
15 communities, because people really need to be represented
16 accurately.

17 And thank you again for all of your work on this.

18 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 WILLIAM CRUM: Name's William, W-I-L-L-I-A-M,
20 Crum, C-R-U-M.

21 Now, I have -- I'm going to give you a little bit
22 of knowledge on paper. I don't know how much you know, but
23 obviously the two largest districts in Arizona are
24 district CD 2 and CD 6.

25 And I see a lot of natural boundaries we can turn

1 into our new legislative district, which is CD 9.

2 Most of the other districts, especially for the
3 congress, is pretty well set except for these two districts.
4 And I'd like to say that's all I'm worried about. And the
5 only reason I'm worried about it is because that's where I
6 go every day.

7 It's kind of hard for a guy that has 21 grandkids
8 to actually worry about all the districts my grandkids live
9 in.

10 But I'd like to see -- I don't have to travel so
11 far so I know where they are.

12 So what I want you to do -- and since I'm the
13 smallest party in the district, or in Arizona, which is the
14 Arizona Green Party -- and I'm truly a Green, not a
15 Republican being Green.

16 Actually if you make the two major parties be
17 competitive, I think I'm quite happy with that.

18 And that's what I want you to do, whether it's my
19 district or somebody else's.

20 Because I figure if you make them competitive, it
21 makes me competitive to go out and try to steal a little bit
22 from each side.

23 So I don't know how else to put that being, you
24 know, it's only 5,000 of us Greens in Arizona. We can love
25 Arizona just like everybody else. We just want you guys to

1 understand that the two or three parties that seems -- are
2 big here are big in Washington. They don't seem to be
3 working for us. So we need to move them along.

4 So that's basically what I got to say.

5 You guys are doing a great job.

6 This is my third meeting. And I can't see a
7 better group of people to do this.

8 Thank you.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Crum, for the record, can
10 you spell your whole name?

11 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: He already did.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I apologize.

13 WILLIAM CRUM: It's only 11 letters.

14 W-I-L-L-I-A-M, and my last name is Crum, C-R-U-M.

15 And for the record, I'm the biggest Crum you'll
16 ever see.

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Gallagher, John
18 Gallagher.

19 JOHN GALLAGHER: My name is John Gallagher.
20 That's G-A-L-L-A-G-H-E-R. First name J-O-H-N.

21 Members of the Arizona Independent Redistricting
22 Commission, first of all, I want to thank you for serving
23 the people of Arizona. And this is probably a thankless
24 job, and it takes a lot of time and energy, and I know you
25 guys don't get paid for doing it.

1 And I appreciate what you're doing.

2 I want to talk to you about the starting point,
3 which is equal populations.

4 And specifically I want to talk about how we
5 account for prisons.

6 Because while prison inmates can't vote, they are
7 counted as residents for the purpose of redistricting, in
8 arriving at districts of equal population.

9 Now, the way that the Commission did it last
10 time --

11 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, ma'am, let's respect the
12 speaker.

13 Please go ahead, sir.

14 JOHN GALLAGHER: What the Commission did last time
15 is they counted inmates serving time in our prisons as
16 residents of where that prison was located.

17 And this is a problem, and it's likely
18 unconstitutional.

19 I'll tell you why I believe that.

20 First of all, the Arizona State Constitution says
21 a prison is not a residence.

22 Arizona Constitution, Article 7, Section 3, for
23 purposes of voting, no person shall be deemed to have gained
24 or lost a residence by reason of being absent while confined
25 in any public jail or prison.

1 So the Arizona Constitution is pretty clear about
2 that.

3 So, apart from it being unconstitutional, what's
4 the problem?

5 Well, the problem is that this artificially boosts
6 the political representation of non-prisoners who --
7 basically by counting the prison as people, forgetting equal
8 population, in the location, the people that live near that
9 prison get more presentation than they ought to.

10 Now, what's the alternative?

11 Well, you could count the prisoners as residents
12 of where they resided before they became incarcerated.

13 Or -- and I think with the modern computers it
14 probably should be possible to do that.

15 But if for some reason that's not possible, we
16 could also count them as no residence or no address
17 available.

18 So those are a couple ways we can deal with it.

19 And I would like to urge the IRC, the Arizona
20 Redistricting Commission, to direct the mapping consultant
21 to figure out an equitable way to count prisoners, and don't
22 count them in the community where they're serving time, but
23 if possible count them in the district where they actually
24 reside.

25 Because to do otherwise distorts the political

1 process and it violates the fundamental principle of equal
2 representation.

3 And given that it's unconstitutional, it could be
4 challenged in court.

5 Now, I live in Maricopa County.

6 Okay. Let me bring home the impact of this.

7 Maricopa County has 59 percent of Arizona's
8 population.

9 Most -- 64 percent of the people in our prisons
10 come from Maricopa County.

11 But Maricopa County only has 19 percent of the
12 prison cells.

13 So Maricopa County is losing political
14 representation to those counties like Pinal County that have
15 prisons located in them.

16 I don't think this is fair.

17 And it's also not fair to our minority
18 communities, because these people are counted as
19 representing -- as fulfilling the diversity requirements,
20 but a lot more Latinos and American Indians are incarcerated
21 than as a percentage of the population.

22 So even though these people are counted as
23 minorities in these districts, they can't vote.

24 So they don't represent minority voters. They're
25 not voters.

1 So, again, I'd like to urge the Commission to take
2 into account and try to find a way to more fairly represent
3 the people of Arizona by putting these people in the places
4 where they resided prior to incarceration.

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

6 (Applause.)

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: So we have Joe Murphy, David
8 Lucier, Larry Mora, Bob Rosenberg, and Lauren Kuby are the
9 next five speakers.

10 JOE MURPHY: Hello. Joe Murphy, M-U-R-P-H-Y. Joe
11 is Joe.

12 Anyway, I typed it out, because I was quoting some
13 stuff.

14 There's a lot of Republicans that are very angry.
15 They feel threatened by the idea of fair and competitive
16 districts.

17 They've kind of created a side show all summer.

18 They've attacked the chairwoman and more recently
19 Commissioner Herrera.

20 And these attacks I don't feel are based upon
21 facts but their partisanship.

22 They're also hypocritical, because whenever they
23 attack the chairwoman for an omission on the AIRC
24 application, they blatantly ignore the fact that this panel
25 has a Republican commissioner, which is Stertz, who gave

1 multiple false answers on his application.

2 And please allow me to read the record from
3 February 8th of the Arizona Daily Star.

4 It reads: One of two Pima County Republicans
5 vying for a spot on the State Commission that will draw new
6 political lines did not disclose that he owes delinquent
7 property taxes or that he has been sued for fraud or
8 contract violation.

9 That information is requested on his application.

10 The same story also highlighted Mr. Stertz' close
11 ties to Jesse Kelly, the Republican who lost to councilwoman
12 -- Congresswoman Giffords last year.

13 It's now reported that, and I quote, Kelly has a
14 joint Saturday morning radio show with Mr. Stertz.

15 Kelly also volunteered to record a public radio --
16 public service announcement for his company Vision 360
17 earlier this year.

18 The Arizona Republic and Tucson Weekly also
19 reported about his application problems and his close ties
20 to Jesse Kelly.

21 So Stertz cleared up his application, and Stertz
22 has a clear bias towards drawing friendly lines for a
23 possible future candidate like Jesse Kelly.

24 Where is the Tea Party outrage?

25 Where are the calls for an investigation into

1 Stertz or for his resignation?

2 Every time a Republican stands here and claims
3 that the Commission is in the tank for one party, they're
4 distorting the facts.

5 This Commission includes partisan interests, but
6 it obviously includes a full range of them.

7 And that's as it should be. And everybody should
8 stop hyperventilating and let the commissioners do their
9 job.

10 Mr. Stertz had a real nice quote from Judge Louis
11 Brandeis.

12 That publicity is just -- publicity is justly
13 commended as a remedy for social and industrial disease.
14 Sunlight is said to be the best disinfectant. Electric
15 light the most efficient policeman.

16 Yet he has not made any attempts to shine the
17 disinfectant spotlight on David Cantelme, Mike Liburdi, or
18 their masters at un-Fair Trust.

19 They're here to make a speech as lobbyists for the
20 owners of that company.

21 It should seem reasonable for a man like
22 Mr. Stertz who has emphasized that concept several times
23 publicly to be willing to set the example himself by fully
24 disclosing the extent of his ties to Jesse Kelly and Doug
25 Martin. And Mr. Stertz who is listed as a closer for the

1 radio show since becoming commissioner for making the
2 recordings that he's made on the show open for public
3 scrutiny.

4 If he's sincere about his claims and wants
5 sunshine, I feel that he should demand the same disclosure
6 of unfair trust and -- unless Mr. Stertz only wants to use
7 the spotlight as a weapon against his fellow commissioners
8 and the mapping consultant.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

11 David Lucier.

12 DAVID LUCIER: My name is David Lucier. It's
13 spelled L-U-C-I-E-R.

14 It's pronounced Lucier, if you want a good table
15 at a French restaurant.

16 Anyway, I'm a resident of Tempe, Arizona.

17 I'm a veteran.

18 I came to the -- came to this meeting today to
19 talk really about two things I indicated on my sheet of
20 paper there.

21 Number one, competitiveness. And communities of
22 interest.

23 For the competing elements, I would think -- my
24 belief here is that Arizona, as well as a lot of other
25 places, we get the system that we get because they're not

1 competitive and we have closed primaries.

2 Those are the two root causes that I see that
3 could use improvement in our system.

4 Again, I think that the -- those two competing
5 elements are hard to balance.

6 But it's, it's paramount and most important that
7 they do balance.

8 Communities of interest are important, but they
9 would get a whole lot of sameness and a whole lot of
10 homogeny.

11 And so competitiveness I think brings out just
12 that.

13 People come out. They voice their opinions. They
14 act and react. And the outcome is much, much better.

15 So, those are my two areas of interest.

16 I hope that you would consider those probably the
17 two most important.

18 There are some other considerations, but those are
19 the -- by statutory requirement, I believe.

20 So if you could take a look at those two, give
21 those particular review, I'd appreciate it.

22 And thank you for the work that you do, and I
23 appreciate you putting in the effort.

24 Thank you.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, sir.

1 Larry Mora.

2 (No oral response.)

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Bob Rosenberg.

4 BOB ROSENBERG: Mr. Commissioner and Mr. Co-chair,
5 for the record, my name is Bob Rosenberg. Bob with one O.
6 Rosenberg is R-O-S-E-N-B-E-R-G.

7 I was born in Phoenix and have lived here most of
8 my life.

9 Over on the wall there is a plaque dedicated to
10 Nina Pulliam. This room is named after her.

11 Her husband, Gene Pulliam, was the owner and the
12 publisher of the Arizona Republic and Phoenix Gazette,
13 Phoenix Newspapers Incorporated, for many decades.

14 The political columnist was Bernie Wynn in those
15 days, and the political cartoonist was Ray Dramani
16 (phonetic).

17 I ask you to keep those things in mind because
18 we're going to do a way back machine in a moment.

19 Before I go further, I want to thank both of you
20 and the other commissioners who may and probably are
21 watching over the Internet. You have taken on a thankless
22 job, and I want to be one of those who thanks you for the
23 courage and for the fortitude to do that.

24 Some people have suggested that the Arizona
25 legislature is polarized.

1 Some people have suggested that the congress is
2 polarized.

3 I agree with them.

4 But I remember -- now it's way back machine time.

5 I remember in the 1960s when the Republicans in
6 the House of Representatives were led by Burton Barr and the
7 Democrats were led by Art Hamilton.

8 And in the Senate the Republicans were led by Dave
9 Crat, and the Democrats were led by Harold Giss.

10 And when Harold Giss was no longer there, Alfredo
11 Gutierrez led the Democrats.

12 And nobody in Arizona, then or now, was more
13 firmly attached to his political convictions than any one of
14 those five people.

15 They were steadfast as Republicans or as
16 Democrats, and they worked together as partners to do the
17 people's business.

18 And they were close personal friends.

19 Give you a quick example of the friendship and the
20 cordiality.

21 We are in the Burton Barr Central Library.

22 You just heard me talk about Burton Barr.

23 The man who led the charge to get this library
24 named after Burton Barr, the Republican leader in the House,
25 was Art Hamilton, his opposite member in the Democratic

1 party in the House.

2 So what I'm going to ask you to do is, to the
3 extent you can, create competitive districts, because I am
4 of the firm opinion that will tend to bring back a spirit of
5 collegiality and cordiality in the Arizona Legislature.

6 Thank you very much.

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

8 (Applause.)

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

10 I'm a 23 year resident of Tempe, Arizona, and I
11 serve on the boards of the Tempe Community Council and
12 Valley Forward.

13 I also work at ASU.

14 And I reveal -- and I'm also a vice chair of the
15 D 17 Democrats.

16 I reveal all that about myself to show you that
17 I'm imbedded in my community, but also to say that I think
18 there should be some transparency here. I feel sometimes
19 when we have a speaker come up, they don't necessarily
20 reveal what their interests are.

21 What I'm referring to is the Fair Trust, Fair
22 Trust Arizona.

23 They're a super PAC, and the Capital Times reports
24 that they are indeed funded by the congressional
25 Republicans, including John Kyle, and they have a very

1 strong interest in trying to convince the Commission that
2 competitiveness should be downgraded as a lesser variable in
3 the redistricting process and that somehow minority rights
4 and competitiveness cannot coincide.

5 So I'm here to ask Fair Trust to come forward and
6 reveal who's funding them, who's behind them.

7 I also believe the Arizona Republic should
8 investigate Fair Trust so we can know who's trying to meddle
9 with our independent process.

10 The voters voted for an independent redistricting
11 process. And for a shadowy group like this to sort of stand
12 behind their shadowy -- their shadowy funding sources I
13 think is inappropriate.

14 And also I don't know if you notice here, we have
15 angry right-wing housewife who takes our pictures, you know,
16 of anybody that speaks out about competitiveness --

17 (Brief interruption.)

18 LAUREN KUBY: Excuse me, I'm speaking -- and she
19 films us.

20 I'm happy to be filmed. And I love the live
21 streaming. I've been watching a lot of the public input
22 from my house.

23 But I sort of have a problem with this woman.
24 She's got a freedom of speech right to do that. Maybe not
25 to publish those pictures. But what I think she's trying to

1 do is intimidate people.

2 And I know I've been sitting next to her --

3 (Brief interruption.)

4 LAUREN KUBY: I'm trying to civil.

5 I've been sitting next to a green beret, and he's
6 not intimidated.

7 But I do wonder about people in the audience who
8 didn't pick up the sheet of paper to sign it for public
9 comments. Maybe they feel intimidated because they see
10 people's pictures are being snapped.

11 And I just wanted to bring that forward in a
12 public way.

13 So I thank you for taking the time. You guys are
14 amazing public servants.

15 My husband was on the short list to be considered
16 for the Commission. He's a Democrat. He's was on the short
17 list. He's a professor at ASU.

18 He withdrew because he found out that the
19 requirement -- you guys serve for ten years. And you serve
20 an incredible amount of time and energy for the people of
21 Arizona.

22 You're to be commended, Democrat, Republican, and
23 Independent, for your public service.

24 And I wanted to salute you tonight.

25 And I am sorry that if the tenor of times means

1 that you're publicly attacked, privately attacked.

2 I want to salute you for your service. Thank you
3 very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Our next four speakers are
6 Roman Ulman, and he's an officer with the Alliance for
7 Retired Americans.

8 Stephen Anderson with Planned Parenthood.

9 And Genevieve Vega, and Lisa Glow representing
10 herself.

11 And, ma'am, if you want to speak, I'd encourage
12 you to fill out a form.

13 ROMAN ULMAN: Good evening, commissioners. I want
14 to thank you very much for allowing me to speak. My name is
15 Roman Ulman. That's R-O-M-A-N, U-L-M-A-N.

16 And I do live in East Mesa.

17 Arizona is my state by choice, not by birth. I
18 escaped from the frozen north and came here.

19 First of all, let me say this. I admire you guys
20 for the job that you're doing.

21 I admire you because, number one, you can't win.

22 A good friend of mine who served in the
23 legislature, who's a member of an opposite party, once told
24 me, your enemies will forget about what you did, but your
25 friends will never forgive you.

1 You're going to lose.

2 But, the point is you're not here to win a
3 popularity contest. You are here to serve the citizens.

4 I have served on commissions before.

5 And I will tell you right now, it takes a lot of
6 time. You are citizen volunteers. And that's the highest
7 calling.

8 My wife always asked me, how come you can't find a
9 job that pays something?

10 And as far as I'm concerned, when you're serving
11 the public, that is payment enough.

12 We own a small business, and I represent a
13 retirees group.

14 And I feel very, very strongly about two things.

15 One is making this race competitive.

16 And the reason why is because when you do that,
17 the citizens win.

18 If they have to ask you for your vote, if they
19 have to earn your vote, and they have to be accessible, if
20 they have to come out to you, that's what government should
21 be all about.

22 If they live in a district that is not
23 competitive, unfortunately it's human nature to only go to
24 the group that elects you.

25 I happen to live in a Republican district.

1 I happen to like the people who represent me.

2 But I'll be darned if they ever came to a meeting
3 where I'm at, you know.

4 And, I'd be happy to go where they're at, but I
5 never get notified about their meetings.

6 When you make districts competitive, the people
7 win.

8 I know you cannot make all of them competitive.

9 But if you were to, say, make ten districts where
10 it's a safe Republican district, ten districts where it's
11 safe Democratic district, and ten districts that are
12 competitive, this state will benefit a lot.

13 The other thing that I believe in is compact
14 districts.

15 Don't break up groups. If it's a Native American
16 district, keep it that way.

17 If it is based upon religion, keep it that way.

18 If it is based upon, oh, common work locations,
19 keep it that way.

20 The simple fact is one of the previous speakers
21 talked about that we tend to find our homes with the kind of
22 people that we like.

23 That, and if you can afford it.

24 You know, so, the thing about it is, if your
25 representative has got to drive 200 miles to come out to

1 your part of the state, you're not going to see them very
2 often.

3 If your district is compact and it is common
4 interest, you're going to get to see him a lot.

5 And I think the best government for our country is
6 one where our representatives are accessible, where you can
7 speak to them, where you can drive to where their offices
8 are, and they hear you, because they know they have to get
9 your vote because it's a competitive district and they'll
10 listen to us.

11 And, once again, thank you very much. And I am
12 very pleased that nobody here was talking about somebody's
13 wife being controlled by their husband.

14 I have never been able to control my wife on
15 anything.

16 And that makes it interesting.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 STEPHEN ANDERSON: My name is Stephen Anderson,
20 S-T-E-P-H-E-N, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

21 Members of the Commission, good evening. I am, as
22 I indicated, I am Stephen Anderson, and I am a
23 Planned Parenthood volunteer. I want to thank you for your
24 time and all of the energy that you have invested in
25 touring the state and for your voluntary service on this

1 Commission.

2 By now I know that you have heard from
3 Planned Parenthood volunteers across the state, at your
4 hearing in Yuma, at your hearing in Flagstaff and southern
5 Arizona, and just a few days ago at your hearing in
6 Glendale.

7 We are all speaking to you on behalf of
8 Planned Parent Advocates of Arizona.

9 I am the chairman of the board of that
10 organization at this time, and I am also a lifelong
11 Republican.

12 We are all speaking to you because
13 Planned Parenthood provides health care to more than
14 50,000 Arizonans across the state, mostly women, at
15 14 health centers. Over 80 percent of the care that we
16 provide is preventative in nature, including lifesaving
17 cancer screening, STD testing and treatment, and birth
18 control.

19 As a provider of charitable care, we are also
20 often the only health care provider available for many of
21 our patients.

22 We hope our presence at your hearings across the
23 state has conveyed to you the breadth of our organization
24 and its presence in the state, a presence that dates back
25 75 years.

1 I think you know as well why we are here and why
2 we are interested in this process.

3 As a health care provider which regularly
4 participates in the legislative process, often not by our
5 own choice, we have witnessed firsthand the deterioration of
6 civic dialogue in the halls of our state legislature.

7 There is almost no bipartisanship on either side
8 of the aisle anymore that we can see.

9 To us at least part of this problem stems from
10 Arizona's lack of competitive legislative districts.

11 Once again, on both sides of the aisle.

12 As a result of this lack of competition,
13 legislative races are too often decided in the primaries.

14 When legislative races are decided in the
15 primaries, it undermines the general elections and lowers
16 voter turnout.

17 We know the voter turnout is not one of the items
18 that draw on your list of constitutional criteria for
19 establishing districts, but to us it would seem to be a
20 fundamental goal for this Commission to make sure that the
21 maximum number of voters are motivated to participate in
22 Arizona's electoral process.

23 We know also about your legal obligation to create
24 minority majority districts.

25 But in our view, this legal obligation has too

1 often served as an excessive justification for districts
2 that lean too heavily Democratic, which in turn results in
3 other districts that lean too heavily Republican.

4 This is not in the interest of Arizona.

5 Arizona needs fewer safe seats and more
6 competitive seats.

7 We recognize that there is no single panacea for
8 what we perceive to be the degraded state of Arizona's
9 legislative process.

10 Nevertheless, we believe that anything that
11 increases voter turnout will produce a better legislature.

12 Competitive districts will re-enfranchise more
13 Arizonans than any other single thing that you as a
14 Commission can do.

15 Thank you again for your time and effort, and
16 thank you for listening.

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 GENEVIEVE VEGA: I'm Genevieve Vega,
20 G-E-N-E-V-I-E-V-E, last name Vega, V-E-G-A.

21 I first want to start by thanking the
22 commissioners for being here.

23 I appreciate any voter-approved initiative, so I
24 thank you for your service.

25 I would like to say I've lived in Arizona for

1 about a little over 13 years, which is not quite half my
2 life, so that's how old I am right here.

3 And I've lived in several places in this state,
4 because I came here to go to college, and then subsequently
5 met my husband and raise my family here.

6 I currently reside in Tempe. I've lived there for
7 two years.

8 And I want to talk today about competitiveness and
9 communities that I identify with.

10 So, I'm a minority. I have a Hispanic surname,
11 although that is not my nationality.

12 I'm a woman. I'm a young person.

13 I work for one of the largest private employers in
14 the state, and I think it's very important that we have
15 competitive districts, because I have all these criteria
16 that define me, as some people might say. However, that is
17 not everything that I am.

18 I live where I live because of convenience,
19 perhaps.

20 I have friends all over the state and all over the
21 county.

22 Competitive districts are extremely important, so,
23 you know, when we're talking about minorities and things
24 like that, you know, keep in mind we have a very diverse
25 population in Arizona.

1 So this is very important to keep our districts
2 competitive.

3 And just like the last speaker said, you know, if
4 we lean one way in one district, well, we lean another way
5 in another district.

6 So please keep that in mind.

7 And also, just like I said, with the communities
8 of interest, you know, we're very diverse.

9 Just because I say that I'm a minority, I'm
10 actually mixed. So maybe that's a bigger minority than some
11 populations.

12 So what group are you going to put me in?

13 You know, I might identify one way with some group
14 and another way with other groups. Where I live
15 geographically, am I going to vote the same way -- I live in
16 Congressional District 5 right now.

17 My representative lives in Fountain Hills.

18 Do I associate with people in Fountain Hills on a
19 regular basis? No.

20 That's pretty far away from where I live now.

21 But we do have an extremely great opportunity here
22 based on the way the last redistricting went to be fair.
23 And I just ask you to consider that. Thank you.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

25 Next will be Lisa Glow, Kelly Townsend, Barbara

1 Shelley, Jim Hogin, and followed by Phyllis Rowe.

2 LISA GLOW: Good evening. Thank you. My name is
3 Lisa Glow, G-L-O-W.

4 And I am here to talk to you about communities of
5 interest as you're drawing congressional lines.

6 I've lived in the Valley since about 1991.

7 And until recently I lived downtown, for about
8 17 years. I currently live in the north corridor area.
9 Prior to being downtown I lived in Tempe. So I've seen a
10 lot of change and a lot of growth. But those areas share a
11 lot of similar interests.

12 I think it's important as you're looking at
13 drawing lines to look at what are those amenities, what are
14 those things in those areas, so someone like myself, who's
15 been a Democrat most of my adult life, can live in any area
16 where there's common interest. I think that should be taken
17 into account.

18 Some of the common issues, urban living. Now
19 we're connected by the lightrail.

20 While I live in north central Phoenix, my kids go
21 to school downtown. I work downtown. I use those
22 amenities.

23 Same with Tempe, the Arcadia area. There's a lot
24 of commonality in those regions.

25 So I think looking at linking the 202 corridor,

1 thinking about the fact that people are able to move into so
2 many different regions, and what they're looking for, might
3 be taken into account, if I can be represented living in any
4 of those different areas.

5 Thank you.

6 KELLY TOWNSEND: My name is Kelly Townsend,
7 K-E-L-L-Y, T-O-W-N-S-E-N-D.

8 This is my third time coming to visit you guys.
9 And the first time I came, I was concerned with a mapping
10 consultant, Strategic Telemetry, and their affiliations with
11 progressive candidates and their attempts to get them
12 elected to congress.

13 And the second time I came was to south Phoenix,
14 and there was a concern with the application of Colleen
15 Mathis and her omission of a family member. She forgot that
16 her husband was a family member and that he was employed by
17 a Democrat.

18 So, and now tonight I'm finding out that there's
19 some other omissions on -- and mistakes on some
20 applications.

21 And I am the first to say that any, any sort of
22 deception on this Commission is not tolerated.

23 So we'll be fact checking those claims that she
24 made, sir. And speaking to the attorney general regarding
25 this.

1 Since I saw you last, I have now found that when I
2 was not at one of the meetings, it was said that the
3 Tea Party in specific by Mr. Herrera was to move past these
4 issues and to get to the mapping process.

5 Which I understand where you're coming from,
6 because I know we have deadlines.

7 However, this Commission is under investigation by
8 the attorney general.

9 And now this morning, I am seeing a statement by
10 the attorney general specifically to Mr. Herrera stating
11 that you will cooperate and that you have made a statement
12 that you will not, that you will not speak to any kind of
13 interview from him, and that you're basically closing the
14 door on this process.

15 That's very concerning to me.

16 And as I represent Greater Phoenix Tea Party, as
17 you know, we are very interested in transparency.

18 There was talk about a light being shown on this
19 process.

20 And to me that was the same thing I was going to
21 say.

22 I think for those of us who aren't as familiar
23 with this process, we need to know what is going on. And
24 the reason that you're being investigated is you shredded
25 the papers of the documents used to determine which mapping

1 company you're going to use, and the various other things
2 that are going on.

3 I don't think it's right to ask us to just move
4 past illegal actions by this Commission.

5 That would be like, you know, just let's not think
6 about the bank robber and what he did. Let's just continue
7 to work with him.

8 I can't do that. I cannot look past the
9 accusations.

10 I'm not saying they're true, the accusations.

11 And we will wait for what the attorney general
12 says.

13 But I'm asking you here tonight to please
14 cooperate with the attorney general so that we know what it
15 is that you have to say, because operating in the dark is
16 shameful for our state.

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 BARBARA SHELLEY: Good evening. Barbara Shelley.
20 It's B-A-R-B-A-R-A, S-H-E-L-L-E-Y.

21 And you -- (inaudible.)

22 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Talk into the mic, please.

23 BARBARA SHELLEY: Oh, I'm sorry.

24 I'm a single woman who lives in Arizona. I
25 relocated here to take care of my 91-year-old father. And

1 that's a chore that I never expected to have.

2 It's a full-time job, and it gives me a lot of
3 time to read newspapers and watch the Arizona channel.

4 I don't feel that -- I feel that competitive
5 districts are the most important thing that we can have
6 here.

7 I come from Los Angeles, where I lived in a
8 community that was very cohesive, but we were surrounded by
9 all kinds of communities. And they all have voices. And
10 everybody worked together.

11 I lived in west Hollywood, which had a specific
12 agenda. And there was downtown L.A., and so forth, and so
13 on.

14 Here I feel that there isn't just a majority
15 ruling, but there's a very well-organized specific majority
16 ruling that makes people like me and other people feel like
17 there isn't even a reason to bother to get out and vote,
18 like we don't have a shot.

19 I recently had an experience that was very good
20 with David Schweikert during the deficit -- the deficit
21 debates.

22 I phoned his office and Senator McCain's office
23 and Congressmen Boehner's office.

24 President Obama asked us to.

25 And in Schweikert's office, a man answered the

1 phone at 8:00 o'clock at night and spent 15 minutes on the
2 phone with me talking about my opinion and how I felt and
3 Mr. Schweikert's opinions.

4 And I really felt engaged.

5 I don't agree with him at all. I don't agree with
6 him about anything. But, I -- oh, maybe something, but, but
7 that was wonderful.

8 And so I respect this man, and I hold him in very
9 high esteem.

10 But the point is he doesn't represent me. He
11 doesn't represent me in any way.

12 I think there are a lot of single people living in
13 my area, having come for one reason or another.

14 I live near Scottsdale and Shea intersection.

15 It's becoming more of a little city than it is
16 beautiful Arizona. That's just the way it is.

17 I gravitated to that area because it's an easy
18 place to take care of my dad. It's near the hospital and
19 near just about everything.

20 And I think that area has become its own little
21 town.

22 And the way things are, we're not, we're not
23 represented. We're not represented because of the lack of
24 competitiveness.

25 I think that we're a group of people who are just,

1 oh, well, they're the carpetbaggers, the single people who
2 just moved here for one reason or another.

3 I think that fair, competitive districts are
4 really important.

5 And this is such a beautiful state. Anything we
6 can do to preserve its beauty and its integrity is important
7 to me.

8 Thank you.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: After Mr. Hogin, if you don't
12 mind, we have Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County supervisor,
13 if she can be allowed to speak after Mr. Hogin.

14 JIM HOGIN: My name is Jim Hogin, H-O-G-I-N. I'm
15 a resident of Scottsdale, have lived there for 50 years.
16 I'm a veteran.

17 And I get nostalgic for Arizona and Scottsdale the
18 way it was 30, 40 years ago, which there was a real
19 collegiality, a real working together. The community came
20 much more before political concerns or ideology.

21 We had Barry Goldwater, and he certainly was
22 strong on ideology, but he also loved Arizona, and he also
23 did a lot of crossing over the aisles and a lot of things
24 that I just don't see today.

25 And we have a problem across the country, I think,

1 in terms of not having competitiveness. That's my major
2 concern.

3 I put it above community. I put it above
4 everything else.

5 I live in LD 8. It's about 47 or 48 percent
6 Republican and 20 something Democrat and so something
7 Independent.

8 What chance do you think a Democrat or an
9 Independent has in running in that district?

10 I've been, you know, a hard political worker for
11 the last ten years, but, I guess, I would say thank you for
12 what you're doing.

13 I think you have a very powerful job.

14 I don't know of anybody who has the power to
15 change Arizona like you people do at the end of this
16 process.

17 You really do.

18 You can return us to a more civil kind of place,
19 because when people don't have to compete for their
20 political jobs, you get the extremes on both sides. You get
21 the far right and you get the far left, and neither of those
22 represent me.

23 And so I would just ask you to break your backs to
24 try to make it as competitive as you can. If you can do it
25 in almost all of the districts, you will change Arizona back

1 to the place where we were 20, 30 years ago and where we
2 should be for the next 20 or 30 years for our kids and
3 grandkids.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: After Supervisor Wilcox will
7 be Phyllis Rowe, Randy Keating, Sean Bowie, and Sandra
8 Fischer.

9 MARY ROSE WILCOX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
10 members of the Commission.

11 I am here today -- I'm a little bit short.

12 I am here today as an active participant in
13 redistricting. For the past two decades I was very, very
14 involved, and feel it is very important to reach out to the
15 community as you are doing.

16 I want to praise you for all of the hearings
17 you've been having and a tremendous amount of people who
18 have been coming. I think that shows that Arizona is ready
19 to accept a map is of most -- and most important and
20 paramount complies with the Voter Rights Act.

21 We want to do the right thing.

22 We want to make sure the Voter Rights Act is
23 followed.

24 We want to make sure that we have equal
25 population, contiguous boundaries, and most important

1 community of interests.

2 I have represented many of the areas that I am
3 going to talk about right now, and I have seen the
4 communities of interest.

5 When you are doing the congressional maps -- and
6 it was very hard for me not to draw a map and bring it to
7 you.

8 But I decided not to do that. Instead just talk
9 about the issues.

10 When you consider the Voter Rights Act, you look
11 at communities of interest. And the areas I would like to
12 talk to you about include one congressional would be the
13 city of Tolleson, Cashion, historic Glendale, west Phoenix,
14 Maryvale, Isaac neighborhood, and central Phoenix, keeping
15 historic neighborhoods represented in one district.

16 To the east, 48th Street, Hohokam Freeway, should
17 continue to be used as a boundary, including the town of
18 Guadalupe as the easternmost boundary.

19 South Mountain Park should continue to be the
20 boundary to the south.

21 And Laveen should also be included with
22 83rd Avenue as a southwestern border.

23 And that way Guadalupe, south Phoenix, Laveen
24 would be in one congressional.

25 The reason I wanted to talk to you about this is

1 that those communities, and I've represented them both as
2 the City of Phoenix councilwoman and a board of supervisor
3 rep, are contiguous to each other. They very much have
4 commonality.

5 Many, many people from the south Phoenix area
6 moved into the Laveen area. Many parents are living in
7 south Laveen and Guadalupe, and their children have
8 migrated. There is a real good continuity there and
9 community of interest.

10 And the west valley, Maryvale has always been home
11 to a large population that, again, whose children have
12 migrated into the central Phoenix area and into Laveen area.

13 And in talking about boundaries, and if you could
14 keep these together, that would give you a real, real good
15 start, combined with Voter Rights Act, which, again, as I
16 said, is paramount in making sure that your map does comply
17 with them.

18 I have been called many times by the Department of
19 Justice to talk about districts, whether they be
20 JP districts, whether they be local districts, city council
21 districts. And I find what the Justice Department is
22 looking for is does it comply with Voter Rights Act, are the
23 communities of interest, are there equal populations.

24 I know many people have talked about
25 competitiveness.

1 And if you follow the Voter Rights Act,
2 competitive comes in, but the other things that I've
3 mentioned far outweigh that.

4 So I would ask that you look at that.

5 It also was a guide for the legislative districts.

6 Many of the areas that you'll be looking at in
7 central, south, and west Phoenix particularly have their
8 communities of interest.

9 I've just mentioned one, Laveen, Guadalupe,
10 South Mountain area. That has always traditionally voted
11 together.

12 The Maryvale, Isaac, and central Phoenix have made
13 up another district. And those districts rely on each
14 other.

15 In representing them as an elected official, I
16 know the coordination that goes in.

17 There's roads that were built so people can travel
18 quite easily throughout those districts.

19 There's jobs, you know, that many, many people can
20 live and work in the same area.

21 So I would hope that you take those things into
22 consideration.

23 And I will be available for any more questions for
24 you.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

1 MARY ROSE WILCOX: Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 PHYLLIS ROWE: I'm Phyllis Rowe. P-H-Y-L-L-I-S.

4 The last name is Rowe, R-O-W-E.

5 I've lived in the same house in Phoenix since
6 1955.

7 The same house and many different legislative
8 districts.

9 I ran against Burton Barr for the legislature.

10 And at that time the district was shaped like a --
11 actually an elephant. It had four legs and a trunk.

12 And it was an example of gerrymandering that they
13 put into the newspaper at that time.

14 Now, I've testified about the redistricting
15 several times, and I testified on the case about the shaping
16 of the district.

17 And I also worked to try to get the Redistricting
18 Commission, and I really applaud you for doing this.

19 I've been a lifetime volunteer, and I know it's
20 not easy.

21 But, I believe that the district should be more
22 contiguous and have a commonality of interest, as the
23 previous speaker said.

24 And I also feel --

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Excuse me, ma'am. Ms. Rowe,

1 if you don't mind.

2 There seems to be a lot of conversations in the
3 audience. Let's respect Ms. Rowe.

4 PHYLLIS ROWE: Okay. I have just one other thing.

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I'm sorry, ma'am. I wasn't
6 talking about you.

7 PHYLLIS ROWE: Okay.

8 I'm sorry, I have hearing aides that don't always
9 work, and I had difficulty hearing Mary Rose, and I really
10 wanted to hear her.

11 But, anyway, I am a member of District 11
12 currently.

13 District 11 goes from the I-17 all the way into
14 Scottsdale. Now, that is not contiguous. They have no
15 community of interest.

16 And we have had to build one over the years.

17 But you need to have a contiguous district,
18 something that's compact, so that the candidate or the
19 person can travel back and forth around it.

20 And also they used to split the districts from
21 north to south. This was an effort to do east and west in
22 Phoenix. And it needs to be a small enough district that
23 the candidate can traverse it.

24 And you can get to meet other people and you can
25 work with the people that are there.

1 So I, I believe that you need a commonality of
2 interest. You need it to be somewhat more compact.

3 And it's very hard to balance, I know, and that's
4 what you're working with.

5 But I appreciate whatever you can do to correct
6 some of the problems that we've had over the years.

7 Thank you very much for serving.

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Again, let's remind the
10 audience, please don't speak while others are speaking. I
11 appreciate that.

12 Randy Keating.

13 RANDY KEATING: My name is Randy Keating,
14 R-A-N-D-Y, K-E-A-T-I-N-G.

15 And I'm here representing myself and the
16 District 17 Democrats.

17 And firstly I would like to thank the Commission
18 for your public service. You guys took a thankless job for
19 no pay. And now what have you gotten for that? Personal
20 attacks by half-cocked conspiracy theorists and a systematic
21 campaign of intimidation by those who should know better,
22 our elected officials.

23 So I know it's not easy to stand up to that
24 bullying, but I thank you for your resolve.

25 Secondly, I would like you to consider Tempe a

1 community of interest.

2 From the Mill Avenue district to the university,
3 to Maple Ash, to the lakes, we Tempeans always consider
4 ourselves part of a clearly defined greater whole.

5 The despite what some, I'll say, failed candidates
6 will tell you, one only has to look at the voter
7 registration numbers in Tempe to see that we're about as
8 evenly divided as any district in the state.

9 All I ask is that you give us a competitive
10 district moving on because we know that competitive
11 districts only strengthen our democracy.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 SEAN BOWIE: Good evening. I'm Sean, S-E-A-N,
15 Bowie, B-O-W-I-E.

16 I want to thank the Commission again for allowing
17 everybody to speak tonight.

18 This is my fourth meeting, I believe it is.

19 In these meetings I've been talking about my own
20 community of Legislature 20, which is comprised of
21 Ahwatukee, Tempe, and west Chandler.

22 I lived in the district for about 17 years now,
23 which is I think about two thirds of my life.

24 Believe it or not.

25 And one of the things that, you know, myself and

1 as I've been saying in the districts, both Democrats and
2 Republicans, is that there are several communities of
3 interest in our district that we would like to see protected
4 and be maintained in our district.

5 A couple weeks ago at the South Mountain meeting,
6 myself and Senator John McComish both agreed about a lot of
7 things.

8 Now, he's a Republican and I am a Democrat, but we
9 both believe that Legislative District 20 should abide by --
10 or new District 20 should abide by three criteria.

11 One of those is that it contains Ahwatukee, which
12 that is 800,000 people in its own district.

13 The second would be that it contains the Kyrene
14 School District, which goes -- which is in Ahwatukee, south
15 Tempe, and west Chandler.

16 And the third that it be truly competitive and in
17 every single election.

18 Right now District 20 has two of those three
19 things, and it's very close to having the third.

20 It contains all of Ahwatukee and all of Kyrene
21 School District.

22 Now, it's almost to the point where it's truly
23 competitive. It just needs a little push.

24 Until the 2008 presidential election, it was the
25 closest out of all the districts in Maricopa County

1 legislative districts to being a 50/50 split between the
2 two presidential candidates. It was 52 to 48 --
3 52 Senator McCain, 48 percent President Obama.

4 So it's almost there to being a true 50/50 true
5 split legislative district.

6 Now, you guys were asking earlier what our
7 definitions of competitive districts were. I think that's a
8 pretty good one, the fact that every single four years
9 really it's a district that either a Democrat or a
10 Republican can win.

11 Now, it just needs a little push.

12 Now, who better to give that push than the
13 Redistricting Commission.

14 So it's very simple.

15 I've drawn a map. I'm going to submit this for
16 the record tonight.

17 The legislative districts in the east valley.

18 Now, District 20, like I said, it needs to add
19 about 37,000 people, so it just needs to add about seven or
20 eight precincts and it's at the population threshold.

21 Now, if you're interested in making it a
22 competitive district, it's very simple to do. All you have
23 to do is move the northern boundary north by two roads.
24 Right now the boundary is Elliot Road. Go to Baseline Road.
25 It's about seven or eight precincts.

1 You get to 213,000 people, which is the baseline.
2 And when you do that, I did the math, it's literally a
3 50/50 district, or it would have been during the 2008
4 election.

5 So the board cares about competitive districts,
6 and naturally they're going to want to know where it's going
7 to be, very easily drawn making a competitive district.
8 There is no easier district to do that in Maricopa County
9 than District 20.

10 So, I'm going to submit this for the record.

11 And I just want to thank you again for all your
12 work.

13 And I hope that as you're drawing the maps that
14 you take competitive districts into account, and you look at
15 our district, which both Democrats and Republicans agree
16 that we would like to see it be a true 50/50 split, every
17 single four years, and every single two years for the
18 legislative races.

19 Thank you.

20 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 SANDRA FISCHER: Hi. My name is Sandra Fischer.
23 That's S-A-N-D-R-A, F-I-S-C-H-E-R.

24 I want to thank the Commission for their hard work
25 and for holding these public hearings to complete the job

1 that you have been called to do.

2 I am here to speak to this Commission on behalf of
3 myself and my community of southwest Mesa, Arizona.

4 As to the issue of Colleen Mathis being
5 Independent and her husband having worked for Democrats, I
6 do not understand why this raises questions as to her
7 ability to act as an independent voice of this Commission.

8 If James Carville, Bill Clinton's campaign manager
9 against George H.W. Bush, and Mr. Carville's wife Mary
10 Matalin, who was George W. Bush's and Dick Cheney's
11 assistant until 2003, could live together, raise two
12 daughters, and neither of those parties had an issue
13 regarding influence, then there should be no problem with
14 Ms. Mathis serving as the chair of this Commission and
15 making a completely independent decision that is right for
16 Arizona.

17 Mr. Carville and Ms. Matalin were extremely active
18 in their respective parties prior to their marriage and now
19 have been married 18 years and still going strong.

20 If the national parties can accept consultants
21 whose spouses belong to separate parties, then so should
22 Arizona.

23 I have complete confidence that Ms. Mathis can
24 speak for herself and live in the same household with
25 someone who may have a different opinion.

1 This issue should be forever closed.

2 As for my community in southwest Mesa, I have been
3 the chair of the democratic Legislative District 21 since
4 November, 2010, and the chair of my neighborhood,
5 Marlborough Mesa Christmas Toy Ride since 2002.

6 I have lived in Marlborough Mesa since August,
7 1996.

8 And my husband and I have raised our son in that
9 neighborhood.

10 My son has attended the public schools assigned to
11 our neighborhood and received an excellent education despite
12 the state's inability to properly fund public education.

13 My son will be graduating from Dobson High in May,
14 2012, and has already committed to serve in the Army.

15 I am proud to be a Mesa resident and live in the
16 state of Arizona.

17 And I want to see Arizona rise from the bottom to
18 show this nation that the people can be heard and a better
19 community results from their voice.

20 My concern for this Commission is that without
21 competitive districts comprised of adequate representation
22 from communities of interest, my voice, as well as that of
23 those who share my values, will not be heard.

24 The Republican chair of District 21, Paul
25 Brierley, provided some great comments at the public hearing

1 in Mesa regarding LD 21.

2 Our district is not compact and does not properly
3 benefit all of the communities of interest included in it.

4 Most of LD 21 is in Chandler. However, I live in
5 southwest Mesa, which is in Congressional District 5, while
6 the rest of my district is in Congressional District 6.

7 Mr. Brierley was correct that creating a
8 legislative district that crosses congressional district
9 lines breaks up communities of interest and less of a voice
10 in each of their congressional districts because of this
11 split membership.

12 The part of LD 21 that is in Mesa is such a small
13 part of Congressional District 5 that our voice is but a
14 whisper.

15 It is imperative during this redistricting process
16 that this Commission consider people's communities of
17 interest together when drawing the congressional district
18 lines because the additional congressional district for
19 Arizona that you will create will most likely be in the east
20 valley.

21 That includes Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, Tempe,
22 Sun Lakes, and Queen Creek.

23 I ask that you strongly consider communities of
24 interest such as city boundaries, neighborhood boundaries,
25 et cetera, when you draw the congressional and legislative

1 lines.

2 Finally, it is also crucial to consider that
3 legislative districts be compact. With my district being so
4 spread out, it is difficult to keep members informed and
5 able to attend meetings due to lack of funding and a central
6 place to hold meetings at times that people are available to
7 attend.

8 Our parties would be better served if we would
9 keep each district within a certain mile radius --

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am --

11 SANDRA FISCHER -- so that no one -- I'm almost
12 done.

13 I'll submit this for --

14 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much.

15 SANDRA FISCHER: Okay.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: The next five speakers, and,
17 I guess, please, let's stick to the four minutes. I think
18 four minutes is more than enough.

19 Carol Comito, Jane McNamara, John M. Johnson, Jim
20 Williams, followed by Steven Ochoa.

21 CAROL COMITO: Good evening. Carol Comito,
22 C-A-R-O-L, C-O-M-I-T-O.

23 Thank you.

24 First, I would really like to thank you for your
25 service. I know this is a difficult job, and we appreciate

1 it.

2 I'm the chair of Legislative District 8,
3 Democrats, which is Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and
4 Rio Verde.

5 Tonight you heard a continuation of the talking
6 points being distributed by the Tea Party and Republicans.

7 I would like to read their four main talking
8 points into the public record, but I would also like to
9 provide what their talking points do not say, some facts.

10 Along with each talking point, I will give facts
11 that expose that talking point as a partisan distortion.

12 Talking point number one.

13 Chairman Colleen Mathis registered Independent who
14 failed to disclose her husband's political employment on a
15 Democratic campaign on her application was appointed to the
16 Commission based on the content she filled out.

17 She signed under penalty that all info on the
18 application was true and correct to the best of her
19 knowledge.

20 Had she included that tidbit, she wouldn't have
21 been chosen.

22 Now the facts.

23 The Tea Party's purposely misstating what Mathis
24 failed to disclose.

25 She forgot to include her husband's profession on

1 the application.

2 He is an attorney.

3 It was not required for her to disclose her
4 husband's political affiliations.

5 In case you're curious, here are the facts about
6 her husband's political affiliations.

7 He has been a financial contributor to both
8 Democratic and Republican candidates for office.

9 In fact, he was -- even worked for the Republican
10 office holders, something the Tea Party purposefully does
11 not mention.

12 The Tea Party's argument relies on guilt by
13 association.

14 The fact is that Colleen Mathis is a registered
15 Independent.

16 Talking point number two.

17 Strategic Telemetry, a data mining organization
18 that has concerned itself with electing extreme progressive
19 candidates to congress as well as working to recall
20 republican legislators and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker
21 has been appointed by Commission to draw our district
22 boundaries, potentially turning Arizona from a red state to
23 a blue state.

24 And now for the facts.

25 Strategic Telemetry is not a data mining company.

1 They provide statistical analysis and mapping
2 services.

3 Their data sources are all public data.

4 These sources are data from the Arizona Secretary
5 of State's Office and the 2010 census.

6 The Commission makes the ultimate decision on what
7 map is approved and not the mapping vendor.

8 In fact, public comments, including those
9 submitted at this meeting, are taken into account along with
10 the constitutional criteria.

11 Strategic Telemetry cannot make up its own rules,
12 and any assertion that they could is ludicrous.

13 While some commissioners may have had a different
14 first choice for the mapping vendor, all commissioners gave
15 Strategic Telemetry high scores based on the competency to
16 complete the task.

17 Talking point number three.

18 Commissioner Herrera made a statement to the
19 Capital Times that he actually wanted a different mapping
20 consultant, but felt he had to give Strategic Telemetry a
21 perfect score to offset Republican's low score due to their
22 far left activism.

23 Now, for the facts.

24 All commissioners gave Strategic Telemetry high
25 scores based on their competency to complete the task of

1 aiding the Commission in drawing new districts.

2 Talking point number four.

3 Paper shredding. In a process that was supposed
4 to be open to the public, the Commission held multiple
5 closed door meetings, including the deliberation about who
6 to select as mapping consultant. The documents that scored
7 each company were shredded and reportedly have written
8 comments about each of the companies.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, thank you so much. Do
10 you mind, would you like to submit that for the record?

11 CAROL COMITO: Sure.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: All right. Let's take a
13 five-minute break.

14 (Brief recess taken.)

15 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's go ahead and get
16 started.

17 Marty, are you ready?

18 Okay. Let's go ahead and get started with Jane
19 McNamara, John M. Johnson, and Jim Williams, and then
20 followed by Steven Ochoa.

21 JANE MCNAMARA: My name is Jane McNamara, J-A-N-E,
22 M-C-N-A-M-A-R-A.

23 I too would like to thank you so much for your
24 service.

25 I know your job isn't easy.

1 And I'm here tonight because my job isn't very
2 easy either.

3 I'm a school teacher in Arizona. I teach high
4 school in Phoenix.

5 And school starts Monday.

6 At our convocation earlier this week when our
7 superintendent spoke to all employees, he said that our
8 legislature had cut funding for education in Arizona by
9 26 percent over the last four years.

10 That's a staggering percentage.

11 And I think that those of us who are involved in
12 education do a pretty good job of making due, but I'm not
13 sure that that's good enough for Arizona.

14 And I think you folks have a unique opportunity to
15 really help Arizona return to the kind of state that, that
16 supports education, K through 12 and at the university level
17 as well.

18 And I truly believe, and I'm guessing that a large
19 majority of people here tonight, and I know a majority of
20 people across the state, agree with supporting education in
21 Arizona.

22 But our legislature does not represent us.

23 You know, recently we all voted for -- or an
24 overwhelming majority of us voted for a penny sales tax to
25 support education.

1 And, you know, I worked on that campaign.

2 But I resent the fact that I had to work on that
3 campaign.

4 I didn't think it was my job to fund education. I
5 thought it was the legislature's job.

6 And as I look at what's happened to our schools
7 and I look at what's happened to the other kinds of services
8 that our kids have in the state, I get frustrated. And I
9 know a lot of people are frustrated.

10 And it seems to me the only avenue we have is to
11 get involved in politics.

12 And I am a Democrat and I'm a proud Democrat, and
13 I have done -- I've worked my entire adult life to try to
14 provide the kinds of services that I think not only my own
15 kids want or what I'd like for my own kids, but for
16 everybody's kids and grandkids.

17 And in Arizona we have this very unique situation
18 now where if you're involved in politics and you're in one
19 of probably 26 or 27 districts in Arizona, you don't have a
20 real opportunity to run a competitive candidate.

21 And we elect our representatives in primaries, and
22 that's not right.

23 And when you look at the kind of support that we
24 see in our state for our schools and our kids, we somehow
25 have to change that.

1 You asked earlier what our definition for
2 competition might be. And, you know, my definition would be
3 that in at least a majority of our 30 legislative districts
4 in Arizona, you could come out as either a Democrat or a
5 Republican and have a chance of winning in November.

6 And that I think truly would return our state to
7 the kind of place that we would all be proud to live in.

8 Currently there's just no question that people get
9 elected who are able to ignore their neighborhoods. And I
10 think it's -- we need somehow to make our representatives
11 accountable to families and kids and communities.

12 Thank you.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

14 JANE MCNAMARA: Thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 JOHN JOHNSON: Good evening, commissioners. My
17 name is John Johnson, J-O-H-N, J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

18 I've lived in Tempe for almost 40 years now.

19 And I would like to begin by thanking the
20 commissioners for your work. This is kind of a thankless
21 task, and your service is much appreciated.

22 Having been in Arizona about 40 years, I've
23 observed a lot of uncompetitive races in the political
24 sphere. And so the first issue I want to address is to try
25 to emphasize the importance of making the new district as

1 competitive as possible.

2 Over the years I've seen a lot of races that were
3 either decided in the primary or didn't have candidates like
4 your initial definition mentioned, so I can resonate with
5 that.

6 So I would like to encourage you to try to make
7 the voter registration at least as equal as possible.

8 And I recognize it can't be totally equal, but I
9 want to emphasize that point about making the district as
10 competitive as possible.

11 The second issue I want to address is the
12 community of interest.

13 I lived in Tempe and worked at ASU, and my work
14 has brought me in the downtown area a lot, and my wife also
15 works in the downtown area.

16 So we go back and forth quite a bit between the
17 downtown Phoenix area and Tempe.

18 And I strongly feel that the downtown Phoenix area
19 and south Scottsdale and Tempe, the Arcadia district, and so
20 forth, reflect a natural community of interest. And it's a
21 diverse, diverse community with a lot of commonalities and
22 interchanges between the arts and music and university area,
23 and so forth, tied together of course by the lightrail.

24 And this seems to me to be kind of a natural
25 community of interest.

1 I know for me personally I come down here a lot to
2 attend sports events, you know, in addition to my work
3 events.

4 And so this always seems as if this is kind of a
5 natural community of interest.

6 And thank you very much for your time.

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

8 Jim Williams.

9 JIM WILLIAMS: My name is Jim Williams, J-I-M,
10 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

11 I just want to ask Strategic Telemetry to define
12 the parameters of what a community of interest is and what
13 is a transportation corridor, what exact criteria they would
14 use within these parameters while drawing the maps.

15 After all, Strategic Telemetry will be the ones
16 drawing the maps that the Commission will then approve.

17 And if they will not define the parameters that
18 they'll be going to use to draw the map, I would like the
19 Commission to do so and put it on the record.

20 Now, what is a community of interest, what is a
21 transportation corridor, who is a protected class of people,
22 and so on.

23 We asked this at the August 3rd meeting and were
24 told -- basically it was dismissed as irrelevant and it was
25 never answered.

1 So I would like to bring that up to the public
2 record and find out exactly what those terms mean so we can
3 make intelligent choices when we speak.

4 I'd also like to say I'm not a politician. I'm
5 not a real eloquent speaker.

6 What I am is a concerned citizen of this state.

7 I got involved with our politics a number of years
8 back.

9 I work hard. I go to meetings. I do what I can
10 for my state and for my city.

11 And I take offense to the people who have made
12 comments about angry, hate mongering Tea Party people or
13 half cocked conspiracy theorists.

14 And I am a conspiracy theorist maybe, but I'm not
15 half cocked, believe me.

16 I'm all the way there.

17 Which it's easy to see when you work as hard as
18 you do and you go out and you pass out flyers and you work
19 to see that laws get passed and things happen in this state,
20 and the law is passed overwhelmingly, and then you get sued
21 by the government, the federal government, because they say,
22 oh, that law is not constitutional, that law is not right,
23 we can't have that law.

24 Well, you tell me, what am I supposed to think in
25 the process?

1 I voted. I worked. I campaigned for it, lobbied
2 or whatever you want to call it, passed out flyers. And my
3 vote doesn't count because now I'm getting sued or my
4 state's getting sued by the federal government because
5 somebody doesn't like that law.

6 (Brief interruption.)

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, please.

8 JIM WILLIAMS: Things have been, you know, brought
9 up about the way this Commission was appointed.

10 I think that's a part of what we have a right to
11 know.

12 If we get up here and we point out things that we
13 thought were indiscretions or things we'd like to know about
14 the appointing of this Commission, we should be able to do
15 so without being attacked for being an angry housewife or
16 being told to go to hell or being called conspiracy theorist
17 and nuts. We have a right to know what we want to know
18 also.

19 The Tea Party has attacked nobody, and we've been
20 attacked at every meeting, verbally.

21 I want that on the record.

22 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 STEVEN OCHOA: I have some business cards for the
25 spelling records.

1 Hello. My name is Steven Ochoa. I am the
2 national redistricting coordinator for the Mexican American
3 Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF.

4 MALDEF is a national nonprofit nonpartisan
5 organization dedicated to promoting civil rights of Latinos
6 and trying to promote political and economic access to all
7 walks of life.

8 MALDEF has been participating in this
9 redistricting process since our founding in 1968. And
10 currently we are in the middle of a 12 state national
11 redistricting program trying to advocate for increased for
12 respect to the Latino community growth in the last decade on
13 the federal, state, and local levels.

14 In particular, we've been promoting the principles
15 of compliance with the constitution and the federal Voting
16 Rights Act of 1965, which are the two redistricting criteria
17 nationwide, which do take precedence over all others.

18 And so today I do want to speak in particular
19 about the federal Voting Rights Act.

20 And with relation to your state legislative
21 redistricting, we've been starting to draft -- and I don't
22 have any maps for you just yet, but we have done some
23 sketch -- some sketches, and hopefully we do wish to turn in
24 a partial plan to you at some point in the process, probably
25 after this public input meeting -- process has concluded.

1 But I do want to -- I just want to share some of
2 the findings with you and giving you the broad verbal
3 strokes.

4 So specifically again about the Voting Rights Act.

5 I'm sure, as you know, and as your counsel has
6 taught you, that there's a three-step process that was
7 established by Thornburg v. Gingles that kind of guides the
8 principles of when a majority minority district needs to be
9 complied to avoid minority dilution.

10 Basically in order of accession, the first rule is
11 you have to have a minority community --

12 Sorry. All right. Our court reporter says slow
13 down.

14 Rule number one, you know, your minority majority
15 community has to be sufficiently large and compact enough to
16 comprise a district.

17 And recent law has told us that sufficiently large
18 now means half of the eligible voter population or citizen
19 voting age population, CVAP, and we'll be saying that
20 acronym a lot now, CVAP, so that's the population that is
21 both a citizen and 18 and over. Those are the people who
22 are in chance registered to vote.

23 So first, first would be population is half the
24 CVAP population.

25 Two, within that theoretical district is the

1 minority group in question a cohesive voting block, are they
2 all voting for the same candidate of choice.

3 And third, are the group -- the majority groups
4 around them voting to keep their candidates of choice.

5 If you have those three -- those are the three
6 check points. Once you do that, you establish that you can
7 draw -- you may have to draw that majority minority district
8 to avoid minority dilution.

9 Research shows that there's -- at this point I've
10 identified five 50 percent districts in Arizona for the
11 state legislative process.

12 First, there are three in -- around the current
13 districts 13, 14, and 16.

14 In that area there are different configurations,
15 but you can get those three districts there over 50 percent
16 Latino CVAP.

17 And those are areas that have been showing ability
18 to elect Latino candidates of choice over the last decade.
19 So we believe those are effective districts.

20 There's one in Tucson that can be drawn over
21 50 percent district, over 50 percent Latino citizen voting
22 age population.

23 You currently have one district now, 27, that is
24 at 43 percent Latino CVAP. And if you increase that to
25 50 to make it Section 2 compliant, and that's a district

1 that has been starting to elect Latino candidates of choice,
2 so that's evident.

3 And then we do believe you can actually draw a
4 border district, very similar to the congressional district,
5 stretching from the Yuma to Nogales area. So starting to,
6 one, run border communities of interest, you can also draw
7 one again also as strong, 50 percent Latino CVAP.

8 So that should be an area that should be
9 investigated for compliance with the federal Voting Rights
10 Act on the state legislative level.

11 In closing, I just want to say thank you very much
12 for your service.

13 As a redistrictor, I truly know how thankless the
14 job can be. And I am available at your service if you have
15 any --

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Would you like to submit that
17 into the record?

18 STEVEN OCHOA: I will, I will -- my comments are
19 oral, but at some point I will submit a map to your staff.

20 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

21 It is 8:00 o'clock, so what I would like to do, if
22 you don't mind, I would like to limit the comments to
23 three and a half minutes, so we can get everyone in,
24 hopefully before 9:00 o'clock.

25 We still have plenty. I didn't expect this many

1 when that we first started.

2 You'll have five minutes for those of you that
3 still want to speak and have not to submit one of these
4 forms.

5 After the five minutes, we'll no longer accept
6 comments. So if you would like to speak, please fill out
7 forms.

8 Again, three and a half minutes.

9 And we will be going with Laura Copple, Brendan
10 Mahoney, Michelle Melchiorre, Reverend Jarrett Maupin II,
11 and Joe Murphy.

12 But I think he already spoke.

13 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: There is two.

14 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I apologize, the other Joe
15 Murphy.

16 LAURA COPPLE: Laura Copple, L-A-U-R-A,
17 C-O-P-P-L-E.

18 Thank you, to the Commission.

19 Once again, I think many of us have vocalized our
20 appreciation for your work.

21 As a volunteer in the Democratic party, hours and
22 hours and hours, I understand that it's -- any volunteer
23 position is oftentimes thankless.

24 But I want to thank you.

25 I represent the Scottsdale, Fountain Hills

1 district, District 8.

2 And I am not concerned whatsoever personally about
3 communities of interest.

4 Because I feel that every representative in our
5 state legislature has an effect on me. It's not just my two
6 representatives and senator. It's the whole body. Because
7 decisions are made for the entire state that affect all of
8 us.

9 I'm much more concerned about competitive
10 districts.

11 As a gentleman earlier noted, there's probably not
12 a lot of hope to change the base of my own district, given
13 the surroundings, given the geography.

14 But I am concerned about having more competitive
15 districts in the state.

16 I'm also concerned about Commissioner Stertz and
17 his influence on the Tea Party, his radio show, his -- he
18 was appointed to be a fair commissioner, but I feel that
19 he's been manipulating this process by making pleas, by
20 e-mail to Tea Party members to attend these meetings and
21 claim that they're Independent.

22 (Brief interruption.)

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Please, let's hold your
24 comments to yourself and allow the lady to speak.

25 LAURA COPPLE: So I would like to go on record as

1 being very concerned about a member of this Commission and
2 his radio show, his e-mails suggesting that Tea Party
3 members come here and claim that they're Independent.

4 And that's it.

5 Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Brendan Mahoney.

7 (No oral response.)

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Michelle Melchiorre.

9 MICHELLE MELCHIORRE: Michelle Melchiorre,
10 M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E, M-E-L-C-H-I-O-R-R-E -- M-E-L-C-H-I-O-R-R-E.

11 I wanted to tell you about my day last Monday.
12 And it's important to redistricting.

13 That's the day where I had the money to pay for my
14 electric bill and my cable bill and my water bill. It's
15 that one time every month where the money's actually there
16 to do it.

17 And I am really aware of the fact that there but
18 for the grace of God go I, if somehow something in my
19 equation of finances got messed up, that I wouldn't actually
20 be able to do that.

21 What was really weird about last Monday is that I
22 also had to have a biopsy because they found a lump.

23 And in a way I knew it was okay, because I had the
24 money to pay my utility bills. I also had insurance to go
25 and get my -- you know, go get the biopsy after the

1 mammogram.

2 Even though it was a harrowing week last week, I
3 knew that whatever it was going to be at the end of the
4 week, I was going to be taken care of.

5 Now, I can tell you this month in Arizona, there
6 is a woman like me who no longer has unemployment insurance,
7 and she's a single woman without kids, and so she cannot get
8 AHCCCS, she cannot get on Medicaid in our state.

9 When you guys talk about competitive districts,
10 I'm going to give you another C word. Look at all these
11 C words we've got, competitive districts, contiguous,
12 compactness, communities of interest.

13 I'm going to give you another word. How about
14 compassion.

15 And I will tell you that the voters of my state
16 that I love decided to give people who were poor health care
17 insurance. They voted it in.

18 Just like they voted it in to have an Independent
19 Commission decide our state lines, decide who will be
20 representing us.

21 The voters of this state have compassion.

22 Right now, this legislature got together last
23 month and could not agree to one word to give people their
24 benefits.

25 I promise you I'm going to meet that woman that

1 didn't pay her electric bill last Monday. And she might be
2 the same woman that has a lump. But because she can't get
3 AHCCCS, because she doesn't have kids, she can't get taken
4 care of.

5 This does not represent my state.

6 My state said we take care of people here.

7 You know, I don't quote the Bible very often, but
8 there's one passage I live my life by. Whatsoever you do
9 unto the least of my brothers you do unto me.

10 We are not doing that right now in Arizona.

11 And if you want to talk about communities of
12 interest, I don't know one person that agreed with those
13 decisions.

14 Not one who thought this was a good idea not to
15 extend unemployment.

16 Not one who thought it was okay to say that we're
17 going to cut 100,000 plus people from AHCCCS.

18 And God forbid you don't have your renewal date,
19 because then you will not be able to get back on as well.

20 All I'm asking you to do when you consider these
21 lines is giving people a voice in this state that is
22 effectively representative in our legislature.

23 Because right now those folks got together last
24 month and decided it was okay for poor people to not have
25 food. It was okay for them not to take their checks and go

1 to Arizona grocery stores and Arizona gas stations and
2 Arizona businesses and spend their money.

3 Where do these folks go, guys?

4 That's my question now. Where do they go?

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 JARRETT MAUPIN: Reverend Jarrett, J-A-R-R-E-T-T,
8 Maupin, M-A-U-P-I-N. I'm the assistant pastor at First
9 Congregation of the United Church of Christ, not far from
10 here.

11 I wanted to address you on two issues.

12 You said you were working with criteria one and
13 two.

14 The second one is equal population.

15 That's a tricky word or phrase for me, equal
16 population.

17 And it's important for me that you work as a
18 Commission to have competitive districts, but also to
19 maintain those districts that protect communities of common
20 interest, particularly people of color, African Americans
21 and Latinos.

22 There are those that feel that predominantly
23 minority districts are not fair.

24 But I contend that they are.

25 I look at equal population, and I can't help but

1 think of the data released by the U.S. Treasury Department
2 from the latest census.

3 They show that in 2009 the median income for White
4 families was 139,000 and some odd dollars. For
5 African Americans, it was \$5600. For Latinos, it was \$6800.

6 That means a 20 to 1 income gap between Whites and
7 Blacks, 18 to 1 income gap between Whites and Latinos.
8 That's 2009.

9 Those figures have changed. They've gone down
10 12 percent to adjust to today. That means the median income
11 for White families is 96,000, for Blacks is \$2600, and for
12 Latinos it's about \$3700.

13 So when I see equal populations, it's got to be
14 about more than race and party registration.

15 It has to be about economics. It has to be about
16 those families being able to put food on the breakfast
17 table.

18 So when you go in to redistrict, protect those
19 communities of common interest.

20 You know, African Americans and Latinos tend to
21 reside in the same general areas in large urban metropolitan
22 areas.

23 They must be protected.

24 Our county supervisor was correct. When you look
25 at south Phoenix and you're looking for new congressional

1 districts in the central city, don't separate Laveen from
2 South Mountain and Guadalupe. Don't separate Maryvale from
3 the rest of the west side.

4 These are long-standing communities, people that
5 are challenged politically, that are challenged
6 economically, they are challenged racially. And in terms of
7 education, they deserve a shot at federal representation.

8 It is 2011.

9 When is Arizona going to have an African American
10 member of the congressional delegation? When is Arizona
11 going to have an Asian American member of the congressional
12 delegation?

13 It will never happen unless there is fair and
14 equitable redistricting.

15 When is it going to happen?

16 We have one member of the legislature that's
17 African American from LD 16. If we don't maintain that
18 voter base, we would not have a Senator Leah Landrum Taylor.

19 Things have to be fair.

20 And if you want to gerrymander, don't gerrymander
21 to protect the interests of the party Republican or
22 Democrat. Gerrymander to protect the interests of the least
23 of these, as the woman shared with you. Those that are
24 struggling to have a voice in our system, that are
25 struggling to have fully-funded education, that are

1 struggling for affordable health care, that are struggling
2 for jobs.

3 And I understand that there are some individuals
4 here that represent the Tea Party movement. I respect them
5 and their love for the constitution. But the original
6 constitution also had a 35th clause that counted slaves in
7 congressional districting in the early part of this country.

8 And that's what happens when we count Blacks and
9 Latinos that are in our current prison population into the
10 current redistricting. It's a modern day three fifths
11 compromise. We cannot have that. We must have equity in
12 this redistricting.

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

14 (Applause.)

15 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: The other Joe Murphy.

16 Joe Murphy?

17 (No oral response.)

18 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: So we'll have Wes Harris,
19 Karen Garrett, Jeanette Fish, Ken Clark, followed by Gordon
20 Posner.

21 WESLEY HARRIS: Wesley Harris. W-E-S-L-E-Y,

22 H-A-R-R-I-S.

23 Thank you very much for this forum. I'm happy to
24 be here --

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's pay attention to the

1 speaker, please.

2 WESLEY HARRIS: Thank you.

3 For clarity and transparency, I'm a Tea Party
4 advocate.

5 I'm a Republican.

6 I'm a precinct committeeman.

7 I'm a volunteer.

8 I volunteer for the city, so I know where you're
9 coming from and doing what you're doing.

10 We set up this Commission in 2002 to be fair and
11 transparent. And I would urge this Commission to try to
12 deal with that and deal with the complaints or accusations
13 in an open way and not withhold anything and let the chips
14 fall where they may.

15 Name calling is not what we're about. At least
16 not in my Tea Party. And, it's nonpartisan. We have
17 Democrats and we have Independents. We have Republicans.

18 So, I think we're getting a bad rap on that.

19 The one thing I do think is that the competitive
20 districts -- I happen to live in CD 3 and LD 6.

21 I'm in the center of the city. I'm in a very
22 compact -- north center of the City, in a very compact
23 legislative and congressional district. So I don't think
24 that what you are going to do is going to affect me
25 personally very much, because our district will probably

1 stay pretty much the same. May lose a little bit to the
2 north, but where I'm at probably exactly where it is.

3 However, those other districts that are around
4 that were going to extract to create the ninth district are
5 going to be impacted pretty substantially. And I think that
6 those, when you do that, we need to have competitive
7 districts.

8 I think we sit right now at about a third, third,
9 and a third. Democrat, Republican, and Independent.

10 And I think they're all in this district. If we
11 do do it, it could be that way.

12 As I'm just saying, to me that's just a lot of
13 hooey.

14 I don't agree with it, and I don't agree with it
15 because it tends to separate us.

16 This is a melting pot. We're supposed to be all
17 congealed together. And yet there are those that want to
18 split us apart. They want to hyphenate who we are.

19 And hyphenation, I'm an American.

20 I happen to be a Polish extraction on one side, a
21 Scottish extraction on the other.

22 I'm not Polish American or Scottish American. I'm
23 an American. That's where I am.

24 And that's what we all are.

25 And when we stop doing hyphenations and stop

1 trying to create little districts, Mary Rose Wilcox has been
2 in that district over there for as long as I've been here.
3 I've lived here for 41 years this time around. I was born
4 in this state.

5 And I don't see keeping that district just keeps
6 her in power.

7 And that's wrong.

8 We need to have diversity. We need to have
9 different people being elected, not from one ethnic
10 background or another. As Americans. Truly Americans.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 KAREN GARRETT: My name is Karen Garrett,
14 K-A-R-E-N, G-A-R-R-E-T-T.

15 Going to make this very short and sweet.

16 I live in CD 5, and I just want to say that I love
17 my district, and I want it to stay the way it is.

18 I worked very, very hard in the last election, and
19 close to 10-, 12-hour days as a volunteer. I continue to
20 work for, volunteer for my congressional candidate.

21 And you would say I was biased, but that was a
22 very difficult race, it was a very competitive race, and I
23 think that we have one of the most competitive CD districts,
24 congressional districts in the state.

25 I don't know as much about the legislature. And

1 in coming to these meetings, I really look forward to
2 learning more, because I realize that there is a lot I have
3 to learn about that process.

4 I am in Legislative District 7, and I feel very
5 represented there.

6 But I don't know a lot about the legislative
7 process here in the state.

8 But that's basically -- I think that we have been
9 focusing in these meetings, this is the third I've attended,
10 too much on competitiveness.

11 And the people that are sitting here that aren't
12 on a Republican or a left or a right cause don't even
13 understand that the great focus on competitiveness is the
14 liberal cause, and those of us that don't want
15 competitiveness to the extreme is a conservative
16 perspective. So maybe those that aren't keyed into that
17 don't understood that.

18 But I want it to be like my district, and I wish
19 that everything could be more competitive, but it isn't
20 always possible.

21 In our district it was made possible.

22 But I just want to leave that with you, that I
23 hope that we can make a lot of districts look like CD 5.

24 Thank you.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

1 Jeanette Fish.

2 JEANETTE FISH: Good evening, commissioners. My
3 name is Jeannette Fish. That's J-E-A-N-N-E-T-T-E. Last
4 name is Fish, F-I-S-H.

5 I'm the executive director for the Maricopa County
6 Farm Bureau.

7 And for Mr. Combs then I just want to let him
8 know that our farmers are the ones who grow green all the
9 time.

10 It may seem a little strange to be here right in
11 the middle of downtown to Phoenix to talk about rural
12 Arizona. I'm feeling a little bit like a mule at a long
13 convention, but I do want to talk about how Arizona is
14 different and different parts of Arizona are different.

15 I don't really know why Arizona changed over to
16 a -- changed its district system so that it concentrates all
17 the power in Phoenix, the Phoenix metropolitan area.

18 In the United States, congress represents the
19 population. But the senate gives equal representation to
20 all of the states, regardless whether it's Wyoming or
21 Rhode Island, Texas, or California.

22 But here in Arizona, we don't do that.

23 We give Phoenix metro area with two thirds of the
24 population control over everything.

25 So I'm here to ask for rural agricultural areas to

1 be able to choose their own representatives without being
2 overpowered by metro Phoenix.

3 Let us have legislative districts and at least
4 one, maybe two congressional districts, where we can elect
5 someone who knows what we're talking about when we talk
6 about transportation rules for road siders or hay squeezes.

7 This actually is a question that needs to be dealt
8 with on both the federal and the state level.

9 Voters in rural areas frequently have different
10 viewpoints on issues than their city neighbors do.

11 Farmers and ranchers have different views and a
12 great deal more experience with issues such as land use,
13 federal lands, natural resources, water, rural health, and
14 many others things.

15 We need representation at our state and
16 congressional level who do understand our points of view.

17 Specifically for Maricopa County, the area
18 encompassing the communities of Buckeye, Wickenburg, Aguila,
19 and points west and south of there are rural. And they
20 should go in a rural district.

21 On the east side, Queen Creek and Apache Junction
22 still maintain a little bit of their rural characteristics,
23 and they should be included in rural districts, including
24 areas east and south of those counties.

25 And I thank you for letting me give this input.

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ken Clark.

4 KEN CLARK: My name is Ken Clark, K-E-N,
5 C-L-A-R-K, from the Arizona Competitive Districts Coalition.
6 Our mission is to support a greater number of competitive
7 districts while protecting the Voting Rights Act and
8 improving the amount of participation in this process.

9 There are a number of misunderstandings about the
10 definition of competition.

11 Competition does not favor Democrats or
12 Republicans. It favors accountability.

13 The number of districts, competitive districts has
14 actually grown since the 2001 redistricting process where
15 the Commission created only three competitive districts.
16 Yet Democrats lost seats in the legislature in 2010 and
17 Republicans gained seats in the legislature -- I'm sorry,
18 Democrats gained seats in the legislature in 2004 and 2006
19 and Republicans gained in 2010.

20 There are a number of talking points going around
21 right now that say a competitive district is simply a
22 district that has changed hands a lot.

23 Well, that's not necessarily true.

24 You may recall that in 2000 Jeff Groscost lost his
25 seat in an overwhelming Republican district to Jay

1 Blanchard.

2 Does this make it a competitive district?

3 We would submit no.

4 What makes it a competitive district is what the
5 Commission used last time was the numbers.

6 What they used was a term called the Arizona quick
7 and dirty, which was actually a measure of competition, a
8 number of voters and how they perform in certain -- in
9 average elections.

10 But we would suggest that to discard the talking
11 points about competition being just changing hands, and look
12 at the numbers and what's the performance. We believe that
13 those talking points are put forward by folks who don't want
14 to see a greater amount of competition.

15 I want to say something about communities of
16 interest.

17 It is a false dichotomy to say that competition
18 and communities of interest undermine each other.

19 The origins of the concept of community of
20 interest come from 20 or 30 years ago when commissions and
21 legislatures all over the country and the Department of
22 Justice were trying to say people of like interests should
23 be able to vote together.

24 Farmers with farmers, students with students.

25 Unfortunately it's misused, communities of

1 interest, now as a front.

2 People will create astroturf groups to come
3 forward and tell you this is our community of interest.

4 And I've already seen it tonight.

5 You'll see more of it when the maps come out.

6 They'll say this is our community of interest when
7 what is really happening behind the scenes is some
8 legislator or congressman is trying to protect their own
9 power base, protect their own seat.

10 We hope that people use our free online mapping
11 tool called Redistrict Arizona to scrutinize this effort.
12 And also to use that mapping tool to bring forward your
13 ideas about communities of interest to the Redistricting
14 Commission.

15 We think that that level of public participation
16 was not available ten years ago, and it is now.

17 This process requires specificity. You can't just
18 submit some paperwork, some paper with some drawings on it,
19 and say this is our district.

20 You have to have the data behind it.

21 And we have that level of specificity, that level
22 of data available for free for people now at our website
23 AZredistricting.com.

24 Thank you very much.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next we'll have Gordon
3 Posner, Geri Ottoboni, Marjorie Zatz, Aaron Blumenthal,
4 followed by Vera Anderson.

5 GORDON POSNER: Yes, Gordon Posner, G-O-R-D-O-N,
6 P-O-S-N-E-R.

7 I want to urge the Commission to consider the
8 importance of competitive districts.

9 What is a competitive district? To me it's a
10 district where the outcome cannot be guaranteed.

11 If there are safe districts, it doesn't matter
12 whether you're a Republican or Democratic, conservative or
13 liberal, your vote won't count in that district. And that's
14 wrong.

15 Second, I want to express my support and
16 confidence in both the integrity and the independence of
17 this Commission.

18 I think that the attacks being lodged against it
19 are transparently partisan.

20 And I'd like to say to the gentleman who raised
21 the issue of SB 1070, the challenge to that. The challenge
22 is based on the same constitutional issue, federalism, as
23 the lawsuit the Tea Party supports, namely the challenge to
24 the federal health care law, which is the issue of the
25 allocation of power between state and federal governments.

1 You can't ignore the constitution just because you
2 support a law.

3 So if you want to get rid of a lawsuit against
4 SB 1070, then have them drop the lawsuit against the health
5 care law. They both involve the same issue.

6 I'd also like to say to the people who are taking
7 pictures here.

8 I have no problem with that. This is a public
9 hearing. That's what it's all about. I will only caution
10 that you have the misfortune of having to see my face later
11 on.

12 I also point out the Commission itself is
13 videorecording this and posting it on the Internet, thereby
14 spreading the misfortune.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Geri Ottoboni.

18 THE WITNESS: Geri Ottoboni. It's G-E-R-I, and
19 it's O-T-T-O-B-O-N-I.

20 And I have another topic to discuss, but before I
21 start with that topic, I just want to address something.

22 I would like to address what the gentleman stated
23 about Mr. Stertz.

24 He was picked by the Republicans as well as the
25 Democrats picked the two Democrats. Mr. Stertz for the

1 record filled out his application before he started his show
2 with Jesse Kelly.

3 And then Miss Mathis was chosen to be Independent
4 choice by the two Democrats and the two Republican
5 applicants.

6 From her application, if she had put on her
7 application that she, not her husband, donated money to
8 Andrei Cherney's campaign, a Democrat.

9 Never -- then her husband was at the time -- I
10 don't hear anything -- the application was being -- he was
11 being paid treasurer for the Nancy Young Wright campaign in
12 2010.

13 How she has voted is the issue.

14 The previous Independent commissioner was allowed
15 the Republicans to have an attorney of their choice.

16 But she voted against the Republicans to acquire
17 the attorney that, I'm sorry, the attorney that, that they
18 wanted.

19 Okay.

20 What I would like to do is I would like to thank
21 the lovely woman from Scottsdale representing the League of
22 Women Voters mentioning the other night that if you check
23 the box competitive districts that means progressive and
24 checking the box communities of interest that means
25 conservative.

1 That's what she said the other evening.

2 So, but if you stopped to think about it, you can
3 really discuss competitive districts and communities of
4 interest in the same breath and both the requirements of the
5 Proposition 106.

6 So now LD 20 is my topic for the evening. LD 20
7 is a competitive district in 2008. It had a Democrat and a
8 Republican representative and a Democratic senator. In 2010
9 it had two Republican representatives and a Republican
10 senator.

11 That clearly shows that both Democrats and
12 Republicans can win in this particular district.

13 LD 20 is bounded by South Mountain to the west,
14 the Indian country to the south. So it makes more sense to
15 expand the LD 20 east and/or to the northeast rather than to
16 the west or to the south.

17 South Mountain Park is included in LD 20, but is
18 on the other side of the mountain from LD 20.

19 Thank you.

20 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Marjorie Zatz.

21 MARJORIE ZATZ: My name is Marjorie Zatz,
22 M-A-R-J-O-R-I-E, Z-A-T-Z. Yes, two Zs.

23 Thank you. I want to add my voice to those who
24 have been thanking the members of the Commission.

25 I'm tired being here one night. I can't imagine

1 what it's like doing this night after night after night.

2 And so I really appreciate what you're doing, and
3 thank you very much from all of us.

4 I want to speak to, really important, compact and
5 contiguous districts and community of interest.

6 Contrary to the last speaker, I don't think of
7 community of interest as progressive or conservative, but
8 rather who is doing things similar to what I am.

9 I have lived in Tempe for the last 29 years.

10 My three boys all went through public schools.

11 I've served on the site-based council at the
12 school.

13 I've served on the board at my synagogue.

14 I teach at ASU.

15 And I -- my three kids have all gone to ASU. Two
16 of them have graduated. One is there now.

17 The youngest doesn't even have a driver's license,
18 because he takes the light rail everywhere.

19 I want to speak to Tempe, south Scottsdale, the
20 202 corridor, and the downtown Phoenix area being a
21 community of interest. With ASU and Tempe and downtown now,
22 there's a back and forth movement of students, of people
23 going to sports events, people living, going moving back and
24 forth with their houses.

25 And it used to be that it was really two different

1 communities. That's no longer the case now.

2 I see that it is much more close than it had been.
3 Arcadia also ties in very much, so people are moving among
4 those. They're working together. Their kids are going to
5 school and going to community events together.

6 And I just spoke with someone living downtown
7 who's probably going to be moving to Tempe now. People are
8 just going back and forth between those.

9 It's one large community.

10 I shouldn't say that.

11 But it is all contiguous, and I'd like to see that
12 area all represented together as one community.

13 So thank you.

14 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

15 Aaron Blumenthal.

16 AARON BLUMENTHAL: That's Aaron Blumenthal,
17 A-A-R-O-N, B-L-U-M-E-N-T-H-A-L.

18 This is moderately terrifying, and so I'm sorry.

19 I want to thank you guys for being here, obviously
20 you've heard a thousand times.

21 I also want to thank the people in the audience
22 who have come up here and really shared parts of their lives
23 that are really helping to color these decisions. I mean,
24 I've been terrified coming up here because I hear so much
25 news about people not getting -- not wanting to participate

1 because everyone just yells and screams. And that hasn't
2 been my experience today, so I'm thankful for that.

3 And I want to talk about communities of interest.

4 I've been a resident of Arizona for 17 years.

5 I went to school in Tempe. Go Aztecs.

6 I went to ASU. Go Sun Devils.

7 And I now own and operate a business out of
8 Scottsdale that is 30 people large. And I have the
9 unfortunate distinction of being only 28 years old. So I'm
10 in a bit over my head.

11 So I want to talk about what I think that where I
12 live, which is downtown, Tempe, which is where I went to
13 school, and Scottsdale, which is where I operate my
14 business, these areas to me are a community of interest,
15 because the people who I attract as a business owner and
16 people with whom I associate as a spry college student, and
17 the place where I want to live, which is downtown Phoenix,
18 because I hail from Cheyenne, Wyoming, which is the opposite
19 of that, these are all communities to me.

20 I am always on the lightrail.

21 I call my second home 202, two hours a day.

22 And I do feel that the sorts of people that I
23 interact with, the sorts of people that I would like to draw
24 into our community, the sorts of people who fair well in the
25 company that I operate would be very interested in being

1 represented together.

2 Thank you.

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Vera Anderson. And I'm
6 hopefully pronouncing the name correctly, Veekas
7 Shrivastava, followed by Juan Jose Mendez, followed by Barry
8 Paceley.

9 VERA ANDERSON: Vera Anderson, that's V-E-R-A,
10 A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

11 I am in LD 6. That includes New River, clear down
12 to Thunderbird.

13 I would like to kind of understand what the
14 central corridors are going to be as far as the
15 redistricting, how that might work, because I'm traveling
16 down that I-17 all the time, so back and forth, back and
17 forth.

18 So I'd really like to know what those
19 transportation corridors might be in the mapping.

20 I'm also, to let you know, I am a Tea Party
21 person. And I don't really like the fact that we need to
22 call peoples names or say one thing or the other.

23 Let's just keep it to the point and what we're all
24 about here is redistricting.

25 And keep it there --

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's pay attention to
2 Ms. Anderson.

3 Go ahead.

4 I'm sorry. Please go ahead.

5 THE WITNESS: I just said I want it to be fair and
6 equitable to everybody. Thank you.

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Ms. Anderson.

8 Again, let me remind the audience, when people are
9 speaking, do not speak, unless you want to please fill out a
10 form.

11 VEEKAS STRIVASTAVA: My name is Veekas
12 Strivastava. Great job pronouncing my name, by the way.
13 V-E-E-K-A-S, S-H-R-I-V-A-S-T-A-V-A.

14 First of all, I'd like to thank the Commission for
15 your hard work and your dedication. I know I'm not jealous
16 of the task you have ahead of you.

17 I'd also like to thank everyone who showed up
18 tonight and everyone watching at home. I think that there's
19 a lot of opinions across the aisle, a lot of interest, and a
20 lot of folks who don't agree with each other, but there's
21 one thing we all share and that's that we're deeply
22 passionate about the future of Arizona.

23 And so I'm inspired to see so many folks here
24 tonight.

25 I'm a student at Arizona State University at the

1 Tempe campus. I was born and raised in Tempe.

2 I am here to express the students' desire to be
3 a -- to have every university campus be a community of
4 interest.

5 There are 130,000 public university students in
6 the state of Arizona, living in Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa,
7 Flagstaff, and Tucson.

8 And we are disproportionately affected and
9 uniquely affected by the decisions made by our elected
10 officials.

11 In previous years, as well as into the current
12 day, we have endured outsized cuts to financial aid, as well
13 as our university budgets, resulting in 90 percent tuition
14 increases in the last four years, as well as higher cost of
15 attendance and a lower quality of life largely due to the
16 hardships that we face on the local level.

17 I think it's important to represent students as a
18 community of interest because it's -- it will give the
19 youngest voters in our state the voice that we deserve to
20 have and ensure that Arizona remains a -- and becomes more
21 of a prosperous state.

22 Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Juan Mendez.

1 JUAN JOSE MENDEZ: My name is Juan Jose Mendez,
2 J-U-A-N, J-O-S-E, M-E-N-D-E-Z.

3 I want to thank you guys for volunteering, and I
4 want to thank everybody for the opportunity to be here
5 voicing my opinions.

6 The whole idea that we have an Arizona Independent
7 Redistricting Commission --

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Excuse me, people. Please
9 listen to the individual.

10 JUAN JOSE MENDEZ: I want to apologize to you for
11 all the coffee I drank before this.

12 I took notes.

13 So I am a first generation American. Arizona
14 native.

15 I've lived all over the Maricopa valley, east
16 valley, west valley, central Phoenix.

17 I run my own non-profit that helps put the
18 unemployed and homeless back to work.

19 I sit on the Human Services Commission for the
20 City of Phoenix, and I am the treasurer for the Democrats in
21 Tempe.

22 And I am also a political science -- political
23 science degree.

24 And so I'd like to freely share all this with you
25 guys to let you know where my concerns are coming from, see

1 my concerns are real, and are based off the interests of my
2 communities.

3 Okay. So as a minority I want to voice my support
4 for competitive districts, and share with you why I feel
5 minority majority districts do not have my interests at
6 heart or don't serve to, don't serve to -- so first I just
7 want to throw on observation out there to everybody.

8 To the Republican Tea Party efforts through their
9 sewer packed fair trust, in pretending to have, you know,
10 the concerns of minorities at heart is laughable and
11 insulting.

12 These are the same people that drafted in voter
13 legislation that ended affirmative action in our states.

14 So on one hand I'm no longer need to have my
15 potential fostered or my input considered, all in favor of
16 competitiveness.

17 And at the same time they want you to think that
18 they're worried about my voice and my input as a citizen
19 while voting.

20 So I feel like it's -- I'm trying to throw
21 different things down there.

22 Okay. So, I'm in favor of competitive districts
23 because inside of majority minority districts, my vote or my
24 voice is, I feel, diluted, dismissed, silenced, stifled.
25 I'm -- pretty much turning me into a token voice, a token

1 vote, inside a minority majority district.

2 You guarantee me a, you know, a chance to elect
3 somebody that's going to voice my concerns. But when that
4 plays out in legislature, you give me one voice surrounded
5 by everybody else.

6 If you were to take my minority majority community
7 and split us up and spread us out into multiple districts,
8 we would have politicians that had to take -- that had to be
9 accountable for our voices.

10 More legislatures would have to be accountable to
11 us instead of just the one you're guaranteeing me.

12 So I want you guys to take that into account.

13 Thank you.

14 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

15 (Applause.)

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Barry -- so how do you
17 pronounce your last name for me, so hopefully will help me
18 out.

19 BARRY PACELEY. Oh, that's good.

20 Well, good evening, and thanks. I'm Barry,
21 B-A-R-R-Y. Paceley, P-A-C-E-L-E-Y. Arcadia resident.

22 And, commissioners, thank you. And thanks to our
23 hardest working guy in the room. I've been watching him the
24 entire time. So thank you.

25 Thanks for all your work.

1 (Applause.)

2 BARRY PACELEY: I'm just going to advocate
3 neighborhoods. I'm from the Arcadia neighborhood. I grew
4 up there. If you take my wife's and I, 12 years in Arcadia
5 together, we're at 99 years, so next year we are going to be
6 hitting the centennial.

7 And all I would like to ask is that, that in
8 considering the boundary lines, we look at neighborhoods,
9 especially school districts.

10 And to dice up school districts, to cut up whether
11 it's going to be the Madison, Scottsdale, Arcadia complex
12 specifically runs in the Arcadia area in the Scottsdale
13 school district, we'd like to see those lines kind of
14 respect those school lines.

15 The reason being is the strength that I found over
16 the years in our neighborhoods and our voting and in our
17 activism has come from the PTAs, our soccer, our
18 Little League, and Boy Scouts groups. And those are the
19 people that all get together, talk during events, and become
20 politically engaged.

21 They're the ones that are on the ground.

22 And it's not about parties or anything else. It's
23 about putting the best people in the offices, whether city
24 council, at our legislative or our congressional levels.

25 So we are looking for the best Arizonans to drive

1 this state to being the best place to live in the United
2 States.

3 Thank you.

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

5 (Applause.)

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next is David Bushman,
7 Jonathan Cartson -- or Carson. Carston? Bill Baxter,
8 followed by Vince Ansel.

9 If you're way in the back, if you guys start
10 getting closer so we can speed up the process.

11 DAVID BUSHMAN: My name is David Bushman,
12 B-U-S-H-M-A-N. I'm representing myself.

13 Members of the Commission, I'd like to thank you
14 again for the time in which you've taken to hear my
15 comments.

16 As I make my comments, I will be referring to a
17 map that I created which I'll be submitting as part of the
18 public record.

19 I wish to address east valley district boundaries,
20 communities of interest, and competitive districts.

21 While I do not represent any particular city or
22 organization, I am a representative of the cities and
23 organizations of which I am a part.

24 I am a fourth generation Arizonan. I was born in
25 Mesa, raised in Tempe, and I have lived in Mesa for 14 years

1 while I raised my family, and I have worked in Mesa and
2 Tempe most of my career.

3 When one considers where communities of interest
4 lie, once you consider the very language used in common
5 conversation, for example, we naturally talk about the west
6 side, of metropolitan Phoenix that is, Phoenix itself, and
7 the east valley. Again, a metropolitan Phoenix.

8 It is the east valley in particular that I wish to
9 address.

10 When one is asked to name the cities of the east
11 valley, it is not uncommon to say Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert,
12 and sometimes Queen Creek.

13 Scottsdale and Tempe are usually not mentioned in
14 the same phrase as Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, and sometimes
15 Queen Creek.

16 Mind you, we have nothing against Tempe and
17 Scottsdale. I was raised there.

18 But by our very language, we recognize a
19 difference both politically and culturally.

20 It can be demonstrated with statistical
21 demographics that people with shared communities of interest
22 attract to one another both politically and culturally.

23 This very phenomenon occurred this last decade
24 with the population into the east valley shifting further
25 east of Greenfield and further south than Chandler

1 Boulevard.

2 It is clear that the shift in population favored
3 one political party over another.

4 And to make the argument that districts of the
5 east valley need to be competitive, while it is law, it
6 should be remembered that the district requirement is to be
7 balanced with the other requirements in such a manner as to
8 not be of significant detriment to the goals of using
9 visible boundaries and what are very clear communities of
10 interest.

11 When creating a congressional district, remember
12 the east valley, Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, and Queen Creek,
13 are a well-established community of interest and should be
14 put together to the extent practicable.

15 When creating legislative districts, please
16 consider the following: A city or town by their very
17 formation are each considered unique communities of
18 interest. So much so that it is the requirement that
19 visible geographic feature, such as a city, town, and county
20 boundaries, shall be used when forming districts.

21 Furthermore, school districts form natural
22 communities of interest.

23 In the proposed map that you'll be referring to,
24 the proposed LD 20 contains the entire Kyrene School
25 District.

1 Mesa Unified School District is nearly wholly
2 contained within the proposed LD 18 and 19.

3 Gilbert Unified School District is almost entirely
4 contained within the proposed LDs 22 and 23.

5 Higley Unified School District is almost entirely
6 contained in the proposed LD 22.

7 Queen Creek Unified School District is largely
8 contained in the proposed LD 23.

9 Competitive districts have not been ignored
10 either.

11 You will note that LD 20 boundaries are a balance
12 of communities of interest of south Tempe, west Chandler,
13 and the foothills south of South Mountain.

14 That is balanced against the realization that
15 Tempe is politically mixed.

16 The map drawn shows LD 20 boundaries contain a
17 nearly perfect split between the political parties.

18 In summary, please maintain our communities of
19 interest as demonstrated by the very way we chose our words
20 and where we choose to live.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Jonathan Cartsonis.

23 JONATHAN CARTSONIS: Cartsonis.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: If you start moving up closer
25 if you are way in the back.

1 JONATHAN CARTSONIS: My name is Jonathan
2 Cartsonis, C-A-R-T-S-O-N-I-S.

3 Thanks for the opportunity to talk to you all.

4 I am a lifelong resident of Arizona. I am raising
5 my children and live with my family in central Phoenix.

6 And I just want to speak to the community of
7 interest guidelines.

8 And as a lifelong resident, I will tell you that I
9 have seen huge changes in the city and the state over my
10 lifetime.

11 And one thing that I've noticed lately, I work
12 downtown and I live near the downtown, but I do see this
13 connection between downtown Phoenix and Tempe. I work with
14 students from, from ASU, frequently, from Tempe ASU.
15 There's students also from downtown ASU.

16 There's a connection between the two. The
17 cultural aspects of it is that we have museums and we have
18 entertainment venues.

19 We find ourselves as a family taking the 202,
20 sometimes taking the lightrail, traveling that corridor
21 between the two.

22 In my neighborhood, which is close to downtown, as
23 I said, we have many ASU professors living in our
24 neighborhood.

25 I think it's a shared community, and I think it's

1 been reinforced by the fact that we have the 202 and the
2 lightrail and we have the shared institutions.

3 And so I wanted to just let you all know that
4 that's my strong feeling about it, and ask you to support
5 this community of interest that I see has formed between
6 downtown Phoenix and Tempe.

7 So thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

10 Bill Baxter.

11 Followed by Vince Ansel, Linda Attee, and Katie
12 Dionne -- or Dionne.

13 BILL BAXTER: Good evening. Bill Baxter, B-I-L-L,
14 B-A-X-T-E-R.

15 I'd like to echo comments made by, I believe,
16 folks from different perspectives earlier tonight regarding
17 LD 20.

18 And confirm that my concept -- I've lived in south
19 Tempe for 30 years.

20 And we in that an area consider ourselves -- we
21 shop, we share school districts, athletic teams, et cetera,
22 with Ahwatukee and with west Chandler and south Tempe.

23 I believe that gentleman earlier talked about
24 moving the line north a little bit.

25 I think my political persuasion we differ in that,

1 but I would agree with that. That sounds to me like
2 something that makes sense.

3 I would request that we keep it contiguous in that
4 fashion as we move east and/or north. Because we will need
5 to gain population in this redistricting exercise.

6 So a lot of people have said that tonight, so I'd
7 like to be another one, probably the last one, that puts
8 that on record this evening.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

11 Vince Ansel.

12 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: He left.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Linda Attee -- or Attee.

14 LINDA ATTEE: I'll pass. We can leave
15 three minutes earlier.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Katie Dionne.

17 If you change your mind, let me know.

18 KATIE DIONNE: My name is Katie Dionne, K-A-T-I-E,
19 D-I-O-N-N-E.

20 I am a single woman, in Arizona. I am 35 years
21 old.

22 And from some of the things that I've heard
23 tonight, I guess I would be considered a minority, because I
24 support myself off \$84 a week.

25 I do not accept government assistance, no food

1 stamps, no Medicaid.

2 And I still find time to go and volunteer. I have
3 volunteered down at St. Vincent de Paul.

4 I have also volunteered with my local church
5 organization.

6 And I've also chosen to volunteer as a citizen and
7 do what I believe is my responsibility to learn how my
8 government works, since I do pay taxes, I do vote.

9 And the neighborhood that I live in, I'm actually
10 one of the few White people who live there. But I love my
11 neighborhood.

12 I shop at the grocery store with what are
13 considered minorities.

14 And, you know, it wasn't actually until I moved to
15 Arizona that I really realized that people do judge others
16 based on the color of their skin, because that's not how I
17 was raised.

18 I was raised that this person is my neighbor, and
19 if they need help from me, then I help them.

20 I chose to stand up tonight -- oh, and let me say,
21 I am also a registered Republican, and I do affiliate with
22 the Tea Party, and that is not something I am ashamed of.

23 I have never gone to a Tea Party meeting where I
24 have been subjected to being called names.

25 I never have been told that I could not share my

1 opinion.

2 Granted we do get very passionate because we feel
3 very strongly in what we feel.

4 And I've seen it on the Democrats' side.

5 The reason I became part of the Tea Party is
6 because I too feel that my voice has not been heard by the
7 Democrats, which I used to be a registered Democrat.

8 But my voice hasn't been heard by the Republicans
9 either.

10 And so as an American citizen, my constitution
11 gives me the ability to stand here and take responsibility
12 for myself, in my community, and voice how I feel.

13 I want to thank the voters of Arizona that have
14 made this Commission possible so that we could do this.

15 I thank you all for being here.

16 But really, without the voters of Arizona, you
17 wouldn't be here.

18 So, I'm not intimidated by anyone.

19 No one has paid me to be here.

20 I'm here because I live in this community, I care
21 about what happens in this community, and it's my right to
22 be here. Just like it's everybody else's right.

23 And what I ask of this Commission is that you do
24 abide by the state constitution that we have.

25 Please work with our attorney general. He's not a

1 mean person.

2 I'm sure you can come to some sort of an
3 agreement.

4 We all live here.

5 We don't need to be at each other's throats all
6 the time to come to a decision.

7 The way our government works is that some years I
8 have to follow a Democrat, some years I get to follow a
9 Republican leader.

10 That's just how it goes.

11 I don't always get what I want.

12 But if there's something that I really want, it's
13 my responsibility to make that happen, not my government's.

14 Thank you.

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

16 (Applause.)

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: We have Madelaine Adelman,
18 Amy Kalman, Larry Mora, followed by Lee Bolin.

19 Madelaine Adelman?

20 Not here?

21 (No oral response.)

22 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Amy Kalman.

23 AMY KALMAN: I'd like to thank everybody again.

24 My name is Amy Kalman, K-A-L-M-A-N. I live in CD 5 and
25 district -- Legislative District 17.

1 But I do live in that between Elliot and Baseline
2 area, which means I'll be very likely be joining
3 Legislative District 20. And I look forward to finding
4 community there as well.

5 I think that it's really important that we think
6 about some of the things that people have said originally
7 and some of those criticisms.

8 It's very important in honoring the autonomy of
9 people who stand here before you and speak to let them
10 identify themselves, whether it's with a hyphen or whether
11 it's with a name they use on their personal blog, Facebook,
12 and YouTube profile.

13 And I think that it's also very important to honor
14 their autonomy by taking into account the importance of
15 their individual interest. And they've done an excellent
16 job speaking to them.

17 To those who have taken the trouble to map out
18 district plans and maps, and I saw that and it was an honor
19 of seeing that at the South Mountain meeting, and I see it
20 here. And I am really appreciative of all those who have
21 gone to such trouble.

22 I think those are almost the most productive
23 things people can do, because your job is already very
24 difficult.

25 And to see that there are people who care so much

1 about this system and about this Commission that they took
2 the trouble to map out their own systems I think is
3 wonderful.

4 And I do honor every single one of them, because
5 I'll tell you right now, I am no more ashamed of my
6 political affiliation than anyone else here. I am a
7 Democrat.

8 But I have no idea what any of -- all of you who
9 have contributed maps are as far as your alignment, and I
10 don't really care, because I really appreciate that you all
11 took the trouble.

12 So finally I want to harken back to what another
13 person had to say, somebody who is irritated because he
14 voted for something and it was ruled unconstitutional.

15 And, oh, I thought he must have been talking about
16 the clean elections campaign, but I guess he must have been
17 talking about SB 1070.

18 We live in a nation where the constitution is our
19 strong and guiding light. And the interpretation the
20 federal government made of the constitution is that the
21 constitution is meaningless and the right to vote is
22 meaningless if there are gerrymandered districts that do
23 not -- that disenfranchise voters that do not want a
24 minority population.

25 And I urge the Commission to consider and

1 confirm that the Voting Rights Act is not inconsistent
2 with competitive districts and to remember that it is the
3 most important aspect. It is the reason that you exist,
4 and I ask and beg you to remember that in drawing your
5 lines.

6 Thank you.

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

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Lee Bolin.

10 LEE BOLIN: Commissioners, my name is Lee Bolin,
11 L-E-E, B-O-L-I-N.

12 I live in Tempe.

13 As many others have, I would like to thank the
14 Commissioners for undertaking this very thankless task.

15 You're essentially having to herd six and a half
16 million cats first into the nine wet sacks, and then
17 thirty-one sacks, and then have six and a half million of
18 them tell you they could have done better.

19 I'd also like to say that if we -- if the city of
20 Phoenix finances the Burton Barr Library, I'd like it be
21 renamed the Phyllis Rowe Library. Phyllis has been a pillar
22 of the community for decades.

23 And it's always good to see her about.

24 I'd like to address two things real quickly.

25 First I'd like the current Commission to give more

1 attention than the last Commission did ten years ago to
2 improving the competitiveness of our congressional and
3 legislative districts.

4 When we have a situation where anywhere from 70 to
5 90 percent of our elected offices are de facto filled before
6 the first vote is even cast in November, then we have to
7 start wondering if the democracy the founders envisioned is
8 looking more like the one that was practiced in the old
9 Soviet Union.

10 We need a very vigorous debate of ideas up until
11 the very last vote is cast in November. And when we have
12 one or the other party making up the predominance of voters
13 in the vast majority of our districts, we are not given that
14 debate.

15 I'd also like to express interest in having the
16 congressional districts that encompasses Tempe more nearly
17 meet the requirements such as compactness and contiguity and
18 commonality of interest.

19 Tempe is an urban center. It's completely
20 landlocked by other urban centers. And yet as a consequence
21 of the last redistricting, it found itself with part of the
22 Tonto National Forest in it.

23 And for a decade I've been wondering how exactly
24 it turned out that way.

25 I think that some thoughts that have been

1 expressed by other people in which a better commonality of
2 interest could be found along the lightrail and 202
3 corridor. This Commission can and should look at both Tempe
4 and central Phoenix have campuses for Arizona State
5 University, and I believe that the students of those
6 campuses should be considered to be one commonality of
7 interest.

8 There are teachers who work on both campuses.
9 Both downtown Phoenix and Tempe have their art centers.
10 Phoenix has the Heard Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum. They
11 have First Friday happening just blocks from here tonight.
12 The city of Tempe has Gammage Auditorium, Mill Avenue with
13 its galleries, Tempe Arts Center.

14 Both communities have major sports centers. Both
15 Tempe and central Phoenix have very active neighborhood
16 associations and vibrant historic districts.

17 Much of these things I've been saying are not
18 particular to all of the Congressional District 5 as it
19 exists today, and I think that if we could see the district
20 going from east to west along that corridor, the 202 and the
21 lightrail, rather than hooking up into the Tonto National
22 Forest.

23 The Tonto National Forest doesn't have ASU,
24 doesn't have museums. It's got lots of squirrels.

25 I simply don't see how that is something that can

1 be considered to be consistent with requirements for
2 commonality of interest and contiguity.

3 Thank you.

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

5 The last speaker is Chris Rossiter, with the -- I
6 hope I'm pronouncing the last name correctly.

7 CHRIS ROSSITER: Good evening. Chris Rossiter,
8 C-H-R-I-S, R-O-S-S-I-T-E-R.

9 I am a member of the Greater Phoenix Tea Party,
10 and one of the reasons I got into Tea Party activity was
11 unaccountable elected officials.

12 And honestly I haven't been following this issue
13 very closely with the redistricting because we're so busy
14 with so many other issues. And one of the issues we're
15 involved in is the city of Quartzsite. There's a lot of
16 corruption going on in that town, and we are actually
17 assisting the very liberal Democrat mayor in his struggle to
18 overcome the corruption.

19 And one of the council members out there said
20 that, when they were confronted about their violation of
21 open meeting law, when they're confronted with that, they
22 said, well, we're going to continue and if it's shown in
23 court that it's an illegal meeting, then we're -- you know,
24 you got -- it's -- the burden is on you as a citizen to
25 prove that.

1 So when I read today about the uncooperation with
2 the Attorney General's Office, that's what got me to come
3 out here and make a comment this evening. And I'd just like
4 to encourage this council to cooperate with Tom Horne.

5 Thank you.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

7 (Applause.)

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: What I'll do before we wrap
9 up, I'd like to have Vice Chair Freeman give some closing
10 remarks, and then we'll go from there.

11 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thanks again to everyone for
12 coming out, and thanks to everyone for sticking around.

13 It's been a long day. I know it's been a long day
14 for Jose and I and staff. And it's been kind of a long
15 week.

16 We're just -- we've got one more public hearing
17 tomorrow, at least in the first round hearings, in Tucson
18 tomorrow, and then we'll take a little break.

19 Next week, perhaps.

20 But what I want to tell people at the end of these
21 hearings is how much of a privilege it is for me to serve on
22 this Commission, and a great honor.

23 The only promise I made when I was appointed was
24 that I would follow the constitution and follow the law.
25 And that's what I intend to do, and I believe that's what

1 the fellow commissioners are all going to do. That's the
2 oath they took.

3 The law, the constitution speaks of a Commission
4 that is fair, that is independent, that is politically
5 balanced, and one that conducts itself in a way that builds
6 confidence in the politic process. Hopefully the results
7 do.

8 So really having public input is a very important
9 part of the process. Having public scrutiny, I think, is
10 also an important part of the process, and ensures that we
11 keep it fair.

12 The constitution sets forth six criteria that
13 we're -- that the commissioners are required to employ in
14 drawing these maps. And I intend to the best of my ability
15 to follow those six criteria. Not the way that I might
16 like those criteria to be, but the way they're actually
17 written.

18 We have an Arizona Supreme Court opinion that
19 interpreted this provision of our constitution, and it
20 simply says the constitution means what it says.

21 And so that's what we need to do is follow it.

22 And then I guess lastly, another thing that I'd
23 like to comment on is all of us here have a First Amendment
24 right to assembly, to petition the government, and freedom
25 of speech. And everyone should afford one that right.

1 Everyone should be able to come to these hearings, to say
2 their piece, to not be subject to intimidation or
3 provocation.

4 And the Commission needs to -- I know when
5 Commissioner Herrera and I are sitting up here, I'll speak
6 for myself, I'm very focused on who's talking to me and
7 trying to listen to understand what they're saying,
8 particularly if they're telling me about boundaries.

9 And I am not always cognizant of everything else
10 taking place in the audience.

11 And when I hear talk about comments being made and
12 people trying to be bullied perhaps, I don't like to hear
13 that. If we need -- we need to do something about that and
14 make sure everyone has a safe environment here to have come.

15 And I've attended a number of -- probably a
16 majority of the public comment hearings, and I've watched
17 the others online. I think they've all gone really well. I
18 really appreciated hearing from everyone.

19 And just another item is there are -- I know there
20 are bloggers here, members of the press. People are free to
21 take photographs, videotape.

22 I just ask the bloggers trying to take pictures of
23 me, try to get my good side, take slimming photos of me.
24 The camera does, I've discovered, add 10 pounds, at least
25 that's what I tell my wife.

1 Anyway, thank you. I'll turn it over to
2 Commissioner Herrera. He has some good words to say too.

3 (Applause.)

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Before we close tonight, I
5 really want to thank the staff.

6 They've -- we have assembled a great staff, from
7 Buck, to Ray, to Kristina, to everyone else.

8 They do -- they work hard. They get -- we -- they
9 have a lot of respect from the commissioners and get along
10 well. And I do want to give them a round of applause,
11 because without them this evening wouldn't be possible.

12 (Applause.)

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I agree with
14 Vice Chair Freeman. I -- if it was up to me, we would all
15 get along, nobody would argue, and, you know, just make our
16 comments, whether you agree with them or not, then we would
17 shut our mouth and not say anything. But it doesn't work
18 that way, and I wish it did.

19 We want people to come to these meetings and feel
20 safe. I don't care what persuasion you belong to. You
21 should feel safe.

22 And if you don't, we have uniformed officers here.
23 They get paid well.

24 Is that correct?

25 And that's why we bring them here, because -- we

1 have these officers here because we want to protect the
2 public. So if you don't feel safe and you do need to talk
3 to other officials, I'm not a bodyguard, and neither is
4 Mr. Freeman. Although I've been working out lately, I am
5 not a bodyguard.

6 So, but, again, I thank the people that are here.
7 This is, as I said before, in previous meetings, this is my
8 favorite part of being a commissioner is listening to the
9 public.

10 It is being -- when you give us ideas on how to
11 draw the maps, you talk about your communities of interest,
12 you talk about competitiveness, which is extremely
13 important, again, not a subordinate goal.

14 The Supreme Court disagreed with the Appellate
15 Court that that particular goal was subordinate. It is not.

16 If you read the issue of the -- or the comment how
17 the law states that it is, as long as it doesn't create a
18 significant detriment.

19 And really significant is the key word. And I
20 look up significant quite a bit.

21 Let me give you one quick definition of
22 significant.

23 Important, of consequence.

24 So, we do have room to work with competitiveness.
25 And it doesn't mean we'll be gerrymandering. That's not

1 what it equates to.

2 Competitiveness, we all care about
3 competitiveness, Republicans, Tea Party members, Democrats,
4 Libertarians. It doesn't matter what political party you
5 belong to. I know you care about competitiveness.

6 So read the constitution. Competitiveness is
7 important.

8 And I will -- you know, that's what I'm here to
9 do. I'm here to give the voters of Arizona a voice, and
10 that's what I was selected for this Commission is to give
11 them a voice, and I intend to do so.

12 So thank you so much for being here. Have a great
13 night. Go home to your families.

14 (Applause.)

15 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at
16 9:12 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.
3

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was
5 taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter,
6 CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 135
7 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all
8 proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to
9 the best of my skill and ability.

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 15th day of
11 August, 2011.

12

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

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