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:
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PROCEEDINGS

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

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

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

At Mesa, 114 people sign in, 50 speak.

Bullhead City, 82 sign in, 24 speak.

Casa Grande, 65 sign in, 30 speak.

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

Yavapai, 114 people, 23 speak.

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

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

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

But before we start, let's go ahead and go with the Pledge of Allegiance.
(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

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

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you all for coming tonight. Looks like another great turnout. And looking forward to hearing your comments on the redistricting process.

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

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

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

Andrew is showing you.

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

And you can also submit comments now on our
website. We have a form available on our website to submit comments there.

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

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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Vice Chair.

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

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

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

And I think we have an interpreter.

We have a new staff member, Shane Shields.

Is he here?

Thank you, Shane.

Do we have an interpreter?

Carlos Reyes.

So if you don't mind coming up here, we, as part
of the Voting Rights Act, we are required to provide an interpreter for people who do not speak English.

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

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

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

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

CARLOS REYES: Thank you, commissioner.

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

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

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much.

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

And we just wanted to start, as we've been starting all the meetings, with a presentation tonight, just to go over the redistricting process to make sure everybody has a good understanding of -- a high level understanding of what we're doing and why we're doing it.
So, the overview is we're going to talk about --
I'm going to quick cover seven things tonight.

Why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

What is redistricting?

What's the difference between reapportionment and redistricting?

Why do we redistrict?

What guidelines do we follow when drawing new districts?

What are the steps of the redistricting process?

And how can public input be submitted to the Commission?

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

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

In 2000, the Arizona voters approved Proposition 106.

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

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

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

Also we have Vice Chair Jose Herrera.

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

What is redistricting?

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

What is the difference between redistricting and reapportionment?

The two terms are often used interchangeable.

Technically there is a difference.

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

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

Some states lose seats. Some states gain seats.

And Arizona was one of those states that gained one seat.
And redistricting is the process of drawing the actual boundaries of the districts.

Why do we have to redistrict?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B, equal population.

Criteria one and two are federally mandated. All plans must satisfy these two criteria.
C, compact and contiguous.

D, respect communities of interests.

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

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

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

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

This is not the case in Arizona.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So, continuing, we adjust the -- after the Voting Rights Act, we then look at equal population. We take and consider compact and contiguous. D, respect communities of interest.

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

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

E, use visible geographic features, county
boundaries, cities, towns, and census tracts. Usually

    census geography already follows visible features.

    And, F, create competitive districts where no

significance detriment to other goals.

    We want your input.

    We want, as the commissioners, or as

Vice Chairman -- Vice Chair Freeman mentioned tonight, you

can fill out a public yellow sheet to speak tonight, which

many of you have.

    Examples of input that we're looking for is

talking about the criteria, the six criteria that we talked

about tonight, communities of interest, and anything else

about redistricting.

    So speaking at the hearings, submitting your input

using one of the blue forms that we talked about that are

available out front, or on our website. And our website is

wwwAZredistricting.org. Or you can call (602)542-5221.

    As I should mention, this is being broadcast,

streamed over the Internet. And so those individuals who

are outside of the Phoenix area, we do -- we just have a
toll free number that's available, and that number is

877-REDISTRICT.

    And you can also find that on our website.

Thank you very much.

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

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

So we try to attend as many as we can.

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

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

But as I said in previous meetings, if you don't mind saying hi to them, because they are watching. ("Hi.")

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

So I thank you guys for being here.

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

Before we get started, what I want to do is just recap the number of people that have signed in so far for these meetings. It's a total of 915 people have signed in for the 14 meetings -- for 13 meetings, not including this one, and the total of 509 people have spoke.
Through the viedostream, 785 people have watched the meetings, from July 5th through August 5th.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is her definition of competitiveness.

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

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

So let's go ahead and get started.

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

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

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

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

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

So our first speaker is Lynne St. Angelo.

Are you here?

LYNNE ST. ANGELO: Thank you. I am Lynne St. Angelo, and I am speaking about communities of interest
I'm representing not myself, but Kevin Spence who could not be here tonight, but has been a resident of LD 20 for the last ten years.

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

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

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

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

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

We do not travel west or south.

So it makes sense to expand this district east or
northeast, as that is part of our community of interest and
the flow of commerce that is already -- the district already
uses.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

So Lynne St. Angelo, Marty, for the record,

Jean?

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

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

As I mentioned, Kim Miller, William Crum, John
Gallagher.
KIM MILLER: Thank you.


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And we need our legislative and congressional process to most accurately reflect the communities where people live and work and serve.
And that's why I'm urging you to honor the importance of the fourth and fifth provisions of your mandate. That it would be to respect those communities of interest and the city boundaries as much as possible.

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

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

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

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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.


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

And I see a lot of natural boundaries we can turn
into our new legislative district, which is CD 9.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So I don't know how else to put that being, you know, it's only 5,000 of us Greens in Arizona. We can love Arizona just like everybody else. We just want you guys to
understand that the two or three parties that seems -- are big here are big in Washington. They don't seem to be working for us. So we need to move them along.

So that's basically what I got to say.

You guys are doing a great job.

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

Thank you.

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

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: He already did.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I apologize.

WILLIAM CRUM: It's only 11 letters.

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

Please go ahead, sir.

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

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

I'll tell you why I believe that.

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

Arizona Constitution, Article 7, Section 3, for purposes of voting, no person shall be deemed to have gained or lost a residence by reason of being absent while confined in any public jail or prison.
So the Arizona Constitution is pretty clear about that.

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

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

Now, what's the alternative?

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

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

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

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

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

Because to do otherwise distorts the political
process and it violates the fundamental principle of equal representation.

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

Now, I live in Maricopa County.
Okay. Let me bring home the impact of this.

Maricopa County has 59 percent of Arizona's population.

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

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

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

I don't think this is fair.
And it's also not fair to our minority communities, because these people are counted as representing -- as fulfilling the diversity requirements, but a lot more Latinos and American Indians are incarcerated than as a percentage of the population.

So even though these people are counted as minorities in these districts, they can't vote.
So they don't represent minority voters. They're not voters.
So, again, I'd like to urge the Commission to take into account and try to find a way to more fairly represent the people of Arizona by putting these people in the places where they resided prior to incarceration.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

They've kind of created a side show all summer. They've attacked the chairwoman and more recently Commissioner Herrera.

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

They're also hypocritical, because whenever they attack the chairwoman for an omission on the AIRC application, they blatantly ignore the fact that this panel has a Republican commissioner, which is Stertz, who gave
multiple false answers on his application.

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

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

That information is requested on his application.

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

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

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

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

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

Where is the Tea Party outrage?

Where are the calls for an investigation into
Stertz or for his resignation?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It should seem reasonable for a man like Mr. Stertz who has emphasized that concept several times publicly to be willing to set the example himself by fully disclosing the extent of his ties to Jesse Kelly and Doug Martin. And Mr. Stertz who is listed as a closer for the
radio show since becoming commissioner for making the recordings that he's made on the show open for public scrutiny.

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

        Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

David Lucier.

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

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

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

        I'm a veteran.

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

        Number one, competitiveness. And communities of interest.

        For the competing elements, I would think -- my belief here is that Arizona, as well as a lot of other places, we get the system that we get because they're not
competitive and we have closed primaries.

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

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

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

Communities of interest are important, but they would get a whole lot of sameness and a whole lot of homogeneity.

And so competitiveness I think brings out just that.

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

So, those are my two areas of interest.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, sir.
Larry Mora.

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Bob Rosenberg.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Some people have suggested that the Arizona legislature is polarized.
Some people have suggested that the congress is polarized.

I agree with them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And they were close personal friends.

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

We are in the Burton Barr Central Library.

You just heard me talk about Burton Barr.

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

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

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

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

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

I also work at ASU.

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

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

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

They're a super PAC, and the Capital Times reports that they are indeed funded by the congressional Republicans, including John Kyle, and they have a very
strong interest in trying to convince the Commission that competitiveness should be downgraded as a lesser variable in the redistricting process and that somehow minority rights and competitiveness cannot coincide.

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

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

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

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

(Brief interruption.)

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

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

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

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

    (Brief interruption.)

LAUREN KUBY: I'm trying to civil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And I wanted to salute you tonight.

And I am sorry that if the tenor of times means
that you're publicly attacked, privately attacked.

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

(Applause.)

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

Stephen Anderson with Planned Parenthood.

And Genevieve Vega, and Lisa Glow representing herself.

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

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

And I do live in East Mesa.

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

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

I admire you because, number one, you can't win. A good friend of mine who served in the legislature, who's a member of an opposite party, once told me, your enemies will forget about what you did, but your friends will never forgive you.
You're going to lose.

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

I have served on commissions before.

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

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

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

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

And I feel very, very strongly about two things.

One is making this race competitive.

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

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

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

I happen to live in a Republican district.
I happen to like the people who represent me. But I'll be darned if they ever came to a meeting where I'm at, you know.

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

When you make districts competitive, the people win.

I know you cannot make all of them competitive.

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

The other thing that I believe in is compact districts.

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

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

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

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

That, and if you can afford it.

You know, so, the thing about it is, if your representative has got to drive 200 miles to come out to
your part of the state, you're not going to see them very often.

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

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

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

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

And that makes it interesting.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We hope our presence at your hearings across the state has conveyed to you the breadth of our organization and its presence in the state, a presence that dates back 75 years.
I think you know as well why we are here and why we are interested in this process.

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

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

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

Once again, on both sides of the aisle.

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

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

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

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

But in our view, this legal obligation has too
often served as an excessive justification for districts that lean too heavily Democratic, which in turn results in other districts that lean too heavily Republican. This is not in the interest of Arizona. Arizona needs fewer safe seats and more competitive seats.

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

Nevertheless, we believe that anything that increases voter turnout will produce a better legislature. Competitive districts will re-enfranchise more Arizonans than any other single thing that you as a Commission can do.

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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

I first want to start by thanking the commissioners for being here. I appreciate any voter-approved initiative, so I thank you for your service.

I would like to say I've lived in Arizona for
about a little over 13 years, which is not quite half my
life, so that's how old I am right here.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I live where I live because of convenience,
perhaps.

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

Competitive districts are extremely important, so,
you know, when we're talking about minorities and things
like that, you know, keep in mind we have a very diverse
population in Arizona.
So this is very important to keep our districts competitive.

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

So please keep that in mind.

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

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

So what group are you going to put me in?

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

My representative lives in Fountain Hills.

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

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

But we do have an extremely great opportunity here based on the way the last redistricting went to be fair.

And I just ask you to consider that. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next will be Lisa Glow, Kelly Townsend, Barbara
Shelley, Jim Hogin, and followed by Phyllis Rowe.

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

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

I've lived in the Valley since about 1991.

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

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

Some of the common issues, urban living. Now we're connected by the light rail.

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

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

So I think looking at linking the 202 corridor,
thinking about the fact that people are able to move into so many different regions, and what they're looking for, might be taken into account, if I can be represented living in any of those different areas.

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

And I am the first to say that any, any sort of deception on this Commission is not tolerated. So we'll be fact checking those claims that she made, sir. And speaking to the attorney general regarding this.
Since I saw you last, I have now found that when I was not at one of the meetings, it was said that the Tea Party in specific by Mr. Herrera was to move past these issues and to get to the mapping process.

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

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

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

That's very concerning to me.

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

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

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

I think for those of us who aren't as familiar with this process, we need to know what is going on. And the reason that you're being investigated is you shredded the papers of the documents used to determine which mapping
company you're going to use, and the various other things
that are going on.

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

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

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

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

And we will wait for what the attorney general
says.

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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

BARBARA SHELLEY: Good evening. Barbara Shelley.


And you -- (inaudible.)

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

BARBARA SHELLEY: Oh, I'm sorry.

I'm a single woman who lives in Arizona. I
relocated here to take care of my 91-year-old father. And
that's a chore that I never expected to have.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

   President Obama asked us to.

   And in Schweikert's office, a man answered the
phone at 8:00 o'clock at night and spent 15 minutes on the phone with me talking about my opinion and how I felt and Mr. Schweikert's opinions.

And I really felt engaged.

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

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

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

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

I live near Scottsdale and Shea intersection.

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

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

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

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

I think that we're a group of people who are just,
oh, well, they're the carpetbaggers, the single people who
just moved here for one reason or another.

I think that fair, competitive districts are
really important.

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

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

And we have a problem across the country, I think,
in terms of not having competitiveness. That's my major concern.

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

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

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

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

I think you have a very powerful job.

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

You really do.

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

And so I would just ask you to break your backs to try to make it as competitive as you can. If you can do it in almost all of the districts, you will change Arizona back
to the place where we were 20, 30 years ago and where we should be for the next 20 or 30 years for our kids and grandkids.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

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

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

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

We want to do the right thing.

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

We want to make sure that we have equal population, contiguous boundaries, and most important
I have represented many of the areas that I am going to talk about right now, and I have seen the communities of interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And that way Guadalupe, south Phoenix, Laveen would be in one congressional.
that those communities, and I've represented them both as
the City of Phoenix councilwoman and a board of supervisor
rep, are contiguous to each other. They very much have
commonality.

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

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

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

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

I know many people have talked about
competitiveness.
And if you follow the Voter Rights Act, competitive comes in, but the other things that I've mentioned far outweigh that.

So I would ask that you look at that.

It also was a guide for the legislative districts. Many of the areas that you'll be looking at in central, south, and west Phoenix particularly have their communities of interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
MARY ROSE WILCOX: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

PHYLLIS ROWE: I'm Phyllis Rowe. P-H-Y-L-L-I-S. The last name is Rowe, R-O-W-E.

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

The same house and many different legislative districts.

I ran against Burton Barr for the legislature.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And I also feel --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Excuse me, ma'am. Ms. Rowe,
if you don't mind.

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

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

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

PHYLLIS ROWE: Okay.

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

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

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

And we have had to build one over the years.

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

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

And you can get to meet other people and you can work with the people that are there.
So I, I believe that you need a commonality of interest. You need it to be somewhat more compact. And it's very hard to balance, I know, and that's what you're working with.

But I appreciate whatever you can do to correct some of the problems that we've had over the years. Thank you very much for serving.

(Applause.)

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

Randy Keating.


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

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

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

Secondly, I would like you to consider Tempe a
community of interest.

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

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

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

Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

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

This is my fourth meeting, I believe it is.

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

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

Believe it or not.

And one of the things that, you know, myself and
as I've been saying in the districts, both Democrats and Republicans, is that there are several communities of interest in our district that we would like to see protected and be maintained in our district.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Until the 2008 presidential election, it was the closest out of all the districts in Maricopa County.
legislative districts to being a 50/50 split between the
two presidential candidates. It was 52 to 48 --
52 Senator McCain, 48 percent President Obama.

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

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

Now, it just needs a little push.

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

So it's very simple.

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

The legislative districts in the east valley.

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

Now, if you're interested in making it a
competitive district, it's very simple to do. All you have
to do is move the northern boundary north by two roads.
Right now the boundary is Elliot Road. Go to Baseline Road.
It's about seven or eight precincts.
You get to 213,000 people, which is the baseline.
And when you do that, I did the math, it's literally a
50/50 district, or it would have been during the 2008
election.

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

So, I'm going to submit this for the record.
And I just want to thank you again for all your
work.

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

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

SANDRA FISCHER: Hi. My name is Sandra Fischer.


I want to thank the Commission for their hard work
and for holding these public hearings to complete the job
that you have been called to do.

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

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

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

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

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

I have complete confidence that Ms. Mathis can speak for herself and live in the same household with someone who may have a different opinion.
This issue should be forever closed.

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

I have lived in Marlborough Mesa since August, 1996.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Republican chair of District 21, Paul Brierley, provided some great comments at the public hearing
in Mesa regarding LD 21.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I ask that you strongly consider communities of interest such as city boundaries, neighborhood boundaries, et cetera, when you draw the congressional and legislative
Finally, it is also crucial to consider that legislative districts be compact. With my district being so spread out, it is difficult to keep members informed and able to attend meetings due to lack of funding and a central place to hold meetings at times that people are available to attend.

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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am --

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

I'll submit this for --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much.

SANDRA FISCHER: Okay.

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

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


Thank you.

First, I would really like to thank you for your service. I know this is a difficult job, and we appreciate
I'm the chair of Legislative District 8, Democrats, which is Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and Rio Verde.

Tonight you heard a continuation of the talking points being distributed by the Tea Party and Republicans. I would like to read their four main talking points into the public record, but I would also like to provide what their talking points do not say, some facts.

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

Talking point number one.

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

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

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

Now the facts.

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

She forgot to include her husband's profession on
the application.

    He is an attorney.

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

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

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

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

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

    The fact is that Colleen Mathis is a registered Independent.

Talking point number two.

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

And now for the facts.

    Strategic Telemetry is not a data mining company.
They provide statistical analysis and mapping services.

Their data sources are all public data.

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

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

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

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

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

Talking point number three.

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

Now, for the facts.

All commissioners gave Strategic Telemetry high scores based on their competency to complete the task of
aiding the Commission in drawing new districts.

Talking point number four.

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

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

CAROL COMITO: Sure.

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

(Brief recess taken.)

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

Marty, are you ready?

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


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

I know your job isn't easy.
And I'm here tonight because my job isn't very easy either.

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

And school starts Monday.

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

That's a staggering percentage.

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

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

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

But our legislature does not represent us.

You know, recently we all voted for -- or an overwhelming majority of us voted for a penny sales tax to support education.
And, you know, I worked on that campaign.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And when you look at the kind of support that we see in our state for our schools and our kids, we somehow have to change that.
You asked earlier what our definition for competition might be. And, you know, my definition would be that in at least a majority of our 30 legislative districts in Arizona, you could come out as either a Democrat or a Republican and have a chance of winning in November.

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

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

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

JANE MCNAMARA: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And this seems to me to be kind of a natural community of interest.
I know for me personally I come down here a lot to attend sports events, you know, in addition to my work events.

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

And thank you very much for your time.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Jim Williams.

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

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

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

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

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

We asked this at the August 3rd meeting and were told -- basically it was dismissed as irrelevant and it was never answered.
So I would like to bring that up to the public record and find out exactly what those terms mean so we can make intelligent choices when we speak.

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

What I am is a concerned citizen of this state.

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

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

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

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

I'm all the way there.

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

Well, you tell me, what am I supposed to think in the process?
I voted. I worked. I campaigned for it, lobbied or whatever you want to call it, passed out flyers. And my vote doesn't count because now I'm getting sued or my state's getting sued by the federal government because somebody doesn't like that law.

(Brief interruption.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, please.

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

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

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

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

I want that on the record.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

STEVEN OCHOA: I have some business cards for the spelling records.
Hello. My name is Steven Ochoa. I am the national redistricting coordinator for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, MALDEF.

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

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

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

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

And with relation to your state legislative redistricting, we've been starting to draft -- and I don't have any maps for you just yet, but we have done some sketch -- some sketches, and hopefully we do wish to turn in a partial plan to you at some point in the process, probably after this public input meeting -- process has concluded.
But I do want to -- I just want to share some of the findings with you and giving you the broad verbal strokes.

So specifically again about the Voting Rights Act. I'm sure, as you know, and as your counsel has taught you, that there's a three-step process that was established by Thornburg v. Gingles that kind of guides the principles of when a majority minority district needs to be complied to avoid minority dilution.

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

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

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

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

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

Two, within that theoretical district is the
minority group in question a cohesive voting block, are they all voting for the same candidate of choice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

   You currently have one district now, 27, that is at 43 percent Latino CVAP. And if you increase that to 50 to make it Section 2 compliant, and that's a district
that has been starting to elect Latino candidates of choice, so that's evident.

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

hopefully before 9:00 o'clock.

We still have plenty. I didn't expect this many
when that we first started.

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

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

Again, three and a half minutes.

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

But I think he already spoke.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: There is two.

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

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

Thank you, to the Commission.

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

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

But I want to thank you.

I represent the Scottsdale, Fountain Hills
district, District 8.

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

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

I'm much more concerned about competitive districts.

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

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

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

(Brief interruption.)

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

LAURA COPPLE: So I would like to go on record as
being very concerned about a member of this Commission and
his radio show, his e-mails suggesting that Tea Party
members come here and claim that they're Independent.

    And that's it.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Brendan Mahoney.

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Michelle Melchiorre.

MICHELLE MELCHIORRE: Michelle Melchiorre,


    I wanted to tell you about my day last Monday.

And it's important to redistricting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The voters of this state have compassion.

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

I promise you I'm going to meet that woman that
I didn't pay her electric bill last Monday. And she might be the same woman that has a lump. But because she can't get AHCCCS, because she doesn't have kids, she can't get taken care of.

This does not represent my state.

My state said we take care of people here.

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

We are not doing that right now in Arizona.

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

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

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

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

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

Because right now those folks got together last month and decided it was okay for poor people to not have food. It was okay for them not to take their checks and go
to Arizona grocery stores and Arizona gas stations and
Arizona businesses and spend their money.

Where do these folks go, guys?

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

Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

I wanted to address you on two issues.

You said you were working with criteria one and
two.

The second one is equal population.

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

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

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

But I contend that they are.

I look at equal population, and I can't help but
think of the data released by the U.S. Treasury Department from the latest census.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

They must be protected.

Our county supervisor was correct. When you look at south Phoenix and you're looking for new congressional
districts in the central city, don't separate Laveen from South Mountain and Guadalupe. Don't separate Maryvale from the rest of the west side.

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

It is 2011.

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

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

When is it going to happen?

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

Things have to be fair.

And if you want to gerrymander, don't gerrymander to protect the interests of the party Republican or Democrat. Gerrymander to protect the interests of the least of these, as the woman shared with you. Those that are struggling to have a voice in our system, that are struggling to have fully-funded education, that are
struggling for affordable health care, that are struggling for jobs.

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

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

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

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: The other Joe Murphy?

Joe Murphy?

(No oral response.)

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


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

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's pay attention to the
speaker, please.

WESLEY HARRIS: Thank you.

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

I'm a Republican.

I'm a precinct committeeman.

I'm a volunteer.

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

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

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

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

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

I'm in the center of the city. I'm in a very compact -- north center of the City, in a very compact legislative and congressional district. So I don't think that what you are going to do is going to affect me personally very much, because our district will probably
stay pretty much the same. May lose a little bit to the north, but where I'm at probably exactly where it is.

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

I think we sit right now at about a third, third, and a third. Democrat, Republican, and Independent. And I think they're all in this district. If we do do it, it could be that way.

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

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

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

And hyphenation, I'm an American.

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

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

And that's what we all are.

And when we stop doing hyphenations and stop
trying to create little districts, Mary Rose Wilcox has been in that district over there for as long as I've been here. I've lived here for 41 years this time around. I was born in this state.

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

And that's wrong.

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

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)


Going to make this very short and sweet.

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

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

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

I don't know as much about the legislature. And
in coming to these meetings, I really look forward to learning more, because I realize that there is a lot I have to learn about that process.

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

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

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

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

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

In our district it was made possible.

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

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
Jeanette Fish.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So I'm here to ask for rural agricultural areas to
be able to choose their own representatives without being
overpowered by metro Phoenix.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And I thank you for letting me give this input.
VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ken Clark.

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

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

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

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

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

Well, that's not necessarily true.

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

Does this make it a competitive district?

We would submit no.

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

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

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

I want to say something about communities of interest.

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

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

Farmers with farmers, students with students.

Unfortunately it's misused, communities of
interest, now as a front.

People will create astroturf groups to come forward and tell you this is our community of interest. And I've already seen it tonight. You'll see more of it when the maps come out. They'll say this is our community of interest when what is really happening behind the scenes is some legislator or congressman is trying to protect their own power base, protect their own seat.

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

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

This process requires specificity. You can't just submit some paperwork, some paper with some drawings on it, and say this is our district. You have to have the data behind it. And we have that level of specificity, that level of data available for free for people now at our website AZredistricting.com.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next we'll have Gordon Posner, Geri Ottoboni, Marjorie Zatz, Aaron Blumenthal, followed by Vera Anderson.


I want to urge the Commission to consider the importance of competitive districts.

What is a competitive district? To me it's a district where the outcome cannot be guaranteed.

If there are safe districts, it doesn't matter whether you're a Republican or Democratic, conservative or liberal, your vote won't count in that district. And that's wrong.

Second, I want to express my support and confidence in both the integrity and the independence of this Commission.

I think that the attacks being lodged against it are transparently partisan.

And I'd like to say to the gentleman who raised the issue of SB 1070, the challenge to that. The challenge is based on the same constitutional issue, federalism, as the lawsuit the Tea Party supports, namely the challenge to the federal health care law, which is the issue of the allocation of power between state and federal governments.
You can't ignore the constitution just because you support a law.

So if you want to get rid of a lawsuit against SB 1070, then have them drop the lawsuit against the health care law. They both involve the same issue.

I'd also like to say to the people who are taking pictures here.

I have no problem with that. This is a public hearing. That's what it's all about. I will only caution that you have the misfortune of having to see my face later on.

I also point out the Commission itself is videorecording this and posting it on the Internet, thereby spreading the misfortune.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Geri Ottoboni.


And I have another topic to discuss, but before I start with that topic, I just want to address something.

I would like to address what the gentleman stated about Mr. Stertz.

He was picked by the Republicans as well as the Democrats picked the two Democrats. Mr. Stertz for the
record filled out his application before he started his show
with Jesse Kelly.

And then Miss Mathis was chosen to be Independent
choice by the two Democrats and the two Republican
applicants.

From her application, if she had put on her
application that she, not her husband, donated money to
Andrei Cherney's campaign, a Democrat.

Never -- then her husband was at the time -- I
don't hear anything -- the application was being -- he was
being paid treasurer for the Nancy Young Wright campaign in
2010.

How she has voted is the issue.

The previous Independent commissioner was allowed
the Republicans to have an attorney of their choice.

But she voted against the Republicans to acquire
the attorney that, I'm sorry, the attorney that, that they
wanted.

Okay.

What I would like to do is I would like to thank
the lovely woman from Scottsdale representing the League of
Women Voters mentioning the other night that if you check
the box competitive districts that means progressive and
checking the box communities of interest that means
conservative.
That's what she said the other evening.

So, but if you stopped to think about it, you can really discuss competitive districts and communities of interest in the same breath and both the requirements of the Proposition 106.

So now LD 20 is my topic for the evening. LD 20 is a competitive district in 2008. It had a Democrat and a Republican representative and a Democratic senator. In 2010 it had two Republican representatives and a Republican senator.

That clearly shows that both Democrats and Republicans can win in this particular district.

LD 20 is bounded by South Mountain to the west, the Indian country to the south. So it makes more sense to expand the LD 20 east and/or to the northeast rather than to the west or to the south.

South Mountain Park is included in LD 20, but is on the other side of the mountain from LD 20.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Marjorie Zatz.


Thank you. I want to add my voice to those who have been thanking the members of the Commission.

I'm tired being here one night. I can't imagine
what it's like doing this night after night after night.

And so I really appreciate what you're doing, and thank you very much from all of us.

I want to speak to, really important, compact and contiguous districts and community of interest.

Contrary to the last speaker, I don't think of community of interest as progressive or conservative, but rather who is doing things similar to what I am.

I have lived in Tempe for the last 29 years. My three boys all went through public schools. I've served on the site-based council at the school.

I've served on the board at my synagogue. I teach at ASU.

And I -- my three kids have all gone to ASU. Two of them have graduated. One is there now.

The youngest doesn't even have a driver's license, because he takes the lightrail everywhere.

I want to speak to Tempe, south Scottsdale, the 202 corridor, and the downtown Phoenix area being a community of interest. With ASU and Tempe and downtown now, there's a back and forth movement of students, of people going to sports events, people living, going moving back and forth with their houses.

And it used to be that it was really two different
communities. That's no longer the case now.

   I see that it is much more close than it had been. Arcadia also ties in very much, so people are moving among those. They're working together. Their kids are going to school and going to community events together.

   And I just spoke with someone living downtown who's probably going to be moving to Tempe now. People are just going back and forth between those.

   It's one large community.

   I shouldn't say that.

   But it is all contiguous, and I'd like to see that area all represented together as one community.

   So thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Aaron Blumenthal.


   This is moderately terrifying, and so I'm sorry. I want to thank you guys for being here, obviously you've heard a thousand times.

   I also want to thank the people in the audience who have come up here and really shared parts of their lives that are really helping to color these decisions. I mean, I've been terrified coming up here because I hear so much news about people not getting -- not wanting to participate
because everyone just yells and screams. And that hasn't been my experience today, so I'm thankful for that.

And I want to talk about communities of interest.

I've been a resident of Arizona for 17 years.

I went to school in Tempe. Go Aztecs.

I went to ASU. Go Sun Devils.

And I now own and operate a business out of Scottsdale that is 30 people large. And I have the unfortunate distinction of being only 28 years old. So I'm in a bit over my head.

So I want to talk about what I think that where I live, which is downtown, Tempe, which is where I went to school, and Scottsdale, which is where I operate my business, these areas to me are a community of interest, because the people who I attract as a business owner and people with whom I associate as a spry college student, and the place where I want to live, which is downtown Phoenix, because I hail from Cheyenne, Wyoming, which is the opposite of that, these are all communities to me.

I am always on the light rail.

I call my second home 202, two hours a day.

And I do feel that the sorts of people that I interact with, the sorts of people that I would like to draw into our community, the sorts of people who fair well in the company that I operate would be very interested in being
represented together.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Vera Anderson. And I'm hopefully pronouncing the name correctly, Veekas Shrivastava, followed by Juan Jose Mendez, followed by Barry Paceley.


I am in LD 6. That includes New River, clear down to Thunderbird.

I would like to kind of understand what the central corridors are going to be as far as the redistricting, how that might work, because I'm traveling down that I-17 all the time, so back and forth, back and forth.

So I'd really like to know what those transportation corridors might be in the mapping.

I'm also, to let you know, I am a Tea Party person. And I don't really like the fact that we need to call peoples names or say one thing or the other.

Let's just keep it to the point and what we're all about here is redistricting.

And keep it there --
VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's pay attention to Ms. Anderson.

Go ahead.

I'm sorry. Please go ahead.

THE WITNESS: I just said I want it to be fair and equitable to everybody. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Ms. Anderson.

Again, let me remind the audience, when people are speaking, do not speak, unless you want to please fill out a form.


First of all, I'd like to thank the Commission for your hard work and your dedication. I know I'm not jealous of the task you have ahead of you.

I'd also like to thank everyone who showed up tonight and everyone watching at home. I think that there's a lot of opinions across the aisle, a lot of interest, and a lot of folks who don't agree with each other, but there's one thing we all share and that's that we're deeply passionate about the future of Arizona.

And so I'm inspired to see so many folks here tonight.

I'm a student at Arizona State University at the
Tempe campus. I was born and raised in Tempe.

I am here to express the students' desire to be a -- to have every university campus be a community of interest.

There are 130,000 public university students in the state of Arizona, living in Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, Flagstaff, and Tucson.

And we are disproportionately affected and uniquely affected by the decisions made by our elected officials.

In previous years, as well as into the current day, we have endured outsized cuts to financial aid, as well as our university budgets, resulting in 90 percent tuition increases in the last four years, as well as higher cost of attendance and a lower quality of life largely due to the hardships that we face on the local level.

I think it's important to represent students as a community of interest because it's -- it will give the youngest voters in our state the voice that we deserve to have and ensure that Arizona remains a -- and becomes more of a prosperous state.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Juan Mendez.

I want to thank you guys for volunteering, and I want to thank everybody for the opportunity to be here voicing my opinions.

The whole idea that we have an Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission --

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Excuse me, people. Please listen to the individual.

JUAN JOSE MENDEZ: I want to apologize to you for all the coffee I drank before this.

I took notes.

So I am a first generation American. Arizona native.

I've lived all over the Maricopa valley, east valley, west valley, central Phoenix.

I run my own non-profit that helps put the unemployed and homeless back to work.

I sit on the Human Services Commission for the City of Phoenix, and I am the treasurer for the Democrats in Tempe.

And I am also a political science -- political science degree.

And so I'd like to freely share all this with you guys to let you know where my concerns are coming from, see
my concerns are real, and are based off the interests of my communities.

Okay. So as a minority I want to voice my support for competitive districts, and share with you why I feel minority majority districts do not have my interests at heart or don't serve to, don't serve to -- so first I just want to throw on observation out there to everybody.

To the Republican Tea Party efforts through their sewer packed fair trust, in pretending to have, you know, the concerns of minorities at heart is laughable and insulting.

These are the same people that drafted in voter legislation that ended affirmative action in our states.

So on one hand I'm no longer need to have my potential fostered or my input considered, all in favor of competitiveness.

And at the same time they want you to think that they're worried about my voice and my input as a citizen while voting.

So I feel like it's -- I'm trying to throw different things down there.

Okay. So, I'm in favor of competitive districts because inside of majority minority districts, my vote or my voice is, I feel, diluted, dismissed, silenced, stifled. I'm -- pretty much turning me into a token voice, a token
vote, inside a minority majority district.

You guarantee me a, you know, a chance to elect somebody that's going to voice my concerns. But when that plays out in legislature, you give me one voice surrounded by everybody else.

If you were to take my minority majority community and split us up and spread us out into multiple districts, we would have politicians that had to take -- that had to be accountable for our voices.

More legislatures would have to be accountable to us instead of just the one you're guaranteeing me.

So I want you guys to take that into account.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Barry -- so how do you pronounce your last name for me, so hopefully will help me out.

BARRY PACELEY. Oh, that's good.

Well, good evening, and thanks. I'm Barry, B-A-R-Y. Paceley, P-A-C-E-L-E-Y. Arcadia resident.

And, commissioners, thank you. And thanks to our hardest working guy in the room. I've been watching him the entire time. So thank you.

Thanks for all your work.
(Applause.)

BARRY PACELEY: I'm just going to advocate neighborhoods. I'm from the Arcadia neighborhood. I grew up there. If you take my wife's and I, 12 years in Arcadia together, we're at 99 years, so next year we are going to be hitting the centennial.

And all I would like to ask is that, that in considering the boundary lines, we look at neighborhoods, especially school districts.

And to dice up school districts, to cut up whether it's going to be the Madison, Scottsdale, Arcadia complex specifically runs in the Arcadia area in the Scottsdale school district, we'd like to see those lines kind of respect those school lines.

The reason being is the strength that I found over the years in our neighborhoods and our voting and in our activism has come from the PTAs, our soccer, our Little League, and Boy Scouts groups. And those are the people that all get together, talk during events, and become politically engaged.

They're the ones that are on the ground.

And it's not about parties or anything else. It's about putting the best people in the offices, whether city council, at our legislative or our congressional levels.

So we are looking for the best Arizonans to drive
this state to being the best place to live in the United States.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Next is David Bushman, Jonathan Cartson -- or Carson. Carston? Bill Baxter, followed by Vince Ansel.

If you're way in the back, if you guys start getting closer so we can speed up the process.

DAVID BUSHMAN: My name is David Bushman, B-U-S-H-M-A-N. I'm representing myself.

Members of the Commission, I'd like to thank you again for the time in which you've taken to hear my comments.

As I make my comments, I will be referring to a map that I created which I'll be submitting as part of the public record.

I wish to address east valley district boundaries, communities of interest, and competitive districts.

While I do not represent any particular city or organization, I am a representative of the cities and organizations of which I am a part.

I am a fourth generation Arizonan. I was born in Mesa, raised in Tempe, and I have lived in Mesa for 14 years
while I raised my family, and I have worked in Mesa and Tempe most of my career.

When one considers where communities of interest lie, once you consider the very language used in common conversation, for example, we naturally talk about the west side, of metropolitan Phoenix that is, Phoenix itself, and the east valley. Again, a metropolitan Phoenix.

It is the east valley in particular that I wish to address.

When one is asked to name the cities of the east valley, it is not uncommon to say Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, and sometimes Queen Creek.

Scottsdale and Tempe are usually not mentioned in the same phrase as Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, and sometimes Queen Creek.

Mind you, we have nothing against Tempe and Scottsdale. I was raised there.

But by our very language, we recognize a difference both politically and culturally.

It can be demonstrated with statistical demographics that people with shared communities of interest attract to one another both politically and culturally.

This very phenomenon occurred this last decade with the population into the east valley shifting further east of Greenfield and further south than Chandler.
116 Boulevard.

It is clear that the shift in population favored one political party over another.

And to make the argument that districts of the east valley need to be competitive, while it is law, it should be remembered that the district requirement is to be balanced with the other requirements in such a manner as to not be of significant detriment to the goals of using visible boundaries and what are very clear communities of interest.

When creating a congressional district, remember the east valley, Mesa, Chandler, Gilbert, and Queen Creek, are a well-established community of interest and should be put together to the extent practicable.

When creating legislative districts, please consider the following: A city or town by their very formation are each considered unique communities of interest. So much so that it is the requirement that visible geographic feature, such as a city, town, and county boundaries, shall be used when forming districts.

Furthermore, school districts form natural communities of interest.

In the proposed map that you'll be referring to, the proposed LD 20 contains the entire Kyrene School District.
Mesa Unified School District is nearly wholly contained within the proposed LD 18 and 19.

Gilbert Unified School District is almost entirely contained within the proposed LDs 22 and 23.

Higley Unified School District is almost entirely contained in the proposed LD 22.

Queen Creek Unified School District is largely contained in the proposed LD 23.

Competitive districts have not been ignored either.

You will note that LD 20 boundaries are a balance of communities of interest of south Tempe, west Chandler, and the foothills south of South Mountain.

That is balanced against the realization that Tempe is politically mixed.

The map drawn shows LD 20 boundaries contain a nearly perfect split between the political parties.

In summary, please maintain our communities of interest as demonstrated by the very way we chose our words and where we choose to live.

Thank you for your time.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Jonathan Cartsonis.

JONATHAN CARTSONIS: Cartsonis.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: If you start moving up closer if you are way in the back.
JONATHAN CARTSONIS: My name is Jonathan Cartsonis, C-A-R-T-S-O-N-I-S.

Thanks for the opportunity to talk to you all.

I am a lifelong resident of Arizona. I am raising my children and live with my family in central Phoenix.

And I just want to speak to the community of interest guidelines.

And as a lifelong resident, I will tell you that I have seen huge changes in the city and the state over my lifetime.

And one thing that I've noticed lately, I work downtown and I live near the downtown, but I do see this connection between downtown Phoenix and Tempe. I work with students from, from ASU, frequently, from Tempe ASU. There's students also from downtown ASU.

There's a connection between the two. The cultural aspects of it is that we have museums and we have entertainment venues.

We find ourselves as a family taking the 202, sometimes taking the lightrail, traveling that corridor between the two.

In my neighborhood, which is close to downtown, as I said, we have many ASU professors living in our neighborhood.

I think it's a shared community, and I think it's
been reinforced by the fact that we have the 202 and the light rail and we have the shared institutions.

And so I wanted to just let you all know that that's my strong feeling about it, and ask you to support this community of interest that I see has formed between downtown Phoenix and Tempe.

So thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Bill Baxter.

Followed by Vince Ansel, Linda Attee, and Katie Dionne -- or Dionne.


I'd like to echo comments made by, I believe, folks from different perspectives earlier tonight regarding LD 20.

And confirm that my concept -- I've lived in south Tempe for 30 years.

And we in that an area consider ourselves -- we shop, we share school districts, athletic teams, et cetera, with Ahwatukee and with west Chandler and south Tempe.

I believe that gentleman earlier talked about moving the line north a little bit.

I think my political persuasion we differ in that,
but I would agree with that. That sounds to me like something that makes sense.

I would request that we keep it contiguous in that fashion as we move east and/or north. Because we will need to gain population in this redistricting exercise.

So a lot of people have said that tonight, so I'd like to be another one, probably the last one, that puts that on record this evening.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Vince Ansel.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: He left.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Linda Attee -- or Attee.

LINDA ATTEE: I'll pass. We can leave three minutes earlier.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Katie Dionne.

If you change your mind, let me know.

KATIE DIONNE: My name is Katie Dionne, K-A-T-I-E, D-I-O-N-N-E.

I am a single woman, in Arizona. I am 35 years old.

And from some of the things that I've heard tonight, I guess I would be considered a minority, because I support myself off $84 a week.

I do not accept government assistance, no food
stamps, no Medicaid.

And I still find time to go and volunteer. I have volunteered down at St. Vincent de Paul.

I have also volunteered with my local church organization.

And I've also chosen to volunteer as a citizen and do what I believe is my responsibility to learn how my government works, since I do pay taxes, I do vote.

And the neighborhood that I live in, I'm actually one of the few White people who live there. But I love my neighborhood.

I shop at the grocery store with what are considered minorities.

And, you know, it wasn't actually until I moved to Arizona that I really realized that people do judge others based on the color of their skin, because that's not how I was raised.

I was raised that this person is my neighbor, and if they need help from me, then I help them.

I chose to stand up tonight -- oh, and let me say, I am also a registered Republican, and I do affiliate with the Tea Party, and that is not something I am ashamed of.

I have never gone to a Tea Party meeting where I have been subjected to being called names.

I never have been told that I could not share my
opinion.

Granted we do get very passionate because we feel very strongly in what we feel.

And I've seen it on the Democrats’ side.

The reason I became part of the Tea Party is because I too feel that my voice has not been heard by the Democrats, which I used to be a registered Democrat.

But my voice hasn't been heard by the Republicans either.

And so as an American citizen, my constitution gives me the ability to stand here and take responsibility for myself, in my community, and voice how I feel.

I want to thank the voters of Arizona that have made this Commission possible so that we could do this.

I thank you all for being here.

But really, without the voters of Arizona, you wouldn't be here.

So, I'm not intimidated by anyone.

No one has paid me to be here.

I'm here because I live in this community, I care about what happens in this community, and it's my right to be here. Just like it's everybody else's right.

And what I ask of this Commission is that you do abide by the state constitution that we have.

Please work with our attorney general. He's not a
mean person.

    I'm sure you can come to some sort of an agreement.

    We all live here.

    We don't need to be at each other's throats all the time to come to a decision.

    The way our government works is that some years I have to follow a Democrat, some years I get to follow a Republican leader.

    That's just how it goes.

    I don't always get what I want.

    But if there's something that I really want, it's my responsibility to make that happen, not my government's.

    Thank you.

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

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: We have Madelaine Adelman, Amy Kalman, Larry Mora, followed by Lee Bolin.

Madelaine Adelman?

Not here?

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Amy Kalman.

AMY KALMAN: I'd like to thank everybody again.

But I do live in that between Elliot and Baseline area, which means I'll be very likely be joining Legislative District 20. And I look forward to finding community there as well.

I think that it's really important that we think about some of the things that people have said originally and some of those criticisms.

It's very important in honoring the autonomy of people who stand here before you and speak to let them identify themselves, whether it's with a hyphen or whether it's with a name they use on their personal blog, Facebook, and YouTube profile.

And I think that it's also very important to honor their autonomy by taking into account the importance of their individual interest. And they've done an excellent job speaking to them.

To those who have taken the trouble to map out district plans and maps, and I saw that and it was an honor of seeing that at the South Mountain meeting, and I see it here. And I am really appreciative of all those who have gone to such trouble.

I think those are almost the most productive things people can do, because your job is already very difficult.

And to see that there are people who care so much
about this system and about this Commission that they took 
the trouble to map out their own systems I think is 
wonderful.

And I do honor every single one of them, because 
I'll tell you right now, I am no more ashamed of my 
political affiliation than anyone else here. I am a 
Democrat.

But I have no idea what any of -- all of you who 
have contributed maps are as far as your alignment, and I 
don't really care, because I really appreciate that you all 
took the trouble.

So finally I want to harken back to what another 
person had to say, somebody who is irritated because he 
voted for something and it was ruled unconstitutional.

And, oh, I thought he must have been talking about 
the clean elections campaign, but I guess he must have been 
talking about SB 1070.

We live in a nation where the constitution is our 
strong and guiding light. And the interpretation the 
federal government made of the constitution is that the 
constitution is meaningless and the right to vote is 
meaningless if there are gerrymandered districts that do 
not -- that disenfranchise voters that do not want a 
minority population.

And I urge the Commission to consider and
confirm that the Voting Rights Act is not inconsistent with competitive districts and to remember that it is the most important aspect. It is the reason that you exist, and I ask and beg you to remember that in drawing your lines.

Thank you.

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

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Lee Bolin.

LEE BOLIN: Commissioners, my name is Lee Bolin, L-E-E, B-O-L-I-N.

I live in Tempe.

As many others have, I would like to thank the Commissioners for undertaking this very thankless task.

You're essentially having to herd six and a half million cats first into the nine wet sacks, and then thirty-one sacks, and then have six and a half million of them tell you they could have done better.

I'd also like to say that if we -- if the city of Phoenix finances the Burton Barr Library, I'd like it be renamed the Phyllis Rowe Library. Phyllis has been a pillar of the community for decades.

And it's always good to see her about.

I'd like to address two things real quickly.

First I'd like the current Commission to give more
attention than the last Commission did ten years ago to improving the competitiveness of our congressional and legislative districts.

When we have a situation where anywhere from 70 to 90 percent of our elected offices are de facto filled before the first vote is even cast in November, then we have to start wondering if the democracy the founders envisioned is looking more like the one that was practiced in the old Soviet Union.

We need a very vigorous debate of ideas up until the very last vote is cast in November. And when we have one or the other party making up the predominance of voters in the vast majority of our districts, we are not given that debate.

I'd also like to express interest in having the congressional districts that encompasses Tempe more nearly meet the requirements such as compactness and contiguity and commonality of interest.

Tempe is an urban center. It's completely landlocked by other urban centers. And yet as a consequence of the last redistricting, it found itself with part of the Tonto National Forest in it.

And for a decade I've been wondering how exactly it turned out that way.

I think that some thoughts that have been
expressed by other people in which a better commonality of interest could be found along the light rail and 202 corridor. This Commission can and should look at both Tempe and central Phoenix have campuses for Arizona State University, and I believe that the students of those campuses should be considered to be one commonality of interest.

There are teachers who work on both campuses. Both downtown Phoenix and Tempe have their art centers. Phoenix has the Heard Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum. They have First Friday happening just blocks from here tonight. The city of Tempe has Gammage Auditorium, Mill Avenue with its galleries, Tempe Arts Center.

Both communities have major sports centers. Both Tempe and central Phoenix have very active neighborhood associations and vibrant historic districts.

Much of these things I've been saying are not particular to all of the Congressional District 5 as it exists today, and I think that if we could see the district going from east to west along that corridor, the 202 and the light rail, rather than hooking up into the Tonto National Forest.

The Tonto National Forest doesn't have ASU, doesn't have museums. It's got lots of squirrels.

I simply don't see how that is something that can
be considered to be consistent with requirements for commonality of interest and contiguity.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

The last speaker is Chris Rossiter, with the -- I hope I'm pronouncing the last name correctly.


I am a member of the Greater Phoenix Tea Party, and one of the reasons I got into Tea Party activity was unaccountable elected officials.

And honestly I haven't been following this issue very closely with the redistricting because we're so busy with so many other issues. And one of the issues we're involved in is the city of Quartzsite. There's a lot of corruption going on in that town, and we are actually assisting the very liberal Democrat mayor in his struggle to overcome the corruption.

And one of the council members out there said that, when they were confronted about their violation of open meeting law, when they're confronted with that, they said, well, we're going to continue and if it's shown in court that it's an illegal meeting, then we're -- you know, you got -- it's -- the burden is on you as a citizen to prove that.
So when I read today about the uncooperation with the Attorney General's Office, that's what got me to come out here and make a comment this evening. And I'd just like to encourage this council to cooperate with Tom Horne.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: What I'll do before we wrap up, I'd like to have Vice Chair Freeman give some closing remarks, and then we'll go from there.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thanks again to everyone for coming out, and thanks to everyone for sticking around.

It's been a long day. I know it's been a long day for Jose and I and staff. And it's been kind of a long week.

We're just -- we've got one more public hearing tomorrow, at least in the first round hearings, in Tucson tomorrow, and then we'll take a little break.

Next week, perhaps.

But what I want to tell people at the end of these hearings is how much of a privilege it is for me to serve on this Commission, and a great honor.

The only promise I made when I was appointed was that I would follow the constitution and follow the law.

And that's what I intend to do, and I believe that's what
the fellow commissioners are all going to do. That's the oath they took.

The law, the constitution speaks of a Commission that is fair, that is independent, that is politically balanced, and one that conducts itself in a way that builds confidence in the politic process. Hopefully the results do.

So really having public input is a very important part of the process. Having public scrutiny, I think, is also an important part of the process, and ensures that we keep it fair.

The constitution sets forth six criteria that we're -- that the commissioners are required to employ in drawing these maps. And I intend to the best of my ability to follow those six criteria. Not the way that I might like those criteria to be, but the way they're actually written.

We have an Arizona Supreme Court opinion that interpreted this provision of our constitution, and it simply says the constitution means what it says.

And so that's what we need to do is follow it.

And then I guess lastly, another thing that I'd like to comment on is all of us here have a First Amendment right to assembly, to petition the government, and freedom of speech. And everyone should afford one that right.
Everyone should be able to come to these hearings, to say their piece, to not be subject to intimidation or provocation.

And the Commission needs to -- I know when Commissioner Herrera and I are sitting up here, I'll speak for myself, I'm very focused on who's talking to me and trying to listen to understand what they're saying, particularly if they're telling me about boundaries.

And I am not always cognizant of everything else taking place in the audience.

And when I hear talk about comments being made and people trying to be bullied perhaps, I don't like to hear that. If we need -- we need to do something about that and make sure everyone has a safe environment here to have come.

And I've attended a number of -- probably a majority of the public comment hearings, and I've watched the others online. I think they've all gone really well. I really appreciated hearing from everyone.

And just another item is there are -- I know there are bloggers here, members of the press. People are free to take photographs, videotape.

I just ask the bloggers trying to take pictures of me, try to get my good side, take slimming photos of me. The camera does, I've discovered, add 10 pounds, at least that's what I tell my wife.
Anyway, thank you. I'll turn it over to Commissioner Herrera. He has some good words to say too.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Before we close tonight, I really want to thank the staff.

They've -- we have assembled a great staff, from Buck, to Ray, to Kristina, to everyone else.

They do -- they work hard. They get -- we -- they have a lot of respect from the commissioners and get along well. And I do want to give them a round of applause, because without them this evening wouldn't be possible.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I agree with Vice Chair Freeman. I -- if it was up to me, we would all get along, nobody would argue, and, you know, just make our comments, whether you agree with them or not, then we would shut our mouth and not say anything. But it doesn't work that way, and I wish it did.

We want people to come to these meetings and feel safe. I don't care what persuasion you belong to. You should feel safe.

And if you don't, we have uniformed officers here. They get paid well.

Is that correct?

And that's why we bring them here, because -- we
have these officers here because we want to protect the public. So if you don't feel safe and you do need to talk to other officials, I'm not a bodyguard, and neither is Mr. Freeman. Although I've been working out lately, I am not a bodyguard.

So, but, again, I thank the people that are here. This is, as I said before, in previous meetings, this is my favorite part of being a commissioner is listening to the public.

It is being -- when you give us ideas on how to draw the maps, you talk about your communities of interest, you talk about competitiveness, which is extremely important, again, not a subordinate goal.

The Supreme Court disagreed with the Appellate Court that that particular goal was subordinate. It is not.

If you read the issue of the -- or the comment how the law states that it is, as long as it doesn't create a significant detriment.

And really significant is the key word. And I look up significant quite a bit.

Let me give you one quick definition of significant.

Important, of consequence.

So, we do have room to work with competitiveness. And it doesn't mean we'll be gerrymandering. That's not
what it equates to.

    Competitiveness, we all care about

competitiveness, Republicans, Tea Party members, Democrats, Libertarians. It doesn't matter what political party you belong to. I know you care about competitiveness.

    So read the constitution. Competitiveness is important.

    And I will -- you know, that's what I'm here to do. I'm here to give the voters of Arizona a voice, and that's what I was selected for this Commission is to give them a voice, and I intend to do so.

    So thank you so much for being here. Have a great night. Go home to your families.

    (Applause.)

    (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.)

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

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 135 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 15th day of August, 2011.

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