PHOTOGRAPHS

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good afternoon, everyone.

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

Today is Saturday, August 6, and the time is 1:09 p.m.

It is fabulous to see this many of you out today on a Saturday afternoon.

But let's start with the Pledge of Allegiance, if you'll all please rise.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So I'd like to just introduce a few folks to you before we start the meeting.

I've got to my right Commissioner Stertz.

To my left Commissioner McNulty.

And I am Chairman Mathis.

There are two other commissioners on this Commission who are watching via webstreaming, and hopefully there are others out there watching via webstreaming,

Vice Chair Herrera and Vice Chair Freeman.
So that makes up the five members. Three of us are here today, all from Pima County.

We also have with us today from our mapping consultant Andrew Drechsler.

Our legal counsel, Mary O'Grady.

Our executive director, Raymond Bladine, over here in the short sleeves.

Our chief technology officer is Buck Forst.

Our court reporter is Marty Herder right up here up front.

And speaking of court reporter, while this is being recorded, when you all come up to the podium to address us, please state your name and spell it so that we have an accurate accounting.

And then also tell us who you're representing or, if it's just yourself, if you want to say where you're from, either city, town, or county suffices, that would be great, and then we'll have an accurate accounting for the record.

We have a couple of public outreach coordinators with us today.

Lisa Schmelling. If you could raise your hand in the back there.

And Christy Olsen over here is also helping.

So any of these folks that I've named would be
happy to help you if you have any questions or need anything throughout this afternoon.

I have another important announcement that in order to comply with federal law a Spanish translator is here at the hearing to translate questions and comments into English.

And, Carlos Reyes, are you here? Could you come up and just make a few remarks in Spanish of instruction and let folks know?

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

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Thank you, Carlos. Well, I think this probably goes without saying, since I have a huge stack here, but there are request to speak forms in the back that are yellow that you can fill out, and that you would need to fill out if you would like to address the Commission.

So please do so if you haven't already.

I have a lot.

So we'll probably be limiting comments to try to go -- you know, I don't want to cut people off when they're in the middle of something important that they're trying to communicate, but if you can try to be mindful to keep your remarks limited to two and a half minutes or so, that would really be helpful.
And I'll also try to keep things efficiently flowing by reading off the first few names so that those of you set to speak can get ready to already come up along the sides, if you can, if you hear your name called.

I believe also there's an overflow room available. Is that correct?

So there may be some folks in another room. There is a speaker set up over there so that if you don't have a chair and would like to sit, there should be seating over there.

And you should be able to hear everything, at least that's the hope.

So, Mr. Bladine I know has been helping us with that.

So if any of you are standing along the back or sides --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a bad leg. Can I stay here or get up or do I have to go way back?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, you can stay.

So I think those are all my housekeeping items.

And with that, our first -- the next item on the agenda, after call to order, is the presentation on the redistricting process.

That's why we're all here today, as you probably know, is to comment. And our goal is to get from you your
thoughts on your communities of interest and what's important to you in the redistricting process. So we really appreciate everybody coming out and spending a Saturday afternoon to tell us all that.

So without further ado, let's turn it over to Andrew Drechsler who will give us a presentation on the redistricting process.

Andrew?

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you, Chairwoman Mathis. Thank you for welcoming us here today. And today I'm just -- we're just going to give an overview of the redistricting process. It's just a big level overview. So some of you people who have been to meetings before and seen this. Others we just want to make sure that there's a good understanding of what's going on.

In the overview today we're really going to cover several different things.

Why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

What is redistricting?

What is the difference between reapportionment and redistricting?

Why do we have to redistrict?

What guidelines need to be followed when drawing new districts?

What are the steps in the redistricting process?
How can public input be submitted to the Commission?

So, why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

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

In 2000, when the Arizona voters approved Proposition 106, it created the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission and established a process and criteria for drawing new district lines.

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

The fifth member should not be registered with any party already represented on the Commission.

So your 2011 commissioners are, Scott Freeman, Vice Chair; Jose Herrera, Vice Chair; today we have the chairwoman, Colleen Mathis, we have Commissioner Linda McNulty here with us today, and Commissioner Richard Stertz with us here today.

What is redistricting?

Redistricting is just the process -- 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 a process of allocating congressional districts among the states based on changes in population.

This is what you see the census do when they present the final census number from the 2010 census. In December the census presented that final number, and they also showed which states gained seats and which states lost seats.

As you've -- you may know that Arizona, because of growth in population, gained a seat in the 2010 census.

And what redistricting is it's the process of drawing the actual boundaries of the districts.

Why do we have to redistrict?

As I mentioned Arizona, did gain a congressional district, so, therefore, we have to draw lines to add that new district.

However, even if we hadn't gained, if we didn't gain a district, the congressional legislative districts would have to be redrawn to account in changes of the population.

The concept of one person, one vote dictates that there should be as close to the same number of people per district as possible.
And as the population -- because of the rate of population growth is different in different areas, the existing districts now have different populations.

So some districts gain population, some lost, some gain more than others, so that's why we have to redraw all the lines.

What guidelines do we need to follow when drawing new districts?

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

B, equal population.

Criteria A and B are federally mandated, so all plans must satisfy these two criteria.

C, compact and contiguous.

D, respect communities of interest.

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

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

The Arizona redistricting process, we start with collecting public here -- we have public hearings to collect your input. And then the next step is we draw a grid map per the Proposition 106.

In other states, they usually start with what the current districts are and just adjust those district lines
according to the shifts in the population.

However, 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 map will likely meet only criteria B and C, equal population and compact and contiguous.

So adjusting the grid map to meet the six criteria stated in Proposition 106, we have the Voter Rights Act.

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

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

Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive.

The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voter rights.

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

So, once we have the grid map, we start adjusting
the grid map with equal population and compact and contiguous.

Next we look at -- we respect the communities of interest.

And that's the big purpose while we're here today, as one of the goals of the Commission is public hearings to solicit input about -- input about communities of interest.

When you walked in, there was forms available, the blue forms, where you can either write on those or you can speak today.

Also on the website we have a link where you can enter or go in and fill in a form talking about your communities of interest or anything else regarding the redistricting process.

Next, we use visible geographic features, county borders, cities and towns, and census tracts. Usually the census geography follows visible features.

And F is create competitive districts when no where no significant detriment to other goals.

Finally we want to make sure that we hear your input.

We have fill out request -- we ask that you fill out a request form if you would like to speak at the hearing today and provide the Commission your input.

Examples of input can include criteria,
communities of interest, or anything else having to do with redistricting.

Besides speaking at the hearing, you can submit one of the blue forms or you can go to our website and fill out information there. That you can visit our website at www.AZredistricting.org, or call (602)542-5221.

And just the other day we did have -- we did get a toll free number for the office, and that toll free number is 877-REDISTRICT.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Andrew.

Just some fun facts before we get started just to provide some context for this whole affair.

This is our 15th public hearing.

We're having a first round of hearings and then a second round. So this is the conclusion of the first round, but I thought it would be interesting for you all to know that we don't have statistics through last night, but we have them through the meeting through Sierra Vista, which was Thursday night.

At that point 915 people had signed in, so we're definitely over 1,000 folks that have signed in.

And that's not to mention just all the people that who attend without signing in.

So you can tell we've gotten a lot of great
response across the state from folks interested in this.

509 request to speak forms have been filled out, at least through the Sierra Vista meeting, so not including Phoenix last night or you all today.

So we're really just grateful that all of you are taking time to share your thoughts with us, and appreciate you doing this.

So let me move on to the next item, which is the call for public comment.

As I mentioned, there are a few just ground rules. If you come up, state your name, spell it so that our court reporter gets an accurate record.

And if you're representing yourself, please tell us where you reside. Either city, town, or county is enough.

If you could also try to be mindful to keep your comments limited to two and a half minutes, that would be great, so we can move through this as efficiently as possible.

And let me go ahead and read the first four. First up will be State Senator Al Melvin. Followed by State Representative Sally Ann Gonzales. Followed by Representative Terri Proud and State Senator Paula Aboud.
So if you four can be getting ready, and we'll go ahead and start with State Senator Al Melvin, representing LD 26 from Tucson.

AL MELVIN: Thank you very much for the opportunity to be here.

State Senator Al Melvin, representing Legislative 26.

What I would like to say here today is that to speak in favor of keeping Legislative District 26 as an -- as intact as possible as it exists today.

It's my understanding that we're basically where we need to be in terms of population. We need a little less than 20,000 to be added to our current numbers, and we're almost there.

And that could be done by adding part of Marana, or going on the other side of Craycroft, picking up some there, or possibly moving up a little bit into Pinal.

The other thing I wanted to talk about is the community of interest, and specifically not only Saddlebrooke but Oro Valley and Marana. There's an effort under way called MOVE, the Marana Oro Valley Experience, on the Tangerine Corridor, to try to stimulate business and jobs in that area.

With respect to Saddlebrooke, Saddlebrooke looks to the south as opposed to the north.
All of the volunteer work that hundreds of people
do in schools and hospitals in the Catalina Mountain School,
all of that is to the south, not to the north.

People go to hospitals, doctors, pharmacies,
dentists, chemotherapy treatments, in the south, not to the
north.

The community, the Golden Goose effort of raising
hundreds of thousands of dollars is focused in the town of
Catalina to the south.

The Elks Club, the Rotary Club, both of which I
belong to, the American Legion, all of the volunteer work
that they do is to the south.

So, no matter how you cut it, this truly is a
classic community of interest, and I think it's in the best
interest of the north side of Tucson that LD 26 remains
intact.

And thank you for the opportunity to speak to you
today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is State Representative Sally Ann
Gonzales from LD 27.

SALLY ANN GONZALES: Thank you.

Good afternoon, and thank you for the opportunity
to speak.

I'm here to speak also asking the Commission to
keep District 27 as intact as possible, including the University of Arizona.

I'm here again. I spoke on Tuesday, but I'm here again because since Tuesday I've been -- they offered me to look at a map.

And they're changing.

And I know it's not your map.

But people are coming up with all kinds of maps, and they're taking the university away from District 27.

And I'm here to speak to leave it intact as possible as it is now.

I know we need some population to be added to District 27.

Also community of interests are very important.

We have many barrios. As you know, it's a majority minority district. And we have many barrios of interest, communities of interest there, including, just some, Barrio Hollywood, Barrio Libre, Barrio Sevaco, Barrio -- also Robles Junction, which is also known as 3-Points, that are currently in District 27, and I'd like for them to be kept in District 27.

That map that I saw yesterday also took away -- left Robles Junction out of District 27.

And the other districts of interest for me and 27 are also the Yaqui communities, Pascua Pueblo, which is the
reservation, Barrio Old Pascua, which is I-10 and Grant Road, Barrio Libre also known as 39, and Sonora Los Prados, which is off of I-10 and Ajo as well.

The Yaqui community has been here for centuries.

And also the Hispanic community before the Arizona -- became a state even in the territories, and this is important to keep these communities of interest together.

The languages, most of the Hispanic community are Spanish speakers.

Happy to have that you're providing interpreters here for people that are needing interpreters.

People tend to forget that this is a native language in here in this area, as well as the Native American languages, Yaqui being one of them, and the O'odham languages.

So we're connected -- the Yaqui community is connected to the Spanish community in District 7 for many reasons. We live together. We work together. The tribe employs thousands of Hispanic people as well as Yaquis in the government office, as well as the casinos. Well over 1,000 Yaquis work in both entities.

And I don't know what the numbers are for Hispanic. So we live and work together. We attend T.U.S.D, is our school district, so that's also a common interest in these communities.
And I also would like to -- I am -- I know I'm speaking to the choir, but it's my testimony to remind the Commission about not diluting. You know, Arizona is covered -- is a covered jurisdiction under the Voting Rights Act, and, and, it, you know, it would be against that Voting Rights Act to dilute the Hispanic community, the voting, voting population in my district.

So I would like to remind you of that.

And, please, the other thing this map, that's why I'm here, that was discouraging, is that they had part of 29, 29 is also a Hispanic majority minority district, and they had both districts together.

And this would also go against the Voter Rights Act, because it would be, it would actually be packing, packing these two districts, and that would also go against the Voting Rights Act.

I thank you again --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.

SALLY ANN GONZALES: -- for the opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I appreciate it. Thank you.

Representative Terri Proud from LD 26.

TERRI PROUD: Thank you.

My name is Terri Proud. I represent the current Legislative 26.

And I support the comments of Senator Al Melvin,
and for the record my comments are such.

This redistricting used to be done by the elected representatives who are directly answerable to those citizens. Voters put this new system in place to have even more transparency.

But this Commission, under this chairwoman, who has a clear conflict of interest, has done most of its work behind closed doors and out of the view of the citizens of Arizona and in direct conflict with the clear intent of Proposition 106.

So if you want to claim legislative privilege for your secrecy and also claim to be open and not nonpartisan, then you have a direct conflict, not only in your words, but also in your actions.

And the voters wanted to depoliticize this process.

However, you have made it the most partisan, underhanded, and expensive such process in our state's history.

You're costing our citizens almost $10 million when we can least afford it.

And the idea that a member of the supposedly transparent body has implied that they would stonewall our own attorney general is disgraceful.

So perhaps more than one resignation from this
Commission would be in order. And with that I close my statement.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If we could limit, and then not all cheer or boo or anything, if we could just try to let people have their piece and then move on, that would be really helpful.

State Senator Paula Aboud -- Aboud, I'm sorry. Right? And District 28 from Tucson.

PAULA ABOUD: Paula Aboud, A-B-O-U-D.

I represent District 28. I want to welcome everybody here to Pima County in Tucson, and I want to welcome and thank the commissioners for your public service.

Those of us that are elected or chosen understand the commitment and the dedication for a very public cause.

I want to suggest that many of the members of the legislature are so entirely new that their ability to have perspective is extremely limited.

I've been in the legislature for six years, and I am one of the most senior members in the Senate.

And what happens in that instance is less perspective is available for -- because people come in, and they bring in their attitudes and their opinions, and this is a -- it may seem like I'm speaking to
Representative Proud, but these were my comments even before I heard her.

And it's not personal, because Terri and I are friendly, as I am with Al as well.

But what I think about politics today is that it has become unseemly and it has become uncivil.

And that is what has made it so difficult to serve in the Arizona legislature, when the public brings these attitudes forward and disallows us from doing our work.

Now, when we talk about transparency and partisanship, you know, when a budget is created in the Arizona legislature behind closed doors year after year after year, and it's called partisan and underhanded and non-transparent, nobody complains hugely about it. So it's a little difficult and disingenuous to come here and say what you're doing is something other than what's being done by the majority party.

So I just wanted that to be clear just in terms of fairness and balance.

My basic message to you is around competitiveness.

I represent District 28. It is an overwhelmingly Democratic district.

Overwhelmingly, Democrats win senate and house seats.

And I'm coming here to you today to talk about the
need to make my district and other districts more fairly balanced.

Because there are so many Republicans that are disenfranchised by the distribution, the small number of Republicans, that they don't participate in the political process.

They don't come to forums. They don't present their ideas.

And so we never have a Republican Democrat debate that is really fair and true to the needs of all voters.

Now, I represent all voters when I'm in the legislature. I never turn away a constituent, whether it's a business person or a labor person.

Not one person.

I represent everyone.

But during an election process, they don't come out and share their issues with me.

We don't get an honest debate in front of the public.

And because of that, we have lost the interest and the spirit of the voters in these districts.

And if there's anything that Arizona needs more, it is more involvement of the public, more interest, more passion, more spirit, and more understanding and listening to all sides. And that means all candidates listening to
all sides and the voters feeling like their vote matters.

But, in my district, a Republican vote does not matter and --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Time.

PAULA ABOUD: -- that's wrong.

(Brief interruption.)

PAULA ABOUD: Do we have a time keeper?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We do not. We're doing it informally.

PAULA ABOUD: If I'm in that time, that's fine too. I've made my point, and I hope it's well received by all members.

And thank you all again for serving.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

We do have a timer, I'm sorry.

Buck Forst, chief technology officer, will be timing comments. If you hear the beeper go off, if you could try to wrap up your comments within a few seconds, that would be helpful.

The next four speakers, Shawn Callanan -- forgive my mispronunciation.

Doris Clatanoff, Vince Leach, and Pat Canady, so if you could all get ready to speak.

Our next speaker is Shawn Callanan, representing
SHAWN CALLANAN: Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak. My name is Shawn Callanan, C-A-L-L-A-N-A-N.

As you said, I'm representing myself. I'm from Pima County.

And one thing that's come to my attention is there's a certain idea to create a legislative district that will include the, the facilities in Eloy where 4,000 inmates are awaiting deportation, as well as a facility in Florence, which holds many thousands more inmates.

And it's very important to remember that these people cannot vote, and yet they're supposedly being counted for purposes of redistricting.

And that seems like a very fishy idea to me, to put it mildly.

I'm very concerned about this because it seems to make a mockery of the one person, one vote values that -- and the United States Constitution that I think are very important to everyone here.

And I don't know who came up with this idea, but I think it betrays a profound disrespect for uniquely American traditions, like democracy and equal representation.

And so I hope that now I think the scheme has gotten out and we're more and more aware of this, that we...
heed this warning that there are indeed people who do not
support equitable elections, and we must do whatever we can
to ensure that we have elections that are both fair and
competitive.

    Thank you very much for the time.

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

    (Applause.)

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Doris Clatanoff, representing
self, from Saddlebrooke.

    DORIS CLATANOFF: Thank you very much, Madam Chair
and Commission.

    My name is Doris, D-O-R-I-S, Clatanoff,
C-L-A-T-A-N-O-F-F.

    Yes, I am from Saddlebrooke. My address is
Tucson, and I live in Pinal County, which is -- all I have
to do is cross Ina Road and I am in Pima County.

    And for the information of those people who don't
know this, Pinal County is the largest county in this state.
It's larger than one or two states in the United States of
America.

    And I hope for heaven's sake you're not going to
expect everybody in Pinal County to vote together. Because
we're not cohesive. We're not compact. We're not a
community.

    If you look at this great big county, you'll see
that Saddlebrooke, as several have pointed out, identifies
with the Tucson area.

The people up in Maricopa -- and somebody wants to
put us up with Maricopa, which is over 100 miles away.
There's vast desert in between.

But the people up in Maricopa, I know they send
their kids up to Phoenix to play soccer. And we happen to
belong to a county group, and that county group is saving
special tickets up there. They're having a meeting up there
in that north part, and they're saving special tickets for
the people from Maricopa County.

Now that is community.

Now, as Senator Melvin pointed out, I belong to a
Rotary Club. We come down here to District 5500. That is
all of -- in Pima County down here and all of southern
Arizona.

When I was a Rotary Club president back in 2000
after I first moved to Saddlebrooke, I came down here to the
corner of Pima and Swan, and I attended meetings with the
district presidents from Marana and Tucson and Oro Valley.

This is community.

This is where I go to the doctor. This is where I
go to church. This is where I do all of these things.

This is community.

It is compact.
No district could be more competitive than that Congressional District 8.

When we first moved here, we had a representative who was Republican.

Now we have a representative who's Democratic.

And I think both were just a couple thousand difference in between.

And I would hope that you not take a -- you know, something place like Maricopa and Saddlebrooke, there's a very Republican, and I agree with this legislator that was up here and said you got to have competition, because otherwise you disenfranchise one side or the other.

And I would also argue that if you have good representation between your Democrats and your Republicans in the given district, that the Independents have a good chance to be Independent and decide how things will happen, and that does happen sometimes. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

DORIS CLATANOFF: I have a form here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great.

Sorry, Vince Leach is next, representing self, from Saddlebrooke.

Thank you, commissioners. It's good to see you again. It's good to be with you.

Thanks for being in Pima County, although I'm from Pinal County.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's hard to hear you.

VINCE LEACH: Is it hard to hear me? Is that better if I speak into it?

I want to speak on three brief topics here today. The first one is the legal problems that seem to be all over the press, from a number of things, from how the Commission is made up to the recent statements.

I would encourage the Commission to take action on these just as soon as you can, get this behind you.

And let's not fight this all the way through the grid maps and all the maps that are coming up.

I'm reminded as I look back to the Independent Redistricting Commission budget. That's on the 2012 baseline. We started this process in 2000 with allocating $6 million, and ended up allocating another $4 million to cover the lawsuits.

The recent budget called for a $10 million allocation of our tax money to the Commission, and this is before the certain lawsuits are to come up based on the actions of life to date.
I would really encourage you to get a hold of this, particularly Madam Chair, if you would get your arms around this and deal with this and get it behind -- get behind the state of Arizona.

Secondarily, I would like to talk about competition, and that being where we stand.

I'm in CD -- currently in CD 8, where we have, according to the registration, Republicans have a 13 and a half point advantage.

This is partisan registration by district.

That advantage is figured by Democrats and Republicans.

Yet in the last two elections we have been represented by a Democrat in office.

In the 2000 -- 111th Congress we had five Democrats and three Republicans statewide in our congressional makeup.

And 112th, we had three Democrats, five Republicans.

You can't get -- if you can get just a little bit more even, by having won both ways, but for all those saying competitive, competitive, competitive, I would argue we're there.

Thirdly, and I am probably running short on time, is community of interest -- I am finished with time?
Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Pat Canady from LD 30, Pima County.

And I will go ahead and read the next four.

Betty Bengtson, Pete Bengtson, Lynne St. Angelo, and Jim March.

PAT CANADY: Hi. I'm Pat Canady, C-A-N-A-D-Y.

I'm a registered voter in Pima County. I live in Legislative District 30, but I am here to talk about competitive congressional districts.

And I'm going to read, because I'm nervous, read what I wrote.

Greater Tucson and southern Arizona should be represented by three members of Congress. Tucson and southern Arizona have unique needs, and they should have access to no less than one third of Arizona's congressional delegation.

These three districts should not be gerrymandered to artificially touch the border. Our metro area is a million people now, and our representatives also represent Sierra Vista, Nogales, and the Tohono O'odham Nation, and Yuma.

We deserve three voices in congress. A
voting rights district in two competitive districts. One that starts in Marana and Oro Valley and goes north, and one that starts in the Catalina Foothills and goes south and east.

That makes it much more competitive.

There has been suggestions to pack all of central Tucson into a single district.

I am really against this.

First of all, we are connected -- I live on the east side, by the way.

That will make more sense of what I'm going to say.

We are very connected to central Tucson. We go there for our hospitals, our doctors, our work, the university, and a lot of our shopping is there.

So we feel like we have a lot in common.

It would diminish Tucson's access to congressional representation and potentially violate the Voting Rights Act if everything was in central.

If we did that, we would end up with a very Republican district and a voting rights district. Neither one would be competitive.

I really believe that.

That's wrong.

I like the idea of everybody having a say, having
a really good civil debate like we used to in the old days.

We deserve more competitive districts, not fewer.

It makes it much more interesting to go out, and in the old days I was able to vote either way.

That hasn't happened.

Next year our voting rights district, which is legally required, we should have two competitive districts, one that starts in Marana and Oro Valley, as I said, goes north, and one in the Catalina Foothills.

And that is my recommendation, and I really am thrilled to have an opportunity to speak to you, and I appreciate you.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Betty Bengtson.

BETTY BENGTSON: Thank you. My name is Betty Bengtson, B-E-T-T-Y, B-E-N-G-T-S-O-N.

And I live in an unincorporated area of Pima County and LD 26.

First, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

The Commission is addressing the very essence of a representative democracy in its work. I commend all of you for your hard work and efforts to make this process. Thank you for your service.

I've attended several public sessions of the
Commission over the last few weeks and have heard citizens speak and have spoken myself about many of the six redistricting goals.

People particularly have addressed communities of interest and competitive districts.

I have heard communities of interest described as where people shop, go to church, and where their friends live or where they recreate.

I shop in many places in Pima County, Marana, Tucson, Oro Valley, and occasionally Green Valley, and have friends who live in Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, Vail, Green Valley, and in unincorporated Pima.

My husband and I hike and bird in rural areas of the county and in all of southeast Arizona, Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise County.

And I wouldn't necessarily describe -- define all of those areas as being my community of interest.

I have many communities of interest.

And what the -- it isn't clear to me what the Commission wants to hear, which communities of interest you want to hear about.

I think it's essential that the Commission define what is meant by a community of interest for the purposes of redistricting.

Competitive districts also have not been defined.
One speaker at the meeting in South Tucson earlier this week suggested one definition, but that's the only one I've heard publicly.

I think it's equally important for the Commission to define competitive districts. How are you going to -- how are you going to judge those?

The issue of prison populations was brought up by a speaker at the meeting earlier this week. It's a new issue for me, but the more I thought about it, the more I believe the Commission needs to somehow address the distorting effect of census counts of prison populations on redistricting requirements.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Pete Bengtson from Pima County, LD 26.

PETE BENGTSON: I live with Betty. In unincorporated Pima County.

And like Betty, I've attended a number of these meetings.

I fully support the Chair Mathis, the rest of the commissioners, and the Strategic Telemetry.

You're doing a great job.

I hope you continue working as you have been.
One of the interesting meetings I attended was July 8, in Phoenix, where there was a briefing on state and federal laws governing redistricting.

I took special note that goals C through F are equal in importance, and that most of the talk has been on communities of interest and competitive districts, but I want to call your attention to the geographic -- visible geographic boundaries, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

Drawing the maps to comply with those lines is just as important as community of interest or competitive district.

I live in Legislative District 26, and I'd like to see the north boundary at the Pima County line.

I'm a real believer in the importance of measurements, so that you'll know whether you're meeting your goals or getting close to them.

AIRC and Strategic Telemetry need to have measures in place to demonstrate the amount of compliance with the six goals.

The drafts maps are going to be available the week of August 14th.

I urge Strategic Telemetry to provide information on a number of measures of compact and contiguous for their consideration at the proposed August 15th business meeting.
You're going to be producing these first generation maps that are going to be compact and contiguous, and you need that definition quickly.

The other thing I'm interested in, as I said, is visible geographic boundaries.

I was thinking about it today.

The only way I can see to do it is when you draw the maps you produce a list -- a table of the total miles of boundary lines.

And then determine how many of those boundary lines go along city boundaries, town boundaries, and county boundaries.

As the maps change, you'll be able to use those measures to see if you're meeting your goals.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Lynne St. Angelo, followed by Jim March, Alex Jacome, and Mohur Sidhwa.

So Lynne St. Angelo, representing self. And if you could state your city, county, or town.


And I live in Oro Valley and would like to speak
about my community of interest.

In my community, we have a newspaper that covers our local community. It is the Northwest Explorer.

This is the area that it covers according to its own description.

Quote, for residents and businesses northwest of Tucson, including Catalina, Casa Adobes, Continental Ranch, Continental Reserve, Copper Creek, Dove Mountain, Gladden Farms, Marana, Oracle, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, Sun City Vistoso, and Tortolita.

This is a community made up of small towns that are connected in their business plans, as Senator Melvin has stated, for the future and how the residents travel on the northwest edge of Tucson and should be kept together in the redistricting process.

There is no reason to break this community of interest up because it is also very competitive.

This district now has been electing people of both parties since 2006, showing that either party stands an equal chance of being elected depending on the political winds.

It doesn't get more competitive than that.

I'd also like to set the record straight when I asked to hear each commissioner's personal definition of community of interest.
I did not want the formal definition of community of interest that the Commission votes on. I would like to hear what each commissioner's opinion is, and I would appreciate that very much.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Next is Jim March, second vice chair for Pima County Libertarian Party.

JIM MARCH: Thank you.

Jim March. Last name is spelled the same as the month.

Folks, I appreciate your allowing me to talk to you.

I have some concerns about this prison issue as well.

Some of the redistricting plans seem to involve roping together the big Eloy deportation center with another major prison nearby and calling the result a minority majority district, which as far as voting would actually be dominated by the surrounding ranchers or whatever is in that rural area.

Not only is that a problem in and of itself, it would seem to indicate possible undercurrents of planning that maybe aren't quite right going on.

And I don't know by who. I -- no details, but I
just want to point out my concern.

First of all, the prison system has the ability to figure out where somebody is really from. If you've got somebody going into the pokey in Cochise County, and they're actually from Flagstaff, they should be assigned as a Flagstaff voter.

If, on the other hand, they're from California or New York or from Tijuana or from Honduras, they should be assigned as being those kinds of people, even though they're in the jail system.

That's actually how the U.S. military does it, with the obvious exception that the soldiers entering the U.S. military declare where they're from and what they are.

Here we would have the prison system do it instead, but that seems to be the best solution to this problem.

Now, there's a concern on the left, of course, of creating a district that appears to be minority on paper, but in reality is, well, not, not in terms of voting.

And, you know, some rural ranchers and such, with inordinate amounts of political power, for the people on the left, that's a problem. For the people on the right, there's a much bigger issue.

What happens several years from now when Juan from
Honduras goes in front of the three judge panel of the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco and says, hey, for purely citizen census purposes, I was included in Arizona's political process, you can't deport me.

Now, I don't think that they'll win that case, but I'm not willing to completely bet against it either.

So before we rope in the deportees in Eloy into our political concepts, maybe we ought to think about other implications of doing so.

Thank you very much, folks.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Alex Jacome from Sahuarita.

And followed by Mohur Sidhwa, Paul Hilts, Diane Lowell, and Pete Hershberger.

ALEX JACOME: Thank you.

Thank you, Chair Mathis, members of the Commission.

My name is Alex Jacome. That's A-L-E-X, J-A-C-O-M-E.

I'm from Sahuarita, Pima County, Legislative District 30, Congressional District 8.

I'm going to read this, if you don't mind, because I can't remember any more than 20 minutes.

My wife and I live in Sahuarita. We spoke at the
last meeting regarding communities of interest where we heard several people speak regarding competition.

Most felt that their voices were not being heard. But if this is the case, perhaps they should be more active in their respective political party where candidates for office are recruited, identified, and then nominated.

It is not up to the Redistricting Commission to ensure that suitable candidates are guaranteed.

Your task is difficult enough, when you consider what has to be balanced: population, demographics, political affiliation, ethnic makeup, and communities of interest, among others.

A concern to us is the balance of the political entities.

Every effort should be made to avoid favoring one party over another.

There is not much you can do to affect the dynamics that occur in partisan politics. But there is something that you can do to create balance. The creative word is independent.

Your choices of a consulting firm is a cause of consternation.

Its relationship with the administration and political campaigns is suspect. The fact that they had
little or no experience in mapping is troubling.

   Chicago politics are not the kind of examples that
we would like to see here.

   We do not need the kind of gerrymandering
prevalent in the Midwest and East.

   We hope that as part of your duties you will be
ever vigilant to avoid the kind of -- change page -- of
activity designed to skew political powers.

   As an elected official, I serve as chair of the
Pima County Joint Technical Education District, I am aware
of the acrimony, dirty tricks, and skullduggery that occur
in campaigns.

   It is unfortunate this happens.

   Please make every effort to avoid the temptation
to correct what some view as an intolerable situation.

   Concentrate on creating a competitive balance at
all cost and avoid gerrymandering.

   I will close by saying that I do not envy the task
for which you volunteered.

   You're crazy.

   I praise you for your commitment, dedication, and
willingness to take on this awesome responsibility.

   You'll never make everyone happy.

   All I ask is that you try to be fair, leave any
bias you have at the door, and keep in mind you serve as an
Independent Redistricting Commission and we all live in the
greatest state of the country.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ms. Sidhwa, if you don't
mind, we have another person that needs to speak next, if
that's okay.

Is Guy Keenan here? Representing self from Pima
County.

GUY KEENAN: Thanks. And first I'd like to thank
the Commission for what you're doing. It's a thankless
task, so let me counter that balance a little bit.

And I'd also urge you to be -- I know you're going
to be fair. I also would urge you to be vigorous in
defending your mandate to be independent of the political
process.

The voters of Arizona established your Commission
in 2000 to avoid legislative overbearing, and we really --
that's what the voters wanted and that's what we really
expect.

My own comments today are of a more personal
nature, having to do with the compactness of my own
particular district.

I live west of Swan Road, north of Skyline, in the
central foothills of Tucson.

Despite that location, our district, our location, our neighborhood has been put into the District 30.

We are the farthest north and the farthest west point in that district.

And as you know, LD 30 goes way out into southeastern Arizona. I think it goes to the Mexican border.

I really think that any community that's west of Swan or maybe even west of Wilmot, or at least Craycroft, in Tucson, in the central foothills, should be in the foothills district, which is LD 26.

And I don't think it's contiguous at all or compact at all to be placed in that.

Our next LD district meeting is in Corona de Tucson, which for me would be, you know, a good 35-mile trip, so it discourages participation in the process, in my own particular situation.

So, that's really what I wanted to talk about here and just give you guys some general encouragement.

It's a tough job.

I think the faster you get on with the process itself, the better you'll be.

And I believe that last time there were approximately nine years of legal fights after the
Commission came out with its map, and somehow the state survived.

So I wouldn't let that deter you. Do your independent job, and we'll all appreciate it.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mohur Sidhwa, representing self, from Tucson.

MOHUR SIDHWA: Everybody knows what I'm going to talk about.

I have been like a groupie following you guys from hearing to hearing, from meeting to meeting, and have gotten to know each of you, including the staffers.

And have been impressed by you, those on my side of the aisle as well as the other, because you do seem to care about what's going on and take your job seriously.

I do have some random thoughts about what I have heard and seen, but I certainly want to start with my favorite.

Competitiveness.

Competitiveness is a very -- is the foundation of American impulse, be it in business, be it in school, be it on the sports field.

How can somebody possibly tell us that that should
be the last possible criteria to choose, I don't know.

   We have to keep vigilant about protecting our
democracy on every level.

   When we give over the selection of candidates to
party insiders by settling the races in the primaries, it
really does hurt our system.

   The moderates on both sides of the aisle get shut
out.

   And as Senator Aboud said earlier, she doesn't
mind competition.

   It's okay to go toe to toe on the battlefield of
ideas. There's nothing wrong with that.

   And there our only protection really is
competitiveness for the most part, because we really do have
to develop a way of life, and that is competitiveness.

   I want to thank you for putting up with a lot of
the stuff you're putting up with.

   We've heard some of the accusations going back and
forth.

   This is just the beginning.

   Once the maps come out, the five of you will be
under even greater pressure.

   So whatever it takes, if that means working out,
eating more salads, drinking less coffee, going for walks,
whatever it takes, stay strong, because you -- people will
try to flatter you.

They will, you know, make you into showboats almost.

They will try to bully you. They will try every tactic under the sun.

But you are to remain independent. And that means sometimes you will go against the wishes of some people in the room.

So let them yell.

Sometimes it will go against my wishes, so let me yell. That's okay.

Once again, I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next speaker Paul Hilts, representing self, from Tucson.


And, Madam Chair and honored commissioners, thank you for coming. Thank you for allowing me the time to speak.

I want to talk about CD 8 and keeping it associated with the city of Tucson in the name of competitiveness in both districts and for the benefit of all their citizens.
This is especially true because I live in the north end of 28 in one of the safest Democratic precincts in the entire state.

We hardly ever see a Republican candidate.

The people who live straight east of the city, from Speedway to 22nd, are the ordinary, run of the mill, old-style Republicans, the city clerks, the firemen, the policemen, all Republican.

Only by balancing districts like mine against people like that can you get fair, competitive districts.

Jim Kolbe represented that group for 22 uninterrupted years, but he was famous for helping all his constituents regardless of party.

Gabrielle Giffords, she continues to win her elections, but she also has 11,000 cases settled for her constituents, the largest number for anyone in the U.S. congress to date.

(Applause.)

PAUL HILTS: That means no one wins in CD 8 without promising a lot to all the voters.

You don't get reelected without delivering a lot to all the voters.

It is therefore in both of our interests to keep CD 8 associated with the mass of the other voters in Tucson city. And with that, I thank you.
I also -- you know, you cannot, no matter what you do, give us fair elections.

You can only give us fair and competitive districts.

Then it's up to the parties to make good candidates and the voters to get informed and vote their conscience.

So I know from what I heard at that first meeting in Phoenix that you are doing your best to give us the best districts there are.

I thank you for your time. And thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Diane Lowell, representing self, from Pinal County LD 26.

And just to follow up, that will be Pete Hershberger, Carolyn Cox, Garland Cox, and Sam Almy.


Thank you for letting me speak today.

I'm from Saddlebrooke. And we are competitive, not just Republicans and Democrats, but I have many friends that are independent thinkers and independent voters.

So there is a real competitiveness in LD 26, and I
I would like to see that stay intact.

Since I'm representing myself, I never go to Maricopa County or north at all.

All my activities, my church, my social activities, et cetera, run from Saddlebrooke south to -- occasionally I go down to the casino for bridge tournaments, which draw 300 to 400 people, and the Tucson symphony, et cetera.

I support Al Melvin's comments and Terri Proud's comments. And I would like to see LD 26 stay intact.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Pete Hershberger, representing self.

You'll have to tell us which county or city you're from.

PETE HERSHBERGER: Madam Chair, members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to address you.

My name is Pete Hershberger, H-E-R-S-H-B-E-R-G-E-R.

And I am from Tucson. I'm a lifelong Republican. I served eight years in the Arizona House of Representatives. I come from a family with a strong Republican heritage.
And I'm here to support the Independent Redistricting Commission, the mission of the Commission, and the chair of the Commission.

I believe in civil discourse, and I'm deeply disappointed in the vicious partisan attacks on the Commission and on the chair.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Quiet, guys. Thanks.

PETE HERSHERGER: These politics of intimidation should be rejected by the citizens of Arizona.

The IRC should remain independent, free from such blatant partisanship.

I also know the chair of the Commission, Chairwoman Mathis, to be a dedicated public servant and to be a person of the highest integrity.

Keep the Commission independent. Arizona needs competitive districts, and it is through competitive districts we will get back to civil discourse.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Carolyn Cox from Green Ridge HOA.

If you could tell us the county that you're in.

CAROLYN COX: Yes. My name is Carolyn Cox,
And I am representing Green Ridge HOA on the east side of -- northeast side of Tucson.

I believe that Proposition 106 clearly states transparency and communities of interest are the most important criteria, and that's what the voters said, and the Commission must honor that.

LD 30 and CD 8 are already competitive.

We do have Frank Antenori in the state house and Gabrielle Giffords in congress.

My concern is keeping my community of interest together.

My husband and I retired to Tucson in 1998 in order to ride bicycles year round. Our community of interest goes from the top of Mount Lemmon, south to Vail, Sahuarita, Sierra Vista, and from the Rincon Mountains on the east to Harrison on the west, and Rita Ranch and Purple Heart Park.

The rural low density housing and roads with low traffic and biking shoulders are what we want to keep in our Legislative District 30.

We ride on Spanish Trail, love the farmers market, and riding to Saguaro Park East, the Forty-Niners Road and Redington Ranch area.

Our community of interest is the rural feel of
this area and the huge variety of riding areas with low traffic.

It is in our best interest to have legislators who understand the state and nation cannot spend themselves into bankruptcy as Europe has done. A welfare state saps ambition, creates self-defeating dependency. Bigger government is not the answer.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Garland Cox, representing self, from Pima County.

GARLAND COX: My name is Garland Cox, G-A-R-L-A-N-D, C-O-X.

I represent myself.

Proposition 106 clearly states that transparency and communities of interest are the most important criteria in what is -- and that is what the voters said.

The Commission must honor that.

LD 30 and CD 8 are already competitive in that we have Frank Antenori in the state house and we have Gabby Giffords in the congress.

I retired to Tucson, Arizona, in 1998 so that I could continue my passion for cycling on a year-round basis.

My community of interest is determined by this desire to cycle on a 12-month basis.
I am joined by at least 8,000 other cyclists in this community of interest.

As such I have located in the northeast quadrant of Tucson area near Mount Lemmon in proximity to Catalina Highway, both of which offer broad bikeways on both sides of the roadways.

My riding area extends from the top of Mount Lemmon on the north, down the Catalina Highway, and out along Houghton Road to Sahuarita Road, west to I-19, and south to Green Valley.

Then I ride along the Spanish Trail east to Colossal Cave, over to Vail, and on southeast to Sierra Vista and on to Cochise County sometimes.

I also include the Tanque Verde Road east to Redington Pass, the Forty-Niner Club Roads, east of Speedway, Broadway, and all points accessible by road in and around Saguaro Park East.

I also include the Rita Ranch area, and east and west along Redington Roads and Valencia Roads.

It is this variable terrain with its occasional shopping facilities and restaurants and convenient centers, low density housing, similar rural atmosphere, and lower traffic that I want to see maintained in our Legislative District 30.

The cohesion of this geographic cycling area and
its community of interest seems to me to be important and should be perpetuated as a continuum.

I also request that the city of Tucson be moved into Congressional District 7 to make Congressional District 8 a more rural district.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Sam Almy, representing self, from Tucson.

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

I have Susan Tanner, Shirley Cooney, Don Nevins, and Richard Tracy.

SAM ALMY: Hi, my name is Sam Almy. Last name is A-L-M-Y, and I am from Tucson.

I just wanted to come in front of you guys today to let you know, for what it's worth, I was the -- one of the winners of the legislative mapping contest that was held, and I was able to get ten competitive districts in the state.

And if I can get it, you guys can get it, because I'm sure you're much smarter than me.

One of the things I did learn while I was doing this mapping contest is that your job is hard. It is really hard.

I admire what you're doing.
You have a lot of people that will be not happy, but I'm sure that the vast majority will be happy with the maps that you get.

Second thing I wanted to talk about today is competitive districts and how that relates to communities of interest.

I live in Congressional District 8. I live in midtown Tucson.

I don't have very much in common with the elderly population of Green Valley or the ranchers in Cochise County.

My issues on the federal level are much different than they are, and yet I'm still lumped in that same community of interest.

What happens is because it is such -- they're such small communities of interest that are working in this congressional district, you get Gabrielle Giffords, who is one of the hardest working members of congress, and a lot of people may not agree with her politics, but what they will do is respect her and respect the job that her staff is doing in getting the veterans the metals they need, the seniors the Social Security checks that they need. And that's what I want.

That's what I want as my community of interest, a representative in government that is going to work for me,
that is going to change this country, have less partisan
debates, and really just sort of fix the country and the
state.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Susan
Tanner, representing self, from Oro Valley.

SUSAN TANNER: Thank you. Susan Tanner,

My thanks to the Commission for your excellent
work in holding all these public meetings.

I've lived in the Tucson area for over 30 years
and have been a resident of Oro Valley for 17 years.

I'm a registered Republican.

And my specific areas of concern are communities
of interest, competitiveness, and contiguous legislative and
congressional districts.

When I moved to Oro Valley in 1994, it was a very
small community.

I remember two grocery stores and a Circle K. And
I've seen this town grow into a vibrant community consisting
of families, professionals, educators, those in early or mid
career, and also retirees.

I've shared the growing pains of this community,
and I feel that we have a thriving town.

    I also feel very connected to my Oro Valley neighbors.

    I feel a strong affinity to incorporated areas of Pima County immediately to the south and to the west of Oro Valley, and I also feel a very strong affinity to Tucson and all it has to offer.

    I feel no affinity whatsoever to Saddlebrooke.

    My understanding is that about half of the Saddlebrooke residents are part-time residents in Arizona. And as a full-time resident I feel these people are more visitors than neighbors.

    I've no sense that we share a community of interest for the purposes of redistricting, and I don't feel that my interests are better served by including these Pinal County voters in my district.

    I believe that future districts can and should follow the county boundary without adversely impacting the competitiveness criteria.

    I also feel that Marana does not form a community of interest with me in Oro Valley. It's more focused on growth and development for themselves.

    I've seen an article that I submitted that indicates that a part of Marana's strategy to become an economic power house is to partner with Pinal County
officials and their business interests.

I suggest that to address contiguous and community of interest criteria the Commission should consider running the district boundary along that Pima County, Pinal County line, eliminating the little pimple at Saddlebrooke, and to the boundaries that may encompass the town of Marana.

So thanks again for your work.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Shirley Cooney, representing self, from Pima.

SHIRLEY COONEY: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Shirley Cooney, S-H-I-R-L-E-Y, Cooney, C-O-O-N-E-Y.

My grandparents were married in Tucson in 1898. My father was born in Tucson. I was born in Tucson. And even though after I married a University of Arizona graduate, we lived overseas most of those years. And all those years, all I could dream of was coming back to Tucson.

Anyway, 20 years ago we did, and here I've been ever since. And it's wonderful. I love Tucson.

I'm just so sorry that there are five people sitting in front of me and yet there's a cloud over your heads.

It distresses me no end to think that there will be partiality in the outcome of this redistricting, because I want to see Tucson and I want to see all of Arizona as
having the best chance to be fair and may I use the word balanced voting situation possible.

I live in the southern part of LD 26, so I have a foot in both Tucson and in the rest of LD 26.

I have friends who live in Saddlebrooke, Marana. Actually I have friends sprinkled throughout the whole LD.

And I think that it should be maintained as it is, because it is very balanced. I mean, we slide back and forward between Democrat and Republican as far as our representatives are concerned, our senators.

And it is a cohesive group.

Saddlebrooke is very important.

I have so many friends that go to church in -- near where I live, which is in the southern part of LD 26. We just, we just have a good rapport with the whole area.

Whether they're Democrats, Republicans, or Independents, we're a cohesive group, and we get along very well.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Don Nevins, representing Men of the Bean, from Tucson.

DON NEVINS: Our daily coffee club.

I'd like to preface my remarks to say I support our good senator Al Melvin's views heartily.

I wrote a letter to the chair, and I felt -- after the June 30th meeting, and I had some observations that I hoped would prove useful. Some of them are pretty hard to swallow, but I also have an apology in there to the chair, a personal one.

To the Honorable Chair of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Committee Colleen Mathis from Don Nevins.

You and your committee, at least the two Democrats, took a pounding today.

This is dated June 30th.

From some 60-plus of the 100-plus public seeking to speak out, only four of which appeared even modestly supportive.

It was roundly deserved for the following reasons. You did not keep the public in the loop before you acted on the Strategic Telemetry mapping company decision. It had the appearance of an extremely biased choice, and for a first year Yale student incurred a totally predictable public result.

For which I'm sorry.

You responded with a weak defense, pointing fingers, well, this is the best we had or the mapping
company does what we instruct, to the charges laid out by
the public during the three hours.

        Patently, without an independent audit, you do not
know what the mapping company programs into their work.

        You allowed Jose Herrera in his response to insult
the public you all work for, without rebuking him and
apologizing to the assembled public.

        I disagree with the committee's choice of a
mapping company for a sound reason, which Mr. Herrera, like
the callow youth he is, neglected to inquire.

        His lack of inquiry does not mean I am smoking
something.

        I hope his experience in smoking something is not
with the Arizona Society of CPAs for whom he works.

        At 73 and a CPA, retired, with a long professional
history with major corporations, I have never insulted those
who pay my salary.

        I apologize to you for immediately walking out. I
have no patience with young fools who insult me.

        Like Julius Caesar's wife, your choice needed to
be above reproach.

        I heard the -- one comment, one last. This was
prescient.

        I wish you luck, but you now appear to have a job
of herding cats with precious little support.
I truly hope you will not go down in history for starting a legal nightmare for the Arizona taxpayers to cope with.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next speaker is Richard Tracy, who is chair ad hoc committee for fair redistricting from Pima, Oro Valley.

And the next four will be Dee Pfeiffer, Barbara Cain, Parralee Schneider, and Walt Stephenson.

RICHARD TRACY: Good afternoon, chair, committee.

I am truly an Independent. I'm not a Democratic shill, nor a Tea Party member.

I represent an ad hoc committee of like-minded voters from LD 8 -- I mean from LD 26 and CD 8.

And I agree with the previous speakers in keeping those as together as possible.

I grew up in Chicago, and as a youngster I was involved in anti-administration faction.

We were about 100 in a city of three million at a hotbed of anti-administration view and activity.

We were redistricting out of emerging power and position of power and influence, so I know what redistricting can do. And I am very much concerned about how this mapping consultant was chosen.
After that, I became a Democratic precinct captain for 18 years in the most conservative Democratic congressional district in the state.

I really don't want Saddlebrooke and Oro Valley with a northwest community can be divided up.

If you, the chair and consultant, cannot be fair and independent, you should resign. That's my, that's my view.

I think the district talking about prisoners and whether or not they vote or have the right to vote or should have the right to vote, my feeling is the district should be drawn by interpolating the number of registered voters into the state's population and then dividing that by the number of new congressional districts, not by who is illegal in this country, or in this state, or in one legislative district.

I don't think they have the right to vote. I think they shouldn't be counted as voters. I think voting is a privilege for us, the citizens of the state and the citizens of the United States.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Dee Pfeiffer, representing self, from Vail.
DEE PFEIFFER: Thank you. Dee, D-E-E, Pfeiffer, P-F-E-I-F-F-E-R. And I'm from Vail, LD 30 and CD 8.

I'm here tonight or I'm here today to speak on behalf of myself and my husband.

I own a small business in Vail. And prior to October 8th, it was a very successful business. After that, we all know what happened. My business failed tremendously.

And I'm telling you that because it has given me a chance, given me a chance recently, but it gave me a chance to get involved in the political arena.

And I was very closed eyed before and I didn't realize how much the political process would have an effect on me and my business.

When I started investigating things and hearing things about some of the organizations, such as ACORN and SEIU and things like that, I was appalled, and decided to get involved.

I'm a Republican.

And one of the gentlemen here earlier said, where have the Republicans been, why don't they get involved.

Well, we're here, and we're going to be involved through this next election.

I want to say that I hope this Commission will cooperate with the investigation that's ongoing by the
Attorney General Tom Horne and resolve the cloud, as someone already mentioned, that's hanging over the Commission.

Those who choose to demand protection from the legal process, well, that speaks volumes and needs to be taken care of right now.

Get it done, get it done quickly, and move on.
Give Arizona a transparent process and a fair redistricting result.

I am glad that your list of priorities, I think in the handout it's called guidelines, does give greater weight to communities of interest before competitiveness.

And I encourage you as you direct the mapping company to draw the lines to give extreme weight to our communities of interest.

And in particular, allow CD 8 and LD 30 to remain intact.

In some of the talks I've heard that there is people who want to move Rita Ranch out of CD 8, and I think that would be a great mistake.

The only other comment that I have is that after coming to several meetings and listening to people about the border cities, I think it may be better to have the border represented by more representatives rather than less. We need all the help we can get to focus on the border.
situation there at the border.

    I thank you for your service, and I hope the results are fair and in the best interest of all of Arizona. Thank you.

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

    (Applause.)

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Barbara Cain, from Pima.


    I'm formerly from Cochise County. I lived out in the country and loved it.

    And my community of interest just happened to be whoever lived up and down the creek where I lived.

    And now I live in Tucson, and I have an expanded community of interest.

    But basically the two communities are related.

    Because we're U.S. citizens, and most of us, I think, are very proud that we're here in Tucson, that we're here in Arizona.

    And that should be, what would you say, the glue that binds us together.

    I'm very interested in competitiveness.

    I'm a former teacher. Twenty-seven years of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders.
And believe me, if you let two boys pick their team, they're not going to be competitive.

And so I found a number of different little techniques to seeing that there was -- those kids that never got chosen were still on a team.

And the kids didn't like it always.

But, you know what, it's about opportunity, and occasionally we'd have a surprise.

I would like to say in CD 8 I was under Jim Kolbe. And he was an active representative. Not my party. I'm a Democrat. But he did things for us.

And now with Gabby Giffords in CD 8, it's the same story.

Since she was injured in January, they've handled over 1,000 cases, her staff, and following exactly the way she would want them handled.

And I feel that we, everybody in CD 8, no matter what their church or their shopping interests are, are part of a community of interest.

And your job is to see that it's competitive, that everybody gets a fair shake.

And I thank you for your service, and I agree with Mr. Jacome. You must be crazy to have volunteered.

I tried it on the computer. I'm not terribly computer savvy. You wouldn't have liked the districts that
I came up with.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker -- thank you. Our next speaker is Parralee Schneider, representing self, from Pima County.


And I live in eastern Pima County, Legislative District 30.

My district is now configured -- it's a combination of rural-type communities with one half acre homesites to over 3.3 acre suburban ranch lots to established subdivisions and even to two small towns.

My neighbors and friends walk or ride the arroyos, hike into the low foothills, bike along the back roads, and then every now and then they go into town.

Our kids belong to the 4-H and spend Sundays in the churches within our ZIP codes.

Our school districts are small, and the parents get involved, whether it is in Tanque Verde district, Vail, or Sahuarita.

This district provides us with what some may call a quiet life. We like not living in incorporated Tucson for the most part.

My neighbors step up when something needs to be
done, like making sure the zoning conforms to the community
style or joining in sometimes forming clubs and non-profits
to address the needs of far eastern Pima County.

We find simpatico along the Houghton corridor, out
on Spanish Trail, across Rita Road into Green Valley, and
down the Sonora Highway.

There are families living here who take care of
business and appreciate an elected official who reflects
that this is the way we want to be governed.

I ask the Independent Redistricting Commission to
just moderately tweak our district lines, and let us remain
who we are now and for the next ten years.

We live this life because we want this community
for the children, the grandchildren, our families, and our
friends.

Thank you so much for our time and your attention.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Walt Stephenson, chairman
LD 28, from Pima County.

WALT STEPHENSON: Thank you.

Earlier Senator Aboud spoke to a more competitive
LD 28.

It is my job and my wish to make that come true.

I'm hoping that you can meet your guidelines
simply by taking the eastern boundary of LD 28 and moving it
to Houghton Road, taking our western boundaries of LD 28 and
moving it east to an area that will balance the district so
it is competitive.

I think it's imperative that you look at the
Independent vote and not just Republican and the Democrat
also.

I'm not hearing anybody here starting to talk
about the Independents.

I think they're a tremendous force, and I think
it's something that you really need to take a look at as
you're redistricting.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

It's 2:40, and we're going to just take a few
minute recess for our court reporter to give him a break.

So the time is 2:40, and we'll step out into
recess or maybe -- we'll take five minutes.

Thank you.

(Brief recess taken.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. If everyone could take
a seat.

The time is 3:00 p.m. We'll enter back into
public session.

Since we've got so many -- so much input today,
which is fabulous, and more speakers want to speak, we'll try to keep moving through it as efficiently as possible.

However, if there are some of you who would like to address us but just can't wait until your name is called, please remember there is a blue sheet you can fill out and supply your input on that in a written way. And then we will -- that still is part of the public record. So it's no different than speaking here at the podium, except you aren't speaking at the podium. Feel free to do that if you need to leave.

If you would let someone know if you are leaving so that we'll know that we won't -- that you won't be speaking up here at the podium, that would be great.

Our next four speakers will be Steven Nygren, we've got Linda Rosenthal, Sherese Steffens, and Madeleine Wachter, are our next four.

STEVEN NYGREN: That means I'm next.

I'm Steven Nygren. It's Steven with a V. Nygren is N-Y-G-R-E-N.

And I come from the east side of Tucson, and I would like to talk to you guys today.

First of all, I'd like to thank the rest of Tucson for showing up. I'm glad to see who's here, and I appreciate what's been said by my fellow constituents.

I believe that the redistricting for the
congressional districts needs to be looked at in a way that has not been discussed today. I think we need three or four districts along the border.

I believe that the Democrats have frozen us out for representation on the issues very pressing to the economy and to our nation.

I think that we do need to split Tucson up in any sort of a district, seems to be that we're either east, west, north or south.

I believe that the community of interests are like bases. The DM and Fort Huachuca work together, not on the bases in southern Arizona area.

I also believe that Phoenix is an isolation group and that they probably need to stay in their own district.

And also I am very upset when I look at the current map to see the incredible threading that was done to put the Indian nation of influence together.

I believe that those people need to realize that they are Americans first. I'm sorry for the many wars that they have lost, but I think it's time for them to join the United States of America and to be citizens.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Linda
Rosenthal, representing CCRS. So if you can tell us what that stands for. And from Tucson.

LINDA ROSENTHAL: It's just communities of interest.

What I'm going to be talking about is my community. I live on the east side at Speedway and Harrison, lived there since '73 with my husband.

We enjoy the views of the Rincons, Catalinas. And our children attended Wrightstown Elementary, Ridley, and Saguaro High School. And our grandchildren are now currently attending there.

We enjoy the hiking, biking trails that are in that area. We live right behind the Tanque Verde Wash, and have always enjoyed that.

Okay.

I like -- I volunteer at my grandson's schools. I enjoy the activities.

I'm a retired school teacher.

So I like to contribute to the community and give the educational opportunities to grandchildren and neighbors.

Shopping centers are conveniently located.

We have access to doctors and dentists and medical labs without having to go into town.

The combination of rural and neighborhood
activities is unique to the east side of Tucson. We have many horse properties, but also have many developments within the rural areas.

So I am a member of the CCRS group, which has been involved in the redistricting.

I feel it is important that all new boundaries reflect a nonpartisan approach to the new congressional and legislative districts.

We currently have a diversity that reflects the varied views in our district.

The natural geographic boundaries currently within the district provide a non-political approach to prevent any outside of gerrymandering.

We need to provide our state with a transparent process to ensure the citizens an unbiased decision regarding the new congressional and legislative districts.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Sherese Steffens, representing self, from Pima.

SHERESE STEFFENS: Hi. My name is Sherese Steffens, S-H-E-R-E-S-E, S-T-E-F-F-E-N-S.

I have been a realtor in southern Arizona since 1998.
I would like to talk to you about the geographical boundaries in southern Arizona and how they affect the communities of Saddlebrooke, Dove Mountain, and Marana.

All of these areas are in the north -- northern part of southern Arizona and should be included in the same legislative and congressional districts.

The Catalina Mountains border Oro Valley and Saddlebrooke on the east.

The Tortolita Mountain Range borders Dove Mountain and Oro Valley on the north.

Saddlebrooke is approximately five miles north of Oro Valley, and Dove Mountain is approximately five miles to the west of Oro Valley.

As a realtor working in the area when both Saddlebrooke and Dove Mountain were started, I can tell you neither one would have been built if Oro Valley had not been close enough to supply the amenities that both of these communities need.

They include the medical and hospital, Oro Valley Hospital, that Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, and Dove Mountain go to.

They go there for their dentists. They go for their shopping, their entertainment.

The Oro Valley marketplace has a theatre and restaurants.
And as a realtor in 1998 when Saddlebrooke was first started, and Dove Mountain later than that, people did not buy there unless they could get to a shopping center, a Fry's, a Wal-Mart, within five to ten minutes.

So that's just my input is that it is a community of interest.

It is contiguous, all the way over to Marana. As Senator Melvin pointed out, there is a concerted effort between the town of Marana and the town of Oro Valley along the Tangerine Road. They have plans to make that, I think, into a four-lane or a six-lane transportation corridor.

And it will be a contiguous shopping centers, job creation.

There's already several subdivisions along there. It encompasses high density subdivisions, apartments, all the way through to 3.3-acre homesites, RH zoning 5-acre homesites and 10-acre homesites, and larger acreage, all the way up against the Tortolitas.

So it's a large contiguous area all the way across from Oracle Road to I-10, which includes Marana and Dove Mountain, so they're contiguous and they should be included in the same political legislative districts.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
Our next speaker is Madeleine Wachter. She'll be followed by Ronald Cohen, Christine Bauserman, Karen Rossmann.


I'm speaking today on behalf of the board of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, which is a statewide nonpartisan political group that supports the activities of Planned Parenthood Arizona.

Planned Parenthood has been providing medical services and counseling to Arizonans for more than 75 years, and we have 14 health centers in 11 cities across the state. More than 50,000 women and men have been served just this past year. Over 80 percent of the patients we serve received preventative health care, including life saving cancer screening, STD screenings and treatment, and birth control.

And we are often the only health care provider available for many of our clients.

And as a health care provider, Planned Parenthood regularly participates in the legislative process on health care issues. And we have witnessed firsthand the deterioration of civic dialogue in the state legislative process. Bipartisanship is almost nonexistent.

And to us at least part of the problem stems from
Arizona's lack of competitive legislative districts.

As a result of this lack of competition, legislative races are too often decided in the primaries dominated by the more extreme elements within each of the major parties. And when legislative races are decided in primaries, it obviously eliminates the effectiveness of the purpose of general elections and also results in lower turnout.

And we believe low voter turnout undermines the Democratic process.

Competitive districts and voter turnout go hand in hand.

If we have more districts with balanced population, a larger number of voters will be motivated to participate in Arizona's electoral process.

We recognize that to avoid discrimination this Commission has a legal obligation to respect and to maintain minority majority districts.

However, as you know, this legal obligation is only one of the controlling factors in this Commission's work, and if weighted too heavily, it can lead to districts that are disproportionately Democratic, large D Democratic. And then in turn result in the creation of other districts that are disproportionately Republican.

Polarized districts are not in the best interest
of Arizona. We need fewer safe seats, more competitive seats.

Thank you for your service, and thank you for holding these open meetings in the process that was established a decade ago by the electorate.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Ronald Cohen from Pima County.

RONALD COHEN: Hi. My name is Ronald Cohen, C-O-H-E-N.

First thing I'd like to say is that we should retain the two border districts to protect those people who live on the border from the influence of those to the north not living on the border. This keeps the population, which are mostly ranchers, from having their voice deleted.

Secondly, keep the congressional districts along county borders. Currently two precincts in Pinal County are in either District 8 or 9, and really should be with the rest of Pinal County as most of their concerns are located in Pinal County.

Whether they shop in Pima County or go to physicians or go to church, politically they belong in the county that they live in.

That's the important thing.

I wish to thank the members of the Redistricting
Commission on their hard work and time spent on this massive project and also for the work in difficult decisions they will deal with in the future.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Christine Bauserman, from Citizens for Common Sense Redistricting, from Pima County.

CHRISTINE BAUSERMAN: Hi.

I have maps -- don't start my time yet. I'm going to talk really fast.

I have maps to submit.

Tucson city is too large for one CD area, and so is Pima County which wraps all the way around it.

CD 8 needs to be Cochise County, eastern Pima County, and Tucson.

CD 7 needs to keep the U of A.

Then if you move that line north just to redraw, you've made the numbers work.

LD 30 is defined by the master community plans of Tanque Verde, Vail, Rita Ranch, Sierra Vista, Sahuarita, Benson, Sabino Canyon Road, the wash or the wash, and the borders, all the way around I-19.

And I'd like to address the two commissioners, Herrera and Stertz, have asked for definitions of competitiveness and independent.
CD 8 defines competitiveness and independence.

And 2000 we had Kolbe, and in '2 we had Kolbe, in '4 we had Kolbe, and in '6 we got Giffords with double digits.

And that was at a time in the national level the Democrats took back over the house, and she got voted in.

In '08 she won with double digits. In '10 she won again, again, a very low number, for an unknown person, but that was when the Republicans took back over.

So this all to me is because of our large number of Independents.

Arizona is an Independent state. It's a third of our vote.

We seem to vote incumbent. Look at John McCain. He's still in there.

Unless you're under the age of 25, if you're Independent you were once a Republican or Democrat in most cases.

And most are Independents because they're tired of partisan politics.

Sitting and listening to all these competitive district requests to me sounds like they're asking you to be a partisan politic, and it's blatant gerrymandering.

Our large Independent number prevents you from defining competitive districts because you don't have a
gauge of how we're going to vote, especially in Arizona.

In CD 8, I live there. They vote on the issues all the time. They pride themselves on listening to both sides. And, you know, that's how they live out there. That's how a lot of Arizona is.

I moved into the Tanque Verde area due to the school districts, the 1.3-acre lots and lifestyle. After 20 years that I have been there, I still can't tell you if my neighbors are a Republican or Democrat. And local issues, I don't think the Republican approved of the sign on their yard.

So, hope that helps.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

CHRISTINE BAUSERMAN: Here are my maps.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If you want to give those to Mr. Bladine.

CHRISTINE BAUSERMAN: I have done many maps. I like to play around with this stuff.

It is so easy to get three or four border districts, very doable.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Karen Rossmann from Casas Adobes.

I'll go ahead and read the four. Donna Wangler, Francie Merryman, Harry Laughman, I think, and Barbara
Tellman.

KAREN ROSSMANN: Hello.

Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Karen, with a K. My married name is Rossmann, R-O-S-S-M-A-N-N.

And I'm from northwest Tucson where I've lived for 11 years.

I'm here today to request that my communities of interest in the area of northwest Tucson be kept together.

I live in Casa Roma Estates in Casas Adobes, and am a member of the La Canada Magee Neighborhood Association and Mountain Vista Fire District.

My community is north of the Rillito River, west of Craycroft, east of Silverbell, and includes the Oracle Corridor from Saddlebrooke south.

Our community banded together for the road widening of La Canada, a project that started back in 2008 and still continues.

We didn't get the sound barriers that we petitioned the County for, but the project was a major unifier for our community and residents in the area.

We're also the community, the neighborhood, with the tragic shooting of January 8th, another major unifier as was evidenced last month when we had a six-month memoriam at the Safeway where the shooting of Gabrielle Giffords took place.
The Rillito River must be a very good natural boundary that I don't cross very often.

Personally I can count on both of my hands the number of times I've gone across south of the Rillito River, and one of those times is today this year.

Otherwise, all of my shopping, medical services are in the northwest between La Encantada and I-10 at the Oracle corridor.

I'm also a business owner.

And I own a real estate company and a pest control company, and have most of my clients in the same area.

I recently started a 501c3 that plans on working with the Saddlebrooke outreach -- community outreach group to provide math and reading tutors to schools north of Saddlebrooke in the San Manuel, Oracle, and Catalina schools.

As for competitiveness, we are currently competitive, as has been mentioned before today, in our congressional and legislative districts.

In the past ten years we've had both Republican and Democrat congressional representation, and our LD 26 has elected both Democrats and Republicans in alternate years.

I've been a registered Independent all my life until very recently and never felt underrepresented.

I worked on Gabby Giffords' campaign in 2006, and
I also helped Nancy Young Wright in 2008.

When my elected officials overextended my tax burden -- excuse me, I'm almost finished -- and created policies that did not represent my goals, I worked equally hard to unelect them.

My community is similar to the Tortolita, Oro Valley, Marana, Catalina Foothills, and the town of Catalina, Oracle, and Saddlebrooke.

My Saddlebrooke friends are much closer to northwest Tucson than they are to anything in Pinal County.

My purpose today is to request that you keep our community together.

We don't belong with Tucson, and we do belong with Saddlebrooke.

We urge the Commission to keep our northwest community united.

I also heard coming out here today that the commissioners have agreed to give testimony to the attorney general. And I do hope that's true. I heard on Monday that you're going to do that.

I thank you.

I brought maps and demographics for my area, and I'll leave that with you today.

Where do I leave them?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: With Mr. Bladine over there.
Or Buck will take it.

Thank you.

Donna Wangler, Pima County, Democratic party, LD 28.

DONNA WANGLER: Can somebody put the mic?

I thank you for your work, commissioners. It's not easy.


And I hate to say, my family came to Tucson when I was younger. My brother died in 2008. He's a graduate of Salpointe, and worked for 40 years in television. He got sick from his job.

My mother died last year.

I just found my sister died in February, away at Cambridge, she moved back there. She lived in Chicago for years. She died in February, and I found out in May.

I think there's one thing in my neighborhood that I don't like.

And I hate to say, they came through across the border. I see drugs in my neighborhood. I came home the other night. There was a paddy wagon police car, I asked, across the way.

I hate to say, it used to be a nice place, Morris
Pardee (phonetic) used to lived there, across from Quik Mart, Country Club and Kleindale. It's now got drugs in there.

And I don't know what to do.

I feel like I'm on my own.

I've been a precinct committeeman, and I see people attacking me for what? I work hard in this community.

You don't even know who I am. I was a teacher. I was in ministry for 29 years. I did politics for 25 years.

I lost my gallbladder doing something for the party. Don't even know about it.

I've seen a lot of things that I've done, and I worked hard. I've been told off. I've been attacked.

I came in this room, told me I couldn't sit here.

This is my community.

I'm the last of my family.

I'm proud of Tucson, but I can't be attacked.

But both parties have got to realize where I live. We the neighbors are always proud of having a parade there.

I have the racquet club. They're making a new lodge down there.

I see people going into the Quik Marts getting the things, I think that's where they're getting their drinking from.
I do have families. I've had college people. I've had a lot of senior citizens.
I'd like to see my community proud again. Tucson shouldn't have this going on.
I don't mind people coming here to work and getting new jobs, but they don't have to bring their drugs and their drinking to my neighborhood.
One time I asked, a few years ago, I think they were doing a sanctuary movement.
I'm telling you the truth this went on.
I called the police. A police woman and a Mexican woman showed up and told me off. My mother was alive then.
They wouldn't do a thing. Okay? I'm telling you the truth.
This has got to stop. I'm thinking of moving from here. I don't want to be there any more. I'm telling the truth.
I see things going on that I don't know what to do.
Please, I mean, my border is -- I'm going to say there's illegals there. I've got a lot mobile homes in that area. I've got housing. I've got apartments.
I see this one area, I do have a two Section 8s, one behind my neighbor. One time she's even said to me --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.
DONNA WANGLER: I'm sorry. She -- I just want to add this. My neighbor said that she's proud that a friend of theirs was a drug addict.

I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Francie Merryman from Tucson.


I've been a resident of Ward 6 and the city of Tucson for 39 years, and I voted in every election since I moved here.

I'd like to reinforce what Pete Hershberger said. You all are doing an incredible job, and I thank you for your volunteering to do this for us for the next ten years, I think you signed up for. You're nuts.

Probably excited about it.

I think that the conditions under which you work are extremely difficult, and I thank you for trying very hard.

I don't believe that because someone disagrees with my perspective they are biased in favor of the other side.

I read everything from all parts of the spectrum to get hopefully to some semblance of truth, because I think everyone puts out propaganda, and I think if we only read
one side we don't really know what's the truth and what's going on.

I think that in a state where we have 34 percent Republicans, 32 percent Independents, and 31 percent Democrats, when we end up with a state legislature that's two thirds majority to one side, we don't have very balanced competitive districts.

And I think going forward we need to do that.

I would rather see us have nonpartisan election completely at all levels up through U.S. Senate so that we have much more efficient, effective government, as we do in all our municipalities in the state with the exception of Tucson. And they function much better because we come more to the center and we don't leave out a lot of voices. As Senator Aboud said, where you have very skewed districts, you don't have to listen to the other people in your district who may have a different perspective, and it may skew your point of view.

With respect to Senator Proud's comments regarding having the state legislature take back over this redistricting process, we the citizens of Arizona voted overwhelmingly before the last census in 2000 to have it become an Independent Redistricting Commission because we weren't happy with the way legislature had done it in the past.
And when we have a Gallup poll that shows only 10 percent of the citizens in Arizona believe the legislature is doing a good job, I certainly do not want to see this Commission turned back to them.

I would like you all to try your hardest in spite of the ad hominem attacks and everything else that's coming at you to give us fair, competitive, balanced districts.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Harry Laughran? I'm sorry. I can't read your writing. I'm butchering that.

From Tucson.

It looks like it's L-A-U-G-H-R-A-N.

We'll call his name later and see if maybe he just stepped out.

Barbara Tellman is our next speaker.

And the next few after Barbara will be Marilyn Zerull, Maddy Urken, Geri Ottoboni, and Frank Bergen.

BARBARA TELLMAN: Barbara Tellman, T-E-L-M-A-N.

I live in boundaries of 27, 28, and 29. And I won't be mad at you if you put me in any one of those districts.

I have listened to both Tuesday night and tonight, a lot of confusion about what is a community of interest.
I heard it defined as where I shop, where I bicycle, newspaper coverage. And I heard just all kinds of different ideas for community of interest.

I've heard many different concepts of what is a community of interest, and I think it's not well defined in the law, and I think there's confusion.

Is it a bicycle route? A lifestyle? Newspaper coverage area?

What about my friend from Catalina, whose community of interest, you might say, is a second amendment, rugged individual lifestyle, and they feel threatened by the invasions from the north and from the south down the road from Oro Valley.

I think we need a definition, and I would also like to see a legal opinion on whether the order in which the criteria are listed in the law is the same as a priority.

I think we need to really balance all of these different ones.

On Tuesday I brought up the subject of prisoners. And I'm happy to tell you that I have a solution.

There are something like 45 to 50,000 prisoners in Arizona that the census counts as residents of the Arizona prison in which they live, in spite of the fact that the Arizona Constitution says the prisoners do not lose their
place of residence by virtue of being in prison.

   This is the law you operate under, and there are some ways around it.

   Furthermore, many of the prisons have a disproportionately large number of minority population for various unfortunate reasons, and so not only are your districts distorted in terms of total population, but they may be distorted in terms of minorities.

   For example, in Florence, only one tenth of the population is registered to vote.

   Is this because of apathy? No, it's because 65 percent of the people in that area are in prison and are not legally allowed to vote.

   So, my remedies, as long as you have to live with the law and the prisoners have to live in the prison, number one, minimize the number of prisons in any one LD, ideally no more than one per LD.

   The prisons in Eloy and Marana should be in separate districts, made easy by the fact that the county line separates them.

   Florence should not share an LD with any other prison.

   If the Colorado River district is drawn, the prison in Kingman and San Luis should not both be included, especially since both have a high percentage of Mexican
Where this doesn't work, you can just add some more people to a district and stay within your large allotted margin of deviation.

For example, you can take the Florence prison and just had add another 11,000 people to that congressional district without going beyond the standard deviation.

This will work less well in the legislative districts, but I have maps to submit.

Tom Machado gave you some maps of his draft district, and I overlaid the prisons onto those maps to show you that it wouldn't do much --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Give that to Mr. Bladine.

Thank you very much, Ms. Tellman.

Our next speaker is Marilyn Zerull, representing self, from Oro Valley.

MARILYN ZERULL: My name is Marilyn Zerull, spelled M-A-R-I-L-Y-N, Z-E-R-U-L-L.

And my community of interest is in Oro Valley. I have many friends in Saddlebrooke, and I attend clubs there as well.

And Saddlebrooke residents recognize Oro Valley interests in turn. So I feel that Oro Valley and Saddlebrooke need to be kept together.
I also want to address competitiveness.

In 2008 I ran for the Arizona House of Representatives, and lost to Nancy Young Wright, a Democrat.

I had walked five days a week for seven months, but that wasn't the best year for Republicans.

Now that seat is being held by a Republican because of the state of the economy. The economy does influence how people vote regardless of their party affiliation.

This shows that my community of interest is also a competitive district, where people vote the issues and not necessarily the party.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next few speakers, Maddy Urken, Geri Ottoboni, Frank Bergen, and Frank Olivieri.

So, if we can get Maddy Urken, from -- representing self, from Sahuarita.


Thank you very much for undertaking this very important topic.

This is the second meeting I've attended in these hearings, and I've heard numerous suggestions for communities of interest. As mentioned by at least two
speakers today, the suggestions include bicycle routes, shopping venues, and the location of family and friends.

Some of the suggestions I heard contain implicit definitions for criteria.

I assume that at some point you will come up with an explicit working definition or set of criteria for what does it mean to be a community of interest.

The same holds true for the criteria of competitiveness.

When those are drafted, I ask that you post them on your excellent website, for which I thank you. It's really a wonderful, wonderful resource. So that the public can understand your reasoning as you go about the difficult task of drawing fair maps of legislative and congressional districts.

Without these explicit definitions, we simply have no way of understanding why you drew a line in one place rather than another.

So thank you very much for your time and your work.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Geri Ottoboni from Rancho Vistoso HOA in Pima County.

GERI OTTOBONI: Yes, my name Geri Ottoboni.

That's G-E-R-I, O-T-T-O-B-O-N-I.
I understand why some Democrats are upset with the results of the 2010 elections.

That they forget that when they were in the majority party in the senate and the house before the economy tanked, they continued their spending habits even though the income was diminishing through lack of jobs, businesses going out of business.

They did not know how to cut back.

Many households in Arizona had to cut back, and we expect our politicians to do the same.

For example, a citizen making $50 an hour, losing their job and having to acquire one at $6 an hour, their expensive spending habits had to stop and they have to pull in their belts and live by their means.

Even fiscally responsible Democrat, Independent, and no party individuals would Republicans in 2010 because they could see the Democrats were not able to curb their spending habits.

I know this because it is public record and I walked door to door speaking to thousands of people who told me. On the same street you have Democrats, Independents, no party, and Republicans, all living in the same neighborhood because of schools, jobs, shopping, doctors, et cetera.

Oro Valley, have you seen, has signs. It says live within your means. These signs were put up by
Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

As each year's budget came forth, there was less and less money to spend for various programs, but the programs kept increasing and the debts kept getting higher and higher.

The Republicans promised to cut spending, and because the residents had enough they voted the Republicans into office in 2010.

Arizona over the years has had competitive districts which would include communities of interest in the communities of, from my experience walking again, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, and no party.

Registered voters who all felt that spending had to stop.

It was that reason that the 2010 elections were so devastating to the Democrats.

It was not because the districts were not competitive.

Also with school budgets being cut, there are ways to help the schools.

Tax credits to the school of your choice where you get a tax deduction. Donating to the school of your choice, or even volunteering if you have the time. This is a great help to the teachers. I did it for my grandson's kindergarten class, and I intend to do it again this year.
I received -- I received a notice from my grandson's school. There was going to be 31.75 children in my grandson's class.

I was wondering where they are going to find that one .75 child.

Arizona LD 5, LD 10, LD 11, 17, 20, and southern Arizona districts 23, 24, 25, and 26 all have Democrats and Republicans since the last census. But in 2010 both Democrats were thrown out. Now the Democrats are yelling because it's not competitive --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.

GERI OTTOBONI: -- district, and it is not true.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.

GERI OTTOBONI: The people spoke in 2010, and the Democrats lost, and it's just that simple.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Frank Bergen, followed by Frank Olivieri, Vicki Davis, and Arthur Nicolet.

Frank Bergen from Tanque Verde Valley Democrats, Tucson.


Thank you, Madam Chairman and members of the
Commission.

   And thank you for all of you behind me who have stayed around through a long afternoon.

   I've heard an awful lot, some of it almost amusing, and some of it enough to make me angry if I were still prone to becoming angry.

   But one of the things that I heard that I'd liked to address is the competitive nature of Legislative District 30.

   I have lived approximately at the intersection of Houghton Road and Catalina Highway since late 1995.

   Since the results of the redistricting, not a Democrat has been elected in Legislative District 30.

   It has been difficult for Democrats to put up a full slate of candidates. Indeed, they have not ever had three candidates in any of the five election cycles.

   I think that is an indication that this district is not terribly competitive.

   And it's not because we don't work, because I have pounded on more doors in Legislative District 30 than I like to think.

   The last Commission did a pretty good job in redistricting and in increasing the number of congressional seats.

   We've gone from two and six to six and two, and
back and forth in the number of representatives in congress.

But, in the state legislature, with Republicans getting 57 percent of the vote in 2010, they took 70 percent of the seats in the senate and 6 -- and 66 and two thirds percent in the house.

Now, somehow something is out of balance.

In 2010 there were 17 districts statewide in which there were not three candidates.

In eight Senate districts, there was only one party had a candidate. And in the state house, there were 12 districts with only -- with less than the two candidates, you know, from each party.

There is clearly a lack of competitiveness statewide.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry.

FRANK BERGEN: Did the buzzer go off?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: It did.

FRANK BERGEN: Okay. I'm sorry. And I thank you very much, and I praise you for doing a job that I never realized was as horrendous as it has turned out to be.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Frank Olivieri, representing self, from Pima.
FRANK OLIVIERI: Frank Olivieri, O-L-I-V-I-E-R-I.

Thank you, Commissioners, again for speaking. I'm going to have this -- talking about competitiveness versus communities of interest.

There have been several meetings, and today's the first time I'm hearing a lot about what's competitive. And competitive comes down to is purely political, nonpartisan.

So, I've heard some examples in recent -- about competitiveness and where we were competitive, starting in Casa Grande and the meeting where they come up and said now with recent elections they pointed out LD 26, they pointed out CD 8, they pointed out other ones.

I happen to live in Pima County, in an unincorporated area. I live in LD 26.

What are we, what are we afraid of of the term political.

And it looks as though we had it balanced out to be political.

I'm in favor of competition, but it's competition -- what does it mean?

Competition means my community of interest is that I choose to live because the people are -- I don't care if they're Democrat, Republican, Independent. We share the same goals. We want the same for our school districts.
We want the same from economics, all right, for our community.

I have a corridor or an area of business contact that I have or my community wants to work within.

All right.

Do I compete globally or regionally.

I travel professionally all over the world in my work.

I visited -- I've been in countries where they don't have elections. And I see where they -- it's a competitive model where things balance out and people get -- don't get to move at that point because everything's balanced out because it eliminates the representative government. Therefore there's no more city, county, or state governments. It ends up with a single central government with administrators.

The decision that you guys will make, as commissioners, all right, is going to go for ten years. So when you look at these communities of interest and where is it going to affect now and in the future, these communities are people that choose to move, live where they want to live, and then move. So if everything is balanced where all I have is the same amount of Democrats, same number of Republicans, same laws, so forth, I have no decisions, no choices. My own, everything is made by someone else.
That's my opinion.

That's where -- same was the Constitution.

The states gave the right to federal government.

I think we're turning this around, where we have to be balanced so one central government is going to bring on everyone else.

My community of interest, balanced right now, politically, economically, is pretty balanced.

Hey, I'm hoping that it can stay that way.

I live where Marana, Oro Valley, unincorporated Pima County, Saddlebrooke, and the I-10 corridor, even going up to the Casa Grande, where that the new -- that Sun Transportation is going.

That's all separate from Tucson. If Tucson wants to change, let Tucson educate and bring the people in there to make the changes.

And I appreciate Senator Aboud's comment about making it politically viable. Make -- educate everybody and have everybody educate both parties to do that.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I apologize for the chilliness in the room.

I don't know if there's --

RAY BLADINE: I've pushed all the things up I had.

I think as people leave --
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We need more people.

All right. So, Vicki Davis, representing self, from Tucson.

Followed by Arthur Nicolet, Payton Davies, Linda White, and George Allen.

VICKI DAVIS: My name is Vicki Davis. V-I-C-K-I, D-A-V-I-S.

I've spoken to you before, so I won't bring up those issues anymore.

I respect the job that you have to do, and appreciate it's difficult.

But frankly I don't trust any of you. And I think that's good and healthy for citizens to be on the watch all the time.

We know about the quangos in England, which are quasi-autonomous governmental committee --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Can't hear.

VICKI DAVIS: Quangos, which is pretty much what you are.

And the reason I'm worried about you is because you don't really have to respond or be responsible to us directly.

I feel like we need to be kept informed.

I appreciate the fact that now we're starting to get some agendas and some schedules of meetings so we can
plan to be there.

I do want to ask or question why we still don't have meetings -- minutes of the meetings available, because obviously you're writing them.

And I would request that those be made available so those of us who can't come to every meeting can keep informed.

And I just expect you to do the best you can, but realize that you need to realize that we as citizens have responsibility to keep a tight watch on what you're doing and to bring the things that we see you doing wrong to your attention and have you address those.

Again, I'd just request that we have minutes made available. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Arthur Nicolet, representing self, from Tucson.

ARTHUR NICOLET: Thank you. My name is Arthur Nicolet, N-I-C-O-L-E-T.

Thank you for this privilege to speak. I was beginning to think I wasn't getting to speak because of the tee shirt.

However, I do represent just myself and my wife.

You know, in a committee like this where
independent is the key word, credibility is everything.

I'm a retired senior subcontract manager from a large aerospace firm here in Tucson, which means that I am very familiar with the whole idea of the RFP process. I've gone through many request for quotes. And have gone through the grading process.

I know it like the back of my hand.

When I saw that the State Procurement officer walked out of the procurement meeting, my ears went up right away.

I knew there was a problem.

And sure enough, what we've come to find is that Strategic Telemetry was awarded the position that -- in a very unethical manner.

That is very unfortunate, because they were the highest cost of the bidders.

And the process by which this company was chosen, the records are destroyed. And that's fortunate. That's a -- up a little bit?

Hard to tell here.

That is something that we cannot have.

It's a violation of the open meeting laws.

So there are four other facts too. I'm sure I've already covered a couple of them.

Mr. Herrera I wish was here today, because I would
like to look him in the eye and say, Mr. Herrera, are you going to cooperate with the attorney general or not. And the reason I wish he was here is because these people would like to hear his answer.

Credibility is a major problem with this committee -- which this Commission.

And there are things that this Commission needs to correct.

There were mistakes on applications that have been disclosed and yet the mistakes have not been corrected.

Thank you. I hope you will take this into consideration.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next speaker is Payton Davies, representing self, from Oro Valley.

PAYTON DAVIES: You ought to organize the short people and the tall people.

BUCK FORST: I agree.

PAYTON DAVIES: My name is Payton Davies, and I think that Oro Valley, Marana, and Saddlebrooke should be considered a community of interest and should stay as they are in their legislative and congressional districts.

The people in Marana and Saddlebrooke shop, worship, golf, take care of their medical needs, and dine out in Oro Valley, plus the people in Oro Valley dine out in
Marana and Saddlebrooke. We get our golf carts serviced in Saddlebrooke.

There are two other things I'd like to mention.

In the past four years I've ridden in the El Tour de Tucson, a 40-mile race that I participate in, begins here in Oro valley and goes through Marana, down to Tucson.

Tucson seems very distant for those of us on bike. Ina Road is my normal cutoff.

I ride in the race to raise money for Parkinson support groups in southern Arizona.

The people that have supported me to the tune of $10,000 have come from Saddlebrooke, Marana, and Oro Valley.

The Parkinson's support groups from Saddlebrooke, Sun City, Tucson, and Oro Valley get together for many activities through the year.

Those of us Parkies in Sun City have helped start a new support group in Saddlebrooke, and Arizona Parkinson's Association has helped -- held an educational seminar in Saddlebrooke of this year and they plan to continue that in the future.

Back to the bike riding part of it.

I'm a little old lady. I don't go fast. I don't go far.
But my routes take me to Dove Mountain, down Oracle to Sprouts and Trader Joe's and up to Saddlebrooke. The group I ride with, when there's a group, is mainly Democrats, a few Independents, and I'm the token Republican.

But the area that we ride in feels like our home. I would also like to add that I think LD 26 and CD 8 are competitive and should remain intact. The people there have gone back and forth from electing Republicans to Democrats and back to Republicans. We have Gabby in the U.S. House and Al Melvin in the state house.

We are truly competitive. And when I hear people from Oro Valley saying that they have nothing in common with people from Saddlebrooke and Marana, I see a lot of snobbishness and elitism. Is that another attempt to incite class warfare?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Linda White, from LD 26.

LINDA WHITE: Before I read my statement, I have a question of consideration for the Commission.

I would like to know why -- I was at the Tucson, South Tucson meeting. And as matter of protocol, I would
like to know why Strategic Telemetry had a seat with the commissioners at the table.

My statement.

The competitiveness of LD 26 is alive and well.

One only needs to review the district's political history to recognize their both major parties have been sworn to oath to represent its constituents.

Any attempt to change, alter, or gerrymander would be a blatant attempt to rewrite history. The competition in LD 26 is energetic and always in play, as it always is.

A particular concern is the very real possibility of removing the community of Saddlebrooke from LD 26.

As I previously stated in other statements, Saddlebrooke is entwined as a business, religious, entertainment, arts, leisure, hobbies and clubs makers shared with its friends, family, and neighbors within the district.

As one who has worked for several of the districts, knocked on hundreds of doors, made thousands of phone calls, the consensus gained remained a constant. This is a community of strong, similar interests, a close knit, like-minded community, with similar hopes and dreams.

Whether you reside in the Foothills, Oro Valley, Golden Ranch, Casas Adobes, or Pusch Ridge, we are a geographically, like minded, economically, spiritually
united community and deserve to stay as one.

   Again, I would like to say that I would like to recognize -- excuse me, recognize and commend our Attorney General Tom Horne for taking steps to open an investigation into several serious allegations perpetrated in the short history of this Commission.

   Thank you.

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS:  Thank you.

   (Applause.)

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS:  Next is George Allen, representing self, from Pima, Oro Valley.

   And following Shirl Lamonna, Maria Apodaca, Keith Keith Van Heyningen, and Ted Downing.

   GEORGE ALLEN:  Hi.  My name is George Allen.  I am from Oro Valley, and I'm representing myself.

   Thank you for choosing to serve.  I wish you good luck, and most importantly I pray for you.

   I pray that you will be honest.  I pray that you will be fair.  I pray that you will do with vigilance the things that you have been requested to do from the state.

   I am requesting that LD 26 remain intact.  And the reason I want it to remain intact is because it's all the things that you profess that you need.

   You want a group that is homogeneous.  You want a group that is consistent.  You want a
boundaries, geographical and otherwise, common needs and common interests.

    Common interests because we all chose to live where we live, which means we were happy to be there.

    Common interest because we share ideas with each other. And, yes, we argue. Yes, we agree. And, yes, we disagree. All at one time, and all different.

    Thank you for listening.

    Please, please consider honestly the things that you need to do in the Commission that you were chosen to perform.

    Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Shirl Lamonna, representing self, from Pima.


I'm from Oro Valley.

I've been following the redistricting process since it began. I have spoken several times previously.

But today I'm going to limit my comments strictly on two items, one of them being the Independents and the other the public input.

    First of all, there seems to be a notion that Independents are not represented in this process.
But like all of the 500 plus people who have spoken to you, Independents have had their chance to share their views with the Commission.

Few of them have done so, but let me tell you how they have -- their actions have actually spoken for them.

Since April of this year, 11,135 registered voters removed their party preference and became Independents.

Republican registration slipped by 3,243.

And Democratic registration fell by 7,892.

According to the Secretary of State's Office, 33 percent of the voters in Arizona now have no party affiliation.

Why has this happened?

Well, generally speaking such changes are attributed to backlashes against the party holding the presidency, economic factors, and voter migration patterns.

Since an Independent is generally defined as someone who votes for candidates and issues rather than on the basis of a political ideology or partisanship, they choose their representation by voting, whether it be Democratic leaning, as it was in the 2008 election, or Republican leaning, as it was in 2010.

So I'm sure their voices will be heard loud and clear in 2012, even if they have not chosen to speak directly to you here at the Commission.
In terms of public input, there's an obvious level of discontent that's voiced at these meetings which is caused by two competing visions for the state which mirrors the mood of the country. A July Rasmussen poll indicates that only 17 percent of voters feel the country is heading in the right direction.

Fifty percent of Democrats supported government with more services and higher taxes, while 83 percent of Republicans and 70 percent of Independents favor one with fewer services and lower taxes.

Relative to redistricting, the Democrats and progressives want fair, competitive districts while conservatives, not astroturf-ists, Ken Clark called us last night. We fight for communities of interest, a requirement incidentally that weighs more than competitiveness in the process according to the presentation today.

We were ignored nationally when we spoke out against bailouts, Obamacare, quantitative easing, and the increase in the debt ceiling.

And we don't really trust you're listening to us now.

Nevertheless I will end by reading the guidelines that were included in Strategic Telemetry's offer form that was given to the IRC.

Three short sentences. Please bear with me.
There is no single definition of a community of interest. It's a concept best defined by those who live in the affected areas. Public hearings will be key to answering questions about which communities of interest should be given the most weight.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next speaker is Maria Apodaca, from Pima.

MARIA APODACA: Good afternoon. My name is Maria Apodaca, M-A-R-I-A, A-P-O-D-A-C-A.

I'm a former teacher. I'm a licensed esthetician, and currently a caregiver for my adult daughter who's disabled.

I live in LD 30 and CD 8. I'm a fiscal Libertarian and social conservative.

A little mixed up there, huh?

I want to start off by talking about the community of interest.

LD 30 and CD 8, my request is that they pretty much keep intact, because of community of interest. A lot of that has already been explained.

We are competitive, like we already said. We have Senator Antenori and Congresswoman Gifford. So it's pretty
And if you need to do away with any part of CD 8, I would suggest that you simply move the city of Tucson into CD 7. Give them all of the city of Tucson. We want to keep Cochise County, eastern Pima County. These groups are of the smaller cities and rural areas of eastern and northern Pima County. This gives us representation focusing on people with common interests. Now, what I want to address now is what really concerns me about this whole process. I know you're a volunteer commission; right? You're volunteering. But you do take an oath. And I said this last time. I spoke at the college. I don't know why people take oaths if they're not going to honor the oath they take. I'm a real stickler on living up to what you say you're going to do. What I want to bring out is because I've heard different things about the facts and attacks. Okay. There is a clear difference between facts and attacks.
There's a clear difference between propaganda and what's on public record.

Okay. So I'm going to just list some things that really concern me.

Strategic Telemetry is a political consulting firm, not a mapping firm.

Okay.

They cost the most and they have no experience.

Their commissioners that voted for them awarded the contract to the company that was hired by the DNC to do a nationwide state-by-state strategy to, you know, to make more Democratic districts.

I mean, that's, that's their strategy.

Strategic Telemetry also did microtargeting down to the precinct level for then candidate Barrack Obama in 2008.

So, you know, we're talking about a very partisan company here that you've hired.

So I really want you to -- my recommendation is that you go back and redo this.

First of all, all public records of this were destroyed.

That's -- with the voting? Is that true? It was all destroyed?

And one of the other things that -- because all
this is being brought up, I am giving you the latest things that I'm reading that's in public record. One of the commissioners stated in public that he would not cooperate with the attorney general's investigation.

And I just think, oh, my goodness, if something is not being held properly here with what's going on, I think you need to cooperate with the attorney general. They're there to do their job.

So that was a big concern of mine.

And I have so many notes here.

But, oh, I do have a map for the CD 8, but when I copied it up, it only showed half of it. So I'm going to redo this and give it to you.

But it does show three and four — I have two different maps that shows three or four CDs at the border level, which I think is better than just two, because right now we have two, seven and eight. That would be with your -- but, anyway, thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next speaker is Keith Van Heyningen.

And he'll be followed by Ted Downing, Laura Hogan, and William Hutchison.

KEITH VAN HEYNINGEN: Good afternoon. My name is

I'm a Tucson resident, have been for 12 years, spent 10 years in Chicago, five years in Miami, 12 years in Orlando, the rest I was an Army brat. I guess you know where I'm coming from.

I'd like to say to all the idiots they're delusional and they're communists.

We live in a representative republic, not a democracy.

My community of interest is the United States of America.

Like I said, I'm a veteran.

We elected here in Tucson a Republican city council mayor. The first time in 40 years. It's solid Democrat, was for 40 years. And you want to talk about fair balanced.

No.

Planned Parenthood comes in to speak.

A bunch of baby killers responsible for the murder of how many millions of babies?

They're not a person. They're an evil group.

Don't let them get to you.

Lawyers should have been disqualified from this board to start with.

And, yes, the information was destroyed, partially
due to Janet Napolitano.

   And I'm tired of so many people stepping up to you, blowing smoke up your butts, and then referring to their racism as a community of interest.

   We are coming up in a year and a half on the next great election.

   And personally I can't wait.

   But back to our Strategic Telemetry.

   Like I said, I spent time in Miami. I have friends who are there still.

   And you are an arm of the Democrat party, plain and simple.

   You are no friend to an Independent. You are no friend to a Republican.

   Your work is that of a socialist, trying to impose a dictatorship on this country.

   Laugh all you want.

   The country's broke, and it's because of politicians and people who don't know what real life is.

   You ought to come out and work in the desert with me sometime.

   I suggest you do the same thing I do. Carry a big gun and wear a bulletproof vest, because that's what you need out there. That's reality.

   I know, you can sit there and stare at me all you
I want. I don't care.

Just like our city council and our cabinet here, run by Democrats, and corrupt.

Have a nice day.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Ted Downing, former state legislator, from Tucson.

TED DOWNING: Thank you very much, honorable commissioners.

I'm Ted Downing, D-O-W-N-I-N-G, recovering politician, former state legislature, and an Independent.

I'm a member of the national Independents group from the Independent party, but I'm not here to talk on their behalf.

I'm also an author of the new open government provisions that's coming out.

And I want to talk to you about the third criteria of the ranked criteria we've got.

That of the six criteria, the one that says the compact -- they shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the greatest extent possible. Compact and contiguity are mathematical concepts.

I ask that the Commission mandate that the maps are prepared according to the strictest mathematical definition. And that would be if you want the most compact
district is you sum the perimeters of all your districts, add up the number, and that gives you the lowest number represents the most contiguous. It's a simple, eloquent, and true mathematical solution.

You can be challenged legally if you do not carry out that criteria and come up with any other solution, and each of your maps can be compared using that, sum the perimeters and use those perimeters, every time you sum them, the smaller number is the most contiguous. That's the way it works.

I ask that that criteria, if we respect the right criteria, that criteria ranks higher than competitiveness, it ranks higher than the other three you've been discussing today.

It has that ranking after voting rights. It has that ranking after the constitutional proportionment representation.

It should be respected and considered.

I say that because it represents an interest of people that are Independent and apart from the partisanship and the multiple definitions of competitiveness you've heard here.

So I'm speaking in favor of that criteria.

Second, as an Independent, I'm concerned -- after listening to some of the testimony, I'm concerned that you
realize that you have to rise above the circumstances that
brought you to the Commission.

Four of the five members are appointed by the
political committees, by the speakers, by the party
leadership. But the part -- and then the fifth one, the
Independent, is actually selected by the parties, so this is
not a real independent Commission.

Independent, for everybody's information, meant
independent of legislature, not independent in judgment.

But you can be that way. You can rise above it.
And you have to do it for a couple of reasons.
First is the demography.

Right now the growth rate over the last 80 months,
I was calculating it, is that 6 percent Independents,
4 percent -- excuse me, 6 percent Republicans, 5 percent
Democrats, and 24 percent Independents.

That voice has to be heard.

And if not, the last thing I say is, if we don't
see a true independence, then you will probably be the last
independent Commission because you will be -- the next
Commission that we vote in, you will be independent of party
influence.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Laura Hogan, representing
self, from Vail.

LAUREL HOGAN: Thank you so much. Laura Hogan, H-O-G-A-N.

I would like to thank the Commission for the work they're doing. I know you're all volunteers. And I realize it's not -- it's a pretty thankless job.

And I appreciate your work.

I'd like to speak to advocate that we keep our border congressional districts representative of the border communities.

And we best do that by keeping two border congressional districts. That way the districts will elect representatives who actually live in the border communities they're elected to represent.

The borders are so important that it's important that our representatives come from those border communities and not from northern Arizona districts.

Creating more districts on the border would drastically change the way that those communities are represented.

Combining the border communities with more northern Arizona neighbors would dilute our influence in terms of border issues, and I think that's important.

I'd also like to say that I live in Vail. And I work and go to the hospital, grocery shop, in Tucson.
I don't work and go to the grocery store in Sierra Vista.

Thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is William Hutchison, from Oro Valley.

And he will be followed by Alex Bissett, Grace Schnakenberg, and Merritt McGlothlin.

WILLIAM HUTCHISON: My name is William S. Hutchison. Last name is spelled H-U-T-C-H-I-S-O-N. There's no N in the middle.

Thank you to the Commission for your service and allowing me to speak.

I'm a 16-year resident of Oro Valley.

I'm an Independent voter, registered as an Independent for 16 years.

Two items very briefly.

I won't go into the Saddlebrooke specifications really carefully because other speakers have covered that, but I think this is a classic case of community of interest.

The Saddlebrooke folks patronize businesses in Oro Valley, northwest Tucson, Marana, et cetera.

I don't think they would be particularly appreciative of being placed electorally in the upper portion of Pima and Pinal County.
So I would consider that to be something of a travesty.

Secondly, I'm very concerned about public information which has come out regarding the chairman's application for service on this committee.

Apparently the chairman for reasons unknown failed to report information about her husband's partisan political activities.

This is wrong.

It casts a cloud on the entire operation of the Commission.

It should be corrected.

I would urge the chairman to resign. This is doing the right thing.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Alex Bissett, from Oro Valley Redistricting Study Group.

ALEX BISSETT: My name is Alex Bissett, A-L-E-X, B-I-S-S-E-T-T.

I live in the community of Sun City Vistoso in Oro Valley.

I'm going to eliminate some of my comments in the interest of time, but I wish to comment on the placement of Sun City Vistoso's sister community of Saddlebrooke.
I understand the preliminary recommendation of the mapping firm is that Saddlebrooke be taken out of LD 26 and placed with a community of Maricopa over 100 miles away.

Saddlebrooke, Sun City Vistoso, and Marana share strong community interest and need to maintain the Marana, Oro Valley growth corridor along Tangerine Road between I-10 and the same common districts -- in the same common districts.

Both Marana and Saddlebrooke are within about a ten minute drive of my community of Sun City.

Moving Saddlebrooke out of LD 26 would be a blatant attempt at gerrymandering in its most obvious form.

The primary reason this is being done is that Democrat Nancy Young Wright lost her 2008 bid for election, and the swing votes came from Saddlebrooke.

The Commission cannot escape the fact that the Commission's chairman fraudulently lied on her application by conveniently omitting on question eight that her husband was the paid treasurer of the Nancy Wright campaign.

This isn't -- this is public knowledge, and it's in the public records.

Had she not lied, she would not be chairing this Commission and applying her influence to move Saddlebrooke out of LD 26 to give her husband's political associate a better chance in the Tucson election.
This is a definite conflict of interest.

I had great faith in Proposition 106. I have lost it entirely.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Grace Schnakenberg, representing self. And you'll have to tell us where you're from.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. We'll call the next name.

Merritt McGlothlin, from Oro Valley.

MERRITT MCGLOTHLIN: My name is Merritt McGlothlin, M-E-R-R-I-T-T, M-C-G-L-O-T-H-L-I-N.

Good afternoon. I am a Republican precinct committeeman, but I am actually representing myself.

I am a resident of Sun City Vistoso and Oro Valley.

I make no attempt to hide my political affiliation because I want to emphasize that, superseding my politics, I'm an American and an Arizonan. And I want and expect good, clean, open government.

The proposal placing the Saddlebrooke community into a legislative district that has its main population
base located many miles north of Saddlebrooke makes no sense at all.

I support Senator Melvin and others against that absurd proposal.

Why not instead place Saddlebrooke in a legislative district over by Yuma. It makes just as much sense.

I cannot leave this podium without revisiting a fact that we have discussed over and over and over again, but it must be repeated again and again, as it is a very important narrative regarding what others dismissed as partisanship.

This has been a flawed process, initially, from the beginning, and continues as the Independent vote which as most often will cast the tie breaking vote of any vote by this committee of a political nature is tainted.

The chairwoman did not answer a very pertinent question on her original application, disclosing her husband's involvement as a paid staff member on a campaign in LD 26 for a failed candidate in the 2010 election.

This indefensible fact remains as a legacy of this Commission.

The charges that have been alleged regarding this Commission in regards to the attorney general's investigation raise very serious questions about the
function and the veracity of this body.

This is no witch hunt.

This redistricting must be done openly, fairly, and with transparency.

If this Commission desires to have a modicum of credence, they must cooperate fully with the AG. No one should even consider claiming any type of immunity, hiding behind some self-appointed veil of secrecy --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS:  Time.

MERRITT MCGLOTHLIN:  -- or invoke some form of lawyer speak regarding this investigation.

The good people of Arizona deserve and expect from this Commission, regardless of politics, transparency, frankness, and candor.

They do not deserve obfuscation or deceit.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS:  Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS:  Next speaker is Ben Love, retired lieutenant colonel, from -- I can't tell Pima or Pinal, if you want to tell us.

Then Dustin Cox, Rachel McMenamin, and Vivian Harte.

BEN LOVE:  That's B-E-N, as in Benjamin, L-O-V-E.

And I live in Oro Valley.
And I would like to thank the Commission for letting me talk today.

I support the voting that you have arranged. I'm here to thank you for all of your -- the things you have done for us.

I have had a stroke, and I struggle over words at times, but it's important that you succeed.

Those who attack you are missing some of the facts, I'm sure. That they cannot have all these facts. Maybe they read them in the paper.

We want to have dialogue. We must have it.

You were selected to replace our old system that didn't work, and that was that the legislature gerrymander our districts.

And it had all sorts of problems.

If you fail, the people who are attacking you obviously want to go back to the legislature where they can get power that you have and screw up our state more than it is now.

As far as contracts go, and we've heard some of that.

When Governor Brewer was the attorney generals, she awarded without competing the bid some $11 million worth of proven to be faulty voting machines which could be rigged by an insider. And we're using those today. And it doesn't
I speak well for our state.

I advocate the preservation of the county lines as they are now drawn.

The counties have different laws, different voting procedures.

We heard that Pinal County has and is in disarray and that they need help.

I suggest Saddlebrooke people stay in Pinal County and straighten them out and organize them, as they are trying to do to Pima County.

These officers from Saddlebrooke will promise the ones that are in power, have promised us things, and they go to Phoenix, and they follow the Republican line and vote for the Republican parties down there who are really against our constitution.

And we think that you ought to follow the county lines.

We have plenty of people in Sun City and in northern Pima County and thank you for your time.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Dustin Cox, representing self, from Pima.

And then Rachel McMenamin, Vivian Harte, and Lisa Johns.

DUSTIN COX: My name is Dustin Cox. That's
D-U-S-T-I-N, C-O-X.

And I'm here to talk to you today about my family. That's my community of interest.

My family is Arizona.

Five generations of my family have called this state home.

We've been small business owners, electricians, ranchers, aerospace industry employees, retirees.

We are children.

And, yes, we are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

And oddly enough, we split about one third, one third, and one third as well.

So that makes Thanksgiving dinner quite interesting, as you can imagine.

So my family, around that Thanksgiving dinner, we debate, we disagree, but we compromise, we come together, and we care for each other, and rise above our differences, and do what's best for all of us.

What I've seen in my entire life here in Arizona, I have not lived in a competitive district, nor has most of my family.

And therefore our legislature and our elected politicians are unable to come together.

Because everything is decided in a primary, no
matter what district you're in. It's decided in a Democratic one or a Republican one.

I think that is a travesty for Arizona. I think that we don't get the representation that we deserve. And I think that's evident when one party, no matter what party that is, is able to garner more than two thirds in both houses of the legislature when we are roughly split equally across the state.

And so, therefore, I want to emphasize and encourage this Commission to highly consider competitiveness on your list of criteria.

I think that is the best way to get to serving our community of interest, which is all of Arizona, here, because if one of us is silenced, all of us are.

And so I thank you for your service, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike.

And I'm very impressed that you can all sit there stoically and be berated in this way for a position you're volunteering for.

So thank you very much again. I appreciate your service.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Rachel McMenamin, from Marana.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vivian Harte is our next

So I voted for the proposition in 2000 because I did not like the idea of the state legislators figuring out their own legislative districts so they could get elected over and over and over again.

I appreciate very much the work that you're doing, because it's important that there be another voice.

I want to suggest that you create more competitive districts.

And I'll tell you why.

When there is -- my understanding is that the last group ten years ago created about one competitive district out of 30. And so then what happened was that many more Republicans got in than were represented in our state.

We have a third of the people that's Republicans, a third as Democrats, and a third as Independents.

And what happened then in the state legislature was the Republicans didn't even want to talk to the Democrats.

They were not included in the budget hearings.

Those were done behind closed doors.

They were not included in decisions that were made in the legislature because it was two thirds Republican.
Even though they're registered one third in the state, they were two thirds or more in the legislature.

And so the Democrats who represent the one third registered also, those were not even included in the decisions that were made.

And I think that that is not healthy for our society.

So I would suggest that you do that.

I have heard that about ten or more of the LDs could be considered -- could be created as competitive, and I encourage you to do that.

I do not believe that LD 26 is competitive.

Out of the last ten years, of the 15 possible terms, only three of those were held by Democrats. Twelve were held by Republican, so I would not call that a very competitive district.

I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Did I miss what county you're from?

VIVIAN HARTE: Oh, I live in unincorporated Pima County.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Lisa Johns, I think. Is that -- am I getting that the right? From Tucson.

LISA JONES: You ready to be shocked? Jones.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

LISA JONES: Lisa Jones, and I am from Tucson.

My house is in Precinct 42, Legislative District 28. I am a Democrat, but two of the people I've loved most in my life, my mom and dad, were Republicans. So I grew up in a Republican household.

I know you think this redistricting is important. Otherwise you wouldn't be volunteering your time and your energy and your care to be here. And I thank you all very much.

My hope is that however you come to the districting -- and to me honestly it's mind boggling. I'm just -- I really, really do appreciate the enormity and the detail of work that you're considering.

My hope is that the new redistricting will be fair and competitive.

And when I say competitive, what I mean by that is that the outcome will be without one party, either party, having complete domination.

I very much believe that the health of our democracy absolutely depends upon diversity and competitive representation.

With the -- without that we're clones of each other and the doors are shut, and, and we're not a democracy anymore.
There's an absolute distortion.

As you know, southern Arizona and Tucson have very unique needs.

Metropolitan Tucson is now about a million people.

Our representatives also represent Sierra Vista, Nogales, Tohono O'odham Nation, Yuma area.

As such, we should have no less than one third of the congressional delegation.

It only makes sense.

It only makes sense for greater Tucson and southern Arizona to be represented by three members of congress.

Two things I hope you will not do.

Please do not have three districts gerrymandered artificially dysfunctionally to touch the border. That's not a way to solve border issues.

Another really bad suggestion that I've heard is to consolidate -- oh, dear.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: You can wrap it up.

LISA JONES: Pardon me?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: You can wrap it up.

LISA JONES: I'll try.

Don't consolidate all of Tucson. Again, that would diminish Tucson's access to rightful congressional representation.
It would end up having one party and one voting rights district. Neither one would be then competitive. That's wrong.

We need to have more competitive districts, not fewer.

Tucson and southern Arizona deserve three voices in congress. The voting rights district plus two competitive districts. And for toss-ups, one starting in Marana or north valley going north. The other one starting in Catalina Foothills and going south and east.

Not only would this districting be functionally doable, it would also be the right thing to do.

And, again, I thank you all. You've got tremendous patience to hear us all.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. And if you want to submit your statement for the record, since you didn't get to finish it, feel free.

LISA JONES: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ted Prezelski is our next speaker from Tucson.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Gary Gomez, representing self, from Tucson.

GARY GOMEZ: Commissioners, thanks for having the opportunity to hear and meet the people.
I would like to speak to several topics today. The first one has been brought up in other meetings. I've been to several.

I'm in favor of a third -- the new congressional district or a third congressional district that runs on the border.

I don't understand, having worked on a campaign for CD 7, how Yuma was really fit in with Nogales and Green Valley.

I feel like Yuma and the Colorado River area is more contiguous, and they have much more in common, having spent much time in Yuma.

So I would be in favor of a third congressional district that ties the border and maybe centered on Yuma and going up the Colorado River.

They don't have much in common with Nogales other than the border and Green Valley.

They probably have more in common with, if need be, the size, south Phoenix, where it's much more agricultural.

My former in-laws were all in farming, and that's kind of how they lived and tied together.

I was also glad to hear today that some people that spoke in favor of competitive districts were actually willing to have theirs changed.

Having gone to these hearings since very early on,
the vast majority of people that speak of competitive
district all want the other guy’s district to be
competitive.

They want to keep their community of interest.
I think community of interest is far more
important than competitive districts.

I have never bought a house, moved someplace,
because of what precinct or who my congressman was.
And I've had a great variety in different places.

In fact, in Texas I had Ron Paul for a while, and
then I got -- I can't think of his name right now, but
opposite Democrat, and I lived in the same place.

And for a while my district went from Austin all
the way to Corpus Christi.

So the gerrymandering really drives me crazy, just
from a logical point of view.

Last, and I'll just make this really brief, please
cooperate with the attorney general and put that cloud
behind you.

We need a report and maps that are not tainted.

And I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Val
Little from Tucson.
(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Next is Joyce Smith from Tucson.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Bart Pemberton, from Pima County, representing self and LD 26.


First I wanted to say that I think LD 26 and Congressional District 8 are both self-evidently competitive and do not need to be changed.

Including Saddlebrooke out of LD 26 is very blatant gerrymandering.

As far as to remove a cloud of illegitimacy on this Commission, I think at the very least the mapping company needs to be fired and a new one hired.

Otherwise I think it's not worthy of the name Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

Thirdly, I don't know what, under the term used, I don't know what civil discourse in politics has to do with redistricting. Since the topic is brought up, I would say if anybody reads about Alexander Hamilton and the founding fathers, they'll find that there never has been civil discourse in American politics and never will be as long as we have the First Amendment.
And lastly about community of interest, I tend to think of American citizenry as a community of interest. But since we're going to go into that for redistricting, I think the most important community of interest are the people that pay the vast majority of taxes in this country, and I think that community of interest should be taken into -- take precedence over every other one and every single district, period.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Marilee Malmberg, representing self.

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

MARILEE MALMBERG: My name is Marilee Malmberg, M-A-R-I-L-E-E, Malmberg, M-A-L-M-B-E-R-G. I'm from Green Valley, and I live in Pima County. So, I live in Green Valley, which is part of LD 30 and CD 8.

And, first of all, I'd like to just let you know that I really support this Commission. I support the chair. I appreciate the work that each one of you is doing.

It's a tremendous commitment on your part, and I think it's really great.

I would also like to know for the record that there's a recent news report on Richard Stertz, the commissioner, Richard Stertz failed for disclose some tax
liens and judgments against him.

And I think that's important to note that in the record.

Statewide there are rough -- sorry, first of all, I'd like to talk about my concerns as it relates to competitiveness and community of interest.

Living in LD 30, I've seen firsthand what it's like to live in a district that's not competitive. Based on voter registration numbers, the LD 30 breakdown is roughly 40.7 percent Republicans, 28 percent Democrats. That's a 12.7 percent advantage for Republicans.

That difference really is too high. It seems, you know, a reasonable difference might be something like in the mid single digits.

It's no wonder Democrats don't even have a full slate to run in the legislative races. The outcome is almost always a foregone conclusion.

And I really do think that we can do better.

Statewide, as you've been hearing today, there are roughly a third Democrats, a third Independent, and a third Republicans. Yet our legislature have been Republican led since 1966. Currently enjoys a super majority in both houses.

Our legislature makes national news on a regular basis for their one-sided approach to governing.
The creation of more competitive districts will allow citizens to the vote for the candidate of their choice and it will mean candidates will need to talk to both sides of the aisle.

And that's a good thing for all of us.

We deserve an equal chance at representation in government. We want what's fair.

I urge you to work to achieve competitiveness in as many districts as possible. And, in fact, it seems reasonable to expect that the majority of districts will be competitive.

Central Tucson has significant common interests with Green Valley and Sahuarita, as many residents work and shop in central Tucson along the I-19 corridor. In essence, we are a community of interest.

We go to Tucson frequently. For many of us it's several times a week or more to utilize various institutions of higher education, for example, at the University of Arizona, Pima Community College, for shopping, medical services, dining, sporting, and cultural events.

We are not a community of interest with Sierra Vista, which is 70 miles to the east of Green Valley and across the Santa Rita Mountain Range.

The Sierra Vista community is a nice day trip for us, but it is not a frequent trip for anyone that I know who
lives in Green Valley or Sahuarita.

Please make competitiveness --

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sorry, there's a timer.

MARILYNE MARMER: Please make competitiveness a priority, as this will provide us with representation in government or equal chance at representation in government. Additionally, please respect the central Tucson, Green Valley, Sahuarita community of interest throughout this process.

I thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Onita Davis from Smart Girl Politics.

ONITA DAVIS: Excuse the icicles you see hanging off of me. It's been a long wait.

My name is Onita Davis, O-N-I-T-A, D-A-V-I-S.

Let me share some data with you today.

U.S. partisan trends: 34.8 percent of Americans identify themselves as Democrats, 33.1 percent Republican, and 32.1 percent Independents.

I'll return to those facts in just a moment.

As an Independent, I'm not here because I see myself at the mercy of a process that favors Republicans over Democrats, or even vice versa.
I'm not here because I believe I have been disenfranchised.

I'm not here because I want to play the victim card.

I'm here because I feel I am empowered as an Independent.

If I am to believe the polls, those who identified themselves as being Independents are growing in numbers.

On August 1, 2011, Rasmussen cited the above-mentioned data.

The significance is not that the Democrats have inched past the Republicans, but that each has lost in percentage points while the other category grew.

In January of 2004, 36.9 percent of Americans identified themselves as Democrats versus 38 -- 34.8.
And 34.9 as Republicans versus 33.1.
While 28.9 were labeled other, versus now, 32.1.
Now, that's empowering.
Closer to home, take a look at LD 26 and CD 8, my districts.

In 2006 there was a Democrat senator and a Democrat representative.
In 2008 there was a Republican senator, one Democratic representative, one Republican representative.
But in 2010, LD 26 put in three Republicans, and
still had a Democrat for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The split in LD 26, CD 8 mirrors the national partisan trends very closely. Neither party can win without the Independents' votes.

That fact makes for a very competitive district and shows that Independents are making a difference with their votes.

In 2008, when many Independents voted for Barrack Obama in the Democrats, but in 2010 they changed their mind and voted for Republicans, that was because of policy being made.

What more proof do we need that we as Independents need to validate our strength as a voting block. Some people would have you believe that my Independent voice is not being heard and that my vote is being cancelled.

I say that my Independent vote is making the difference.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our last speaker, I'll read the ones that didn't come up, but Jessica Pacheco, representing self, from Tucson.

JESSICA PACHECO: Hello. Thank you all for your graciousness and your patience today. This has been a very
long meeting.

My name is Jessica Pacheco. I'm a native Tucson, born and raised here. I am also a single parent of an 11-year-old boy. He turned 11 yesterday.

So my concerns are really regarding the lack of competitiveness that we currently have in our state. And my concern is also that we -- if you look at our prison population, there's -- there are overwhelmingly minority population.

And I'd like to ask the Commission to please not include a prison population which have no voting rights. It's my opinion that if the prison population is included, it would artificially inflate the minority population of any given area.

Competitive and fair districts are part of the founding principles of our democracy. Competitive and fair districts is what we owe our children and future generations.

And on another note, it really saddens me that we've overwhelming heard from voters from the same geographical area, and it is my hope that while we all are here to really represent all Arizonans.

My thanks to the Commission, and I really want to thank you and applaud you on your commitment to making it Independent.
Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I'll read the -- the other folks just in case they stepped out.

Joyce Smith.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Val Little.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Ted Prezelski.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Rachel McMenamin.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Grace Schnakenberg.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And Harry Laughran.

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Those folks left unfortunately before we could get to them.

Wow. That was pretty amazing.

It's 4:49 p.m. I'm really impressed with how many are still here, especially given the temperature in this room.

I will -- I'm sure my fellow commissioners would like to say something.

I'll start with Commissioner Stertz for some
wrap-up thoughts.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

First off, that was a record, the 71 people gave public testimony today, so I want to applaud all my fellow southern Arizonans, Pima Countians, Tucsonians, for, for doing that.

What resonated today was competitiveness.

And I brought forth a question, when I was in Casa Grande, what actually competitiveness means.

And one of the people of the audience actually came up with the concept that it's a competitive congressional district where you do not have a known outcome after the, after the -- before you enter into the election.

I look at it a little bit differently.

If you want to look at the state of Arizona and competitive districts, if we do truly have it in the state of Arizona, we've got approximately 999,000 active Democrat party registered voters, approximately 1,043 -- or 1,043,000 active third party or Independent or non or others, and approximately 1.14 million Republican registered voters.

People have said approximately a third, a third, a third.

Where the real -- I think that the comment that was just made was that we don't vote other.

We don't vote Independent.
Who we have in our elected office are Republicans and Democrats.

So it's truly -- it is truly a solid thing to say that the Independent block is a powerful block.

And it was the Independent block that placed the legislature as it sits today, in the state house, and the Independent block that set the tone in Washington.

I go back to -- I'm a Wisconsin guy, and I go back to the Green Bay Packers during the glory days. This is a city of 60,000 people. And they won two Super Bowls.

Does that mean that being a city of 60,000 people in a farming community made them not competitive? Of course not.

What they did is they fielded the best team.

And they fielded the best team and they were the most competitive because they were able to confront their opponents head on. They ran a good camp, and they won.

So what I look forward to is when we talk about competition is that we need to field the good candidates. And it's what the candidates are is what we're -- what we should be focusing on and not trying to create an unnatural state of competition where one side or the other is given preference.

Because I don't think that that was the intent of our constitution.
I am a constitutionalist, both in the -- both our federal and our state, and it is the intent for me to continue to carry out the directive that I -- the oath that I took and the directive that I took, which was to follow the constitution.

And, Madam Chair, that ends my remarks.

And I want to congratulate everybody that's been involved and been watching online for the amount of public input that we've had. It has been significant. So far.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. Agreed.

Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you. I don't know if I can talk because I'm shivering.

But, I'm going to read to you the preamble of Proposition 106, which describes the purpose for which the constitutional amendment that created us was enacted.

And it says proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Arizona, amending Article IV, Section 1, relating to ending the practice of gerrymandering and improving voter and candidate participation in elections by creating an Independent Commission of balanced appointments to oversee the mapping of fair and competitive congressional and legislative districts.

I think that's important. That's why I volunteered for this job.
I think every part of that is important.

And I'm committed to the -- to do the best I can to ensure that we get there.

And I want to thank you all for hanging in there, for a very long day on a Saturday.

I think we should take names going out of the people that hung in for the longest, should get some sort of award, for hanging in for the whole process.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Agreed. I would also note that I had watched the interview at the hearing last night in Phoenix online. And Vice Chair Freeman and Vice Chair Herrera conducted that meeting. And at the end, and I would like to do the same thing here, I thought it was a good idea, to basically give a round of applause to our staff and our court reporter for doing this yeoman's work of conducting 15 hearings around the state.

And this was -- this is our final one, as I mentioned, just of the first round. We'll have more hearings once we get draft maps, and get your input and feedback then, but this concludes kind of the first round. So if you wouldn't mind joining us in applause for them.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you all. You did a fabulous job.

And thank you, the public, for all the input we
received today and all the other locations around the state. I know we've seen some of you, some that you have traveled multiple times to different hearings to make your case and give your testimony, and we really appreciate your dedication to this.

So with that, it is now 4:55 p.m. on a Saturday afternoon, and I declare this meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.)

* * * * *
STATE OF ARIZONA )
                        ) ss.
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 157 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 26th day of August, 2011.

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