

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 12, 2011
6:06 p.m.

Location

**Best Western Payson Inn
801 North Beeline Highway 87
Payson, Arizona 85547**

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair

Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist

Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

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

1 Payson, Arizona
2 October 12, 2011
3 6:06 p.m.

4
5 P R O C E E D I N G S

6
7 (Whereupon, the public session commences.)

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening. This hearing
9 of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now
10 come to order.

11 Today is Wednesday, October 12th, and we're in the
12 lovely town of Payson, Arizona, tonight.

13 The time is 6:06 p.m., and we'll start with the
14 Pledge of Allegiance.

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

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, good evening, folks.
17 Thanks all for coming out tonight and providing input at
18 this hearing.

19 The purpose of tonight's gathering and in all the
20 towns that we're going to across Arizona is to obtain input
21 on the draft legislative and congressional district maps
22 that have been drawn.

23 And we look forward to hearing what you have to
24 say and getting that into our record.

25 I want to go round and introduce folks after roll

1 call, and then we'll get started on the presentation, and
2 then your public comment.

3 So, Vice-Chair Freeman.

4 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Here.

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And Vice-Chair Herrera.

6 (No oral response.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Commissioner McNulty.

8 (No oral response.)

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz.

10 (No oral response.)

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: The other three commissioners
12 are watching this -- they'll be watching it in the recorded
13 version. We're not streaming live tonight, but this meeting
14 is being recorded, and it will be posted to our website as
15 soon as possible by our chief technology officer, Buck
16 Forst.

17 But just like last night -- I wasn't at last
18 night's first hearing in Phoenix, and watched that online,
19 and it's a -- it's pretty fabulous with technology these
20 days.

21 So I'm sure that they will be watching and
22 listening to your input as well.

23 Let me introduce some other folks at the table
24 here besides Vice-Chair Freeman.

25 We have our legal counsel, Mary O'Grady.

1 Our mapping consultant, Andrew Drechsler, and
2 Korinne Belock.

3 We have a court reporter taking an accurate
4 transcript of tonight's proceedings. That's Marty Herder.

5 Buck Forst, our chief technology officer.

6 You saw Kristina Gomez, our deputy executive
7 director, on your way in.

8 And I believe we have some public outreach
9 coordinators, Kristi Olson and Lisa Schmelling.

10 Thank you all for being here.

11 And please feel free to talk to any of our staff
12 if you have any issues that you would like addressed or
13 anything during the course of the evening.

14 Federal law requires that we translate these
15 proceedings this evening. And I believe we have a
16 translator, Mr. Carlos Reyes.

17 If you would like to just come up and just say a
18 few words.

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

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can you translate that to
22 English? I can't. I don't know.

23 He was providing some welcome -- welcoming
24 comments to the crowd to see if there are any need for
25 translation services tonight, but he's coming back up and

1 can tell you exactly what he said.

2 CARLOS REYES. I was told to do it in Spanish, so
3 I do apologize.

4 I do apologize, commissioners.

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: No problem.

6 CARLOS REYES: It says: Chair Mathis, ladies and
7 gentlemen, and commissioners, in accordance with the Voting
8 Rights Act, a translator/interpreter will be available at
9 the public hearings in order to provide translating
10 interpreting services that might be needed for those
11 citizens that need translating or interpreting services.
12 Please contact the translator/interpreter present at the
13 meeting so that he can assist you.

14 And that is it.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Reyes.

17 So I think many of you are aware that we have
18 these request to speak forms. They're yellow, and they're
19 in the back of the room.

20 So to provide input tonight, if you would like to
21 come up and address the Commission formally, please fill out
22 one of these forms. And I'll be calling your name for you
23 to come up and give us your testimony.

24 There are blue forms in the back if you prefer not
25 to speak at the microphone tonight. You can fill out input

1 on a blue form and provide that, and that will be entered
2 into the record just the same as it would if you stood up
3 and stated it yourself.

4 So, two ways to provide input to us tonight.

5 And you can, of course, do it after this hearing.
6 If you think of something later and want to address us, you
7 can do that via our website. You'll be hearing more about
8 different ways to provide input in the presentation.

9 Let me see if I missed any of the housekeeping
10 items.

11 Right now I don't think so, so our next item on
12 the agenda is for Mr. Drechsler to provide an introductory
13 presentation for you all about the process.

14 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much.

15 Good evening. We're here today to discuss the
16 draft maps presented by the Arizona Independent
17 Redistricting Commission.

18 The draft maps are currently under a 30-day review
19 period, which means this is one of the big reasons that
20 we're here today, is to hear your opinions on the maps.

21 Before we display the maps, we wanted to give a
22 quick overview of the process.

23 Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the
24 state constitution as amended by the voters in 2000 with the
25 passage of Proposition 106.

1 It stipulates that the Arizona Independent
2 Redistricting Commission redraw the Arizona -- Arizona's
3 congressional and legislative districts to reflect the
4 results of the most recent census.

5 Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a
6 congressional seat and will go from eight seats to
7 nine seats.

8 The legislative will have 30 districts,
9 30 senators and then two members in the house, so a total of
10 60 house members.

11 What are the guidelines of Prop 106?

12 Well, A, they must comply with the
13 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

14 B, equal population.

15 Criteria A and about B are federally mandated.

16 The other four to the extent practical are from
17 Proposition 106.

18 C is compact and contiguous.

19 D is respect communities of interest.

20 E, use visible geographic features, city, town,
21 and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

22 F, favor competitive districts where no
23 significant detriment to other goals.

24 A real quick overview of the Voting Rights Act.
25 Arizona's congressional and legislative districts must

1 receive preclearance or approval from the Department of
2 Justice or the federal court under Section 5 of the
3 Voting Rights Act before they can take effect.

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

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

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

13 So there's -- setting up the Commission, there's
14 really six steps as part of the timeline.

15 The first, the first thing that we did was
16 establishing a Commission.

17 So this is basically creating a new state agency.

18 Commissioners were appointed through a process --
19 through a screening process, and all serve in a voluntary
20 role.

21 As you know, we have two -- two of the
22 commissioners here tonight. We have the chair, Colleen
23 Mathis, and Vice-Chair Scott Freeman.

24 Jose Herrera is another vice chair. Linda McNulty
25 and Commissioner Richard Stertz are also not present

1 tonight.

2 The second step is the first round of hearings.

3 Before drawing a single line, the Commission held
4 23 public hearings around the state in July and August to
5 get input from members of the public about issues relevant
6 to redistricting, such as geography, communities of
7 interest, minority voting rights, and competitiveness.

8 The third step is mapping.

9 We started with the grid map, which was approved
10 on August 18.

11 The grid map takes into consideration two things,
12 equal population and compactness.

13 And that starting with the grid map is a
14 stipulation of Proposition 106.

15 Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission has
16 met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid
17 maps to accommodate all state constitution criteria.

18 During this time they received additional public
19 comments and draft maps.

20 Approval of the draft maps were -- approval of the
21 draft maps. On October 3rd the Commission approved the
22 congressional maps that incorporated changes based off of
23 all the constitutional criteria, and then on October 10th it
24 approved the legislative maps.

25 The fourth step is the second round hearings,

1 which you're a part of tonight.

2 Currently we are in the process of visiting
3 25 towns and cities to share the draft maps and receive
4 additional public comment during the month of October.

5 Step five is the final maps.

6 Under -- upon completion of the public comment
7 period, the Commission will adopt final maps.

8 The sixth step is preclearance.

9 Because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the
10 Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by --
11 approved by the federal Department of Justice or a federal
12 court in Washington, D.C., before they can be used for
13 Arizona elections.

14 We want to show the progression of the maps and
15 show how we came to the current draft maps.

16 The map you see here was the congressional map
17 that was approved by the last Redistricting Commission and
18 most recently used in the 2010 elections.

19 Per Proposition 106 we were required to start with
20 a blank slate.

21 Also, as we discussed earlier, the proposition
22 requires us to start with a grid map, which again takes into
23 consideration two things, equal population and compactness.

24 After more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted
25 to approve the draft map you see here.

1 Besides taking into consideration the six
2 criteria, the Commission took into consideration public
3 comment provided via public meetings, round one in public
4 hearings, comments that were mailed in, e-mails,
5 hand-delivered, faxed, people who telephoned, and I'm
6 probably forgetting a couple other methods, but we've heard
7 a lot of different people.

8 Anyway, over 2,000 comments helped developed this
9 map.

10 As you see, some of the highlights on the map are
11 two predominantly rural districts, three border districts,
12 two districts in the city of Tucson, five districts that are
13 entirely -- that are entirely in Maricopa County, it avoids
14 splitting Arizona Indian reservations, and two districts
15 where minority voters have the opportunity to elect a
16 candidate of their choice.

17 Much like the congressional map process, the
18 legislative maps followed a similar process.

19 Here you see the legislative map that the last
20 independent Commission approved and was last used for the
21 election in 2010.

22 Again, like the congressional map, we started off
23 with a blank slate before, before creating the maps.

24 And as, as like the congressional map, we created
25 a grid map.

1 Again, took into consideration equal population
2 and compactness.

3 And finally, just days ago, the Commission
4 approved the draft map that you see here.

5 Some of the highlights of this draft map that
6 we'll go through, the old districts that were used in the
7 2010 elections, the population ranged from 155,000 to
8 378,000.

9 The current draft map has 207 to roughly 215,000.

10 To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft
11 map included ten districts in which minority voters have the
12 opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice. One
13 district with majority Native American voting age
14 population, three districts in southern Arizona, four
15 districts in Maricopa County that have a majority Hispanic
16 age population, two districts in Maricopa County in which
17 the coalition of minority voters should have the opportunity
18 to elect the candidate of their choice.

19 The draft map also includes three districts wholly
20 within Pima County, and three additional southern Arizona
21 districts.

22 There are 17 districts primarily in
23 Maricopa County, and nine districts that are primarily
24 rural.

25 As we stated earlier, we want to hear your

1 opinions. And we want to hear what your thoughts are on
2 these maps.

3 As the chair mentioned, if you want to speak
4 tonight, we ask you to fill out one of the yellow sheets.
5 Otherwise, you can -- and examples of the input that we're
6 looking for is any -- all constitutional, any of the
7 constitutional criteria, draft congressional map, comments
8 on the draft legislative map.

9 You can also submit -- besides speaking at a
10 hearing, you can fill out one of these blue forms that are
11 available at the hearing or on the website. Or you can
12 visit us at our website as www.azredistricting.org, or call
13 us at (602)542-5221, or toll free at 855-redistrict.

14 Here's a screen shot of our home page. I just
15 want to highlight a couple different things.

16 Where you can find the maps, there's two different
17 areas. And recently we just added at the bottom of the page
18 both -- you can click to see the legislative maps or the
19 congressional maps.

20 Also on this page is meeting information.

21 If you want to go view any of the recordings of
22 past meetings, those are available. And the schedule for
23 all future meetings is also available.

24 And if you have any public comment, you can go to
25 the web page and submit comments through there.

1 Once you click on one of the -- to view the draft
2 maps, you're going to come to this screen. And one thing
3 that we wanted to highlight, and people have found this
4 feature really useful, is the -- what is the KMZ Google
5 maps.

6 If you click on either of these to see the --
7 we're circled in red, if you click on either of those,
8 you'll come to a screen that looks like this. And it allows
9 you to see the entire state and the specific maps.

10 Over on the left you will see the opportunity
11 click off of districts or off of county labels to see more
12 detail or less detail.

13 And one great feature about this is you're able to
14 zoom in and specifically see your area of your boundaries.
15 And as you can see here, you can see the exact streets and
16 locations that make up your -- the boundaries of your
17 district.

18 Again, we want to hear from you, and we want to
19 make sure that you stay connected with the process. You can
20 visit us at our website, www.azredistricting.org.

21 On there you have the ability to draw your own
22 maps.

23 We have an online mapping program that the public
24 can access and use.

25 Watch current or past meetings and get updates on

1 future meetings.

2 You can follow us at Twitter as /AIRC or friend us
3 on Facebook.

4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Drechsler.

6 That was a very informative presentation, and
7 hopefully it helps people orient themselves for tonight's
8 hearing.

9 So, just a reminder, we're here to get your input.
10 And for those of you that filled out request to speak forms,
11 please come up to the microphone, and get as close to the
12 microphone as you can, and speak your name into the
13 microphone as well as spell it so that our transcript will
14 be accurate.

15 If you could also tell us where you're from --
16 don't tell us your specific address, but just the city,
17 town, or county is fine. That would be great.

18 And the idea is if you could tell us specifics
19 about what you like or don't like about the maps, that's
20 very helpful. And you can -- to be as specific as you can
21 in terms of what modifications you think should be made.
22 Or, again, if you think everything's great, then tell us
23 that too.

24 So we really want to hear as specific an input as
25 we can, so that we'll be able to make good decisions later

1 on any modifications or adjustments that need to be made on
2 either of these maps.

3 And I think that's about it.

4 I'm going to ask everyone to try to limit your
5 comments to four minutes.

6 Buck will have a timer, and he'll be timing you.

7 If the buzzer goes off while you're talking,
8 please just feel free to wrap it up as, you know, as well as
9 you can.

10 You can, you know, finish a few sentences or
11 whatever. You don't have to stop instantly. But we're just
12 trying to ensure that everybody has an opportunity to speak
13 tonight.

14 So our first speaker is Larry Stephenson,
15 representing Eastern Arizona Counties Organization, which is
16 comprised of Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Apache, and Navajo
17 Counties.

18 LARRY STEPHENSON: Thank you, Madam Chair, members
19 of the Commission.

20 You have a big job behind you and ahead of you
21 both, and we appreciate what you've been doing. We've been
22 following you.

23 My name is Larry Stephenson, S-T-E-P-H-E-N-S-O-N,
24 for the record. And I'm with the Eastern Arizona Counties
25 Organization.

1 And as the chairperson of it, that's comprised of
2 five rural counties, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Apache, and
3 Navajo Counties.

4 First I'd like to speak to the congressional
5 districts. And this will be consistent with earlier
6 comments that have been provided, for example, by
7 Supervisor Tommie Martin or Supervisor Richard Lunt from
8 Greenlee County, so it's not original in that regard.
9 You've heard them from somebody before.

10 And I -- following the chairperson's -- she had
11 the same idea. I laid out my comments in terms of problems,
12 and what I see, and then solutions, ways to fix what I
13 identify as problems.

14 First, with congressional district, you split
15 Gila County into two congressional districts, one and four.
16 And I don't know if that was just making the numbers work or
17 what, but there seems to be no other justification for this.
18 So we would like to have Gila County kept whole.

19 It's not a lot of people, but it's important.

20 You also made CD 1 a so-called border district.

21 But in looking at the map, about the only illegal
22 border crossers there are the four legged variety of
23 interest to Arizona Game and Fish Department.

24 There is no official border crossing as with the
25 other border districts. So we think that -- it looked like,

1 in my opinion, a little bit of gerrymandering there to grab
2 this being Douglas. But that's just the way the map looked
3 perhaps to me.

4 On your October 1st of proposed CDs, you only had
5 CD 1 just about right. It was rural, mainly. And we
6 appreciate that. All you had to do then was just maybe
7 tinker with Gila River Indian Reservation and bring that in
8 to accommodate some interests. And we recognize that.

9 But, what happened was that a large portion of
10 urban Pinal County was included instead in the proposed map.

11 Urban Pinal County is really bedroom suburbs of
12 Phoenix metropolitan area. All you have to do is look at
13 the traffic on Maricopa Road going outbound to Phoenix in
14 the morning and inbound to Maricopa in the evening to
15 confirm that.

16 The same with some of the other areas in
17 Pinal County.

18 So there may be a logical reason to split that
19 county into rural, urban, reservation, non-reservation. But
20 the way you did it for CD 1 at present, I think you did an
21 injustice to the good work you had already done with CD 1.

22 As far as CD 4, the other rural district -- and,
23 again, I'm being consistent. We call for two rural
24 districts. We -- EACO presented maps showing two rural
25 districts, so this is not a new concept.

1 We also had rural district CD 4 being rural. And
2 we thought, again, you were having a good start with it on
3 your October 1st version of the map.

4 And you're almost there, and we would like to see
5 that followed through.

6 Okay. Those are the problems.

7 The solutions are very simple. Consolidate
8 Gila County and put it in CD 1.

9 Go back and keep CD 1 rural.

10 There's approximately 1.5 million Arizonans who
11 choose to live in non-metropolitan areas.

12 We know ruralness is not a constitutional
13 requirement, but it's a lifestyle choice by a large number
14 of Arizonans, and we think they should be respected.

15 Similarly, keep CD 4 rural. And you're almost
16 there.

17 And finally make CD 1 a real border district, not
18 just a token border district the way it is now, in name
19 only.

20 Madam Chair, I realize my time is up, but since
21 I'm representing five counties, if I could move on to the
22 legislative districts, I would appreciate it.

23 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Go ahead.

24 LARRY STEPHENSON: Thank you.

25 In the legislative districts, you split

1 Gila County into three legislative districts, 6, 7, and 8.

2 What is it about Gila County? Is it the sacrifice
3 county on which to be split, the way you split with the
4 congressional districts?

5 Second, you put Greenlee County in with the
6 Navajo, Hopi, and Apache tribes.

7 They have little or no interaction with those
8 communities to the north.

9 There's, for example, very little, if any,
10 commerce or trade.

11 The only route is the tortuous mountainous route,
12 a couple hours up through the White Mountains. So it's not
13 a -- it's not really connected.

14 I know on the map it is, but it's not really
15 connected.

16 So we see that as a problem.

17 You have also in the legislative district proposal
18 split Graham County in two, and have not kept Graham and
19 Greenlee Counties together. Two counties which have a lot
20 of similarities in terms of jobs, commerce, similar
21 economics, such as mining and agriculture.

22 These two counties have cooperated in the past in
23 county services. They rely on one another, probably because
24 Greenlee County is a much smaller county and was really a
25 spin off of Graham County years ago.

1 And there's a history of cooperation there.

2 So these two counties are probably more
3 intertwined than any two in the state, and I would suggest
4 keeping them together.

5 We appreciate what you tried to do with LD 7 and
6 make it predominantly a Native American district, but,
7 again, do not add little Greenlee County with their less
8 than 10,000 population just to make the numbers work.

9 And as far as Apache County goes, I'm sure you
10 will hear from them when you reach Springerville and Eager.

11 The proposed solutions, Madam Chair,
12 Commissioner Freeman, are relatively simple.

13 Oh, man, I missed, I missed one problem. I'm
14 sorry.

15 And that's that you've split Navajo County
16 three ways. And we would suggest that that's not a logical
17 split, and so we think maybe a two-way split, but not a
18 three-way split.

19 So, the solutions are to consolidate the
20 non-reservation portions of Graham, Greenlee, and Gila
21 County into a single LD.

22 They have a definite community of interest in
23 their -- with their similar rural and natural resource based
24 economies, mining, grazing, forestry, and agriculture, and
25 so on.

1 Secondly, if you would adjust the boundary for
2 LD 6 to drop out the Gila County portion, and then to
3 include the remainder of the southern portion of Gila -- I
4 mean, Navajo County. So Navajo County is then split only
5 once.

6 Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to enter
7 these comments into the record. And I'll answer any
8 questions if there are any.

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. Any questions?

10 LARRY STEPHENSON: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I appreciate your
12 suggestions. If you want to, yeah, give them to me, and
13 we'll enter them into the record.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Shirley
16 Dye, representing self, from northern Arizona.

17 SHIRLEY DYE: Hello again.

18 Shirley Dye, D-Y-E, from Payson, Arizona.

19 You've heard a lot from me over the past week.

20 And I really don't know what else to say, except to say that
21 I think probably the main thing that has caused problems
22 with rural Arizona is that everybody wanted to have
23 two rural districts.

24 And based on what the result is, that, that has
25 really turned out to be a huge problem, because the land

1 mass of rural Arizona, the people are so sparse in so many
2 places, it makes it really difficult, and very, very spread
3 out.

4 One, one problem that you recall that I had with
5 this is trying to put all the tribes into one congressional
6 district, including even going so far as to go south down to
7 pick up the Gila River tribe, which is down -- the big
8 casino down there southwest of metro Phoenix, down near
9 Maricopa.

10 You already had a district before that was about
11 50 percent Native American.

12 And yet you have packed this district now, in
13 trying to be rural, you've packed it up to like 67 percent
14 or something like that.

15 I don't have all of the -- all the things.

16 But the main thing is the White Mountain Apaches
17 had respectfully requested not to be with the Navajo. And
18 you had heard from Mr. Titla the other day that the
19 San Carlos Apaches were not decided, because they are so
20 split.

21 There are many of us in Gila County and the old
22 LD 5 people that have talked to many of the San Carlos
23 Apaches, and they're definitely split. A lot of them do not
24 want to go with the Navajos.

25 And yet you put both of those tribes in that

1 district.

2 To me, if we would go back to one rural district
3 and one river district, and not try to make the river
4 districts and something else, you know, I just don't know.

5 We're not happy with this map here in northeastern
6 Arizona. Okay?

7 As far as the legislative district map goes, I
8 suppose Payson should be happy in that for legislative -- or
9 for congressional district they're with Flagstaff, although
10 we have no communities of interest with them.

11 And for the congressional district, we're with
12 Prescott, Yavapai, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu, and all of
13 that, which we don't have any communities of interest with,
14 and yet you split us so that we're going to be voting for a
15 congressman in one totally different congressional district,
16 and then having, and then having a different legislative
17 district than all of our buddies that we have common
18 interests with and whose topics of interest of the people
19 that should be representing them are going to be totally
20 skewed.

21 How is a person from Bullhead City or Lake Havasu
22 supposed to represent the high country of Payson, when the
23 high country of Yavapai is a totally different kind of high
24 country?

25 Or how come -- how is a Native American

1 representative going to represent the kinds of communities
2 of interest of rural Arizona?

3 And, you know, my thing about our resources, we
4 have been working very, very, very hard to get mining back
5 in rural Arizona, to get cattle back in rural Arizona,
6 because there's proof positive that they help the soil, they
7 help the forest, to work on the Four Forest Restoration
8 Initiative, which we tried so hard for years and years, and
9 the environmentalists have thwarted us, and that's why we
10 had the huge, big Wallow Fire is because we couldn't --
11 we've been working for years and years on that.

12 And now, if we have, as I said before, dear old
13 Raul Grijalva, from down in the Tucson area, who used to
14 serve and thwart us on the congressional natural resources,
15 and when he was finally in 2010 taken off as the head of
16 that, we've finally been able to make progress, and now he's
17 got somebody all lined up to be a congressman for this
18 district to fight us on everything that we've accomplished
19 over the years.

20 And to me that sucks.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is George
23 Demack, representing self, from Gila County.

24 GEORGE DEMACK: Because -- good evening all.
25 Because of an inability of the Commission to provide proper

1 maps and instructions on how to use the maps, I am not
2 prepared to make an argument this evening.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Would you like to spell your
5 name for the record though?

6 GEORGE DEMACK: It's D-E-M-A-C-K.

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Elizabeth Ann Silcock, from
9 Payson.

10 ELIZABETH ANN SILCOCK: My name is Elizabeth Ann
11 Silcock. I live in Payson, Arizona.

12 And I don't represent a group. I represent
13 myself, as a voter. And hopefully speak for some of the
14 other voters that aren't speaking tonight.

15 Madam Chairman and the Commission, we appreciate
16 your letting us finally have a voice.

17 I have -- I wrote down just a small, little
18 comment, because I knew that other people here would
19 probably comment on what I wanted to talk about, plus.

20 I think that the Commission has not gotten the
21 rural redistricting correct. We don't want to be split up.
22 We don't want to lose our congressman. We don't want to
23 have the Indian tribes that we love be divided, because they
24 are, and they'll be more divided by you grouping them all
25 together.

1 Another thing is that our main thing in rural
2 Arizona, which has no connection with Flagstaff or Yavapai
3 County, is ranching, timber, and mining, which provides us a
4 good tax base. And as far as I'm concerned, I might be off
5 base saying this, but it looks like we've been gerrymandered
6 so that the Republicans are cut out.

7 And I do not like that.

8 I've lived here over 30 years now, and I think
9 that we have more of an insight, the people that live here
10 in this county, than you do, because, I don't know, do you
11 all live here in this county?

12 Probably Tucson and Phoenix.

13 So, anyway, I hope that all of you have abided by
14 the open meeting law and not done anything that is going to
15 cause a lawsuit or the Justice Department not to accept your
16 map.

17 I personally like option one, 8A, not the one you
18 put together that cut us all apart.

19 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Don
22 Ascoli, representing self, from Gila.

23 DON ASCOLI: Good evening, Madam Chair,
24 commissioners. Don Ascoli, A-S-C-O-L-I, from Payson,
25 Arizona.

1 I've been before your group before, and I got to,
2 again, point out on the presentation the gentleman gave at
3 the beginning, slide number three, what are the guidelines
4 of Prop 106.

5 First to, A, must comply with the
6 U.S. Constitution, Voting Rights Act, and, B, equal
7 population.

8 Those are federally mandated as you note.

9 And to the extent practical, compact and
10 contiguous.

11 D, respect communities of interest.

12 E, use visible geographical features, city, town,
13 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

14 And I don't know where you don't get it.

15 It says it right here. That's what you need to
16 do.

17 I wish your technical officer had the ability to
18 take the old boundaries -- I'm sorry, take the boundaries of
19 rural metro equity map mod three, which is drawn to achieve
20 two minority districts, two real rural CD districts, and
21 three real rural or border districts on the south of our
22 state.

23 Instead, you moved that around -- this is one of
24 the proposals -- to what we've got now, this map. And if we
25 could morph the two boundaries, you could see this has gone

1 the wrong way.

2 I don't know what Payson and Gila County has to do
3 with Lake Havasu City, Parker, or Yuma. It just has nothing
4 to do with those parts.

5 We have been a solid rural district for ten years.
6 The counties up here are working more together than they
7 ever have.

8 The first speaker representing five of those
9 counties brought that to your attention.

10 And yet you seem to negate that and go twist the
11 boundaries to where it's meeting some other agenda than
12 being contiguous, community of interest, and not splitting
13 up the counties.

14 I'm not representing any organization per se, but
15 one of the functions I serve on is the chairman of the
16 Gila County Planning and Zoning Commission.

17 We work very hard to keep this county -- do things
18 together as a county.

19 Yeah, we have differences.

20 I think there's differences in Maricopa County.
21 And there's differences in Coconino.

22 And we are a county.

23 And we govern that way, and yet this map for CD
24 splits our county up.

25 Now, unfortunately when you go to the legislative

1 district side, the travesty is worse. Because you split
2 Gila County into three pieces.

3 We are a small county.

4 And when you split it into three pieces like you
5 have on this map you're presenting, we're going to have
6 three different groups of legislators, of which Gila County
7 is going to be a little bitty part of their district.

8 What clout, what kind of representation can we
9 have as a county when we got three different arms that go
10 after, or three different heads?

11 It's wrong.

12 You violated the very rules that you said, compact
13 and contiguous, respect communities of interest, and use
14 visible geographic features, city, town, and county
15 boundaries. You've violated them all, your own rules.

16 I took a look at the analysis, the option one
17 versus two that you were considering on the legislative map.

18 And I am going to repeat this for the benefit of
19 folks here, because you already heard me say this last
20 Thursday.

21 In the option you've chosen, you've taken
22 12 counties -- 12 rural out of 15 counties, and split up
23 eight of them.

24 Where if you had gone with option one, which has
25 the favor of the majority of people in the rural counties,

1 only five of the 12 rural districts would have been split.

2 So what you've done is you took Cochise County and
3 split it from one -- instead of being in one LD district,
4 it's in two.

5 You took Gila County, which was in one district,
6 and put it in three.

7 You took Graham County, which was in one, and took
8 it to two.

9 You took La Paz, split it, put it in two.

10 You talk Yuma and split it in two.

11 So we've got now eight counties with different
12 heads.

13 Just like a company, a company works when you have
14 one CEO.

15 A county works better if it can direct its effort
16 and its interface with a legislative group, a team of a
17 senator and two state reps.

18 Splitting us into three, you've made our task
19 three times more difficult by doing that.

20 So I respectfully request you go back and get it
21 right.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Robert
25 Hershberger, representing self, from Payson.

1 ROBERT HERSHBERGER: Good evening. My name is
2 Robert Hershberger, H-E-R-S-H-B-E-R-G-E-R.

3 I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all as
4 volunteers for the arduous -- arduous work that you've been
5 doing.

6 We appreciate your spending time and energy that
7 you have, and we appreciate that you're listening to
8 people's comments.

9 I do think there is some community of interest in
10 four, when you put Payson, a retirement community and a
11 resort community, together with Prescott and with Sedona,
12 and even with places like Bullhead City and the like.

13 So there isn't a total lack of community of
14 interest there, though I respect what people have said in
15 terms of keeping Gila County together too.

16 I might say that the way this map is drawn for the
17 congressional district, it almost assures that no Democrat
18 will be elected to take congressional office in District 4.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Paul
21 LaBonte from Payson.

22 PAUL LaBONTE: This is my first -- this -- my name
23 is Paul LaBonte, L-A, capital B-O-N-T-E, LaBonte.

24 This is my first time attending a meeting like
25 this here.

1 And I'm very disappointed in everybody here.

2 First of all, you show all these pictures of these
3 maps up on there. They all have numbers, one, two, three,
4 four, five.

5 You hand me this paper, and you look at it and
6 say, okay, we're going to -- October the 1st map.

7 And I am looking all over for October the 1st map.
8 I cannot find where it says October the 1st on any of them.

9 I can't find where it says AA1 on any of these
10 maps so I can follow along here.

11 I can't find anything. So all I'm going to do is
12 sit there and listen, not sure what areas you're talking
13 about on these maps.

14 And I think, when I finally did find the correct
15 map that I'm supposed to be looking at, it looks like
16 somebody took an egg, threw it up against the map, and said
17 that's what we want.

18 Because it's all chopped up.

19 You don't split counties. Nobody splits counties
20 unless they're belong in a nut house, if you pardon the
21 expression.

22 That's all I got to say.

23 The map stinks --

24 (Applause.)

25 PAUL LaBONTE: -- and we're trying to figure out

1 what map you're talking about. This is garbage. You should
2 have just left them alone. You know.

3 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

4 That was my last request to speak form. I'm not
5 sure if there are others that I missed, if anyone else has
6 some public comment for us.

7 If anyone would like to speak to us, please come
8 up to the mic and then it will definitely go into the
9 record.

10 Otherwise, I don't know, Commissioner Freeman, do
11 you have anything that you would like to say?

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thanks to you all for coming
13 out.

14 Yes, I am from Phoenix.

15 My folks had a cabin up in Pinetop when I was
16 growing up. I've been through Payson a lot of times. This
17 is the route you go, no offense to Globe, but I would
18 never -- we would never go that way.

19 I remember when there was the old Tastee-Freez on
20 the main drag there. I never knew what happened to it, but
21 we always used to stop there --

22 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: It's Dairy Queen
23 now.

24 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Is it?

25 Okay. It's a Dairy Queen. I'll hit it on the way

1 back --

2 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: You don't know
3 anything about our town or county.

4 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Not as much as you, sir. No
5 question. But I do like to get up in the White Mountains,
6 and I hunt and fish -- and if you could let me talk now,
7 sir.

8 I just want to say thank you for coming out.

9 The maps that the Commission approved are draft
10 maps, and it was made very clear by a number of
11 commissioners that they were drafts. And that, I agree,
12 that there needs to be changes to these maps.

13 And one of the points of the public comment period
14 is to go get comments like you've given us tonight. And
15 it's incumbent upon the Commission and all the commissioners
16 to consider each and every comment and to go back when we go
17 back to the final redraft and spend some time incorporating
18 those comments and applying the six constitutional criteria
19 before we vote on the final maps.

20 So I'm going to try to make -- I'm not going to be
21 able to make it to all the hearings. I don't think any of
22 the commissioners are. But I'm trying to make it to as many
23 of them as possible, because it's really good to see to
24 be -- to meet everyone in person, in the flesh so to speak,
25 and not just watch it on the Internet. But I know that I'm

1 going to have to do that for some of these hearings to
2 really get a flavor of what the people think about the maps.
3 So thanks again for coming out tonight.

4 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. It looks like --
5 if other people, if you'd like to speak, if you want to come
6 up to the microphone.

7 I know you filled out a request to speak form
8 earlier, but please come up and. . .

9 Then we can all hear you.

10 ELIZABETH ANN SILCOCK: Elizabeth Ann Silcock. I
11 just wanted to make a statement.

12 I'm the one that asked the interpreter to
13 interpret that in English, because I looked around, and I
14 didn't see anybody Hispanic in the group. And I was
15 shushed, and I didn't appreciate that.

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Thank you.

17 Any other comments?

18 Sir?

19 If you could fill that out for us, that would be
20 great.

21 NORMAN WILKES: My name is Norman Wilkes,
22 W-I-L-K-E-S. I also live in Payson.

23 My grandmother's been here since 1975.

24 I am happy finally to see -- I'll try to speak a
25 little bit louder.

1 I am happy to finally see our three towns finally
2 getting back together, and from what I've seen on this map
3 is trying to split us apart again.

4 I would like -- I do appreciate what you guys are
5 too trying to do, but please listen to us. We're just now
6 getting Strawberry, Payson, and Pine back together, and we
7 need to keep that going.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 GEORGE DEMACK: Okay. George Demack here.

12 It would be vastly appreciated if, in producing
13 these maps, if it was maybe stipulated somewhere on the home
14 page of the Commission's website that -- how to use the maps
15 that are there.

16 I went for a whole week looking at postage stamp
17 size maps, and finally had to be told by a member of the
18 Tea Party that you had to click on these maps and then you
19 could enlarge them in that manner.

20 There were no instructions, I mean, on the pages
21 about this.

22 It's a very simple thing, isn't it?

23 And maybe a bunch of confusing designators for the
24 maps, how about putting a date along with each map as a
25 designator.

1 I mean, the other thing is looking at these maps
2 on this page here, I see a gray blue and a purplish blue.

3 I don't know what's -- what that difference --
4 what it's trying to describe to me, that vague difference
5 there.

6 Also, it would be nice -- we got Gila County, I
7 guess, but is it too difficult to maybe put Highway 87
8 through there so we can orient ourselves from that?

9 A few more highways would help.

10 You know, I live in Gisela. And that's the
11 sticks.

12 I mean, there's only 500 of us, and no commercial
13 entities at all. But, and I drive 20 miles each way to come
14 to meetings like this.

15 Let's use a little imagination, rather than just
16 seeing what we can get by without telling the public about.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I have a couple more request
21 to speak forms.

22 Bill Roehr from Gila. Thank you.

23 BILL ROEHR: I think my problems are -- I just
24 want to introduce myself again. Bill Roehr. R-O-E-H-R is
25 the last name.

1 I think what I'm upset about is about what a lot
2 of others are on the maps. I can't find anything.

3 Payson isn't even on the map.

4 We think we're on the map, but you folks don't
5 seem to think so.

6 And with Highway 87 drawn, nothing in the way of
7 rivers. Where are these natural boundaries?

8 There's no way from these maps that we can tell
9 really what's going on in any detail.

10 Can we do that on the computer? Can we blow it up
11 and find all the features so we can see what's there?

12 I don't know.

13 Anyway, make it a little easier.

14 Another thing that's hard for us to follow, I'm
15 sure you've used the ratio of Democrats to Republicans,
16 you've played with minority groups and so on, but where's
17 the data?

18 You've got some percentage -- I don't understand
19 these charts.

20 How can we figure that? Can you walk us through
21 some of these, tell us why this is here and what does it
22 mean?

23 I know you're trying to get equal population.
24 Hopefully it's not being skewed to favor one party or the
25 other in the district.

1 But I'm sure in some cases it isn't going to come
2 out equal and positive with all the criteria you've got
3 going on.

4 So I'd like a little more in-depth information on
5 this, if you will.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Jennifer LaBonte from Payson.

10 JENNIFER LaBONTE: My name is Jennifer LaBonte,
11 L-A, capital B, as in boy, O-N-T as in Tom, E as in Edward.

12 I would like to ask you one question.

13 In what ways does your draft map comply with the
14 Arizona Constitution?

15 That's all.

16 Would you answer that? Please.

17 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

18 We can't answer directly right now, but at the end
19 once everyone's spoken, we'll say a few more words about all
20 that.

21 JENNIFER LaBONTE: Okay.

22 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

23 Our next speaker is Kay Cool, representing self,
24 from Payson.

25 KAY COOL: I want to thank you for coming to

1 Payson. I think we've got a pretty good turnout tonight.

2 But one of the things that I'm finding difficult
3 is a number of people didn't sign up to speak, and so as a
4 Payson resident and a resident of Gila County, I would
5 really like to know if the group of people who are here
6 support your draft congressional and draft legislative maps.

7 And I would like to ask you for a show of hands,
8 of the audience, so all of us have some idea whether the
9 people who have made the effort to attend and communicate
10 with you support what you have put together, which from my
11 perspective is really very confusing in terms of being
12 contiguous and in terms of just representing what I have
13 always found to be the type of geographical boundaries that
14 the public understands.

15 So I'd like to have a show of hands of how many
16 people do not support the maps.

17 First the congressional map. How many people do
18 not support the congressional map?

19 I'm not -- necessarily one to count them, but I
20 would like you to know.

21 How many people do not support the legislative
22 map?

23 Virtually everyone.

24 Thank you very much, because I really want to --

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Janet
2 Williams, representing self, from Payson.

3 JANET WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Janet
4 Williams.

5 My name is Janet Williams, representing myself.

6 I'm not clear on what competitiveness means. Can
7 that be clarified?

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We won't be able to talk.

9 JANET WILLIAMS: Pardon?

10 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We're not supposed to address
11 comments until the very end of the public comment period.
12 So we'll talk about that in a minute when you're done.

13 JANET WILLIAMS: All right.

14 So I'm looking at Congressional District 4.

15 I was wondering how you -- by making that the new
16 congressional district, if you considered tax base, like
17 property tax base, income levels, as far as employment goes.

18 I see that it goes all the way up to the Indian
19 reservation in the northwestern part of the state and all
20 the way down practically to the border on the southwest part
21 of the state.

22 Lifestyles in Lake Havasu City, also the Indian
23 reservation, are not equal or -- I don't know if equal is
24 the right word, but mesh with the lifestyle that we have
25 here in Payson and surrounding areas.

1 Let's see.

2 Lifestyle, the same thing.

3 There's a huge mix of lifestyle, income, property,
4 tax, employment in this whole congressional district that's
5 not going to be able to be equally represented.

6 On the, on the number four on your Power Point, it
7 says the presence of discrimination can be determined by
8 analyzing population data and election results.

9 It appears to me that the way that this has
10 been -- this map is redistricting is discriminatory to
11 working people and property tax -- people that pay property
12 taxes, because we are now going to be included in a huge
13 base of people that are not going to be equal or the same as
14 what would represent our district as it is, or drawn up now
15 in our legislative district.

16 That's it.

17 And I also don't understand compactness.

18 So if you can explain those to me.

19 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thank you. We will.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I'd ask Mr. Drechsler to pull
22 up the presentation again, because I think it would be
23 helpful for Commissioner Freeman and I to just talk to you a
24 little bit about these different criteria and how this map
25 that you see tonight came to be.

1 And if you could go back to the page that has the
2 criteria listed.

3 Thank you.

4 So, as you can see we've carved up the state in a
5 way that obviously you're not happy with in Gila County and
6 some of the other counties.

7 And let me tell you a little bit about that
8 process as to how it happened.

9 We have to comply with the U.S. Constitution and
10 the Voting Rights Act. That's just a fact of life here in
11 Arizona, that we need to comply with that. And, and we'll
12 talk about what that means.

13 In fact, our legal counsel is very well versed in
14 the Voting Rights Act and can explain that in a very cogent
15 way better than I can do it.

16 The other federally mandated criteria is equal
17 population. So that means, for the congressional side, we
18 have nine districts, because we got a new one this year due
19 to population growth in the state.

20 So we used to have eight. We have nine now.

21 Each of those nine districts has to have
22 710,000 people in it.

23 They just take the total population of Arizona and
24 divide by nine, and it's 710,000.

25 So, one of the things we heard in our first round

1 of public hearings is how people in rural counties would
2 like to keep them rural.

3 And you guys have different needs and need special
4 representation that -- people who really understand your
5 needs. And to the extent possible, we wanted to create
6 two rural districts.

7 And that has been proved to be very challenging,
8 because what it does is when you go try to find 710,000
9 people to fill a district in a rural area, you got to go
10 really far and wide to be able to do that.

11 And so it really flies in the face of compact and
12 contiguous, because it's such a broad area you have to cover
13 to find 710,000 rural people.

14 And all the commissioners, we were challenged in a
15 huge way because we wanted to keep districts -- a couple
16 districts as rural as possible, and that Eastern Counties
17 Organization map was a big inspiration for us in what we
18 wanted to try to do.

19 But it really proved difficult in trying to find
20 710,000 people without having -- without going into places
21 like Pinal County or Maricopa and touching some of that to
22 pull population so that we could get enough people into the
23 district.

24 Because we've got to have each of the nine
25 districts have that number, 710,000.

1 So that's why one of those, two of them really,
2 are very -- the river district, as we call it, and then the
3 rural district in the east, is -- they're giant areas. And
4 we realize that, and so they're not compact.

5 They may be contiguous, but they're not compact.
6 That's for sure.

7 And so that's been a big challenge for us.

8 So if there are ways we can do that better where
9 we can keep those two areas as rural as possible but still
10 meet that population requirement, we would.

11 Respect communities of interest. That's something
12 that's very important to all of us.

13 And let me just also say about all these criteria
14 before I go into communities of interest.

15 Each of these criteria is to be weighed equally.

16 Even though they're in an order up here, it
17 doesn't mean that compact and contiguous is more important
18 than competitiveness or anything else on the list.

19 They're all to be weighed equally by the
20 commissioners in terms of when they're drawing these
21 districts.

22 So respect communities of interest.

23 And we heard a lot in our public hearings in the
24 first round about communities of interest. And ruralness,
25 for instance, is one of them.

1 That's a major one here.

2 We know though that in creating districts of
3 710,000 people, we can't have homogenous districts. We're
4 trying to the extent possible, but it's really impossible
5 with balancing all of these other criteria.

6 So what we're trying not to do is split
7 communities of interest.

8 That would be -- and that's what we don't want to
9 do is split them.

10 We will have multiple communities of interest
11 though in one district. There's no way to have a homogenous
12 one. Maybe in central Phoenix you can do that, because the
13 population is so dense and it's urban. But, otherwise, it's
14 very difficult to do.

15 So what we're trying to do is not divide
16 communities of interest to the extent practicable.

17 But, each congressional district, and in some
18 cases some of the legislative districts, contain multiple
19 communities of interest that are all part of it.

20 We're supposed to use visible geographic features,
21 city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census
22 tracts, to the extent practicable.

23 That's another thing that kind of flies in the
24 face of some of the other criteria.

25 Because sometimes when you're respecting

1 communities of interest -- and I can give you an example if
2 you know southern Arizona at all. There's a -- right
3 outside of Pima County, there's a retirement community
4 called Saddlebrooke. And it's a little bump on the map that
5 some of the -- the maps you'll see.

6 It's in Pinal County. But it views itself as
7 being tied with other communities of interest in that
8 golfing community of Marana and Oro Valley. And so it -- so
9 those three communities would like to stay together, and
10 they're very similar types of population that would benefit
11 from common representation.

12 And so -- they're -- but they're in Pinal County.
13 They're not in Pima County.

14 So to keep those communities of interest together,
15 we have to cross a county line.

16 And so oftentimes we are breaking county lines,
17 and that happens many times with the Indian reservations as
18 well and in other situations too.

19 So that's -- it's just to kind of give you an
20 example of the way these criteria kind of compete with each
21 other.

22 It's quite a puzzle and a challenge to try to
23 bring them all together, but we need to weigh them all
24 equally.

25 Finally, competitive districts, and Ms. Williams I

1 think asked about that, and you'll see in your packet some
2 charts that have a lot of information in them.

3 Competitiveness is one of them.

4 And I think each of the commissioners frankly
5 have -- has different definitions of competitiveness. It's
6 kind of in the eye of the beholder.

7 To me, competitiveness means that there's no
8 inherent built-in advantage of either Republicans or
9 Democrats in a given party.

10 So it's like a 50/50 split.

11 And on election day, a candidate from either major
12 party has an equal shot at winning based on a number of
13 things, prior election turnouts -- you know, prior election
14 results, I should say. And also some people look at voter
15 registration, how many percent R's, D's, and I's do you have
16 in a given district.

17 There are numerous ways to measure it. And the
18 Commission has at its fingertips now the results from the
19 '08 and '10 elections, 2008 and 2010 elections. And
20 different indices have been created to help us measure
21 competitiveness based on those election years.

22 We're in the process this month of getting '04 and
23 '06 data, 2004 and 2006 data as well, so that we can add to
24 our database and look back even further, and see, you know,
25 how do those numbers and how do those election results

1 impact the competitiveness of some of these districts that
2 we've drawn. And that will help us determine if we think a,
3 you know, a district is fairly divided or not.

4 And so we're still, you know, measuring that. And
5 you'll see on your -- in your packet, it's called Commission
6 approved congressional draft map compactness and
7 competitiveness measures.

8 There are three compactness measures listed first,
9 and then the rest of them are all competitiveness, and also
10 show you voter registration data for each of the districts
11 as they're currently drawn.

12 On compactness, these three different measures --
13 apparently there are hundreds. I think I've heard our
14 mapping consultant, Mr. Strasma, tell us there are numerous
15 ways to measure compactness.

16 These are three different ways to measure them
17 currently. And, and it's really just information to help us
18 try to make good decisions.

19 And if anybody has anything they'd like to add to
20 this discussion, you'd be welcome to.

21 Anything on the Voting Rights Act, Mary, that
22 you'd like to tell people about so they understand Voting
23 Rights Act a little more?

24 MARY O'GRADY: Well, as I said in the, in the
25 presentation, we're covered by Section 5 in of the

1 Voting Rights Act, so we have special responsibilities in
2 Arizona regarding compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
3 And we have to make sure that these plans don't have
4 retrogression, which means that the minority voters aren't
5 any worse off when we're done than they were before.

6 And to make that analysis, we have to look at what
7 they call our benchmark districts. So we look at our
8 current legislative districts and see where the minority
9 voters had an opportunity to elect candidates of their
10 choice.

11 And then when we redraw the lines, we have to make
12 sure that we maintain those benchmark districts if at all
13 possible.

14 And in Arizona, the challenge in rural Arizona is
15 traditionally Arizona has had one Native American district
16 in northeastern Arizona on our legislative districts that
17 includes mostly the Navajo -- Navajo Nation.

18 And in maintaining that Native American voting
19 rights district, this, this draft map includes -- expands
20 that area to include the Apache reservations as well, which
21 I think was one of the things mentioned in terms of what
22 impact that has on eastern Arizona.

23 But the reason for that was to maintain that, as
24 our responsibility under the Voting Rights Act, as an
25 effective voting rights district.

1 Right now the current Legislative District 2 that
2 is the Native American voting rights district has about
3 59 percent Native American voting age population. So we
4 needed to construct a district that maintained that level of
5 voting strength.

6 And, frankly, we couldn't -- had not yet developed
7 a way to do that without including the Apache tribes in that
8 district.

9 And we did hear from the San Carlos Apache this
10 week that they were supportive of that change, being
11 included with the Navajo.

12 We haven't heard anything further specific on this
13 draft from the White Mountain Apache, but we're hopeful in
14 public comment we will get that information as well.

15 But the Commission has had to spend a lot of time
16 studying how to make sure that we do comply with the
17 Voting Rights Act when also factoring in all those other
18 factors that, that the chair discussed that we have to
19 comply with.

20 Also on congressional districts we have to get
21 right on the number in terms of equal population.

22 And so sometimes that's difficult as well, because
23 you have to make sure that we are precisely 710,000, within
24 a person or so.

25 And so sometimes you might see some funny looking

1 lines, that they are to obtain that population equally that
2 we're required to do so.

3 And these are draft maps.

4 Again, as part of our process, getting input and
5 then coming back and considering all that, plus the
6 additional analysis and coming up with final maps that
7 hopefully will be approved and legal so that we have lines
8 that comply with all legal requirements come 2012.

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mary.

10 I was just seeing if we have Internet in the room
11 just to go to our website, but I don't think we do.

12 I don't think we have access.

13 ELIZABETH ANN SILCOCK: Hi. Elizabeth Ann Silcock
14 again. I mentioned in my talk option one 8A.

15 Now, common sense tells me that when you have
16 option two up there, that you've already made up your mind
17 about it. And I would like to see option one 8A, and I
18 would like to know when -- I know you said October the 3rd.
19 Was it changed at the meeting, or was it changed before the
20 meeting? And if it was changed before the meeting, or put
21 together over the weekend from Friday, were any of the open
22 meeting laws violated?

23 And I think all of you know that Arizona gets sued
24 by the Justice Department every time we have to redistrict.

25 I know you have legal counsel here.

1 Is our redistricting going to be written so that
2 we don't get sued and the taxpayers have to pay to sue
3 ourselves?

4 (Applause.)

5 ANDREW DRECHSLER: So we want to just look at the
6 website. This is azredistricting.org.

7 We go down to the bottom. You'll see two
8 different maps, the legislative and the congressional map.

9 If you click on either, it will bring you to this
10 page.

11 And there's a number of different formats.
12 Individuals around the state have asked for a number of
13 different formats.

14 The one that we highlighted in the presentation
15 was the Google map.

16 Clicking on that, you'll bring up a Google map.

17 And what this allows you to do is move in, and we
18 can zoom in right here on Payson.

19 And you can see Payson sort of in the center here.
20 And it shows the districts, the district lines. It will
21 allow you to zoom out to see what is part of the district
22 and what is not part of the district.

23 And you can see -- basically go into other parts
24 of the state.

25 Over here you can turn off the other districts.

1 We're in District 6 for the draft map, so you have
2 the ability to turn off all the other colors just to see it
3 a little bit clearer.

4 Sorry.

5 If you go down to the bottom part, you can turn
6 off the other -- the colors, so you can see just your
7 district and a little bit more clear.

8 So you see here -- this is one of the ways is the
9 map here.

10 Somebody in the front row here wanted to see the
11 other maps and then somebody was asking where these other
12 maps are.

13 Throughout the process, if you go to the maps,
14 there were a number of what-if scenarios that were drawn.
15 If you go into the what-if, you will see all the maps that
16 were considered as part of the process, including option 8A,
17 I believe.

18 So that's just a quick overview of how you can get
19 to the maps and weigh in.

20 I just want to point out --

21 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Are you able to
22 show those two next to each, that option, versus the one
23 that's been approved by the Commission?

24 ANDREW DRECHSLER: I am not. But if you go on to
25 the website and want to look at this and afterwards go to

1 the public input form, you're able to give your comments,
2 and that will be part of the consideration and deliberation
3 of what changes are going to be made for the final maps.

4 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me,
5 regarding the public input form, a number of us up here --
6 people have been talking to me, when you get down to the
7 bottom of the captcha, and it's real clear, and you write
8 down the captcha, and you hit submit, it keeps coming back
9 with another captcha, and kept saying bad captcha, bad
10 captcha, bad captcha, and finally you get up and walk away
11 and it never sends.

12 How many of you tried doing that and it wouldn't
13 work?

14 So there's a lot of lost public comments that you
15 would have gotten.

16 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: The security code
17 we're talking about.

18 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: It keeps coming
19 back saying invalid captcha.

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Any ideas on what might cause
21 that, Buck?

22 (Unidentified various comments.)

23 ANDREW DRECHSLER: We're sorry there was an error
24 but it seems to be working now.

25 And, again, the number is here on the website. If

1 you do have problems, feel free to call us. Up on top you
2 will see the toll free number as well, 855-redistrict.
3 855-redistrict.

4 And if you have any problems with the website,
5 feel free to give us a call and alert us of that.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks, Andrew.

8 Well -- oh.

9 Thank you. Please come up.

10 PAUL LABONTE: My name is Paul LaBonte again.

11 Let me see if I understand this, because I really
12 don't.

13 On each one of these different colors, you want
14 710,000 people?

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: On, sorry, on the legislative
16 one, it's 213,000.

17 PAUL LABONTE: I don't know what I'm showing you,
18 because, like I said, I don't understand these maps because
19 you don't --

20 ANDREW DRECHSLER: The title is right on them.

21 The title is on the top of the page, so it's
22 either the congressional or the legislative.

23 PAUL LABONTE: Like I say, why don't you number
24 them, then if you turn to map number five, I can turn to map
25 number five on the paper, and I will know which map you're

1 talking about.

2 So, sure, you guys know. You work with them every
3 day.

4 You know.

5 So I don't. I'm looking at this map because I
6 can't figure out which map you're talking about. You know.

7 So, to me it's a waste of a day, and I should have
8 stayed home and kicked my dogs around.

9 But if you're saying that each county or so is
10 supposed to have that many people now, I'm going to say
11 according to this, because I'm looking at it, Scottsdale
12 doesn't have more than 710,000 people in it.

13 You've got Gila County split into three, three
14 accordion stations.

15 My God, I don't think any of them -- I can't see
16 where any of them has got the amount that you want. You
17 know.

18 Like I said before, I think you threw an egg at a
19 wall -- at an Arizona map and said that was it, because I
20 can't see any rhyme or reason to your map on this particular
21 one. You know.

22 But I don't -- I can't read these maps. Because
23 if you would have numbered them for me, I could follow
24 along.

25 You have them numbered on the screen.

1 You could've put them up on the screen for us to
2 see as you were talking about each one, but nobody thought
3 of that.

4 May I ask how many of you people live in the rural
5 areas? Or are you all from Phoenix and Scottsdale?

6 I'm going to presume you are all from the city, so
7 you don't know the problems we have up here, and you're
8 trying to tell us how to live and what we should do.

9 You're wrong.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Do you have anything you want
12 to add, Mary?

13 MARY O'GRADY: No.

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

15 Anything else from anyone?

16 Okay. Well, we really appreciate all of you
17 taking time out of your evening to come and talk to us
18 tonight, and look forward to -- I hope you'll continue to
19 participate in the process, and follow us. And you can
20 watch other venues too, other cities across the state too on
21 their hearings, because those are also going to be online
22 recorded so that anyone can watch any hearing that they want
23 to see.

24 And I am sorry, Mr. Ascoli.

25 DON ASCOLI: Madam Chairman, I think that there

1 was -- I think there was another question. I think the
2 question came up, where is the constitutionality behind the
3 grid map, I believe was the question. Where in the
4 Constitution you use that.

5 (Unidentified various comments.)

6 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, the grid map.

7 DON ASCOLI: I think we want an answer to that
8 one.

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: That's how we -- the grid
10 map -- the question is what happened to the grid map.

11 And I don't know if that's in the presentation
12 still or not, but that's how we started the whole process.

13 Arizona's -- through Proposition 106, the
14 requirement is that unfortunately we can't just tweak the
15 districts as they currently reside. We have to start from a
16 clean slate.

17 And so a grid map, is what it's called, needs to
18 be created that has equal population in each of the nine
19 districts and created in a grid-like pattern across the
20 state. So it's almost like putting a tic tac toe board
21 across the state onto the map and making sure that there's
22 equal population in each of those nine cells.

23 And that's how we started the process.

24 And did you show the grid maps as part of your
25 presentation?

1 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Yes, it's in the presentation,
2 and this is the grid map pulled up.

3 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So the grid map got
4 generated, and it was in the presentation that Andrew gave.

5 And from there we adjust the boundaries according
6 to the six constitutional criteria that we're following.

7 So, trying to see if the. . .

8 If you could pull it up on your presentation, just
9 to show them what the grid map looked like.

10 (Brief pause.)

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So here is what the
12 congressional grid map looked like.

13 You can see it started down -- and we flipped a
14 coin actually to determine where to start in the state, so
15 that there would be no bias in terms of, you know, starting
16 in a certain area that would impact the grid a certain way.

17 So we flipped a coin, and it came out that we
18 would start down there in Cochise. And you can see the one,
19 two, three, and it went in a clockwise fashion around the
20 state to create the nine districts.

21 And that's all the grid map does, though, is it
22 meets the equal population requirement. It's not adjusted
23 at all to meet any of the other criteria that we have to
24 follow.

25 So it's just the starting point for the whole

1 process and. . .

2 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you bring up
3 option one and show us?

4 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sure, we can.

5 THE WITNESS: Good. I'd like the group to see it.

6 ANDREW DRECHSLER: And, again, all of these
7 options -- again, all of these options and all of these maps
8 are on the website. And here's -- I'm sorry, you want grid
9 map option one or --

10 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Option one 8A.

11 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Okay.

12 MARY O'GRADY: And if it's helpful while he pulls
13 that up, the legal concern about that was the benchmark
14 issue with the Native American district. Because it didn't
15 reach the benchmark.

16 And that was the legal problem there.

17 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Benchmark of what?

18 MARY O'GRADY: Within the Native American
19 district, getting up to 59 percent Native American
20 population. It was at 52 percent. And so the concern was
21 whether it would have a retrogressive effect on the
22 Native American district and whether it would cause us not
23 to get preclearance.

24 That's, that's the legal issue of concern.

25 (Brief pause.)

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If you have comments, please
2 come up to the microphone and identify yourself so that our
3 court reporter can get an accurate transcript. Thank you.

4 SHIRLEY DYE: Shirley Dye, Payson.

5 The map that they're talking about is -- this is
6 option one, version 8A.

7 This is option two, version 8A.

8 At the beginning of last week, at the beginning of
9 last week they decided they were going to merge these two
10 versions.

11 This one was prepared by Mr. Freeman, the
12 Republican. And this one was prepared by Mrs. McNulty, the
13 Democrat on the team.

14 And then so they decided to merge them together.

15 They already had on 8A -- I mean, option one, the
16 statistic for number seven, District 7, was 52.05 percent
17 Native American.

18 So they already had a minority-majority district
19 there that they could add to all their other ones and still
20 have the nine that they were looking for, but they decided
21 they would steal these people down here and pack it in.

22 That's my thoughts anyhow.

23 (Applause.)

24 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Ms. Williams.

25 JANET WILLIAMS: My name is Janet Williams.

1 My question is if in Congressional District 4, if
2 we now have 59 percent Native American representation -- is
3 that correct? Is that what you just said?

4 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Go ahead, Mary.

5 MARY O'GRADY: Those comments were as to the
6 legislative district configuration, not for the
7 congressional district configuration.

8 JANET WILLIAMS: What do we have for
9 congressional?

10 MARY O'GRADY: Congressional, we don't currently
11 have a majority Native American district.

12 Our voting rights districts on the congressional
13 side, there's only one in urban Maricopa County and then
14 there's one in southern and southeastern Arizona.

15 So there's not a voting rights district per se,
16 majority-minority district, in northeastern Arizona or
17 eastern Arizona.

18 JANET WILLIAMS: Okay. But, still the question
19 remains in a legislative district, the percentage of people
20 that would be filing federal income taxes, paying property
21 taxes, employment, and how we could be fairly represented
22 legislatively or congressionally.

23 Because the percentages would be, would be skewed
24 as far as representation goes.

25 That's my comment.

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

2 Okay. Is there anyone else who would like to say
3 anything?

4 Shirley, Ms. Dye.

5 SHIRLEY DYE: Shirley Dye, Payson.

6 To follow up on what Janet just said, the people
7 in Flagstaff, the conservative people in Flagstaff are
8 having a huge problem.

9 They did not want to be with the Native Americans
10 like they were before, because the Native Americans decided
11 they want their own health care clinic, because the ones in
12 Flagstaff, I guess, weren't good enough for them.

13 And so their legislator decided without telling
14 Flagstaff that they were just going to get their own health
15 care clinic. And so they raised all of Flagstaff's taxes
16 16 percent to get that, and just did it.

17 And this is what everybody else in the legislative
18 district as it is now is because -- and I want you to know,
19 again I say, I am not a prejudiced person.

20 We work with the Tonto Apache tribe here and the
21 San Carlos tribe and the White Mountain tribe. We have
22 three tribes in our current legislative district and in our
23 county.

24 And if we pick up that other thing, we'll have the
25 Camp Verde Apaches too.

1 We do not mind having Native Americans in our
2 district.

3 But when you take the whole thing and you take all
4 of it all the way around for a congressional district, and
5 then those same people you put in and disenfranchise a whole
6 lot of the people that are taxpayers, you know, that's a
7 problem.

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

9 Any other comments?

10 Okay. Well, again, we really appreciate you all
11 coming out tonight and taking time out of your lives to talk
12 to us about all this.

13 We will definitely be taking it all into account
14 as we go across the state. And we just started last night,
15 so we've got another 24 locations or so to hit.

16 But we appreciate you participating so early in
17 the process too, and we'll be adjusting things as we move
18 forward -- I'm sorry?

19 You do. There's a list of all of the venues.
20 It's in the back of the packet.

21 Oh, it's in the back of the room. Sorry.

22 There's a whole list, and on the website, so you
23 can see where we're headed next and follow us on the
24 Internet.

25 And with that, I appreciate everyone's help

1 tonight, the staff and team here.

2 It's 7:45 p.m., and I declare this hearing
3 adjourned.

4 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.
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4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was
5 taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter,
6 CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 67 pages
7 constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings
8 had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of
9 my skill and ability.

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 15th day of
11 October, 2011.

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14

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

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