October 17, 2011
6:10 p.m.

Location
Prescott Valley Public Library
7401 East Civic Circle
Prescott Valley, Arizona 86314

Attending
Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner

Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr

PREPARED BY:
AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, CR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
Prescott Valley, Arizona  
October 17, 2011  
6:10 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening.

This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order. Today is Monday, October 17th, and the time is 6:10 p.m.

And if you could all please rise, we'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, it's amazing to see this kind of turnout on a Monday evening. We saw all of the cars in the parking lot and then saw that the library is closed tonight, so figured, wow, this must be for the hearing. And here you all are.

Thank you for coming. It's wonderful to be here in Prescott Valley this evening.

Our purpose tonight is to hear from you. That's the primary reason we're all here, is to obtain input.

And we'll be doing that shortly. I'll be going through a whole public comment phase later in the meeting.
I first wanted to, though, go through roll call and introduce some people around the room and then also I believe Mayor Skoog is going to come up and give a few words of welcome to all of us. So for roll call, Vice Chair Freeman.

Vice Chair Herrera.

Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz.

And other folks -- and just so -- I should say first, all of the commissioners don't attend all of the meetings. We're kind of dividing up the state and attending different hearings at different times.

So I'm sure the other commissioners are watching this online. We're streaming this over the Internet. Or if they are not available to do that, they will be sure to watch this hearing because it's all recorded, and you can even pull it up online at home at a later time.

Other folks at the table include our legal counsel, Joe Kanefield; our mapping consultant, Andrew Drechsler.

We have a court reporter, Michelle, who is taking an accurate transcript of tonight's
Our public information officer is Stu Robinson, raising his hand over there.

Our public outreach coordinators, Kristy Olson and Lisa Schmelling.

And then Kristina Gomez, our deputy executive director is here in the back.

And feel free to contact any of these folks tonight if you need anything or have any questions or want to give us anything. They will be happy to accept it.

So with that, I think we'll bring the mayor of Prescott Valley up, Harvey Skoog.

And if you would like to just say a few words of welcome, that would be great.

HARVEY SKOOG: Well, thank you.

Good to see you all.

And welcome to you, Colleen, and all of the Commission. Good to see you all.

I would like to take a few seconds, if I may, and introduce some of the VIPs that are here.

Let's start with Mayor Kuykendall. Can you believe it? He made it.

Mayor Terry Nolan from Dewey-Humboldt.

Right now I'm not sure if there's any
other mayors here.

Rick Anderson, council member, Prescott Valley.

Lora Lee Nye, councilwoman, Prescott Valley.

Mike Flannery, retired council member from Prescott Valley.

Tom Thurman, county supervisor.

State Representative Karen Fann, I saw her. I don't know where -- oh, there she is.

Tim Emster, Sedona city manager.

Tim, where are you? Oh, there he is.

Jesse Dowling from Cottonwood, council member.

Carm Staker, one of our early mayors in Prescott Valley, and I don't know where -- there she is.

Carm was mayor back in the mid-'80s when I was -- the first time I was sworn into office on a council. So if I've done okay, she taught me -- if I'm not, I don't know who to blame. Myself, I guess.

Cliff Hamilton, vice mayor of Sedona.

Where is -- there he is.

And Pam Pearsall, our county assessor.
I know -- I hope I didn't miss anybody. If I did, I apologize. If I did, raise your hand so we can get you introduced.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mary Mallory. Mary Mallory -- I'm sorry. Mary Mallory is here.

Where is Mary at? Oh, there she is, way in the back.

Tonight we're going to have a little bit of fun with the subject known as redistricting. It does two things: Makes some people real happy, some people kind of frustrated.

And I think that our Commission -- I would like to say, boy, do they have a tough job. There's going to be some people that are going to be unhappy with it, others that I hope are going to be very happy. I hope the end result is it's going to make everyone happy.

Of course, here in Yavapai County we have a county -- a community of interest. So our hope is that we can see us intact as possible.

Oh, there's Dave Mauer from the Prescott Chamber of Commerce. There he is. Sorry I didn't see you there.
I hope I didn't miss somebody. If I did, I surely apologize.

I understand that you're going to have your chance to speak tonight. I'm going to sure encourage it because we need to -- and the Commission wants to hear your opinions. And we want the result -- end result to be something that's going to be very satisfactory. So express yourself; let us know what you want.

Again, thank you all for coming and welcome to this meeting. I hope you're enjoying our fairly new library facilities.

I see a bunch of you standing and I also see several empty chairs. Why don't you kind of move in and find a chair and make yourself comfortable. There is places to sit. You might have to come down the middle row to get to the chairs.

Anyway, thank you and welcome.

And, Colleen, you're back on.

Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mayor.

Federal law requires us to offer translation and interpretive services to those who don't have -- don't use English as their primary
language, and tonight we have two interpreters who I would like to call up to give a few words of welcome in their native tongues and to see if anybody needs any assistance.

Beatrice Critas, for Spanish. If you could come up and say a few words, that would be great.

BEATRICE CRITAS: Chair Mathis, Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, an interpreter will be available at all public hearings in order to provide interpretive services that might be needed for those citizens that need interpreting services.

Please contact the interpreter present at this meeting so that he or she can assist you.

Will the interpreters please raise his or her hand so that you might be identified.

I have to read this in Spanish also.

(Speaking in native tongue.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much. Our second interpreter is Nora Jim for Navajo.

NORA JIM: (Speaking in native tongue.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can you speak directly -- Ms. Jim. Thank you.
NORA JIM: (Speaking in native tongue.)

My name is Nora Jim. I'm from the Navajo Tribe, and I'm here to assist any Navajo who might not understand what is going on with the redistricting.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

Before we have a presentation on the redistricting process from Mr. Drechsler, I just want to remind everyone that if you would like to address the Commission tonight, be sure to fill out a request to speak form that's found on the table over there and we'll be sure to add you to the stack that I've got right here.

If you do not wish to address the Commission but still have input that you would like to provide, there's a blue sheet in the packets and it's on the tables over there that you can fill out and that testimony will be entered into the record just the same as if you stood here at the microphone or the podium tonight.

So just to let you know about those. So be thinking about what you want to say in your public input that will be coming shortly, and with that, I think we'll turn it over to Mr. Drechsler for a presentation.
ANDREW DRECHSLER: Good evening.

We're here to discuss the draft maps presented by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

The draft maps are currently under a 30-day review, which is the main reason that we are here today, is to hear your opinions on the maps. We do want to hear what you like about the maps, what changes you would make, and any other -- any other input that you may have.

Before we display the maps, we want to give you a quick overview of the process.

Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the State Constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the passage of Proposition 106. It stipulates Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census.

Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a congressional seat. So we'll be going from eight congressional seats to nine congressional seats.

The 30 legislative seats -- senate seats and the 60 house seats will stay the same.

What are the requirements of the State
Constitution via Proposition 106?

The new district boundaries must, A, comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

B, have equal population.

Criteria A and B are federally mandated.

To the extent practicable, the districts must be, C, compact and contiguous; D, respect communities of interest; E, use physical geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries and undivided census tracts; F, favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

We just wanted to go over the Voting Rights Act for the presentation.

Arizona's congressional and legislative districts must receive preclearance or approval from the Department of Justice or a federal court under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they 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 accidental discrimination.
Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' rights.

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

We wanted to go over sort of the six steps that are involved in the timeline of the Commission.

Step 1 was setting up the Commission. Earlier this year the commissioners were appointed following a thorough screening process and each of the commissioners serve as volunteers to the Commission.

The commissioners are Scott Freeman, vice chair; Jose Herrera, vice chair; today with us is Chairwoman Colleen Mathis; also today with us is Commissioner Linda McNulty; and Richard Stertz is the fifth commissioner.

Step 1 was the first round -- step 2 was the first round hearings.

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

Step 3 was mapping.

Per Proposition 106, we started with a clean slate. The next step was we then divided the state into equal population and compact grid-like districts.

The grid map is also a requirement of Proposition 106 and it's to show that we're starting off fresh and not taking in the last lines into consideration.

The grid map was approved on August 18th. Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid and accommodate all of the State constitutional criteria.

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

Approval of the draft maps.

On October 3rd, the Commission approved the draft congressional map that was incorporated -- that incorporated the changes based on all of the constitutional criteria.

It approved the draft legislative map on October 10th, just one week ago.
Step 4, second round of hearings.

We're currently in the process of visiting 25 towns and cities to share the draft maps and receive additional public comment during the months of October and November.

Step 5, final maps.

Upon completion of the public comment period, the Independent Redistricting Commission will adopt final maps.

The final, step 6, is preclearance.

Because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by the federal Department of Justice or the federal court in Washington, D.C., before they can be used for Arizona's elections.

Before we show you the draft map, we just wanted to go through the process and show you the evolution of the maps.

This was the congressional map used in the 2010 election and this was the map that was approved by the last Commission.

Per Proposition 106, we started with a blank slate and then we moved to the grid map.

Again, the grid map, which was approved on August 18th, took into account two of the
1 criteria, equal population and compactness.
2
3 After more than 25 meetings, the
4 commissioners voted to approve the draft map that
5 you see here.
6
7 Besides taking into consideration the six
8 criteria, the Commission took into consideration
9 public comment provided via public meetings, round
10 one of public hearings, comments mailed to the
11 Commission, e-mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, and
12 telephoned in. Over 5,000 comments helped to
13 develop this map.
14
15 As you can see, some of the highlights of
16 this map include two predominantly rural districts,
17 three border districts, two districts in the city of
18 Tucson, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa
19 County, it avoids splitting Arizona's Indian
20 reservations, and two districts where minority
21 voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of
22 their choice.
23
24 The legislative map process followed a
25 very similar process.
26
27 This is the map that was most recently
28 used in the 2010 elections. This also is the map
29 that was approved by the last Commission.
30
31 Like the congressional map, it started
off with a blank slate and then moved to the grid map.

Again, the grid map was approved on August 18th and took into account two considerations, equal population and compactness.

From there, they moved on to the legislative map which was approved just last week. Some of the features of the legislative map include it takes in to reflect the population growth and reduction.

Under the old map, the one that was used in the 2010 elections, the old districts ranged in population from 155,000 to 378,000. The districts in the draft map range from 207,000 to 215,000.

To comply with the Voting Rights Act the draft map includes ten districts which minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. The draft includes three districts wholly within Pima County and three additional Southern Arizona districts, seventeen districts that are within Maricopa County, and nine districts primarily rural.

The Commission wants to hear your input. You can fill out a request to speak form at today's hearing and provide the Commission your input.
Examples of input include your thoughts on any of the constitutional criteria, thoughts on the draft congressional map and thoughts on the draft legislative map.

You can submit your input by speaking at today's hearing. At the back of your packet of information that was handed out you would have seen one of these blue sheets. You can either fill it out and leave it with us today, otherwise the address is on it and you can mail that in to the Commission.

The other option is to call the Commission. The phone number is on here or you can visit us at www.azredistricting.org and there's a place where you can submit public comment there or call us at 602-542-5221 or toll free at 855-737-7478.

We just want to give a quick overview of our website and point out some features that you might find helpful in looking at the maps.

This is the home page of the Commission's website and you'll see on the top left an arrow for maps.

There you can find the grid maps and all of the maps that were taken under consideration in
developing the final draft maps.

You’ll see a link for meetings. If you wanted to watch any of the past meetings, there's a video of all of the past meetings online. So you can see how the draft map came to what we have today.

If you submit public input and click there, it will take you to a screen where you can fill out your thoughts.

And down below you'll see another arrow that has maps. If you click on either of these two options down below, it will take you to a screen that looks like this, and this is where you can find the draft maps.

Besides the draft maps that you have received in your packets, we have a couple maps up today on the walls.

And so if you click -- one of the features that people liked is the Google map feature, and that's what was on display when you first came in the room.

And if you click on the Google maps, it will take you to a screen that looks like this. And this is where -- this gives the ability to scroll and zoom in so you can see the exact boundaries of
your district and see the surrounding districts.

When you zoom in, it gives you some great
detail in terms of the exact neighborhood's
boundaries that are drawn.

And finally, we want you to stay
connected. We want you to visit our website,
azredistricting.org, and there's a feature on there
that allows you to draw your own maps that you can
submit to the commissioners.

You can watch current meetings on there.
We're going to be on the road for, I think, 20 more
days and you can watch all of them streamed live on
the Internet or you can get caught up on past
meetings and you can get updates on future meetings
there as well.

You can follow us at Twitter at #AIRC or
friend us at Facebook.

Again, thank you very much. If you have
any questions, I will be around afterwards and would
be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you,
Mr. Drechsler.

Great. Well, we're now at the public
comment portion of the meeting, and I've got about
So if you wouldn't mind, we would like to limit comment tonight to three minutes per person. And if you hear the timer go off and you're still -- you still have some things to say, just try to wrap it up as soon as we can. We won't cut you off instantly or anything like that, but it's just so that we can give everybody a chance to speak tonight.

It's, again, really wonderful that this many of you came out to our hearing. That's what this is all about.

And to the extent you can give us specific direction on the map, we'll take it. We want to hear what you like about the map or what you don't like about the map. They are both helpful comments.

And if you don't like it, if you've thought about ways to modify it, please feel free to let us know about those because that's very helpful.

So our first person -- just to remind everyone about public comment, if they could come up to the microphone and speak directly into it so that we can all hear you really well and please spell your name for the court reporter so we get an
accurate spelling and if you could also just say where you're from, if I don't say it. Most of you filled out the form and let me know that. So you don't need to, if I say it. But if you didn't, please let us all know just a city, town, or county where you reside.

So with that, our first speaker is Cliff Hamilton, vice mayor for the City of Sedona.

CLIFF HAMILTON: Good evening, Madame Chairman and Commissioner McNulty and staff members.

My name is Cliff Hamilton. I am the vice mayor of Sedona. I'm here tonight speaking on behalf of the Sedona City Council and the City of Sedona.

I can't think of a more thankless job than the one you folks have and probably more so than being a small-town city council member.

But rather than pick on various kinds of things, we do have very specific requests for you tonight and that involves the greater Sedona area.

One of the important things about Sedona -- I want to speak about the Congressional District 1 that we're currently allocated in.

It carves the city limits of Sedona out of the greater Sedona area. That break in Sedona
area shares a post office, they all have a similar address. And we talk about the Red Rock loop area up Oak Creek Canyon, our Village of Oak Creek which is just south of us, we are all really one unit sharing a post office and Sedona address and common fire district, a common school district, common voting precincts.

So in terms of administrative issues, I think my request tonight is really not about politics or those kinds of thing, it's first about these administrative issues that would be very helpful to have us all included in the same area.

I know with the congressional district you have about 700,000 folks you're dealing with, so a few thousand one way or another is probably not going to make a lot of difference in this particular issue.

So I first wanted to note please leave the greater Sedona area together.

Our second fundamental that the council would like to request tonight is we very much believe that the Verde Valley is also very much a community. We share great common work force. Probably half of our work force comes from outside of Sedona, coming in from Cottonwood, Camp Verde,
and other sorts of areas.

We share a common transit system, we share water, economic development interests that are all participating together.

So keeping the Verde Valley together in a common area is also very important to us, especially out here in rural Arizona.

Legislative District 6 is the one that we are currently assigned to in the current map. We're generally quite happy with that because it meets those two principles of keeping the greater Sedona area together and it also keeps most of Verde Valley together as well. So we really don't have much comment on that other than we generally support it because it meets our fundamentals.

And I think with that, I thank you very much for the chance to speak tonight and certainly wish you well in this endeavor.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

Our next is Representative Karen Fann, from current LD 1.

KAREN FANN: Thank you.

First of all, welcome to Yavapai County. We appreciate you coming up and having these hearings.
We know that you have put in a lot of effort. We know this is not easy, and we do thank you for the effort you are putting in.

My concern tonight is -- I will be addressing the legislative district map with regards to communities of interest.

I am speaking on behalf of many of our constituents.

First of all, let me state that one of the biggest concerns that we have is that fact that the Verde Valley communities were separated away from residents of Yavapai County.

We understand that the city of Sedona would like to be more with the northern communities; however, when we talk about communities of interest, please believe me that all of us who live along the Verde River, for all of us that depend on the Verde River, its ecosystem, its water availability, we have worked for generations, we have worked for decades together to make sure that we stay -- we keep that Verde River as precious as it possibly is and make sure that we provide for the downriver users.

If that were to be split away from the rest of Yavapai County, it would be very difficult
for us to work together because consequently, the
city of Flagstaff and the population that comes from
there would end up controlling much of what goes on
in that whole Verde Valley area instead of someone
from Yavapai County addressing to keep our
communities together.

It is interesting that the majority of
the Verde Valley mayors signed on wanting to be part
of Legislative, what we know, as District 1. They
do not want to be separated.

We find it interesting that an effort,
with all due respect to our tribal neighbors, in an
effort to keep all of the tribes together, in an
effort to appease the city of Flagstaff because they
didn't want to be with the Navajo Nation, in
essence, the rest of the state ended up getting the
short end of the stick on some issues.

When it comes to Yavapai County, we have
communities of interest that not only entail the
Verde River, but our infrastructure, our road
transportation system that we have all worked so
hard together, our economic development as well as
community health.

One of the most frustrating things about
the map as is existing, which does not show fully on
this one map, but to the south, if the rest of the citizens don't understand, if left the way it is, we will also be taking in Wickenburg, Morristown, north of -- the north side of Surprise, the north side of Buckeye, Gila, and a number of other communities in Maricopa County.

While we all love our neighboring communities, part of our problem here is that it is not an unforeseeable thing that in the future, that Yavapai County could end up having their representatives and their senator elected from either Coconino County or Maricopa County, which means that Yavapai County could end up with no representation whatsoever.

And one little side note, for history, we have always been Legislative District 1 because we were the first territorial capital and it's a part of Arizona history. And if at all possible, we would like to keep our history and we would like to stay LD 1.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Tom Thurman, Yavapai County Supervisor.

TOM THURMAN: And, again, welcome to
Yavapai County.

I can't hardly beat -- I agree with everything that Representative Fann said.

I just -- so you guys understand the history of the Verde Valley and the Prescott side. We have this mountain range that seems to be more than a mountain range. For some reason it's always split this county for years and years and years. Even when Jerome was a little town, a mining town and Prescott was a little town, they always would fight.

There's always something going on. We have turf wars between them and us. But you know what, we're still home; they are still home to us. There's been a period where they've talked about in the Verde Valley of going off and creating their own county because they believe they had different interests.

But they have complete different interests from Coconino County. They have much more in kind with us.

Many of the things that we have on here, compactness is under one of them. That would keep Yavapai County more whole.

Respect for communities of interest. We
have much more in common with them than they do with Flagstaff or points south.

And, of course, the geographic feature of the Mingus Mountain.

What you got to understand is this could tear up this county for future ability to get along with the folks in the Verde Valley and us on this side of the mountain.

We as Yavapai County's Board of Supervisors, when we did our redistricting, we made sure that there was one of the districts that was literally half on that side of the mountain and half on this side. So we have this olive branch that we all are one county, not separated by Mingus Mountain.

And this just exacerbates a problem that we've had in the past, and I don't want to see that happen again, both in legislative and congressional maps. So I'll leave it at that.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Terry Nolan, town of Dewey-Humboldt.

TERRY NOLAN: Thank you very much.

And, again, welcome to Yavapai County.
We have a representative who has been attending your meetings continuously from the start and he will present a resolution later on when he speaks, but just to emphasize what has already been said, to keep Yavapai County whole and also the historic part of being in District 1.

So again, thank you, and I'm not going to say too much more because there's a lot of people that have a lot to say.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I like your hat.

Our next speaker is Lou Smith, representing self from Williamson Valley in Yavapai County.

LOU SMITH: Madame Chairman, Madame single commissioner, my name is Lou, L-o-u, Smith, S-m-i-t-h. I noticed nobody else could remember to spell their names as instructed.

Anyway, Yavapai County is and of itself complete and whole. We have people representing both sides of the mountains and we have issues which are basically resolved within ourselves.

You go splitting us up so that part of us, as was mentioned earlier, has the potential to
be represented by, good heavens, Maricopa County, we
should be by ourselves.

We have sufficient population. Just a
smidgen more brought down and we're at the average.

So please don't tear us up. Leave us
alone.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Malcolm Barrett, Jr.,
representing self from Prescott.

MALCOLM BARRETT, JR.: Good evening,
Madame Chair and Commissioner McNulty.

My name is Malcolm Barrett, Jr. I'll
spell the first because that's more of a challenge
than the last name usually. M-a-l-c-o-l-m, last
name Barrett, B-a-r-r-e-t-t.

I'm addressing you tonight primarily on
the subject of the legislative district.

In an earlier meeting when we talked
about the target population of 215,000, Yavapai
County in itself is just over 212,000. And yet in
the proposed legislative district before us tonight,
including Prescott and most of Yavapai County, you
have a population figure, in fact, of 212,000
people.
We have the same population as that in Yavapai County right now. To expand that district to the west and south by carving population of 40,000 citizens, basically representing the Verde Valley, we have to go to the west and clear down to Interstate 10 to the northern boundaries of Buckeye to make up that 40,000 population that has been carved out by the gerrymandering of the Verde Valley into the other district.

I think we have a much better solution in just keeping Yavapai County whole. If you look at compactness, if you draw a straight line on the map on the northern side of Yavapai County clear down to Interstate 10, it's not really compact because driving -- you're talking an over two-hour drive. And having a two-hour drive within one legislative district does not meet any definition of compact that I know of.

In terms of community of interest, we as an entire county share those in terms of law enforcement, in terms of hospital districts, in terms of water, in terms of everything you can think of across the border. We really don't have anything in interest with western Maricopa and Interstate 10 corridor.
Now, one thing that bothers me from the beginning with the proposal of this legislative map is that this is virtually the same boundaries carved out on a proposal submitted by the City of Flagstaff who hired a Democrat lobbyist who, in fact, is the chair -- the vice chair of the Democrat committee and here we have -- and the proposal before us today does, in fact, virtually carves out the entire Verde Valley to meet the needs of the City of Flagstaff, and that is not in anybody's best interest.

And I would also like -- I would also like to note that Yavapai County, as the Mother County, representing since statehood, two-thirds of the state of Arizona, I would like to maintain that designation of CD and Legislative District 1.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Steve Rutherford, Prescott Valley Economic Development Foundation.

Is he here?

No.

I'll call his name later if he stepped out.

Sharon Egan, from Prescott.

SHARON EGAN: My name is Sharon Egan,
E-g-a-n, and my purpose for being here this evening is to express my concern with regards to the company that helped you map out the votes in our county. I know that you helped Obama with some of his redistricting and voting situations, and I don't believe in my own heart that you can be independent and fair, and I'm wondering if this Commission is going to try to do the same thing that Obama did and the Democrats did when they forced the health care plan down our throats.

I'm hoping that you're not trying to force this down our throats.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Matthew Perry, representing Prescott.

MATTHEW PERRY: My name is spelled M-a-t-t-h-e-w, P-e-r-r-y, and I'm from Prescott in Yavapai County.

I have spoken here previously at the last meeting, but my public comments haven't been incorporated in the map so I figured I'd come here and repeat myself.

But I think that there's a big difference from Prescott and places like Surprise and Buckeye and Fountain Hills. And I think we have a lot more
in common with other rural areas like Williams and
Mohave County, and I think that we should be
incorporated in a completely, not predominantly,
rural district.

And I also think when it comes to our
legislative district, Yavapai County is a community
of interest, period. We're not -- we don't share
the same fire, in education, in water districts.

I'm not going to not be friends with
someone at Yavapai College because they come from
Cottonwood or Camp Verde, and I don't think our
political representation should be divided that way.

And not to sound like a broken record,
but please keep our community and our home together.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I'll read the next speaker name and
then -- just so that you know who is coming up so
that they can get ready to speak, just so we move it
through because this is such a big room.

Our next speaker will be Tom Steele.
After Tom will be Peggy Magee and then Rose Sperry,
just so you know.

So Tom Steele, representing self from
Prescott Valley.
TOM STEELE: Good evening, Madame Chair, council members, and fellow citizens.

As a young man I remember being made aware of Elbridge Gerry, the politician from Massachusetts that created a district that looked like a salamander to benefit his own party. Now, I resented it then and I resent it now.

Now, while you're using a computer program to make these gyrations, we know that computer programs can predict what some people want them to predict.

And I go back to the global-warming scam, as I refer to it, that predicted that we were going to have massive increases in temperature in the last ten years, which has proven to be fraud.

So computer programs I don't think are the answer.

I've been here eight years as a retired man, and I appreciate Yavapai County east and west of the Mingus Mountains. I appreciate the fact that this once was a territorial capital right in Prescott, thanks to Sharlot Hall.

And I think to keep us united with our existing boundaries that we're comfortable with, as was mentioned, our college district, our systems of
government, our water issues, that it would be sparingly popular to keep us all in one.

And to see this most recent map where we are referred to as Number 14 with a lump taken out, removing Sedona and that portion of the Verde Valley and giving us citizens down in Maricopa, to me, that just epitomizes what I would consider gerrymandering.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Peggy Magee, representing self from Yavapai County.

PEGGY MAGEE: The name is Peggy, P-e-g-g-y, Magee M-a-g-e-e. And I am from Prescott Valley.

I would like to speak about Legislative District 14 and the fact that you have scooped out the Verde Valley, at least most of it.

For many years I was an adjunct instructor at Yavapai College and I would have to teach both on the Prescott campus and on the Verde Valley campus, which is over in Clarkdale, which you have scooped out of Legislative District 14.

I think we need to keep Yavapai County together and not scoop out for some unknown reason.

If you take out that portion, you've got
to head down into the southern part, which includes
Maricopa County and we don't have any interest
there.

So please let's keep Yavapai County
together.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Rose Sperry,
representing self from Cottonwood.

And after Rose will be Frank Davidson,
Judy Davidson, and Thomas Kayn.

ROSE SPERRY: Hi. My name is Rose
Sperry, R-o-s-e, S-p-e-r-r-y.

I came with a big list of things to say,
however, Representative Fann, the mayor of Dewey,
Malcolm Barrett, Jr., and everybody else has spoken,
has said it like it is, and the way I feel is
exactly the way they feel.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for
letting us speak and I hope that we are not just
blowing in the wind.

I sincerely pray that you all put your
integrity first when making this great decision that
will impact us all for years to come.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Frank Davidson, representing self from Dewey-Humboldt.

FRANK DAVIDSON: Good evening, and thank you for all of your hard work. I know what it is to be a volunteer.

I would like to request that -- keeping Yavapai County whole. We've lived here for about seven years and I like to see the police cars and the sheriff cars and the county fire trucks all stay in Yavapai County.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Judy Davidson, representing self in Dewey-Humboldt.

JUDY DAVIDSON: Thank you.

J-u-d-y, D-a-v-i-d-s-o-n.

I am relatively new to the area, and I find that I feel that our Yavapai County should stay together because we basically have the same interests. We're rural, we're country folk, and we really have nothing in common with the other areas that you're trying to put into -- with us.

So if you can keep us all intact, we would really appreciate it.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Thomas Kayn, representing self from Prescott.

And after Thomas will be Sharlene Mullen, Christine Lutz, and Rex Mauldin.

TOM KAYN: Last name is spelled K-a-y-n. Tom Kayn from Prescott.

Commissioners, Proposition -- I'm going to talk about congressional districts a little bit more.

Proposition 106 states that districts have to be compact and contiguous. And it should be clear to anyone that overall, this requirement is not being adhered to in the drawing of new CD 4 and 1 and needs to be revisited by the Commission.

Unlike the existing CD 1, your current now CD 4 configuration is stretching, it's meandering, it's got peninsula-like outcroppings. It's haphazardly patched together with pieces of counties that encompass nearly the total northern to southern borders of the entire state with counties that have notable differences in their priorities and the needs for the Prop 106 mandated fair and balanced state and federal representation.

Moreover, I view this gerrymandering as a
move to create one firmly Republican and one firmly Democratic district to represent the rural communities of Arizona. And this is a change from the firmly Republican existing CD 2 and the competitive CD 1 that now exists.

In essence, you're proposing a washout, a potential stalemate. And I believe that that is something we do not need in the makeup of our overall rural representation.

With the tools you have available, you should be able to draw two rural districts that would be -- would open the elections to representatives who have the same interests in mind in serving rural Arizona.

Now, if that means two from one or the other of the major parties or two honestly and closely competitive districts, so be it.

My point is that the planned political splitting of rural Arizona is not in the best interest of the communities and the economies here.

Now, Prop 106 also states that competitive districts are favored if they do not significantly harm the other goals that are listed. And one of these other goals is labeled communities of interest, and I'll address that shortly.
Commissioners, what makes it difficult to comment on this is a lack of definitions.

I was personally unable to find anything on the Commission's website glossary to inform me as to how the terms "rural" and "communities of interest" are defined.

So as far as rural is concerned, I did some research on my own, and I'm going to offer you just a couple of short excerpts for your enlightenment.

    The term "rural" conjures -- I'm reading --

    STU ROBINSON: Time is up.

    TOM KAYN: The term rural --

    STU ROBINSON: Time is up.

    TOM KAYN: The term rural conjures widely shared images of farms, ranches, villages, small towns, et cetera. Yet when it comes to distinguishing rural from urban places, researchers and policymakers employ a dizzying array of definitions.

    Many definitions for rural.

    And the use of multiple definitions reflects the reality that rural and urban are multidimensional. And how small is rural as
compared to urban metropolitan, a semiurbanized area?

Well, there's three different concepts of urban that lead to very different boundary definitions which define what rural is.

There's the land-use concept, there is the administrative concept. The land-use concepts used by the Census Bureau, the administrative concept is used by the USDA in its rural development programs and then that's the economic concept, which is used by most rural research applications.

Commissioners, if you used population density only to determine what is rural and what isn't, I'm proposing that you have fallen short regarding how to best draw truly rural districts.

If you've used population density figures only, then you've diminished the importance of the more broader communities of interest like geography, topography, elevations, weather, plant climate zones, natural resource development similarities, agriculture.

Commissioners, we're not into cotton growing and citrus and lettuce growing in Yavapai County and yet you have tied us into counties that are.
COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Sir, I'm sorry to interrupt, but if you could close up because we have a lot of people wanting to speak.

TOM KAYN: I had a lot of applause, so I lost time on that, which you have to make up.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Okay.

TOM KAYN: These are points -- if you'll bear with me, these are points that you haven't heard yet, okay, at least I don't believe you've heard yet.

Then there's forestry, mining and extraction, and ranching, education, transportation corridors.

Please know we don't have the use of the Colorado River like the other counties in the proposed districts.

So if you don't factor these, and I'm sure there's others, these issues into a north of and a south of Maricopa rural model with different communities of interest, then you've circumvented the terms of Prop 106.

So finally, a community of interest that is critical in our area is the water issue.

Are you aware that the ADWR water atlas categorizes a major portion of Yavapai County in the
Central Highlands Planning area, and our water
future has little to nothing in common with Mohave,
La Paz, and Yuma counties who you have married us to
in this new CD 4 district.

In my opinion, you've missed the mark
there.

Commissioners, Prop 106 states that you
are to create competitive districts to the extent
practicable where doing so would not create any
specific -- or any significant detriment to the
other goals listed.

My overall point here is this, and now
I'm closing.

In serving the common -- of the common
and recognized community of interest, some of which
I have just stated, the current CD 1 configuration,
imperfect as it may be, the current district with
Yavapai County and the Verde Valley included with
other more north of Maricopa counties who have
similar communities of interest, the current
district configuration is better than the one you
have developed and it's better because it's more in
line with our central to northern rural communities,
their economies, and the other larger communities of
interest that I have noted, as far as effective,
fair, and balanced representation is concerned.

So you need to reconsider the
redrawing -- or the drawing of the CD 1 and CD 4
districts, keep in mind that population density
involves more than just people per square mile.

Communities of interest topics must be
received on a regional as well as a local basis.
The rural land north of Maricopa is different from
that south of Maricopa.

And your current proposals show too much
gerrymandering and the lack of compactness
requirement by Proposition 106.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is
Sharlene Mullen, representing self from Yavapai.

SHARLENE MULLEN: My name is Sharlene
Mullen, S-h-a-r-l-e-n-e, M-u-l-l-e-n.

I live in the Village of Oak Creek. We
are a rural community. And I am opposed to proposed
maps that break up Yavapai County in District 1.

While I appreciate your efforts, this
Commission has no representatives from Yavapai
County and it seems you have not taken our interests
into consideration.

You are asking for concrete suggestions,
add mine to it to keep Yavapai County intact, including all of Sedona and the Verde Valley. We share community of interest in water, transportation, schools, law enforcement, and many other services with Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Prescott and Prescott Valley and not with Flagstaff and not our urban neighbors to the south.

I urge you to keep Yavapai County intact and you put communities of interest ahead of politics.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Christine Lutz, representing self. And you can tell us where you are from.

CHRISTINE LUTZ: Good evening.

My name is Christine Lutz, C-h-r-i-s-t-i-n-e, L-u-t-z.

I live in Sedona and I'm in Yavapai County where I pay taxes and I like my votes to stay there, too.

The Verde Valley should not be broken up. It works just fine the way it is. We have more in common with Prescott, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Camp Verde, and Cornville than we ever would Flagstaff or anything in Phoenix.

We have rural communities and we have
many of the same interests and needs. We share water, we share law enforcement, we share hospitals, we share road construction, highways, things that we need fixed. We're all on the same page, and we want to stay on the same page.

I really can't help feeling that there is gerrymandering going on here and I don't think it's the American way.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Rex Mauldin, representing self from Chino Valley. After Rex will be Sara Reinsch, Glenn Miller, and Kurt Womack.

REX MAULDIN: Rex Mauldin, M-a-u-l-d-i-n. And I had a choice tonight whether to write my comments on the little blue sheet or put a face to my comments by being here and taking the time. I appreciate your time as well.

I agree with everything I have heard here, so I don't need to repeat so we can move on. I'm concerned about water issues because I live in Chino Valley, the water -- where the Verde River is.

I certainly don't want to see the breaking up of the Camp Verde area, Cottonwood, Clarkdale and so forth.
It was mentioned about Williams, it's more tied in with the economy of Chino Valley and Mohave, if you go from Chino Valley to Williams and so forth and on and on.

But some other things I noticed in this map that don't make sense to me.

Kingman and Flagstaff are transportation hubs, railroads, airports and yet there's no connectivity between those two.

Quartzsite and Phoenix, that's another area that there's a lot of traffic that goes between those corridors, or Quartzsite and Yuma.

One of these other maps show parts of -- the districts south of the highway down there -- Marana grew from Tucson and it's got its own district.

I don't understand this. If this is connectivity going on, it just doesn't make sense to me.

So anyway, I know there's other people that want to talk. I just wanted to show up and say my peace here.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Sara Reinsch, representing self from Prescott.
SARA REINSCH: That's S-a-r-a,
R-e-i-n-s-c-h.

Good work on pronouncing it.

I'm only representing myself, but I have
discussed it with quite a few friends and neighbors,
and every single one of them wants to keep Yavapai
County intact.

The new map is contiguous but it is not
compact. It swoops around to the east side of
Phoenix. And basically, except for being human
beings and citizens of Arizona, we have almost
nothing in common as far as communities of interest.

Our primary industries are rural tourism,
mining and ranching. Our water concerns are also
different from theirs.

I'm being very brief. Most everybody has
given the details of these things.

But with our county intact, as far as
competitiveness is concerned, since I have been
here, we have elected a Republican followed by a
Democrat followed by a Republican. So we must be a
very competitive district.

That was all for CD 1.

For LD 4, pretty much the same thing.

What do we, Prescott, Prescott Valley,
Dewey-Humboldt, and Chino Valley have to do with Metro Phoenix.

You cut away about approximately 40,000 people with the same interests we have and replaced them with metropolitan areas that have no interest in common with us.

Also mayors and supervisors of the City of Williams and cities of the Verde Valley have sent you letters asking to be kept with the quad cities.

We have common interests in management of fire issues, water issues, and we share the rural area. We should be kept together.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Glenn Miller, representing self in Yavapai.

GLENN MILLER: And Prescott, city of Prescott.

My name is spelled G-l-e-n-n, M-i-l-l-e-r, just like the band leader.

Two points of order have to be made.

Before I give my comments, there's a sign back here, it says "Chicago Politics in Yavapai County," it has got no place in this room. You have consistent rules. This is obviously representing an
And second, everybody here for the most part has been following the rules, for the three-minute rule. One gentleman, though he was very articulate, violated that rule outrageously.

You should have a gong up here or a buzzer or maybe a little 30-second light or something to tell somebody they've got 30 seconds to go and so they know when they have to wrap up their three minutes. You got to be consistent. You got to have rules and follow the rules.

CD 4 -- a general principle I wanted to make is that looking at the maps, they are emphasizing this idea that you have to have rural districts over and above making geographically contiguous districts. That is, you know, keeping a geographical region of the state intact to the best ability that you can.

For example, CD 4, as a rural district, wraps around kind of like a little fish or whatever into east of the Valley of Metro Phoenix, picking up Apache Junction when maybe Yuma would be more appropriately tacked on possibly to create a CD 4.

I want to second the comments in today's Arizona Republic. The last few days there was a
republic (sic) by Luis Heredia, executive director of the Democratic party, and Andrei Cherny, the chairman of my party, the Democratic party, that we needed to have more competitive districts in the LD map.

In looking at LD 7, why is LD 7 so large compared to the other districts geographically? There should be some kind of balance in terms of how much they range geographically.

To sum it up, I question why it's so important to have solely rural districts over and above geographic cohesiveness.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Next speaker is Kurt Womack, representing self from Yavapai.

And after Kurt will be Dorothy O'Brien, Roger Morgan, and Donna Tanzi.

KURT WOMACK: Hi. Thank you for doing this.

My name is Kurt Womack, K-u-r-t, W-o-m-a-c-k.

Ditto pretty much everybody else that has spoke before me. As a nonprofessional, I'm not a bureaucrat, when I look at that map, I think the old
saying about computers, garbage in; garbage out.

You know, the first map shows the grid layout that to me seemed pretty logical and straightforward and then the next map was shown kind of made me think there's a garbage-disposal feature on that computer program with Maricopa County as the center of the vortex.

I find that map on the left there -- our county wrapping down into the southern part of Phoenix? Come on, that makes no logical sense.

And I'll be blunt on my next comment.

It's obvious that the voters act, whatever it is, has subjugated points C, D, and E out of Prop 106. It looks like political correctness rules the day.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I'm sorry.

I was continuing to write.

Dorothy O'Brien, and you can tell us who you are representing, from Yavapai.

DOROTHY O'BRIEN: Thank you, Madame Chairman.

My name is Dorothy, O'Brien, capital O, apostrophe, capital B-r-i-e-n, and I am here as the past president of Big Park Regional Coordinating Council.
Thank you for this opportunity.

I also chair our task force on redistricting.

And, Madame Chairman, I am hoping that we have some civil discourse, because my statements will be the same that I have made for our community at other redistricting hearings like this, so here we go.

First of all, the city of Sedona is part of a greater Sedona area. As we have -- as I have said before and many have said before me, the municipal part is just part.

Around the municipality are several election precincts all comprising unincorporated parts of the greater Sedona community. We are a cohesive unit. We share, as Vice Mayor Hamilton said, all of those various districts and services.

And the community is desirous of staying together as a greater Sedona area. So that's really key for us as a community.

Secondly, our community is desirous of staying with CD 1. The congressional district map that you have put forward, provided we can, you know, be part of the Sedona community that you designate in that as it is drawn.
We heard lots of comments from people who feel otherwise, and I would certainly fight for their right to speak their opinion.

So what I would like to say is that our community, while -- well, our community shares several links with our neighbors to the north.

In Yavapai County, there is a strong, proud history. There is no dispute about that. A proud history.

We also have links to our northern brothers and sisters. When you come through the Sedona area, about 3 million visitors, 3 million tourists come there. That's a huge economic driver for the whole entire area.

Those people come through, they'll stay in Sedona, look at the red rocks, they'll do some cultural things there, but ultimately they are heading towards the Grand Canyon, perhaps Hopi lands, perhaps Navajo lands, Monument Valley and some of the activities around Flagstaff.

Yes, they are also coming out to Sharlot Hall Museum, some of the other things as well. No question.

But the community is desirous of being a greater Sedona area in CD 1 as you have it drawn.
So that's one point.

The other point -- the other point is the natural resources. And I would like to just take a minute and say that we've recently gone through our county redistricting. And I am very sad to say that a large portion of the public comment and the written comments were completely not taken into consideration at all. And, in fact, an alternate map was drawn, did not go through the same public process and then during the public hearing when it was approved, we were told that it really didn't matter, that the elected officials didn't have to listen to public comment. It was very disappointing. Very disappointing.

So now what we find in the Verde Valley is that we have one district and there are four others.

So I would hope that some of what we have heard tonight is true. But just as we've heard the statements about Maricopa and some of the other unwanted bedfellows, if you will, I would say the same thing, that given our past treatment and the fact that the Verde Valley and particularly some of the other communities within the Verde Valley are not heard, are overwhelmed consistently, our voices
are discounted, that it's almost time for us to perhaps look to the north and have our voices heard.

   And I'm sorry to say that, but if I didn't say it, I would not be telling you what the discussion is in our communities when we meet.

   So ladies and gentlemen, there you have it on Congressional District 1.

   On the legislative district, we will have more to say, but we are about to meet about that so that we can come back to you with some concrete facts.

   So that's a little different than you've heard so far tonight, but thank you for the opportunity.

   Thank you for your time.

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

   Our next speaker is Roger Morgan, representing self from Chino Valley.

   ROGER MORGAN: It's Roger Morgan, R-o-g-e-r, M-o-r-g-a-n.

   I guess I have a little different perspective on this overall thing because I think in terms of a retired small business owner, I think in terms of keeping things simple, not making things so difficult that it makes processes and maps and all
of these things that I'm looking at more difficult
for the small business because we always get
involved in having to pay people to do nonproductive
things for a small business.

    Taxes, you name it, we get involved in
it.

    I am currently retired. I don't have to
deal with that anymore, but I still think that way.

    I also noticed that you have to have
approval from the Department of Justice, which I
actually have not much use for these days. I don't
think they are doing their job.

    What I'm saying is, I've lived in the
area about 70 years now. Came from California,
which a lot of people have, and I came here on
purpose because I thought things were simpler.

    There was a great sense of community in
this area. The people that represent us really
care.

    So therefore, all I'm asking is let's not
make things so difficult that it makes it harder on
everybody.

    That's my comment.

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

    Our next speaker is Donna Tanzi,
representing self from Prescott.

And after Donna will be Craig Brown, Bill Warren, and Pam Pearsall.

DONNA TANZI: Good evening.

Tanzi is spelled T-a-n-z-i.

When you consider Yavapai County geographic location, as anywhere between 3500 and 6,000 feet --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Microphone.

DONNA TANZI: Pardon?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can't hear you.

DONNA TANZI: Sorry about that.

Anyway, when you consider that we are between 3500 and 6,000 feet in elevation and our economical concerns include forestry, mining and ranching, then why would the redistricting map lump us together with the western part of the state that has elevations at sea level and where agriculture rules?

Water issues alone are so very different in the western part of the state where the Colorado River flows versus the many groundwater issues we have in Yavapai County.

Good water and good forest management is critical to the survival of the Verde Valley and the
Prescott quad cities.

Best we not be diluted with the issues that are not common to Yavapai County. It makes no sense to split the county.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Craig Brown, representing Williamson Valley Community Organization.

CRAIG BROWN: I am Craig Brown, common spelling.

I could echo many of the things people have said here today, but I started to look very closely at the congressional district mapping and it's so confusing and so involved that it's just a big mess, in my opinion.

Secondarily, we went on to look at the legislative, and I would echo my friends over here from the Verde Valley that they don't want to be split from this area.

We live on the west side of the county and we would ask that they stay a part of our neighborhoods and our participation in the processes that we have in this area.

Not much more beyond that or I would just be redundant, but we would like -- it's a very
common and easy thing to fix. Small area. Give it back to us. That's what we want.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Bill Warren, representing self from Prescott.

BILL WARREN: Madame Chairman, just so I have an idea who I am talking to, are any of the commissioners from Northern Arizona?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

BILL WARREN: Okay. Thank you.

We in Northern Arizona have unique problems that Prescott -- that Phoenix and Tucson don't have.

I won't take but a few minutes and say that the main problem that we have and the main problem that determines our survival or not is water.

And we have a mountain range that runs right through our county and that mountain range provides the water for all of the communities. And you may or may not know, but this has been a disputed item for a number of years.

And what I'm concerned about is if Yavapai County, with it's unique problems, is not
properly represented in congress by a congressman or
woman who knows and is concerned about our problems,
our water need, that our existence could be
challenged.

And so I urge you to keep Yavapai County
as a single congressional district so we can be
represented and our unique survival can be properly
addressed.

And I also would like to say that please,
please don't draw up a district map that you think
will please the Attorney General.

Thank you.

STU ROBINSON: Madame Chairwoman, may I
address the gentleman's first comment?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sure, Stu.

STU ROBINSON: I get that question often,
and so I researched it and you have to understand
the Commission goes out --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear you.

STU ROBINSON: Okay. The Commission goes
out of business between redistricting cycles. So a
third party, the committee on judicial public court
appointments, advertises for members of the
Commission, takes applications, and picks finalists,
because obviously the Commission can't do it because
it doesn't exist yet.

Now, I looked this up -- this time around, only 11 of the 79 applications came from outside Maricopa and Pima counties.

There was one application from Yavapai County, one application from Coconino County, and one application from Mohave County.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why don't you choose them?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We didn't hear about it.

(Multiple speakers in the audience.)

STU ROBINSON: My point is, nobody from your county has applied to be on the Commission.

(Multiple speakers in the audience.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We'll move on in public comment.

Our next speaker is Pam Pearsall, representing self, and is the County Assessor.

PAM PEARSSALL: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. And from Yavapai County.

PAM PEARSSALL: Yes.

Pam Pearsall, P-e-a-r, like the fruit, pear, s, as in Sam, a-l-l.
I am the Yavapai County assessor but today I am here representing myself.

Again, I want to echo what has been said so many times. I truly would like to have Yavapai County kept as a whole.

I didn't look at things as a land-use issue out of the eyes of an assessor, but we share so many things in Yavapai County.

We share the sheriff's office, we have the same recorder, the same treasurer, the same board of supervisors, the same assessor, the same -- these things are important I think to all of us. We're neighbors, we're friends, we're family.

I think that Verde Valley and Sedona are extremely important as a whole.

When you look at our community, we rely a lot on ranching, on grapes, agratourism, tourism, similar businesses, but when we look at some of the communities that you have us lumped in with, they have challenges but they are different challenges than what we have.

I would hate to think that our representative spend energy away from our challenges on some of theirs.

I talked to the Mohave County assessor
and I said, "Tell me about your community and how you're different from Yavapai County."

He says, "We completely have different grazing, different length of grass," things like that.

We have different water issues. And one of our main challenges is polygamy and -- we border Nevada -- we have a lot of land fraud back from the 1950s, things that Yavapai County -- we don't have, and I don't want my representative wasting that energy.

I then went to Yuma and I asked the Yuma assessor Joel Wehrle, "What do you see different about your community or do you think we're the same?"

And he said, "No, we farm cotton and vegetables. Up in Yavapai County you have grapes, which don't grow down here. You have completely different water issues in Yavapai County."

And while our history is interesting, Yavapai County was the capital of Arizona. We have a fine history and a lot of tourism because of that history, and that history is all of Yavapai County.

So anyways, I would ask you to really consider the -- what was the argument? The
communities of interest because as I see the
community of interest, those are the kind of things
I think about: Property tax issues, mining, the
college, the county.

Thank you so much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is -- you'll have to
forgive me on pronunciation -- Wymbs Shimizu
followed by Mike Siavelis and then Douglas Wade.

WYMBS SHIMIZU: Good evening. Thanks for
your time.

I'm Wymbs, whiskey, Yankee, momma, bravo,
sierra, space, sierra, hotel, indigo --

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

WYMBS SHIMIZU: W-y-m-b-s, S-h-i-m-i-z-u.

Call me Bob.

Thanks very much for your time.

The existing Yavapai County borders are
sufficient unto all of these causes, with the
inclusion of the Verde Valley and perhaps the
addition of the town of Williams. That I think is
appropriate for both the legislative draft map and
the congressional draft map.

How many people here from Glendale?

No surprise.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Mike Siavelis. You can tell us how to pronounce it. Sorry about that. And representing self and if you can tell us where you're from.

MIKE SIAVELIS: Mike Siavelis, I reside in Prescott Valley, one of the last houses in Prescott Valley.

My last name is S-i-a-v-e-l-i-s.

Okay. We have more common, like a lot of people have already said, with the Verde Valley than we do down in Phoenix. That's a given.

Now, there's a lot of people in this room that feel that there's way too many changes happening in our country. And here we are on a Centennial celebration in Arizona and we are going to split up Yavapai County just in preparation for the celebration, along with not being District 1 any more.

I mean, it just slaps everybody right in the face along with everything else that's happening in this country. It's really depressing to see this.

Now, along with what the fellow said over here, he didn't have many applications from people in this area, but I guarantee you, if this map --
that these maps go through the way they are, you
will have hundreds of applications in ten years.
   People will not forget what you do with
this map. If you want to stir up a beehive,
continue along the lines that you're taking here.
   You're separating Yavapai County. That's
a historical county in this state. We're not ready
for those kind of changes yet, just to get another
Democrat elected.
   Now, as I said before, we have more in
common with the Verde Valley than we do with
Phoenix.
   I left Phoenix for a reason a while back,
and I don't want to live there and I don't want to
go down there for meetings either.
   The map that you have on the
congressional district, the proposed map that you
are doing, is a lot worse than number 2 -- map
number 2. I can't believe that you went from map 2
to what we have now. I don't see the logic behind
that, unless you're working for the Democratic
party.
   In my business and what I do for a
living, I have to deal with common sense and logic
all the time. I do not see it here.
I'm glad I'm not making the maps. Maybe I should be. But you will get more -- you will get hundreds of applications in ten years.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Douglas Wade, from Sedona. And after Douglas will be David Maurer, Harry Oberg, and Mona Patton.

DOUGLAS WADE: Madame Chair, Commissioner McNulty, and staff, my name is Douglas Wade, W-a-d-e. I reside in Sedona and am a 38-year resident of this great state of Arizona.

And I understand you have a difficult job, but, we the people, have a difficult job as well, staying united when there are so many interests out there attempting to divide us.

I have a long history with the Verde Valley, and this remapping divides the Verde Valley.

The Verde Valley itself is compact, contiguous, and a community of interest, geographically divided by a mountain range and the Mogollon Rim.

To carve it out the way it's done in CD 1 appears to satisfy only the political interests of competitiveness, making CD 1 more competitive, favoring one party more so than the other.
Now, your job of carving up this pie, this state of Arizona, CD 1 now appears to take nearly half of the state, leaving eight other slices of pie to eight other districts.

I would say that carving out a little bit of Sedona and a small portion of the Verde Valley and moving it into CD 1 divides it off from Yavapai County, our county seat, Prescott, and really divides us as a community of interest. Our interests are one. That's the Verde Valley.

I would like to suggest that you take a good hard look at taking the Verde Valley and putting it back together as one piece again.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is David Maurer, CEO Prescott Chamber of Commerce.

DAVID MAURER: David Maurer, M-a-u-r-e-r.

Thank you, Commission members, for participating this evening.

I, too, want to address the communities of interest portion of this.

Our chamber represents 875 businesses in the tri-city area and is one of six professional full-time chambers of commerce in Yavapai County.

You've heard about the communities of interest; you've heard about -- many examples of how
that community of interest works within Yavapai County.

Let me give you one more, and that is the Central Arizona Chambers Coalition.

Approximately six years ago our six chambers got together and said we all work and live in Yavapai County. Let's get together and talk about commonalities.

So Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley chambers formed this loose-knit coalition.

It got to formalesce for about three years when times were good and we all had a little bit of money. We pooled our resources and hired a part-time lobbyist at the State capitol.

She kept our six chambers fully informed of what was happening down there and carried our message to the legislature.

So that to me is another example of communities of interest. We hope you see it that way and hope you keep Yavapai whole.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. Our next speaker is Harry Oberg, representing self from Prescott.
HARRY OBERG: Good evening. My name is Harry Oberg, H-a-r-r-y, O-b-e-r-g.

Thank you for allowing us to have an opportunity to come here and make comments.

My dad started to punch cows in '29 and he worked throughout the Yavapai County, both ranching and mining and he never thought of Yavapai County as being anything except the best place to live and never worked for any other county in Arizona. He lived here all of his life and died here.

I went to school here, graduated 1965 from high school, and I think I can bring a strong perspective of how the people felt about Arizona and Yavapai County from the time when I was born and lived with many people that went to school.

I can tell you that my dad felt that Yavapai was one community of interest. And that's the reason why he never left it. And he was very concerned about ranching and mining and basically the agriculture that supported the ranching, which is primary farming of alfalfa.

I've looked at your two maps, and I feel that I must provide some comments to be addressed by the Commission.
One of your goals is to respect communities of interest. All of the communities of Yavapai County, Sedona, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Verde Valley, and Seligman, to name just a few, all have common interest, goals, and history.

These communities are rural, engaged in agricultural, ranching and mining, and have similar issues related to water based on our common geology.

As a result, Yavapai County should be kept whole and not have portions of the county redistricted to other areas of the state that do not share the same history and concerns.

Yavapai County should be kept whole as a single district for both legislative and congressional reasons.

Our common community of interest will be best represented by legislative and congressional representatives who fully understand the issues and needs facing our county.

In addition, Yavapai, La Paz, Mohave, and the nonreservation portions of Coconino County should be considered one congressional district because they are all rural and they all have mining and ranching as part of their history and we should have no portion of Maricopa County be included in
that district.

Since Yavapai is within 2 percent of the required population, it would be considered in our legislative and congressional district. It would be unfair for any of our communities to be separated from the county for ten years when it's likely that we will reach the required population level in a very short time, possibly in one to two years.

In Prescott I know several people moving into our residential areas from out of state and building homes. This rate seems to be accelerating up here for the last three years.

So I feel that, you know, we're going to reach that point where we can be our own district here in the very near future and it would be totally unfair for any of our communities to be separated from the community -- from the county for ten years.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Just checking on the court reporter. She says she's okay.

After Mona Patton we will have Catherine Sinkey, Joshua Mazon, and Jonathan Mazon.

So this is Mona Patton, representing self from Yavapai.
MONA PATTON: I'm Mona Patton, M-o-n-a, P-a-t-t-o-n.

I am here to chastise each and every member of this so-called Independent Commission for his or her failure to act in a fair and nonpartisan manner.

It is your fiduciary responsibility to represent the citizens of Arizona, not the Democrat or the Republican party.

Arizona voters demand that you do not pander to political pressure. You have failed to draw compact districts that respect communities of interest. Instead you have carved up communities in an attempt to give unfair advantage to one party over another.

Your current proposed map is a miserable failure. Go back to the drawing board, correct the maps.

Yavapai County and Arizona deserve better.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Catherine Sinkey, retired community health manager, representing self from Yavapai.

CATHARINE SINKEY: Well, I have spent the last 30 years working in community and public
health.

My name is Catherine, with a C, C-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e, and then Sinkey is S-i-n-k-e-y.

And for both state and local government -- so I've spent most of my life trying to operationalize what somebody else has said we need to do.

So when I got to thinking about these programs, and I've been in probably every nook and cranny in the state from a public health and community health standpoint, so I just sat down and I looked at all of the counties and I looked at all of the programs and I looked at the demographics and realized that this map was not continuous nor contiguous, if you really look at it from all of the people that live there and do the work.

And I appreciated the guy that talked about the small business because there are a lot of businesses in Yavapai County that, frankly, depend on all of those other people from all of those other counties that we want to put with us to come up here for the summer when it's 115 there.

So they certainly aren't anything like us as far as altitude and all of that sort of thing.
And people said some really -- much more clear than
I could ever say, so I won't go back into that.

But I would like to get practical for here for a little bit and just talk about the people that work and live in the county, and I agree with keeping the county together, by the way.

So you have people like public health nurses that cover for each other. They talk to each other, they go to meetings together from both sides of the mountain, from top to bottom of the county.

It's a huge county. If you've ever gotten in a car and driven around it, I've been lost a time or two. You can -- it takes two hours to get to Bisbee from here and it's only 60 miles. So if that tells you anything, kind of like the ruralness --

I moved here eight years ago because I got tired of the heat, and I am thrilled to death and I have a pine tree in my back yard and I'm really excited about that.

So I want things to kind of stay that sort of a community kind of thing.

I watch the nurses go in -- and all of the families that live in Ash Fork, for instance, I would like to make a plea for Williams, too.

By the way, if we could put that on our
list, because they -- Williams is only 16 miles from Ash Fork and most people that live in Ash Fork have to drive 40 miles to Prescott. It's a lot harder in the winter than going on the freeway, and even in the summer, than going on the freeway and going to Flagstaff -- or not Flagstaff, Williams.

So they will get WIC and all of that kind of stuff. They will get community health, that kind of stuff they get in Williams.

So we would love to have them come join us and let some of those other people all be together that live along the rivers and Maricopa County. And trust me, they are nothing like Yavapai County.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Joshua Mazon, from Prescott Valley.

JOSHUA MAZON: M-a-z-o-n.

First off, I am opposed to this new district map. A lot of people have already stepped on my toes, and I'm happy about that because they all said what I was going to say anyway, but I'm going to reiterate a little bit.

Yavapai County has different values and
community interests than the Valley. Some people actually move out of the big cities because of this reason, so that their voice can be heard.

How can a representative effectively serve his district when the voters are far apart in needs and views and priorities for their government?

It seems that the Commission turned an easy task into millions of dollars of expense to attempt to swing this district Democrat, which it probably could have asked a high school geography and economics class to do a better job.

This is a political-based move to try to promote an agenda, which is obvious by whom the supporters are.

And I actually have the Chicago politics written down, but he covered it.

Yavapai County is one of the highest voter turnouts percentage-wise in the state, which means that the citizens here in this area are concerned about our government.

You would think that that would mean that the government would try to listen to us instead of suppress our views, which is what this redistricting is aiming at.

And I have voted in every election since
I turned 18, but I wasn't 18 in 2000 when Prop 106 was voted on. And -- except I didn't vote the year I was in Iraq.

And one member should be -- at least one member should be above Maricopa County on this Commission board.

And maybe you should advertise more for Commission seats and not just, like, in Democratic headquarters. But it seems consistent with how secretive this Commission works in the first place that you would do that.

And one final thing that hasn't been mentioned, and now I work for a local fire department, is wildland fire fighting and protection. And I wonder how high on the priority list for Valley residents in Metro Phoenix, how much they care about wildfires and protection from it.

That's all.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Jonathan Mazon from Yavapai.

JONATHAN MAZON: That's my brother.

I have a book right here that some of you might be familiar with. Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals."

In here -- it says right here, the tenth
rule of ethics of means and ends is that you do what
you can with what you have and you clothe it with
moral arguments.

Basically, I'm going to do whatever the
heck I want to do and I'm going to do it because I
have a moral argument at hand. We're going to save
the people, Ann Kirkpatrick is going to vote for the
health care law.

Well, frankly, I think that that's crazy.
I've heard -- to let you know who I am, I'm a
full-time teacher and I work part time at a West
Yavapai Guidance Clinic. I work 60 hours a week
helping people. I don't work 60 hours a week
helping people that see everything fall apart.

I have a kid over here, and this is --
his name is Israel Mazon. He's six months. When he
is older, I want him to have an intact Yavapai
County to work with.

Here is something else that hasn't been
mentioned.

We are so interconnected with Camp Verde,
I know, and stuff. I used to work at Home Depot
when I was working full time and going to college
full time. I didn't have a bureaucratic parent from
Jersey paying for my college. I worked my butt off.
Okay?

And constantly people from Camp Verde would come to Home Depot because they didn't have a Home Depot. We are so connected that people come there and back. I've been -- I'm a wrestler, I've wrestled and we go -- always go to Camp Verde. We always go to Cottonwood to wrestle. I have never been to Yuma to wrestle.

Plus, the whole idea of democracy comes from Greece. Right?

Guess what, a spartan would never have an Athenian represent him.

Also I think it's ironic that on -- the whole point of Arizona coming into existence is because we didn't want to be represented from people from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Right?

And on our Centennial birthday, you're going to go against that entire concept of being represented by the people with whom you live.

Okay. That totally flies in the face of what Arizona stands for.

Also, there is something about minority rights -- at this whole thing up here.

Minority rights. What about majority rights? Isn't that what Democrats are? Demo means
people. Power to the people.

    Well, here's the people. If you're a
ture Democrat and not a Progressive, then you would
listen to us.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is
Barbara Nelson and following Barbara will be Larry
Nelson and then Sally Ann Lerette.

BARBARA NELSON: I'm Barbara Nelson,
B-a-r-b-a-r-a, N-e-l-s-o-n.
I'm throwing everything all over the
place here.

Several people have gotten up here and
spoken much more eloquently than I can about the
issues.

I would just like to reiterate a couple
of points.

First of all, I'm very concerned about
what I have heard about the fairness of the
composition of this committee and the
representations of Yavapai County and the
northern -- other northern counties as to this
redistricting process.

I moved here three years ago from
Washington -- Washington state. I saw what
gerrymandering did in that state. It was awful, and
I see that happening here, and I'm very, very upset about it.

First of all, the currently approved maps split Yavapai County up and Verde Valley out, placing us all potentially without representation.

We are placed with other wholly noncontiguous counties, Mohave, La Paz, Maricopa County, and Yuma in the congressional map. With hundreds of miles from Northern to Southern Arizona, this is not compact, and that's one of your criteria. So you have violated your duty to use those criteria.

We have little, if any, community of interest with these other areas. We have different transportation issues, we have different economies, we are forest and mountain as opposed to desert. We have very different water issues, and that is a big topic. Since I moved here, it's a huge topic.

Rendering Yavapai County's voice reduced in all of these issues, significantly harming our county and the Verde Valley by splitting us up.

So I oppose this map and I would ask you to keep Yavapai County together.

Thank you.
more request to speak forms and I just wanted to
check -- you're okay?

Okay. Larry Nelson --

LARRY NELSON: From Prescott, and I'll
talk quick.

Well, first of all, I see no reason to
split up Yavapai County. When I look at the
legislative map, just -- neither one makes sense to
me.

But I suppose if the people of Sedona
that are in Yavapai County really wanted out of
Yavapai County and the people of Williams really
wanted in, maybe we could do a swap there, as long
as we keep the Verde River intact in Yavapai County.
But I don't think that's really how the people of
Sedona feel.

The other one -- the first thing that
struck me on the congressional map is -- and I do
have to echo the comment, if we have to make a
change, option 2 really wasn't horrible. I don't
think it's an improvement over what we have now.

It's worse than what we have now but it's
much better than what's currently being proposed. I
don't even know -- how do you even get from Bullhead
City to Yuma? How do you even get there except by
boat?

You know, I think the real reason -- or one of the real reasons to having communities of interest is you have effective representatives representing you.

How do you do that when things are so diverse between here and the west side of the state? I just don't -- we have great legislators but not super-legislators.

Anyway, I think we need to leave Yavapai County intact.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Sally Ann Lerette, representing self from Prescott.

After Sally Ann will be Christopher Campbell, Mike Flannery, and Gary Robbins.

SALLY LERETTE: It's Sally Lerette. It's Sally with a Y, L-e-r-e-t-t-e.

I live in Prescott now, but I've been a resident of Yavapai County for 38 years. And the 20 years -- first 20 years I lived in the Verde Valley, in Cottonwood, on a little ranch on the Verde River, and then I lived in Clarkdale awhile and then 18 years ago I moved to Prescott.

So I really know the Verde Valley, and I
also know Prescott, but the Verde Valley -- I sold
real estate for 30 years there in Prescott, but I
really had worked in Sedona, I worked in Camp Verde,
I worked in Rim Rock, and Cottonwood, Clarkdale, and
Jerome, sold real estate in Jerome, and I really --
to me, when I see you took the Verde Valley away,
it's kind of like a divorce, a real big divorce
because we're so commonly linked.

And I have family and friends that still
live there. I know how they feel. I don't feel
that they are happy at all, from what I can tell by
talking with them and seeing this.

So I really feel that we need to keep the
Verde Valley/Sedona in here.

And people that I talk to in Sedona don't
feel that way -- I mean, that feel they want to stay
with this. I don't know about these other people
representing them, but that's my personal views of
what the people I talk to.

So anyhow, I really feel that the
congressional district is way too chopped up, just
like all of these people have said before me. I
hope you hear our call and our cry for help. We,
the people, would like you to keep Yavapai County
one congressional district and also legislative.
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Christopher Campbell, representing self, and you can tell us where you are from.

CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL: I'm from Prescott, Arizona.

And Christopher is C-h-r-i-s-t-o-p-h-e-r, and Campbell is like the soup, C-a-m-p-b-e-l-l.

Some of my comments may draw applause, others might draw boos. I would like for either response to be held until the end, for the brevity of time as well as so that I can keep my thoughts together and communicate most effectively.

Thank you for being here tonight, and I appreciate all the hard work you have to do along with what seems tonight to be a thankless job, Madame Chair.

I would like to talk tonight about both legislative district map as well as the congressional draft map.

And I would like to start with some of the things that I like about the maps.

I really like about the maps that it appears, more so with congressional district map,
but both with the legislative map as well, that it really appears that the representatives are evenly divided amongst the population so that everyone seems like they are evenly represented amongst all of the various people in Arizona.

Another statement that I would like to make is something else that I like is something that was mirrored by some of the representatives from Sedona, in that it appears that the maps, particularly the legislative district map, really appears to keep the Sedona greater area in together with the Verde Valley area and that they recognize that it's a much larger community of interest, and I happen to agree with that.

But there are some things that I would like to share with you, some improvements that I believe might be made or some adjustments, and I believe they can be made fairly easily.

One of those is that I, like many of my other associates here tonight, believe that Yavapai County could be one legislative district, and I believe that if we are going to expand beyond Yavapai County, it should be done in looking to expanding to a larger Sedona area and into a larger area of the Black Canyon City area, the other areas
that are surrounding Yavapai County that their communities stretch over into other district.

But only minor -- only in very minor fashions as opposed to stretching down a great deal into Maricopa County or some of the other counties.

One of the other -- one of the other things with regard to the congressional district map, I would like to see is the same. I would like to see all of Yavapai County or at least all of its communities of interest kept together in one congressional district as well. And I believe that this can be done very effectively and easily, so I would like both of those things to be considered.

I would also like -- as has been brought up in the past, we have a very long tradition, a very long history of having Yavapai County Congressional and Legislative District 1, for the reasons that have been explained repeatedly in the past -- over this evening.

So I would like those matters to be considered.

Is my time up? Okay.

STU ROBINSON: Please wind it up.

CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL: Well, thank you very much, and I appreciate you hearing my thoughts.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Mike Flannery, from Prescott Valley.

After Mike is Gary Robbins, Sena Mitchell, and Drake Mitchell.

MIKE FLANNERY: Thank you, Madame Chair, Commissioner McNulty, staff.

Mike Flannery, F-l-a-n-n-e-r-y.

Welcome to Prescott Valley.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks.

MIKE FLANNERY: One of the things I really like about you guys going out on public hearing tour is I don't have to follow you around the state. You're now in my neighborhood. So thank you and welcome.

I guess I need to -- I was handed a resolution that I need to read to you. So if you would bear with me. A resolution from Dewey-Humboldt.

Whereas Dewey-Humboldt needs to emphasize the fact that rural means nonurbanized area; and whereas the more logical fix to the underpopulation would be to move Flagstaff and Western Coconino into western rural and District 4; and whereas in doing so, these issues -- the issue such as the
communities of interest, contiguosness, and compact
would apply and we encourage -- or whereas we
encourage the Commission to maintain the District 1
numbering for both legislative and congressional
district for historic purposes; and whereas applying
this method would compensate for moving the Western
Coconino into District 4 would make both districts
more competitive; and whereas we need again to
emphasize the fact that the quad cities and the
Verde Valley communities need to stay together in
both the congressional and legislative districts.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the
mayor and common council of Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona,
support the above resolution passed and adopted by
mayor and common council of Dewey-Humboldt, Arizona,
this 11th day of October of 2011, signed Mayor Terry
Nolan.

So if I could give that to Stuart, is it?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah.

MIKE FLANNERY: First of all, I want to
say I appreciate everything that the Commission
does. I know that it's a terrible task for you and
no matter what you do, you're going to get yelled at
by somebody and you really need someone to come
forward with potential. And I say "potential."
Solutions rather than just the criticism of what you have done.

So let me do that, since I think I only got a couple more speakers tonight.

Congressional district. I know you've heard this before, so I'm -- on the congressional side -- and instead of going down into Maricopa County for that what used to be the river district, we'll call it the western rural district, instead of going down into Maricopa County and over across the top and down into -- picking up Gila going down into Pinal County, the solution was to either -- we heard it here this evening as well, potentially going into Yuma and picking up more of Yuma for some of that population or even going into, and I know this is a sensitive one, going into Flagstaff and Western Coconino County and picking that up.

If you did that, then you could go ahead and pick up those other communities, which everybody is complaining about, and bring those into District 1, which would be more of an eastern rural communities.

But right now, as it is, when that comes across the state and picks that up, people from the west are saying it's not a western rural community.
So just a thought on that.

   Also, the fact is that if you did that, it would equal out the competitiveness as well. So just a thought.

   Legislative map. I know the last time I think I stood up before you I had somewhat concerns, and I think I gave you some heart failure when I misunderstood that the map was going down into Maricopa County and then even down into Pinal County, and you guys were fixing Maricopa County and Pinal County.

   And I said that you were going in the wrong direction and you looked at me bewildered and said we haven't even dealt with Yavapai County yet.

   I was wrong. You had just put that map up there. However, you didn't go down into the Pinal for legislative district, you went into very rural Maricopa.

   But as you have heard tonight, if you can take that rural Maricopa out, go back up into Yavapai County, bring in the Verde Valley, which you have heard a strong presentation tonight by a lot of people to bring in the Verde Valley and we've got 211 -- I'm sorry, somebody misquoted that. It's 211,033 people in Yavapai County. That brings us
Well, we like Williams and Williams has already petitioned you to be with Yavapai County. It's a solution, a solution worth looking at.

Anyway, I want to thank you.

One thing I did want to -- I did want to say when you were here back in July, Commissioner McNulty, I know that you weren't, but Chairman Mathis you were, I came before you and I said you need to adopt definitions as soon as possible so that they can be applied across the state equally for all of the things that are going to be applied. And to date, we don't have it and we're out doing maps. I think we'd get out of a lot of hot water if we'd had those definitions.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Gary Robbins, representing self from Coconino County, followed by Zena Mitchell, Drake Mitchell, and Eleanor Lazok.

GARY ROBBINS: Madame Chairman, my name is Gary Robbins, G-a-r-y, R-o-b-b-i-n-s.

I was not able to be at the Commission hearing in Flagstaff back on Thursday due to an...
out-of-state volunteer commitment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Louder, please.

GARY ROBBINS: I'm sorry, I can speak closer.

Okay. I think that the Commission suffers from an unconscious urbanism bias.

Ten years ago, one of the members of the Commission was from St. Johns, if memory serves. I've lived in Maricopa County, I have lived in Pima County. Both are wonderful. It's different in rural Arizona.

If I had been here in July, I would have said start at the 37th parallel, which is our border with Utah come down three degrees to the 34th parallel and that's one congressional district.

It's a little bit late for me to make that point, but if you took the five northern counties Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, you are within 12,000 people of the exact number of people you need to have for a congressional district.

There are two other solutions.

Leaving aside the other districts, my suggestion would be that you would take CD 4 to the limit of Yavapai County, go north to the Mogollon
Rim and then go straight across at the Mogollon Rim, which is a natural boundary. You would have two districts of equal size.

Coconino County has a great deal -- the non-Native portion of Coconino County has a great deal in common with Yavapai County.

I've probably been to Yavapai County ten times for every time I've been to the Native portion of Coconino County, let alone Navajo or Apache County.

I have a quick solution.

Pinal County is the third most populous county in the state of Arizona. It has 375,000 people living there.

I agree that the portion of the Tohono O'odham Tribe, which is in CD 3, must stay there. You cannot divide up an Indian reservation.

However, with the rest -- that's only 1 percent of Pinal County's population.

Pinal County comprises more than half the number of people we need for a congressional district. However, a 180,000 of that number of people is in CD 4. They want to be in CD 1. They are in CD 4. The non-Native portion of CD 1 -- the non-Native portion of Coconino County that's in CD 1
wants to be in CD 4. The Verde Valley portion of CD 1 desperately wants to be in CD 4.

My suggestion is people of the San Tan Valley want to be in CD 1; we want to be in CD 4. How about a straight-up exchange? We want to be here; they want to be there. I see it as a win-win solution where you've respected everyone's needs.

Also I believe that Pinal County has now achieved a point where it ought to have a county -- it ought to have a congressional district where it is primarily located.

Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Zena Mitchell, representing self from Yavapai County.

ZENA MITCHELL: Zena Mitchell, Z-e-n-a, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l.

I have a question. Considering the Voters' Rights Act, section 5, would you please explain in detail how the redistricting pertains to blacks in Yavapai and Pima counties? There are so very few in each of these counties, and as far as I know, and I used to live in Tucson, they aren't in pockets but very scattered.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Drake Mitchell, representing self from Sedona.

DRAKE MITCHELL: Madame Chairman, commissioner, thank you for your time this evening.

I am from Sedona. And if you call it Sedona/Verde Valley, which we often do, Sedona/Village of Oak Creek, as a community, some people call it Village of Oak Creek/Big Park area, we have liked the congressional district we're in. Again, we share more in common with the Verde Valley/Cottonwood area.

I enlisted in the Service out of Cottonwood and 17 years later came home. It's a rural district and people who don't understand that concept of the difference and feel between a rural district and an urban environment -- again, we're not represented here. We don't feel we are.

If you haven't lived the lifestyle, you don't understand. I'm sorry. I just don't feel it's possible for me to explain it to you.

We do things different. We help our neighbors. We know our neighbors.

For a short time I lived in a big city and I could not have told you the names of ten...
people that lived across my street. That is not the
way it is here.

I would like you to consider the
possibility of keeping the Verde part of Yavapai
County.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Eleanor Lazok, representing self from Yavapai. After Eleanor is
Erik LeBlanc and Steve Rutherford.

ELEANOR LAZOK: Hi, welcome to Yavapai County.

I didn't intend to speak tonight but after I heard the comments, I have something to say.

First of all, I'm from Prescott Valley. My name is E-l-e-a-n-o-r, last name is Lazok, L-a-z-o-k.

I was raised in Chicago, north of Chicago. I am very familiar with Chicago politics and politics in the Midwest.

Okay. I moved to Arizona in 1957. Lived in Maricopa County 15 years, was married and raised my five children there. We moved to Yavapai County in 1972.

I thought Arizona is different than
Illinois. Okay.

I believe that this whole process and the maps are bogus and this is all a waste of time, actually, because I have a question.

Why was the Republican -- one of the Republican Commission members allowed to abstain, which makes the whole Commission out of balance?

You have two Republicans, one Independent, and two Democrats. The Republican is allowed to abstain and so you go ahead and do the maps anyway?

I don't think it's right.

And why is the Republican person that didn't vote not here tonight?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Erik LeBlanc, representing self from Chino Valley.

ERIK LEBLANC: Thank you very much for all of you folks coming up here.

I have lived in Yavapai County practically all of my life. I started school in Sedona when we still had rodeos. I've gone to school in Camp Verde, I've gone to school in Cottonwood, Mingus Union, Yavapai College, I've been all over the county.

For a short time I also lived in
Flagstaff and also lived in Phoenix. So I know how different those communities are from the communities of the Verde Valley and Prescott.

It's, I imagine, hard for a city person to understand what a rural community is like and what the people are like.

It's more -- it kind of sounds sappy but it's more like the rural community is more like a family. You don't have that in the city. You have strangers.

Any time I was in Flagstaff or in Phoenix, you don't have the friendships that you do, lifelong friendships that you build in Sedona and in Cottonwood and in Prescott.

We have the same kind of culture, ranching culture, that you didn't have down there. We have one college that unites us all. We even have one jail that serves the entire Verde Valley and Prescott area. You break off the Verde Valley, you're breaking a lot out of our county.

And that's about all I wanted to say.

That's just from a lifelong resident who doesn't want to see us broken up and divided.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

My last request to speak from is Steve
Rutherford, if he's here.

Okay. Did I miss anyone? Is there anyone else who would like to address the commission?

Great. And if you could fill out a request to speak form -- you can do it after you speak. That's okay. But you can come up now, if you want.

MARLA FESTENESE: I'm not good at this, and I also wasn't going to speak.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And if you could tell us your name and where you're from.

MARLA FESTENESE: It's Marla, last name is F-e-s-t-e-n-e-s-e.

And I am a resident of Prescott. Moved here seven years ago from California. And we longed to have this rural lifestyle, and I would like to invite any of you on the board to come out to the place -- unfortunately we don't live there any more, but Crossroads Ranch was a community -- a rural community. At that time we had 46 acres and it was a wonderful life. And I still go out there. I've got my horse out there. It's a total -- as so many have said, it's --

I don't know. I just -- I find it really
hard to mix us with Gila County. It just doesn't seem right.

I really, really wish, not politically, but just I really wish you would go back and take another look and see if there's anything else that you can do and maybe listen, really listen to some of the comments that are being made here tonight.

That's about all I have to say.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Is there anyone else that would like to address the Commission that didn't already?

Okay. Well, gosh, I don't know how many people spoke tonight. It was close to 50, at least. And we really appreciate everyone coming and listening.

And what I really appreciate even more than that is how many of you are still here, because oftentimes at these hearings, people leave right after they speak. And I think it's really important for us all to listen to each other. And the fact that you are all still here is pretty impressive.

So let me ask my fellow commissioner, Ms. McNulty, if she has anything she would like to say.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.
I thank you also for coming on a work night. I know you all have busy days, as do we. This is a very complicated process and we have all learned a great deal about it since we undertook this voluntary job.

I've lived in Arizona a long time. I've been in every single part of the state. I've spent a lot of time in this part of the state. It's beautiful, and I understand why you love it here.

I grew up in a small town myself, so I understand what you're saying about a rural lifestyle.

I also understand that we've been charged by the Constitution with very a difficult task. And one of the greatest assets of this state, I've learned in the many, many, years I've lived here, is our diversity. We all share much more in common than separates us.

So I appreciate you coming. I've heard what you have to say. I hope you will continue to remain involved in the process, learn more about what it is that we are charged with doing and what it is that your fellow citizens throughout the state are saying.

As the mayor said at the beginning, when
we're done with this process, some folks will be happy, some folks will be unhappy, but the reality is, we will all still be Arizonans.

And what we are trying to do is find the best way that we can meld all of these criteria together to give everybody a voice.

So again, I thank you for coming.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next hearing, just so everyone knows, is tomorrow evening in the city of Chandler at the Chandler City Hall. It starts at 6 p.m. followed by Bullhead City on Wednesday night.

So thank you again all for coming.

This meeting is now adjourned.

The time is 8:30 p.m.

(The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.)
I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing 106 printed pages constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

WITNESS my hand this 29th day of October, 2011.

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MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637