

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 19, 2011
6:06 p.m.

Location

Bullhead City Council Chambers
1255 Marina Boulevard
Bullhead City, AZ 85422

Attending

Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair

Bruce Adelson, Legal Consultant
Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Korinne Kubena Belock, Strategic Telemetry

Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Christine Bemiss, RPR, CCR
Certified Court Reporter # 50073

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1 Bullhead City, Arizona
2 October 19, 2011
3 6:06 p.m.

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

6
7 (Whereupon, the public session commences.)

8 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: This hearing of the
9 Redistricting Commission will come to order.

10 The time is 6:06 p.m.

11 It is Wednesday, October 19th, 2011, and we are
12 in Bullhead City at the Bullhead City City Council
13 Chambers.

14 And why don't you all please rise and join me
15 in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

16 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was
17 recited.)

18 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: All right. Well, thank
19 you all for coming tonight. It's great to have such a
20 great turnout, and it's my pleasure and privilege to be
21 up here with you in Bullhead City today. It was a
22 lovely drive up from Phoenix and I get to experience the
23 lovely drive back tonight because I've got to be back
24 bright and early tomorrow morning to work.

25 We're here tonight to hear public comment on

1 two maps that the Commission has published, one for a
2 draft congressional map and one a draft legislative map
3 and your input on those maps. Your opinions, whether
4 you like them or don't like them and why, are going to
5 be critical for the Commission as we go forward in
6 further refining those maps to come up with final maps.

7 I think next to comply with federal law, we
8 need -- the Commission is required to have translation
9 services available, so I'd like to invite our Spanish
10 translator, Jimena Vargas, to come up to the podium, and
11 she's going to read -- I'd ask if she can please read
12 the announcement in English first and then in Spanish,
13 offering those services.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Good evening, Commissioner
15 Freeman, Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen.

16 In accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a
17 translator/interpreter will be available at all the
18 public hearings in order to provide
19 translating/interpreting services that might be needed
20 for those citizens that need translating or interpreting
21 services.

22 Please contact the translator present at this
23 meeting so that she can assist you.

24 That will be me.

25 (Whereupon, the translator read the above

1 statement in Spanish to the audience.)

2 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

3 Well, thank you. My name is Scott Freeman.
4 I'm one of the five commissioners on the Commission. I
5 serve as vice chairman for the Commission on an
6 alternating basis with Commissioner Herrera. The other
7 commissioners are Chair Colleen Mathis, Vice Chair
8 Herrera, Commissioner McNulty, Commissioner Stertz I'm
9 sure are watching tonight on the internet. All our
10 hearings are livestreamed, when possible, on the
11 internet. I know last time when the Commission came to
12 Bullhead City we -- it was great live. I was watching
13 from my office and you really have a great setup here.
14 It was one of the best, clearest livestreams that I was
15 able to watch, and I did watch and listen to everything
16 that everyone said last time.

17 Just some more introductions up here. To my
18 right is counsel for the Commission, Mary O'Grady, and
19 one of our legal consultants, Bruce Adelson, is also --
20 is to her right. To my left is our mapping consultant,
21 Korinne Belock. We have the Commission's Executive
22 Director, Ray Bladine, with us. We have our court
23 reporter, Christine Bemiss, and in the back we have two
24 of our public outreach coordinators, Kristi Olson and
25 Lisa Schmelling.

1 If you have any questions or need any
2 assistance tonight, please feel free to contact any of
3 our staff and, in fact, after the hearing I will stay as
4 late as need be and answer any questions that anyone
5 has.

6 Before we get too much further, I'd like to
7 invite Mayor Jack Hakim to come up to the podium to give
8 some words of welcome.

9 MAYOR HAKIM: Good evening Vice Chair Freeman,
10 staff. Welcome back to Bullhead City.

11 In the audience this evening are city
12 officials, county officials, and state officials, and
13 we'd like to acknowledge them, please.

14 We have Mayor John Salem from Kingman. We have
15 councilman from Kingman, Keith Walker. We have Sam
16 Medrano, councilman, Bullhead City. We have Jack
17 Kramer, City Manager, Kingman. We have Charlie Cassens,
18 City Manager of Lake Havasu, who is representing Mayor
19 Mark Nexsen; and we have our City Manager, Toby Cotter,
20 from Bullhead City. Also here with us is Tom Sockwell,
21 Mohave County Supervisor, and State Representative Doris
22 Goodale.

23 Having said all that, I just want to welcome
24 you back again, and all of us here know the time and
25 effort that you and your fellow commissioners have put

1 into this, and we certainly appreciate all of the
2 efforts that you have done.

3 Thank you very much.

4 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, thank you, Mayor.

5 And thanks again to people of Bullhead City for
6 making us feel so welcome up here.

7 If you would like to address the Commission
8 tonight, you need to fill out one of these yellow
9 Request to Speak forms, and we have them in the back.
10 And just complete it and give it to one of our staff and
11 they'll get it up to me, and then I'll be calling your
12 name later when it comes to the public comment portion
13 of the hearing.

14 If you don't want to come to the microphone and
15 speak tonight, you should have also received or there's
16 available in the back one of these packets, and in the
17 back of the packet there is a blue form that you can
18 provide some written comments and either leave them with
19 our staff tonight or you can take them home and think
20 about it and mail it into the Commission.

21 You can also leave comments on the Commission's
22 website. It's azredistricting.org, and there is a link
23 to a public comment portion of the website. You can
24 leave your comments there. They all get to the
25 Commission and there's phone numbers and e-mail

1 addresses and other ways to contact the Commission as
2 well.

3 Next on the agenda I'd like to ask our mapping
4 consultant, Korinne Belock, to give a short presentation
5 on the redistricting process and how we've gotten to the
6 point where we are now.

7 MS. BELOCK: Good evening. I am Korinne Kubena
8 Belock with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be here
9 this evening in Bullhead City to discuss the draft
10 congressional and legislative maps presented by the
11 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

12 The goal of these meetings is to hear comments
13 from you about the draft maps, so thank you for taking
14 the time to attend.

15 The draft maps you will see today are currently
16 under a 30-day review period so that the Commission can
17 hear your opinion on the maps.

18 Before getting into the maps, I want to give
19 you a quick overview of the redistricting process, and
20 hopefully the slides will go up on the screen there and
21 we can flip through them.

22 Just on a quick overview, Arizona's
23 redistricting process is governed by the State
24 Constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the
25 passage of Proposition 106. It stipulates that the

1 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission redraw
2 Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to
3 reflect the most recent census. Due to the 2010 census,
4 Arizona gained a congressional seat, going from eight to
5 nine.

6 So what are the requirements of the State
7 Constitution via Prop 106? New district boundaries must
8 comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights
9 Act, which we'll talk a little bit about more. They
10 also must have equal population. Criteria A and B are
11 federally mandated.

12 To the extent practicable, the districts must
13 be compact and contiguous; respect communities of
14 interest; use visible geographic features, city, town,
15 and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts; and
16 favor competitive districts where no significant
17 detriment to other goals.

18 Just a bit on the Voting Rights Act here.
19 Arizona's congressional and legislative districts must
20 receive preclearance or approval from the Department of
21 Justice or a federal court under Section 5 of the Voting
22 Rights Act before they can take effect.

23 To get the preclearance, Arizona must
24 demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate
25 against minority voters in any purpose or effect, which

1 means there can be no intentional or accidental
2 discrimination.

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

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

9 So just briefly we have Bruce Adelson, who's
10 been introduced. He's an attorney who's working with
11 the federal compliance consulting group to advise the
12 Commission on the matters regarding the Voting Rights
13 Act, and he'll give us a brief overview as well in more
14 detail.

15 MR. ADELSON: Thank you and good evening. We
16 thought that it might be helpful for me to spend a
17 couple of minutes and focus on Section 5 of the Voting
18 Rights Act.

19 For your information, I'm a former senior
20 attorney for the United States Department of Justice.
21 With the Department of Justice my responsibility was
22 reviewing your redistricting plans nine years ago. It
23 was my team that wrote the letter in May 2002 which
24 objected to your legislative redistricting plan.

25 To get preclearance, the redistricting plans

1 that are before you tonight, the congressional and
2 legislative plans, cannot be, as we were talking about,
3 retrogressive. They cannot discriminate against the
4 rights of minority voters. If they are found to
5 discriminate, then the Department of Justice will object
6 or block the plans from being approved, which is what we
7 did nine years ago.

8 The federal requirements are absolute. They
9 take precedence above all others. Of course, under
10 state law you have various criteria, such as compactness
11 and competitiveness that are very important. The
12 federal criteria must be satisfied first.

13 To the extent that any of the state criteria
14 conflict with the federal ones, then that has to be
15 re-examined because the Department of Justice will not
16 preclear a plan that is -- the department finds to be
17 discriminatory, which is, as I said, what we found nine
18 years ago.

19 So I hope this little overview from my
20 perspective as a former federal law enforcement officer
21 is helpful. I appreciate your time. It is a pleasure
22 to be here tonight.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MS. BELOCK: Thank you.

25 So back to the presentation. Before I get to

1 the good part, the maps, we'll basically go over the
2 time line for the Commission.

3 So the overall time line for the redistricting
4 process can be broken down into five steps. Earlier
5 this year, Step 1, the Commission was established. The
6 commissioners were appointed following a thorough
7 screening process and serve in a voluntary role for the
8 State of Arizona.

9 Tonight, of course, we have Vice Chair Freeman
10 with us, and he mentioned the other commissioners that
11 aren't able to be here, Jose Herrera, Vice Chair;
12 Colleen Mathis, Chair; Linda McNulty; and Richard
13 Stertz.

14 So going into Step 2 of this process were the
15 first round hearings. Before drawing a single line on
16 these draft maps, the Commission held 23 public hearings
17 around the state in July and August to get input from
18 members of the public about issues relevant to
19 redistricting, such as geography, communities of
20 interest, minority voting rights, and competitiveness.

21 After these hearings wrapped, the mapping
22 process actually began and under Prop 106 the Commission
23 was required to start with a blank slate, which we'll
24 touch on a little bit more when we talk about the maps.

25 They then divided the state into equal

1 population and compact grid-like districts, and the grid
2 map was approved on August 18th.

3 Since adopting the grid map the Commission has
4 met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the
5 grid to accommodate all of the state constitutional
6 criteria. During this time they received additional
7 public input and draft maps from the public.

8 So the approval of the draft map, on October
9 3rd the Commission approved a draft congressional map
10 that incorporated changes based on all the
11 constitutional criteria. It approved the draft
12 legislative map earlier this month on October 10th,
13 which brings us to Step 4, which is the second round of
14 public hearings.

15 Currently the Commission is visiting 25 towns
16 and cities to share the draft maps and to receive
17 additional public input during the month of October and
18 into November.

19 The final maps are Step 5. Upon completion of
20 the public comment period, the AIRC will adopt the final
21 maps, and then Step 6, which Bruce spoke about, was the
22 preclearance. So because Arizona is subject to Section
23 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the districts must be
24 approved by the Federal Department of Justice or the
25 federal court in Washington D.C. before they can be used

1 for Arizona elections.

2 And I've forgotten my fascinating PowerPoint.
3 Sorry about that. I got into it a little bit.

4 Okay. So on to the actual maps. To show how
5 the Commission came to the current draft maps, we will
6 show you the progression of the maps.

7 The map you see here on the screen was the
8 congressional map that was approved by the last
9 Redistricting Commission and most recently used in the
10 2010 elections.

11 Per Proposition 106, which I mentioned, the
12 Commission was required to start with a completely blank
13 slate, not taking into account any election districts or
14 incumbence, which brought them to, under Proposition
15 106, the grid map which I mentioned.

16 The grid map again only takes into two -- two
17 considerations of the criteria, equal population and
18 compactness.

19 In August the Commission asked that two grid
20 maps be drawn, and on August 18th they agreed on Option
21 2, which you see on the slide here.

22 After more than -- after more than 25 meetings,
23 the Commission voted to approve the draft map that you
24 see on the screen here.

25 The Commission took into consideration public

1 comment provided via public meetings; input that was
2 given to the Commission through a number of sources,
3 whether it was e-mailed, mailed, hand-delivered, faxed,
4 telephoned. Overall 5,000 comments helped to develop
5 this draft map as you see it here.

6 And some of the highlights, just to go through
7 them briefly for you, the draft congressional map
8 includes two predominantly rural districts, three border
9 districts, three districts in the greater Tucson area,
10 five districts that are in Maricopa County. It avoids
11 splitting Arizona's Indian reservations, and it includes
12 two districts where minority voters have the opportunity
13 to elect a candidate of their choice.

14 So that's an overview of the congressional map
15 for you.

16 So moving on to the legislative maps, it was
17 much like the congressional draft map. Developing the
18 legislative map followed a similar process.

19 Here we see the legislative map from the last
20 Commission which was used in the 2010 elections. Again,
21 per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a blank
22 slate. A grid map was then approved in August, and,
23 similar to the congressional map, the grid map took
24 into -- it only took into account equal population and
25 compactness, which leads to the legislative draft map.

1 Arizona has 30 legislative districts and each
2 district elects one senator and two house members.

3 Some other points to mention about this
4 legislative draft map are as follows: So they
5 definitely took into account population growth and
6 reduction in areas, and the old district's population
7 ranged anywhere from 155,000 to 378,000. For the
8 current drafts, population ranges from 207,000 to
9 215,000.

10 To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft
11 plan includes 10 districts in which minority voters
12 should have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their
13 choice.

14 The draft also includes several other things:
15 3 districts wholly within Pima County and 3 additional
16 districts in Southern Arizona, 17 districts primarily
17 within Maricopa County, and 9 districts that are
18 primarily rural.

19 So that gives you an overview of the
20 legislative draft map.

21 The most important part now is to talk about
22 getting your input, which is the reason why we're here
23 tonight. So as I mentioned, the Commission wants to
24 hear what you have to say, and there are many ways that
25 we can get your -- get your input. You can fill out a

1 Request to Speak form at a public hearing and provide
2 the Commission with your input. You might provide input
3 on certain things such as the constitutional criteria or
4 the congressional map or the legislative map.

5 You can submit your input by speaking at a
6 hearing. You can also fill out the public input forms
7 on the AIRC website, and you can visit
8 azredistricting.org or call 602-542-5221 or toll free at
9 855-733-7478 with any input you might have.

10 Also I just want to talk about how you can stay
11 connected in other ways with the Commission as we move
12 through this process.

13 On this screen is a screen shot of the
14 Commission's website, and you'll see the arrows
15 highlight a couple of key areas which you might find of
16 interest. So under "Meetings," you can find future
17 meetings or past meetings. In case you'd like to watch
18 the process through which the draft maps were created,
19 you can go back and watch them, and they're on there by
20 date.

21 If you'd like to make comments, you can see the
22 public input form area and submit your comments there.

23 And if you want to see the maps, you can click
24 on "Maps." The arrow down at the bottom of the slide --
25 of the screen here takes you directly to the draft maps,

1 and this is an example of where you're directed once you
2 click on "Maps."

3 So most people are interested, obviously, in
4 viewing the draft maps up close and personal, and those
5 can be found on this page.

6 Once you click on "Maps," you'll see this menu
7 of choices. The maps are displayed in a number of
8 different file types which can be very confusing if
9 you're not used to looking at it, but it's PDF, JPG, and
10 also, what we'll talk about tonight, which is Google
11 Maps.

12 You'll see highlighted in red is the KMZ-Google
13 link, and that basically will take you to a Google map
14 of the draft maps for both congressional and
15 legislative.

16 So just showing you what that looks like once
17 you click through, basically Google Maps is a great way
18 to view the maps because you can see zoom in and out
19 from your specific area, find boundaries that are of
20 interest to you.

21 Here you'll see the draft congressional map,
22 and on the left you'll see the side bar. You have the
23 ability to turn off different filters, such as the name
24 of the counties or the name of the districts. You can
25 also unhighlight the colors by clicking on those lists

1 there so you can see exactly what you're looking for,
2 and this allows you just to view the maps even more
3 clearly.

4 So to zoom into the map -- this is the cool
5 part -- the slide basically here shows you a zoomed-in
6 version of the map for an area surrounding Maricopa
7 County just as an example.

8 The great thing is you can zoom in and out
9 using the Google Maps down to streets and blocks for
10 where you live. So it's a great way to access it and
11 look at the boundaries.

12 So to wrap this up, I just want to highlight
13 the Commission's website once again at
14 azredistricting.org. On the website you can draw maps,
15 you can watch meetings and find information about future
16 meetings. Also want to encourage you to follow us on
17 Twitter at #AIRC and also friend the Commission on
18 Facebook and you can get regular updates.

19 So in conclusion, thank you again for coming
20 out to be part of this process.

21 A final point on these maps, which Mr. Freeman
22 mentioned, you can find them in your packet tonight,
23 which you received. You can also find large blown-up
24 versions on the walls over here on both sides, and I'm
25 available after the public comment period to answer any

1 questions you might have on the mapping process and I'm
2 happy to talk to you at that point, and you can also
3 talk to the staff in the back and they can show you how
4 to access the maps online to take a better look at them.

5 So I look forward to speaking with you and
6 thanks again for having us tonight.

7 So thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Korinne.

9 Well, that brings us to the public comment
10 portion of the hearing.

11 Once again, if you'd like to speak, make public
12 comment tonight, please fill out a yellow Request to
13 Speak form, and they're found in the back.

14 Right now I have about 10 or 11, perhaps more
15 coming.

16 So what we're going to do tonight is ask that
17 you limit your comments to about four minutes, and we'll
18 have a timer, and I'm not sure if a bell will go off,
19 but I think there will be a red light up there, and that
20 doesn't mean you have to stop talking, just try -- when
21 you see that, try to conclude your remarks, and if you
22 go a little bit longer than that, I might remind you of
23 that, and I'm not trying to be rude, I just want to be
24 fair to everybody else who has come here tonight.

25 Also, when you come to the podium, I'd ask that

1 you please state your name and then spell it so our
2 court reporter has an accurate record of your appearance
3 and, if I haven't already mentioned who you're here
4 representing or where you're from, please go ahead and
5 state that. And when you state where you're from, all
6 we are looking for is a town, city, or county, not an
7 address or anything like that.

8 Let's see. If you have any written submittals
9 to the Commission, a map or anything you'd like to
10 submit in writing, just go ahead and give it to
11 Mr. Bladine, and he'll take that from you and make it
12 part of our record.

13 So let me make sure I covered everything.

14 I think that's it.

15 So I think we'll begin with public comment, and
16 our first speaker will be Sam Medrano, council member,
17 Bullhead City.

18 MR. MEDRANO: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman. My
19 name is Sam Medrano. I'm a member of the Bullhead City
20 Council. I'm up here today representing the Tri-City
21 Council, which is 21 elected officials in the 3 largest
22 cities in Mohave County representing about 60 percent of
23 the population in Mohave County.

24 I want to address both the congressional and
25 the legislative map, and I'll make the legislative map

1 pretty simple. We like it. That's about as simple as
2 it can get. Okay.

3 The congressional map, we know that it's been a
4 very difficult process for you. We thank you, most of
5 all, for listening to us the first go-around. It was
6 absolutely amazing to watch your Commission meeting and
7 hear you say, "We really want to see a river" -- "a
8 river district," and we heard that and we're like, "Wow.
9 You listened." We really like that. We really
10 appreciate that very much.

11 And while we know that your work is hard and
12 difficult because you can't make everybody happy -- as a
13 matter of fact, if you probably put everybody together,
14 you've made nobody totally happy, but we understand that
15 it's difficult.

16 And, again, with the congressional district, we
17 got to say, we can live with it. It does exactly what
18 we asked you to do, which was keep the river districts
19 and the river cities together and keep us out of
20 Maricopa County or at least the Phoenix Metro area,
21 which is a big concern for a lot of rural Arizonans. We
22 know not everybody's happy with the district, but we can
23 live with it.

24 That's pretty much all I have to say about it.

25 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

1 Next I have John Salem, Mayor, City of Kingman.

2 MAYOR SALEM: Good evening, Vice Chairman
3 Freeman, the rest of the commissioners.

4 On behalf of the City of Kingman, I would just
5 like to echo Mr. Medrano's comments with thank yous and
6 kudos to all of your hard work and the fact that you're
7 spending so much of your time. I understand you have 25
8 more meetings to attend, and it's quite an undertaking,
9 and I commend you for your efforts.

10 With the legislative districts, you listened to
11 us. We wanted Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu
12 City to be in the same legislative district and you gave
13 us Legislative District Number 5, and it looks very
14 good. It fits all of our needs, and I think that it
15 will turn out really well.

16 As far as the congressional districts, I don't
17 know if you've had the opportunity to look at maps in
18 the past. They seem to resemble more spokes on a wheel
19 to where we always took in a portion of the Phoenix
20 Metro area or Surprise, Peoria, Glendale, some heavily
21 populated areas where we didn't quite feel that we were
22 getting the best representation that we could have, and
23 in looking at the map that you have presented before us,
24 I think that it's a good representation of what we need,
25 and you didn't split up the Tri-City Council cities,

1 which is very good, Kingman, Bullhead City, Lake Havasu
2 City, as well as taking into a lot of like-minded river
3 cities of like population and rural in nature.

4 I think that because of the lack of population
5 you had to take in certain portions of more heavily
6 populated areas such as the San Tan Valley and on in
7 through Pinal County in some area, but largely it's
8 rural, and I think we can live with that. I think it
9 will be just fine. I think we'll get adequate
10 representation for what you've presented to us.

11 And with that, we'd just like to thank you and
12 we appreciate the opportunity to have us speak.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

14 Next is representative Doris Goodale
15 representing self.

16 MS. GOODALE: Members of the Commission, thank
17 you so much and I well appreciate your drive to and from
18 Bullhead and in and out of Phoenix. I'm usually on the
19 reverse trip but appreciate that.

20 As much as I adore and admire my Tri-City
21 council members, I'm here tonight to represent another
22 part of our Mohave County constituency, and those are
23 the members of our community who reside north of the
24 Grand Canyon. It consists of about 3500 residents.
25 When you look at this somewhat isolated population which

1 really struggles to maintain its identity with Mohave
2 County to share its services for all county services,
3 planning and zoning, et cetera, now to remove them and
4 put them in another legislative district I believe
5 creates another challenge for these struggling
6 communities.

7 We do know that under the -- not the current
8 legislative map but the former legislative map, these
9 communities essentially were totally disenfranchised,
10 never saw a representative, never saw a senator, had no
11 identity with any of their elected officials at the
12 state level. I'm very fearful that this very small
13 group of strong Arizona, Mohave County residents will
14 now be moved into the larger home of the Navajo land,
15 which will again disenfranchise all of these voters in
16 our district and kind of push them away again from their
17 attachment to Mohave County.

18 So I speak for those residents being moved. I
19 would just encourage to add them back, and we'll take
20 them all. We'll keep it -- we don't want to change
21 anything else. We just want our Mohave County residents
22 brought home and to maintain their identity within
23 Mohave County.

24 Thank you.

25 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

1 Next is Charlie Cassens, City Manager, Lake
2 Havasu City.

3 MR. CASSENS: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chair.
4 Charlie Cassens, Lake Havasu City Manager.

5 Tonight I'm representing and on behalf of Lake
6 Havasu City Mayor Mark Nexsen. We're also a member of
7 the Tri-City Council of Mohave County, and we just
8 wanted to thank you for listening to our needs and our
9 requests.

10 I think the legislative and congressional maps
11 as adopted at this point do the best they can to
12 represent the needs of the river cities, fully
13 acknowledging that these areas aren't perfect, but I
14 don't know that perfection is even possible across the
15 state.

16 So we're -- at this point I will echo what
17 those before me said with respect to we're happy for the
18 most part with the way that they're laid out and just
19 want to say, Korinne, thank you for providing the tools
20 online and the technology that allowed us to participate
21 fully in this process.

22 Thank you very much.

23 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 Next, Susan Smith representing the River Valley
25 Democratic Club of Mohave County.

1 MS. SMITH: Hello. My name is Susan Smith.

2 Oh, just bend it down.

3 Do I have to spell it?

4 THE COURT REPORTER: Please.

5 MS. SMITH: S-u-s-a-n, E., S-m-i-t-h.

6 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

7 MS. SMITH: And currently I'm the president of
8 the River Valley Democrats, and I want to start off
9 first by thanking the Commission for doing this very
10 difficult job and especially Mr. Freeman for being here
11 in person. We really appreciate that. We've all done
12 the drive.

13 And I'd also like to compliment the Commission
14 on your grace under fire. That's a very difficult job
15 that you've done, and I've tried also to do the -- to
16 work on the numbers, and it's really tough with just a
17 paper and pencil. I'm sure it's easier with a computer
18 and a consultant, but it's still a difficult job because
19 of all the variables and all the requirements. So I
20 think that you have done a really good job.

21 There's a couple of things that we would like
22 to see. We would like to see better representation in
23 the legislature, and we would like to see it reflect the
24 voter registration figures that are roughly one-third
25 Republican and one-third Democratic and one-third

1 Independent.

2 Now, if you say that Independents are split
3 50/50, which I don't know they are, but we would like to
4 see more competitive legislative districts especially.

5 And one other thing I'd like to compliment you
6 on is the better -- is the representation of the rural
7 districts, which we all feel is very important because a
8 lot of times our concerns out here in the remote areas
9 of the state don't seem to be priorities down in
10 Phoenix. So we do appreciate the representation of the
11 rural districts, although I feel very sorry for the
12 candidates running for office in those districts as it's
13 drawn.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

16 (Applause).

17 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Next is Denise Bensusin --
18 Bensusan --

19 MS. BENSUSAN: It's Bensusan.

20 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: -- Bensusan, I'm sorry,
21 representing self from Kingman.

22 MS. BENSUSAN: Denise Bensusan, Kingman.

23 Something I thought was really important to
24 bring up -- I actually made some notes this time instead
25 of winging it -- is that in the passing of Prop 106,

1 voters made it clear that they want the redistricting
2 process to be independent and not controlled by
3 politicians.

4 Unfortunately, we've been seeing disturbing
5 behavior by certain politicians who recently led a
6 coordinated assault against a citizen volunteer
7 commission. Attorney General Tom Horne, who's so-called
8 investigation of the Commission has been exposed by his
9 own statements in front of partisan groups to be a
10 politically motivation investigating and nothing more.

11 These politicians fear that the citizen-driven
12 independent commission will create fair, competitive
13 districts that actually reflect all of our communities.

14 Bullying and intimidation are unacceptable and
15 must not be tolerated. We all have a duty to protect,
16 not compromise the independence of this important
17 process. We need fair districts and fair politics this
18 decade. We need districts that represent all Arizonians
19 and not just the ones in gerrymandered districts.

20 And I want to make one more point about
21 Chairman Mathis. I did a lot of research on these
22 issues that she's being attacked on, and I find it,
23 quite frankly, almost a woman issue because she is an
24 independent woman of her husband. Just because her
25 husband is a Democrat does not mean that she is involved

1 in Democratic activities.

2 So I think that this is almost insulting as a
3 woman that her husband's a Democrat, but he dominates
4 her in some way. So I think the insults to her are just
5 not accurate, and I think they all owe her an apology.

6 Thanks.

7 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Next is Beth Weisser.

10 And if you can please tell us who you're
11 representing and where you're from.

12 MS. WEISSER: My name is Beth Weisser. I'm
13 actually from Golden Valley. I teach in Kingman. I'm
14 the president of the Kingman Education Association and
15 I'm also a chair of the Mohave County Democratic Senator
16 Committee.

17 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: And could you please spell
18 your name.

19 MS. WEISSER: W-e-i-s-s-e-r is my last name.

20 Thank you for how much work you're doing. I
21 understand how hard it is to be a volunteer and work
22 full time. This is a lot of work.

23 I also want to thank you for maintaining
24 districts to be rural. We were having a lot more rural
25 in the districts this time than there had been, and that

1 was something that I had spoken about when we -- when
2 you were up here before, when we had the hearing before.

3 I also spoke about needing competitiveness in
4 order to maintain the ability of our children to have an
5 equal opportunity at a good education. The current
6 majority party in our legislature had been moving
7 forward an agenda to strengthen private schools at the
8 expense of public schools. Weakening public schools
9 weakens the opportunities for our children to have an
10 equal chance for quality education.

11 When we're talking about minorities being
12 impacted, this definitely impacts minorities.

13 I want to stress again that we need to have
14 more competitiveness, and thank you for the rural
15 districts.

16 Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Next is Donna Crouse from
20 Mohave County.

21 MS. CROUSE: I'm Donna Crouse, a resident of
22 Mohave County, and that's Donna, D-o-n-n-a, Crouse,
23 C-r-o-u-s-e.

24 Okay. I just have a few brief comments, and I
25 will leave my copies here, but as proposed,

1 Congressional District 4 is not compact and includes
2 portions of counties that have no common community
3 interest with the majority of the counties creating
4 District 4.

5 In efforts to keep District 4 compact and still
6 maintaining a rural river predominant interest, I would
7 propose the precincts due south of Yavapai County be
8 included with the district to meet the needed population
9 numbers and that the portions of the counties proposed
10 south of Yavapai and east of Maricopa, creating a hook
11 effect around Maricopa County, be excluded from
12 Congressional District 4.

13 Okay. Legislatively it is my concern with the
14 proposed Legislative District 5 that the Arizona strip
15 areas of Mohave County are excluded from the rest of the
16 county. These communities need to feel connected with
17 the rest of the county and should be included in our
18 legislative processes as they are included in our
19 government processes.

20 And thank you very much.

21 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

22 Next is Donald Van Brunt. I'm not sure if I'm
23 reading that correctly.

24 MR. VAN BRUNT: Donald Van Brunt. I'm a
25 resident of Mohave County.

1 I'd first like to speak on the legislative
2 draft. You obviously made an effort to keep the cities
3 together, which is fine for the cities, but there's a
4 third of the population of Mohave County that don't live
5 in the city or better.

6 Your effort was obviously to keep the -- all of
7 the Indian reservations together. This can be very
8 easily done by simply leaving two precincts in the
9 county out, the Peach Springs Precinct Number 27, which
10 you had left out, and the Moccasin Precinct, which is
11 23, which is north, but Beaver Dam, Littlefield,
12 Colorado City and Scenic have no Indian population and
13 there is no reason that they should not be included with
14 the rest of Mohave and La Paz County in District 5.

15 I have a town population and it can be done and
16 maintain the populations that you are trying to maintain
17 in the district and still leave those areas north of the
18 Colorado River as part of the county.

19 The congressional district regarding
20 Congressional District 4 of the proposed District 4 be
21 comprised of all of Mohave County except Precinct 23 and
22 27, Peach Springs, all of La Paz County, all of Yavapai
23 County, the northern portion of Yuma County, and the
24 following 15 precincts of Maricopa County. And rather
25 than read them all, I'll leave you a copy of what I have

1 prepared in a map prepared. I submitted this once
2 before, but it apparently wasn't given any
3 consideration.

4 The congressional district that you have
5 created takes into large portions of Maricopa County and
6 portions of Gila County clear down in Pima County, and
7 there's nothing -- I don't know why. I don't know.
8 There's nothing in common with the rest of Yavapai and
9 Mohave and La Paz County, but those -- that portion
10 which I proposed and named by precinct from Maricopa
11 County does have something in common with the rest of
12 us, and I'll leave you some copies of it or leave it
13 with -- oh.

14 MR. BLADINE: Behind you. Thank you.

15 MR. VAN BRUNT: Okay. I thank you very kindly.

16 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

17 Next is Regina Cobb representing self from
18 Kingman.

19 MS. COBB: Good evening. Thank you again for
20 all your tireless work that you did on this Commission.
21 We appreciate you coming here and speaking with us
22 again.

23 I'm going to be speaking to you on the
24 congressional map only. I attended the redistricting
25 meeting in Phoenix on 9/30. I was there the whole day.

1 I was frustrated and disappointed, disappointed that I
2 didn't get to speak, as I put in to speak that day. I
3 stayed until 5:00. I understand I was probably called
4 to speak about 9:30 that -- or 6:30 that evening. So it
5 was -- you know, it was a long day for me coming from
6 Kingman to speak and not getting to speak before you
7 made your vote.

8 The other frustrating part about it was as I
9 was watching the process, I felt like District 4 was a
10 red-headed stepchild, and as you were going through the
11 process, you were adding little pieces of Maricopa
12 County in to create enough of a population and
13 competitiveness, and it wasn't -- and it was that
14 sacrificing District 4 for the other counties in the
15 doughnut hole that you were trying to fill.

16 Now that the map has come out, my
17 disappointment is how our whole congressional district
18 surrounds Maricopa County.

19 My concern with this is what happens with the
20 growth? In the next 10 years we're living with this
21 map. Do you think that the growth is not going to go
22 out into those areas? That's where the growth of
23 Maricopa County and the surrounding metro valley is
24 going to be. Where are representatives going to be
25 coming from? They're going to come from that area, and

1 then we're going to get lost up in Mohave County again.

2 Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Next is Don D'Angina.

6 MR. D'ANGINA: D'Angina.

7 Don D'Angina. It's D apostrophe A-n-g-i-n-a.

8 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

9 MR. D'ANGINA: Hello. My name is Don D'Angina,
10 and I'm from Kingman. I represent myself.

11 First I want to thank you all for the work
12 you're doing. I really appreciate that. I know it's
13 really hard.

14 But there's some things here that I'm really
15 concerned about. This is supposed to be an independent
16 commission. When we have situations where commissions
17 make decisions on weekends and then call their
18 constituents and say, "This is what I did. Do you
19 agree?" Well, they didn't know anything about it, but
20 by being cheap, they went ahead and just agreed. One
21 said, "Well, I can't do that because I don't know
22 everything." So that person said, "I really can't vote
23 for it." And I commend him for that, for doing that,
24 but the others I don't. They should have looked into
25 the situation and find out exactly what it's doing.

1 Just like that young lady was saying, we have a doughnut
2 hole there in Maricopa County, and you're just moving it
3 and moving it and moving it until you took out three
4 congressmen.

5 Now, I understand this is supposed to be an
6 independent council that knows nothing about Republicans
7 and Democrats, but you took out three Republicans, and
8 to me that's wrong.

9 Now, regarding Tom Horne and your chairman,
10 he's not doing this politically. I think she should
11 step down.

12 That's my comments. Thank you

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

14 That was my last Request to Speak form. Is
15 there anyone else who would like to address the
16 Commission?

17 (No response.)

18 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Going once, going twice.

19 (No response.)

20 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, thank you all for
21 coming tonight. We really appreciate you showing up and
22 taking an interest in the process.

23 Please continue to be involved in the process.

24 We have a number of more public comment hearings
25 upcoming. Tomorrow the Commission's in Maryville.

1 Friday at the San Carlos Indian Reservation in the
2 morning and then in the City of Globe in the evening,
3 Avondale on Saturday, and that's about as far out as I
4 can plan my life, but there's more hearings in the
5 following week and the week after that, and if you go to
6 the website, azredistricting.org, you'll find a link
7 there that gives a list of all the other upcoming public
8 comment hearings. All of them are streamed live unless
9 we're in a real remote area that doesn't have that
10 capability.

11 After these public comment hearings conclude,
12 the Commission will reconvene and have business meetings
13 and take into account all of its public comments, apply
14 them to the constitutional criteria we are mandated to
15 follow, and make adjustments to the maps as appropriate
16 and then there will be a final map.

17 So what you've done tonight is very helpful for
18 us and we really appreciate you coming out tonight.

19 So with that, I'll conclude the meeting at
20 6:55 p.m. Thank you.

21 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
 2 COUNTY OF MOHAVE)

3 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was
 4 taken before me, Christine Bemiss, a Certified Court
 5 Reporter, CCR No. 50073, State of Arizona; that the
 6 foregoing 37 pages constitute a true and accurate
 7 transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of
 8 said meeting, all done to the best of my skill and
 9 ability.

10 DATED at Lake Havasu City, Arizona, this 26th
 11 day of October, 2011.

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Christine Bemiss, RPR
 Certified Court Reporter
 No. 50073