

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Saturday, October 22, 2011
1:36 p.m.

Location

**West View High School
10850 West Garden Lakes Parkway
Avondale, Arizona 85392**

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair

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

Joe Kanefield, Legal Counsel

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

Avondale, Arizona
October 22, 2011
1:36 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Good afternoon. This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

Today is Saturday, October 22nd.

We're here in West View High School in Avondale, Arizona, and the time is 1:35 p.m.

Let's all please rise and begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Well, it's good to see so many of you on a beautiful Saturday, take the time to participate in the process. We really appreciate it.

I apologize for the delay. We had to wait until the technology caught up us. And we're not streaming live today, unfortunately, over the Internet, but it's all recorded and it will be uploaded to our site later, so you will be able to watch a recording. So will anybody else. We're just not streaming live.

1 So let me introduce other folks at the table.

2 I'm Chairman Mathis. I'm the only commissioner
3 here today. The other commissioners will watch the
4 recording at their convenience.

5 We're all taking turns going across the state to
6 about 26 different locations to post hearings, and we're
7 taking turns going to different ones.

8 I think so this is like number 13 now in the list.
9 So we're about halfway through.

10 But the other commissioners are
11 Vice-Chair Freeman, Vice-Chair Herrera,
12 Commissioner McNulty, and Commissioner Stertz.

13 Other folks at the table today, we have legal
14 counsel, Joe Kanefield.

15 Our mapping consultant, Korinne Belock.

16 We have a court reporter, Marty Herder, who is
17 taking a transcript of today's proceedings.

18 Buck Forst is our chief technology officer.

19 Ray Bladine is our executive director.

20 Kristina Gomez is our deputy executive director.

21 And Karen Herrman is our public outreach
22 coordinator today.

23 So please feel free to talk to any of our staff
24 should you need anything throughout this. They'll be happy
25 to help you with any questions you might have.

1 We also have by federal law a translator here
2 today, and we're required to provide translation and
3 interpretive services for anyone who might need that.

4 And today we have Melissa Alvarado, who will be
5 translating into Spanish for us.

6 If you wouldn't mind coming to the microphone and
7 just giving a few words of welcome in both English and
8 Spanish, that would be great.

9 MELISSA ALVARADO: Chair Mathis, commissioners,
10 ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights
11 Act, a translator or interpreter will be available at the
12 public hearing in order to provide translating or
13 interpreting services that might be needed for those
14 citizens that need translating or interpreting services.
15 Please contact the translator or interpreter present at the
16 meeting so that she or he can assist you.

17 Would the interpreter please raise his or her hand
18 to be identified.

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

21 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

22 So we'll be getting to the main purpose of the
23 hearing very shortly, which is public comment.

24 The whole goal of these hearings is to hear from
25 the public and obtain input on the draft congressional and

1 draft legislative maps that the Commission approved.

2 And we're very much looking forward to any
3 specific input you can give us.

4 So the more specific you can be about lines, the
5 better.

6 We're happy to hear if you think they should be
7 moved.

8 If you think -- if you like them the way they are,
9 we like to hear that too.

10 So please feel free to be specific, as I said,
11 when you come up and talk to us later.

12 So public comment will begin in a little bit after
13 our presentation from Korinne. But I wanted to remind
14 everyone that if you do want to address us today, please
15 fill out a yellow request to speak form so that we'll have
16 that to call your name.

17 You'll be coming up to the microphone and giving
18 your input that way.

19 I will also note that if you do not wish to
20 address the Commission in public, you can fill out a blue
21 sheet which should be in the back of your packets of
22 information. And that's -- that will be entered into the
23 record just the same as it would if you stood at the podium.

24 So feel free to provide written comments if you're
25 more comfortable doing that. Otherwise, we look forward to

1 hearing from you later on in the meeting.

2 So with that, I will turn it over to Korinne
3 Belock, who will give us a presentation and overview on the
4 process.

5 KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Good afternoon. I am
6 Korinne Kubena Belock, with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy
7 to be here this afternoon to discuss the draft congressional
8 and legislative maps presented by the Arizona Independent
9 Redistricting Commission.

10 The goal of these meetings is to hear your
11 comments about the draft maps. So thank you for taking the
12 time to attend.

13 The draft maps you'll see today are currently
14 under a 30-day review period so that the Commission can hear
15 your opinion about these maps.

16 Before getting into the maps, I want to give you a
17 quick overview of the redistricting process.

18 Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the
19 state constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the
20 passage of Proposition 106.

21 It's stipulates that Arizona's Independent
22 Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and
23 legislative districts to reflect the results of the most
24 recent census.

25 So due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a

1 congressional seat, going from eight to nine seats.

2 So what are the requirements of the state
3 constitution via Prop 106?

4 The new district boundaries must comply with the
5 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, and they must
6 be equal population.

7 Criteria A and B are federally mandated.

8 And then to the extent practicable, the district
9 must be compact and contiguous, respect communities of
10 interest, use visible geographic features, city, town, and
11 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and favor
12 competitive districts where no significant detriment to
13 other goals.

14 So just a bit about the Voting Rights Act.

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

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

23 So under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
24 cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce
25 minority voters' rights.

1 And the presence of discrimination can be
2 determined by analyzing population data and election
3 results.

4 So as before I move on, we do have a presentation
5 via video from Bruce Adelson who is advising the Commission
6 on the Voting Rights Act.

7 So if you bear with me for a moment, we will show
8 this video.

9 (Whereupon, a video of Mr. Adelson's presentation
10 was played.)

11 KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Thank you.

12 Again, Bruce Adelson is advising the Commission on
13 matters of the Voting Rights Act and the preclearance.

14 Just one moment while we get the presentation back
15 up.

16 Thank you.

17 He had been with us for the previous several
18 hearings. That's the first time we were testing the video,
19 so thanks for your patience.

20 So just a little more about the background of the
21 Commission moving into the timeline for the Commission.

22 Earlier this year, step one, the Commission was
23 established. The commissioners were appointed following a
24 thorough screening process and serve in a voluntary role for
25 the state of Arizona.

1 Of course we have Chairman Colleen Mathis with us
2 today.

3 You can see the other commissioners listed here,
4 which Chairman Mathis mentioned.

5 Step two of this process was the first round of
6 hearings. So before drawing a single line that you'll see
7 on these draft maps, the Commission held 23 public hearings
8 around the state in July and August to get input from
9 members of the public about issues relevant to
10 redistricting, anything from comments on communities of
11 interest, geography, minority voting rights, and
12 competitiveness.

13 At that point, after the hearings wrapped up, the
14 mapping process actually began.

15 So, per Proposition 106, the Commission started
16 with a blank slate, which we'll talk about a little more
17 when you see the maps.

18 They then divided the state into equal population
19 and compact grid-like districts, and then they approved a
20 grid map on August 18th.

21 Since adopting the grid map, the Commission has
22 met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid
23 to accommodate all of the state constitutional criteria.

24 And during this time they also received additional
25 comments from the public and draft maps from the public as

1 well.

2 Approval of the draft maps, which you see --
3 you'll see today. So on October 3rd, the Commission
4 approved draft congressional map -- a draft congressional
5 map that incorporated changes based on all of the
6 constitutional criteria.

7 They then approved a draft legislative map on
8 October 10th.

9 Which brings us to the second round of hearings
10 which we're currently in the process of completing. So
11 we're visiting 25 towns and cities to share the draft maps
12 and receive additional public input during the months of
13 October and November.

14 And then step five, the final maps will be
15 adopted. So upon completion of the public comment period,
16 the AIRC will adopt the maps.

17 And then step six which Bruce touched on is the
18 preclearance process.

19 So because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the
20 Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by the
21 federal Department of Justice or the federal court in
22 Washington, D.C., before they can be used in Arizona
23 elections.

24 So just moving on to the maps now.

25 I want to give you a quick overview of how the

1 Commission came to the draft map you see today. So we'll
2 show you the progression of the maps in a series of slides
3 now.

4 So the map you see here on the screen was the
5 congressional map that was approved by the last
6 Redistricting Commission and most recent -- most recently
7 used in the 2010 election.

8 Per Proposition 106, the Commission was required
9 to start with a blank slate which you see here.

10 They weren't able to take into consideration any
11 previous election districts or incumbents.

12 The congressional grid map that I mentioned,
13 again, per Proposition 106 the Commission started with a
14 grid map.

15 However, the grid map took only into consideration
16 two of the six constitutional criteria: Equal population
17 and compactness.

18 So in August the Commission asked that two maps --
19 grid maps be drawn, and on August 18th they agreed on
20 option two, which you see on the screen here.

21 So after more than 25 meetings, the Commission
22 voted to approve the draft map which is on the screen here.

23 In addition to taking into consideration the
24 six constitutional criteria, the Commission took into
25 consideration from public comments which they received at a

1 number of different ways, whether it was through public
2 hearings, comments at the public meetings, comments mailed,
3 e-mails, hand-delivered, faxed, telephoned into the
4 Commission.

5 And all told, over 5,000 comments helped develop
6 this draft map that you see here today.

7 So as you see, I'm just going to go through some
8 of the highlights of the draft map as it stands.

9 It creates two predominantly rural districts. It
10 creates three border districts. It creates three districts
11 in the greater Tucson region. It creates five districts
12 that are entirely in Maricopa County. It avoids splitting
13 Arizona's Indian reservations. And it creates two districts
14 where minority voters have an opportunity to elect their
15 candidate of choice.

16 So moving on to the legislative maps.

17 Which we've do now.

18 So, Arizona has it 30 legislative districts, and
19 each district elects one senator and two house members.

20 Actually, I'm so sorry, let me go back a little
21 bit.

22 Much like the congressional maps, the legislative
23 maps followed the same path. And I'll show you the
24 progression.

25 I was jumping ahead a little bit there.

1 So, this is actually -- the map you see on the
2 screen is the draft -- I'm sorry, the legislative map that
3 the Commission approved in 2000 and was most recently used
4 in the 2010 election.

5 So this was the original map from the last
6 Commission.

7 And then per Proposition 106, again, the
8 Commission started with a blank slate, which you -- a blank
9 slate map, which you see here.

10 They then moved on to the legislative draft map.

11 I'm sorry, backing up again.

12 They moved on to the grid map which was approved
13 in August. So similar to the congressional map, the grid
14 map took into consideration equal population and
15 compactness, only two of the six constitutional criteria.

16 Which now takes us to the legislative draft map.

17 I was a little excited, I guess.

18 So, which leads us to this draft map.

19 So, again, as I already said, Arizona has
20 30 legislative districts, a senator from each districts and
21 two house members.

22 Some other points about the legislative draft map
23 that I want to share with you today.

24 The Commission definitely took into consideration
25 probably population growth and reduction.

1 So the old districts range from about 155,000 to
2 378,000 residents.

3 The current draft map you see today ranges from
4 207 residents -- 207,000 residents to 215 in population.

5 Again, to comply with the Voting Rights Act, the
6 draft map includes ten districts in which minority voters
7 should have an opportunity to elect a candidate of their
8 choice.

9 And the draft also includes three districts wholly
10 within Pima County and three additional southern Arizona
11 districts, seventeen districts primarily within
12 Maricopa County and nine districts that are primarily rural.

13 So moving on to the reason we're here tonight.

14 As I mentioned, the Commission definitely wants to
15 hear your input and what you have to say about these draft
16 maps.

17 There are many ways to make sure that your voice
18 can be heard.

19 Here are a few. You can fill out a request to
20 speak form at any public hearing and provide the Commission
21 with your input.

22 Examples of input might include your thoughts on
23 any of the constitutional criteria or any specific
24 recommendations or comments about the draft legislative and
25 congressional maps.

1 You can submit your input by speaking at a
2 hearing.

3 You can fill out a public input form on the -- at
4 a hearing or on the AIRC website.

5 And you can visit us at azredistricting.org or
6 call (602)542-5221 or toll free at (855)733-7478.

7 So those are the ways that you can provide us with
8 your input about this, about the draft maps.

9 And also really important to the Commission is to
10 make sure that you can stay connected throughout this
11 process.

12 So this screen shot you see here is the
13 Commission's website.

14 The arrow highlights a couple of key areas of
15 interest.

16 So under meetings, you can find meetings, future
17 and past. So if you're curious about what -- the
18 deliberation that went into developing these draft maps, you
19 can go back and view hearings by date.

20 If you would like to make comments, you can fill
21 out the public input form which is highlighted here.

22 You can also view maps obviously on the
23 Commission's website.

24 So there are two arrows for maps. The arrows down
25 at the bottom will take you directly to the draft maps. And

1 once you click on the links there, this is the screen that
2 will pop up for you.

3 Of course most people will want to see the draft
4 maps, so this is the best place to go.

5 Once you click on the map, you'll see a menu of
6 choices.

7 And it might be a little small for you to see, but
8 on the screen it's very clear.

9 Basically these are the different file types the
10 maps are saved in, JPEG, PDF, and also KMZ/Google files,
11 which we'll talk a little bit more about. That's the
12 link -- the Google maps' link is circled in red. And that
13 will take you to a Google maps view of the draft maps.

14 So you click on the KMZ/Google map file, which
15 will bring you this view.

16 So Google maps is a great way to view the maps
17 because you can zoom in and out to a specific area that
18 you're interested in.

19 Here you see the draft congressional map.

20 And on the left, just to point out what the
21 left-hand column is, that's a series of filters that are
22 will laid upon the maps.

23 So you can click on and off of those check boxes
24 basically to highlight different colors, to take out
25 counties, just helps you get a clear view of the area that

1 you're looking to focus on.

2 So that's a good way to play with the map and work
3 with it.

4 So now I want to show you a zoomed in look of the
5 map.

6 This is as you zoom in to the KMZ/Google map.

7 The slide you see here shows districts surrounding
8 Maricopa County as an example.

9 Again, you have the ability to zoom in and out, to
10 down to street names, block names, and you can see exactly
11 where those boundaries run, in case you have any questions
12 about that, of course.

13 So those are the maps today.

14 And just, again, as I wrap up, I just want to
15 highlight the Commission's website one more time for you,
16 azredistricting.org.

17 On the website, again, you can draw your own maps
18 to submit to the Commission, watch meetings, and finally
19 tells about future meetings as well.

20 And I also encourage you, if you're into social
21 media, to follow us on Twitter, hash tag AIRC, and friend us
22 on Facebook where you can get up-to-the-minute updates via
23 Twitter or Facebook about what's going on with the
24 Commission. That's a great way to stay connected.

25 So, again, in conclusion, thanks for coming out

1 this afternoon.

2 Also on these maps, you should have copies in the
3 packet that you received, and I hope that you all noticed
4 the maps blown up on the wall in the back as well. And
5 that's a great way to be able to view the maps even more
6 closely.

7 And, of course, I'm available after the public
8 comment period if you have any questions regarding maps.

9 And you can grab any of the staff as well, who can
10 give you pointers on how to view them, where to find the
11 Commission's website, or anything along those lines.

12 So I look forward to speaking with you all, and
13 thanks again for attending this afternoon.

14 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you, Korinne.

15 I have to congratulate our staff. I'm not sure if
16 the changes to our website was a recent phenomenon, but it
17 looks great, the new layout. That looks really good.

18 So thank you, Buck, and anybody else who helped on
19 that.

20 So we now move into the public comment phase of
21 the hearing.

22 And just a few ground rules to remember. When you
23 come up to the podium after you hear your name, please state
24 your name and spell your last name into the microphone as
25 closely as you can, because we want all to be able to hear

1 you really well. And the spelling gives our transcriber an
2 accurate accounting, a record, so that's helpful.

3 If you could also say if you're representing a
4 group, please let us know who that is. Otherwise, if it's
5 just yourself, you can say self. And please say the city or
6 county in which you reside. You don't need to give us
7 anything more than that in terms of where you live, just the
8 city or county.

9 And as I stated earlier, please be as specific as
10 you can on our -- on your comments.

11 It's very helpful, and we're seeking your input,
12 so we look forward to hearing any ideas and suggestions you
13 have for improvement.

14 And with that, I think we can begin.

15 So our first speaker is State Representative Anna
16 Tovar, representing self.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ANNA TOVAR: Thank you, Chairman
18 and commissioners.

19 My name is Anna Tovar, T-O-V-A-R.

20 I represent District 13, city of Tolleson,
21 representing self.

22 I just really quickly wanted to comment on the
23 process that has been called into play this past week at the
24 legislature.

25 I for one am against the legislature forming a

1 committee, a joint legislative committee, on redistricting.
2 I feel that this process should be a fair and open process
3 for all citizens.

4 And by establishing that joint committee at the
5 state legislature, it really silences the voice of our
6 citizens.

7 I feel it's very important that our citizens are
8 here, able to participate in this process in a very
9 independent way.

10 When the state legislature steps in and tries, you
11 know, to have these hearings in one way or another, it's
12 definitely a step in the wrong direction in influencing our
13 state from having that open process.

14 So that's one thing I would like to say about
15 that.

16 The second thing I want to address is my district,
17 District 19, I congratulate you on all the hard work you've
18 done and for being here on Saturday afternoon.

19 My district is a great district, and I love
20 representing District 13 right now.

21 The map that you've drafted is a map that I'm very
22 supportive of.

23 I feel that it gives my constituents a fair
24 representation, and it allows for people to run in this
25 district that truly want to represent Avondale, Tolleson,

1 Maryvale, and west Phoenix area.

2 If there was something that I would change on this
3 map, it might be, you know, having more of a border on the
4 west -- on the east portion of the district and maybe
5 lowering the district boundaries up on the northern portion
6 of my district.

7 But otherwise I feel it plays as a fair
8 representation of what this district should be like.

9 And with that, I thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker is Georgia Lord, mayor of
12 Goodyear.

13 MAYOR GEORGIA LORD: Good afternoon, and thank you
14 for the opportunity to speak before the Commission, to relay
15 a message given to me by our citizens.

16 My name is Georgia, G-E-O-R-G-I-A, Lord, like in
17 heaven, L-O-R-D. And I am the mayor of the city of
18 Goodyear.

19 Our council was elected at large on a nonpartisan
20 ballot. Our city government adopts ordinances and policies
21 weighing our decisions based on the desires and the needs of
22 our entire population.

23 Which is just under 67,000, and build out will be
24 approximately 635,000 people.

25 Many citizens have reached out to me expressing a

1 deep concern and disappointment in discovering a second
2 change in the redistricting map that essentially splits our
3 city in half at the river, resulting in moving our southern
4 boundaries to another district.

5 Reading over your bullet points of redistricting
6 criteria and justifications to modify these district
7 boundaries, I would like to address one of your
8 redistricting criteria. And that is, there is no
9 significant detriment to our goals.

10 Many of our residents feel the movement of our
11 southern population is a detriment to many of our goals set
12 by our citizens in developing the future of Goodyear.

13 The mere movement of our southern neighbors to a
14 different district is already forming a feeling of
15 disconnect among our residents who have played significant
16 roles in creating our district's goals for our future City
17 Center.

18 Our citizens spoke about their contributions and
19 helping create a city area plan for the development of our
20 future city.

21 They feel the continuing conversation of
22 developing the City Center and the needs of our community
23 will be weakened by the different goals set in the new
24 district.

25 As a city, we have fought the common battle of

1 Arizona's typical walled in communities by communicating and
2 joining hands to address and solve local, state, and
3 national issues for our city as one voice. And now we are
4 witnessing a virtual wall being constructed dividing our
5 citizens.

6 And they are concerned.

7 To help better -- to help you better understand
8 the makeup of our southern area, it is comprised of many
9 residential neighborhoods, but they play a significant role
10 by the location adjacent to one of our large employment
11 corridors that parallels our Goodyear airport, our baseball
12 stadium, and, just a little ad here, home of the Cactus
13 League of the Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians, and the
14 land for our City Center. All of which is an execution of
15 interest in joint effort from our citizens on both the
16 northern and southern boundaries of the city.

17 And, finally, we respectfully ask that you
18 reconsider the decision of splitting our district boundaries
19 at the river, which takes out an elongated, compact, but
20 contiguous path of land from our northern border to our
21 southern -- southern, and especially separating the Estrella
22 community in a portion of the Canyon Trails neighborhood,
23 which has a school district which will be separated south of
24 I-10 and moving a part of our city into the southern Arizona
25 district.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker is Sheri Lauritano, city council
4 member, from city of Goodyear.

5 SHERI LAURITANO: You got the whole city here.

6 Sheri Lauritano. Last name L-A-U-R-I-T-A-N-O.

7 I am a member also elected at large for the
8 Goodyear City Council, and I am the sole representative who
9 was an elected south of I-10.

10 After this I'm going to go attend our GAIN event,
11 which is our community and our neighborhood event at our
12 stadium.

13 And we enough of this talking to my neighbors,
14 just here and there, the Girl Scout meeting, the Boy Scout
15 meeting up in Estrella. My community is Estrella Mountain
16 Ranch.

17 And I don't know, maybe the committee didn't
18 realize the, the -- what our community -- we are not rural.
19 We do not belong -- that section of Goodyear does not belong
20 in a rural district.

21 We don't belong with southern Arizona.

22 I notice you split Yuma and you split Goodyear.

23 Yuma is a rural agricultural area. Our area is
24 not.

25 For example, many neighbors are just like me.

1 It's a -- we have two great schools up in Estrella Mountain
2 Ranch and a high school up there and also Canyon Trails is
3 split.

4 I've lived in Goodyear since 1995. And for those
5 15, 16 years, I've commuted downtown as an attorney. I was
6 with the city of Phoenix for 15 years as a prosecutor down
7 there.

8 I have no connection with southern Arizona other
9 than I went to U of A, undergrad. But overall we don't shop
10 there. Our economic interests are not with the southern
11 part of the state.

12 We work heavily with GPAC to bring in businesses
13 to the west valley. We work with the west valley corridor.
14 We work with Peoria closely. We work with Glendale closely.
15 We work with the west valley cities.

16 Many of my citizens and many of my neighbors and
17 friends are very concerned that our representation on both
18 of the congressional and on the legislative districts are
19 going to be based out of Yuma as it sits right now or out of
20 the southern Arizona area.

21 As I said, although they have some different
22 concerns than us -- and I do speak wholly non-political.
23 We're nonpartisan.

24 I'm looking at the streets. I'm looking at the
25 concerns. I'm looking at the issues.

1 Our council members are highly involved with the
2 Maricopa Association of Government. Transportation is a
3 regional issue again with Maricopa County, not with the
4 southern area.

5 I sit on the MAG domestic violence committee and
6 have sat on it for several years. And several of our other
7 council members, again, are very involved with the Maricopa
8 County area.

9 What I would recommend for these two districts,
10 because you said be specific, we didn't actually -- on your
11 map, we didn't actually go down far enough, but if you look
12 to see where Estrella Mountain Ranch is, if you would take
13 that area in and keep it with the rest of Goodyear, and that
14 would also keep the Canyon Trails area in, bring that box
15 down, and perhaps you could move the line up to Yuma.

16 And I understand all the Voting Rights Act, and I
17 don't have that specific information. But I was looking at
18 that, and I think that would keep Yuma together.

19 And I don't know if they have -- if they've had
20 the similar problems separating their community. And it
21 would keep our community together as well.

22 Ten years ago we were under 20,000 people. Now
23 we're at 66,000 people. We have had enormous growth.

24 We are the area of Goodyear where the regional
25 mall is going to be built for the west valley.

1 So we really don't have those rural concerns, and
2 it's really important to our constituents that we would be
3 moved in together.

4 And I would make the same basic recommendation,
5 not for specific lines, but if we could move -- and you can
6 see on your map right there, there's two lakes there, and
7 Estrella Mountain goes down there where you look at the
8 road. If you could take in that part of -- and keep
9 Goodyear together as a whole for those maps, we would really
10 appreciate that. And I think it would serve the citizens of
11 Arizona best and the citizens of Goodyear.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you. Our next speaker is
14 Enrique Medina Ochoa, town manager for the town of Tusayan.

15 ENRIQUE MEDINA OCHOA: Good afternoon,
16 Madam Chair, the Commission. Welcome to Avondale.

17 I reside in Avondale, Arizona, here in
18 Garden Lakes, about three or four minutes away. I've lived
19 here for the last 10 or 12 years.

20 I am the new town manager in Tusayan, Arizona.
21 That's how they pronounce it.

22 I started pronouncing it Tusayan, and they
23 corrected me. They said, ah, too much of a Spanish flavor
24 there.

25 But it is a Native American word.

1 I've asked to see if I could get a better
2 pronunciation, so I'm down to the local pronunciation,
3 Tusayan, Arizona.

4 It's an honor for me to be here, address you, and
5 being welcome.

6 As you know, I had the honor of being the first
7 executive director of the Redistricting Commission about
8 ten years ago. And then my wife decided to work in
9 Santa Barbara, and I had to follow her.

10 It's a nice place there.

11 But we're back. We're back over here, and doing
12 some great things.

13 Just wanted to address the legislative maps
14 particularly. We received them recently, and specifically
15 there is a division of the Grand Canyon Village in Tusayan.
16 And members of the council and the mayor have asked me to
17 come before you to express our desire to have that together.

18 That community really -- it's a community of
19 interest and should not be separated.

20 Tusayan students go to the school that's inside
21 the Grand Canyon.

22 The Lions Club, members of Tusayan, go into the
23 Grand Canyon. The rotary club, it's the Grand Canyon rotary
24 club, but it encompasses people from Tusayan and the
25 Grand Canyon.

1 The Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce and Visitors
2 Bureau has representatives from inside Grand Canyon Village
3 and Tusayan. So basically it's one community.

4 And at this time, even though there is a
5 eight-mile separation, Tusayan is right at the end, right
6 where you pay to go into the Grand Canyon. And then you
7 drive another eight miles to get into the actual residential
8 area Grand Canyon Village.

9 It's still the same people. It's all the same
10 people. It's the same -- all of the local residents have a
11 bypass lane to get into the Grand Canyon so that they can go
12 shop and there's a nice general store there.

13 And I can speak -- they live and they
14 interchange -- everything is interchangeable. It's all one
15 community, is what the bottom line is.

16 So I just wanted to express that to you.

17 Because I know that you're looking at
18 commonalities and you're looking at various issues that you
19 have to address. But in that particular case, it's one
20 community.

21 It's not like in Yuma. I'm not going to address
22 that.

23 Anyway, thank you very much. And we'll put our
24 comments in writing and be more specific, but I wanted to
25 welcome you to Avondale and thank you and see you

1 personally.

2 And thank you all for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you. Welcome back to
4 Arizona.

5 Our next speaker is Jim Buster, councilman.

6 And you'll have to tell us where you're from.

7 After Jim will be Wally Campbell, followed by Gary
8 Gelzer.

9 COUNCILMAN JIM BUSTER: Thank you. I am Jim
10 Buster. I am a city councilman from the city of Avondale.

11 And I wondered really if I really wanted to speak
12 today or not.

13 Because really more than anything else I want you
14 to pass.

15 I know you've got a difficult job, because you
16 have six criteria. And frankly, the U.S. Voting Rights Act
17 just blows everything to smithereens. Because you have to
18 have equal population. You do.

19 Geographically compact and contiguous. Some you
20 do. Some you don't.

21 Respect communities of interest. Some yes. Some
22 no.

23 Respect for geographic features and boundaries.
24 Some yes and some no.

25 Competitive. Of course, some yes, some no.

1 I represent, like I say, the city of Avondale.
2 And I live -- have been living in the city of Avondale for
3 12 years.

4 One thing I like about our situation and I'm --
5 here's the kvetching part. We have -- we are represented by
6 three different legislative districts.

7 I like that.

8 Of course you probably want them to be all in one,
9 but I like that. I know the legislative process, having
10 been a legislator, having worked down at the legislature.
11 And it's the nice to have not only minority representation
12 but majority representation as well.

13 And with this district, we lose that
14 unfortunately. And that's to me a loss.

15 The only other thing that I would say, this --
16 having been a member of the legislature when the legislature
17 last did redistricting, and having been a member of the
18 judiciary committee where it started that process, this,
19 this doesn't take politics out of redistricting and
20 redrawing lines.

21 I can tell you for a fact.

22 I've there been. I've seen it.

23 Yeah, the process in 1991, or whenever it was, was
24 very, very political. But so is this.

25 We drew maps. Those maps were litigated.

1 You'll draw maps. Your maps will be litigated.
2 There's no escaping it.

3 It's because people are political by nature.

4 And I don't think they're ever going to find a
5 perfect solution. But the one thing I liked about the
6 legislature drawing the maps was that at least the
7 legislature was elected.

8 Having said that, I know you have an impossible
9 task in front of you. And thank you for your time. I
10 appreciate it.

11 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

12 Our next speaker is Wally Campbell, council
13 member, from Goodyear.

14 WALLY CAMPBELL: Thank you. My name is Wally
15 Campbell, C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L. I reside in the city of
16 Goodyear.

17 And I would like to call to the attention of the
18 Commission details which you may or may not know.

19 The city of Goodyear is 191 square miles. It's
20 about 35 miles from our northernmost point to our
21 southernmost point, so we're a very elongated north-south
22 community.

23 Our city has always prided itself in being one
24 community.

25 And we have always been very cognizant of the fact

1 that I can't cut this in half. We have the Estrella
2 Mountains to our south.

3 We have another community of Mobile over the
4 Estrella Mountains that we annexed that is part of our city.
5 And we tried hard to include everyone from every section of
6 our city to do things together and to be one community, one
7 family.

8 We feel your first map did not split us, so that's
9 why you didn't hear anything from any of us in Goodyear.

10 And then when we saw the second map, we noticed at
11 that point you had split our city.

12 All we're asking is that you reconsider your
13 decision. Please keep us together, because we do everything
14 together in the west valley.

15 We're very close to Litchfield Park. We're very
16 close to Avondale. We're very close to Buckeye. And we're
17 very close to Glendale and Peoria.

18 We're all trying to work as one unit to do the
19 very best we can for the west valley, which will be the
20 fastest growing region of Maricopa County.

21 In Goodyear we have a lot of land left to develop,
22 and we're planning for the future too.

23 But we would appreciate if you would rethink and
24 redraw the lines only to keep us together so that we're not
25 separated.

1 Because I know we did mention that we are
2 concerned that we may have some school districts that will
3 be separated out, and we need to check that out as well. We
4 don't want that to happen to our city.

5 Thank you very much.

6 And may I thank your staff for the wonderful job
7 with the handouts and set-up. I know it's extremely hard
8 to travel from place to place, but we as citizens do thank
9 you.

10 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Yeah, they are not thanked
11 enough, so thank you for recognizing them.

12 And thank you for your comments.

13 Our next speaker is Gary Gelzer, city council
14 member, from the city of Goodyear.

15 GARY GELZER: Madam Chair -- Madam Chairman, my
16 name is Gary Gelzer. Last name is spelled G-E-L-Z-E-R.

17 My -- my mayor and my fellow council people have
18 basically told you why -- what the city of Goodyear is about
19 and why it's special and its unique geographic
20 circumstances.

21 What I want to say is from everything I've read in
22 the last several weeks with the action of the legislature
23 with Democrats and Republicans both crying out saying this
24 is terrible, I believe you are doing a great job. Because
25 it's political, and everybody doesn't like it.

1 And if you are, somebody's going to have to have a
2 compromise.

3 My comments are concerning the fact that you have
4 placed the city of Goodyear in a -- two rural districts.

5 And the city of Goodyear is a first or second ring
6 suburb of the Phoenix metropolitan area.

7 The city is growing at a rate of -- it was growing
8 at 10 percent. Now it's growing -- continues to grow at
9 five percent. For the last three years we've added 500 new
10 houses each year, and we are the fourth largest -- or
11 fastest growing city in Maricopa County and the state of
12 Arizona.

13 I believe that you have violated compact and
14 contiguous districts by aligning us with Yuma.

15 I believe you have violated respect for
16 communities of interest because our interests lie to the
17 east in the greater metropolitan area and do not really lie
18 to the west in with the appropriate Yuma district.

19 I also think that you have broken up the visible
20 geographic boundaries.

21 And I am a trained geographer and cartographer,
22 and so I speak from both a political orientation and a
23 professional background on this.

24 My final comment is if you align us to the east
25 and you keep us with two separate districts, that, as

1 Councilman Buster said, is a benefit to the city.

2 Then we will have more representation and not less
3 representation.

4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

6 Our next speaker is Christopher Kallmes,
7 representing self, from Avondale.

8 CHRISTOPHER KALLMES: Good morning. My name is
9 Christopher Kallmes, K-A-L-L-M-E-S.

10 Don't really have anything prepared. It's more
11 kind of a couple points to bring up.

12 I'd like to second what the council members have
13 been bringing up as far as the contiguousness and geographic
14 boundaries. The legislative district -- I live in Avondale,
15 and so I'm actually pretty happy with it. It seems like
16 Avondale has been inclusive and the city boundaries don't
17 seem to have been violated at all, so I do like that.

18 What I did have issue with was, at least with the
19 congressional district, is being included with
20 Congressional District 3. Because, again, that puts us with
21 Yuma, southern Arizona. And our community of interest
22 absolutely is the southwest Phoenix area.

23 Goodyear, Avondale, Tolleson, Buckeye, we have a
24 pretty tightknit community. We all spend money -- I mean,
25 we do have borders, but the borders I believe are pretty

1 blurred because people go back and forth. There's really
2 not any issues with that. And I think that keeping those
3 cities together in the same district or at least splitting
4 the two Districts 7 and 8 would be beneficial for all of
5 those communities.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Bobbie Watts, representing
9 self, from Goodyear.

10 BOBBIE WATTS: Bobbie, B-O-B-B-I-E, Watts,
11 W-A-T-T-S, like the lightbulb.

12 Good afternoon, Chairperson Mathis and
13 Commissioner Stertz.

14 Welcome to the west valley.

15 This is the nexus of the two largest districts,
16 CD 2 and CD 7 of the current districts in the state of
17 Arizona.

18 CD 2 has 972,839 people. CD 7 has 855,769.

19 Now, you had to whittle that down to, I think,
20 710,000.

21 So you took 262,000 people from CD 2. Actually it
22 is now mostly CD 8.

23 CD 7 has 855,769. And of course you whittled it
24 down to 710,000 also.

25 Regarding compactness, you compacted CD 8 fairly

1 well, but CD 3 now has a perimeter of 1,810 miles.

2 CD 8 is 248.

3 But I think if you would cut off the little
4 projections, it would be even smaller.

5 Community of interest, I'm from Goodyear. And we
6 share a common interest with Litchfield Park, Surprise,
7 Peoria, Luke Air Force Base, Buckeye. And we have common
8 interests with that portion of CD 8 east.

9 And Goodyear is divided 50 percent in eight and
10 50 percent in three.

11 Interstate 10 is the dividing barrier.

12 Goodyear should actually be all the way into CD 8.

13 Geographic boundaries. I notice you put Goodyear
14 Airport in CD 3 and the prison in CD 8.

15 I have some short recommendations.

16 I'd like to -- if you would renumber the districts
17 using the old numbers with the preponderance of the old
18 districts.

19 Because it's hard for us, the voters, to go from
20 CD 3 to CD 7 and CD 8 to CD 2.

21 And this is one you've heard before. Put Prescott
22 and Verde Valley in CD 1, because Prescott was the first
23 capital of Arizona, and I think they deserve CD -- to be the
24 first congressional district.

25 And we would like for you to include all of

1 Goodyear in CD 8 and Legislative District 13.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

4 Our next speaker is Woody Thomas, representing
5 self, from Litchfield Park.

6 WOODY THOMAS: Good afternoon. Woody Thomas from
7 Litchfield Park. T-H-O-M-A-S.

8 My real name is J. Woodfin, for the record.

9 I'm former mayor of Litchfield Park, served three
10 terms, was involved with various groups such as MAG. I was
11 on the transportation policy committee. I've been a
12 lobbyist for various interests of my own personal or
13 professional career.

14 I did want to compliment you on your efforts and
15 again being here on a Saturday.

16 I just finished a leadership conference where we
17 would also meet in the weekend, and talked about how odd we
18 must be to take such a beautiful day and talk politics.

19 But I do believe that's really a part of a
20 situation that has been lost in America.

21 I attended the Occupy Phoenix event last Saturday.

22 What I found more than anything is that's
23 democracy in action. That's people coming to a forum to
24 discuss their views and how they feel.

25 And I'll take exception with

1 Council Member Buster's comments that the people decide to
2 give you the responsibility, not our elected officials.

3 Our elected officials have their own personal
4 interests.

5 I think this is about as fair as can be, and I
6 applaud you for your efforts on a Saturday afternoon.

7 In general, I did want to compliment you on your
8 maps because of the balance.

9 I notice that overall in the state there are
10 31 percent Democrats, 35 percent Republicans, and 32 percent
11 other.

12 So the balance of four Republican, two Democrat,
13 and three competitive does seem to match that overall
14 perspective.

15 However, as I spoke the last time, I would offer
16 that we've traded one salamander for another in our
17 congressional districts as you saw District 2 going all the
18 way up to the Hopi Nation being a little bit odd instead of
19 normal.

20 Now I find myself in Legislative District 13 which
21 is another salamander with its head in my community.

22 And that does not fit.

23 As a real estate appraiser, I've done work
24 throughout the state. And I look at that area of Wellton,
25 Mohawk, Hyder, the suburbs of Yuma, Yuma Marine Air Force

1 Base, and find no community of interest with Litchfield Park
2 or the environs.

3 As mayor we would meet on Tuesday -- the first
4 Tuesday of the month. I think they're still doing that.
5 These are the towns of Tolleson, Litchfield Park, Goodyear,
6 and Buckeye.

7 And together we would map out strategies to
8 approach not only our legislature, our congressional
9 district, but as well as MAG being our primary interest.

10 Some of the concerns I've got with the
11 congressional district as it's proposed now, again, it's
12 much more compact, and I do applaud that.

13 But if you look at the competitiveness, which is
14 my main goal, is competitiveness more than anything else,
15 and there's going to be 61 percent Republican and
16 38 percent -- or 39 percent Democrat.

17 The districts -- the congressional districts
18 that border us, you would find that Congressional District 4
19 has very similar, 64 percent Republican and 36 percent
20 Democrat.

21 While Congressional District 3 and 7, which also
22 border our district, our proposed district, is 37 percent
23 Republican and 62 percent Democrat, and then again
24 District 7 would be 32 percent Republican and 67 percent
25 Democrat.

1 And that's getting a lot to two, you know, other
2 district, all the districts where I think competitiveness
3 for each district would be to our advantage.

4 Now I find the same thing true in our legislative
5 districts.

6 Our Legislative District 13, we would have
7 40 percent Republicans and 25 percent Democrats.

8 While the neighboring districts, such as four,
9 26 percent Republican and 38 or almost 39 percent Democrat.

10 Nineteen is 19 percent Republican, almost
11 20 percent, and 30 percent Democrat.

12 And then 29 is 21 percent Republican and
13 39 percent Democrat.

14 I would hope that some movement of lines could
15 make those districts much more competitive.

16 And that's been my goal.

17 On your website, which I was reviewing this
18 morning, I saw some maps proposed by Benny White. And I
19 find his districts, both congressional and legislative, to
20 be much more of the common interest.

21 I didn't see any percentages associated with it
22 for competitiveness, but as far as interest of communities,
23 I find it much more compatible.

24 Thank you for your time and have a good day.

25 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Carroll Frison, representing
2 self.

3 And if you could tell us where you're from, that
4 would be great.

5 CARROLL FRISON: Fantastic, Chair Mathis. Excuse
6 my voice. I have a cold, and I can't seem to get rid of the
7 frog.

8 Chair Mathis and counsel, thanks.

9 We live in a county island in --

10 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: If you could spell your name,
11 sorry, for the record.

12 CARROLL FRISON: F-R-I-S-O-N. First name two Rs
13 and two Ls.

14 We live in a county island in Litchfield Park.

15 I would like to address mainly LD 12 and proposed
16 LD 29, and I would like to address mainly items D, respect
17 to community of interests, and, E, use visible geographic
18 features.

19 I sort of have a statement question here.

20 I suppose that legislative districts must be
21 wholly within a congressional district. That would be
22 correct; right?

23 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Our legal counsel says no.

24 CARROLL FRISON: No. Okay.

25 If it were so, then I would also question the

1 boundary between Congressional District 7 and 8.

2 We live off 127th Avenue, which is halfway between
3 El Mirage and Dysart.

4 The westernmost boundary of LD 29, proposed LD 29,
5 is Dysart.

6 We consider our community to be Litchfield Park
7 and parts of Avondale and Goodyear.

8 That's where we shop regularly. Our doctor is in
9 Avondale. We go to church in Litchfield Park.

10 We -- there is a large geographic boundary,
11 the Agua Fria River, immediately to the east of El Mirage
12 Road, and along with the gravel pit and company plant.

13 Immediately east of that we have also a large area
14 which is not residential.

15 We have the Goodyear -- the Glendale baseball
16 complex and Glendale Airport.

17 So the new LD 29, which we are a part, we don't
18 feel that that's our community.

19 Our community is, like I said before,
20 Litchfield Park, parts of Avondale.

21 Like I said, that's basically like I said.

22 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

23 Our next speaker is Tom Matheson, representing
24 self, from Goodyear.

25 TOM MATHESON: Thank you, Madam Chairperson,

1 staff, and fellow citizens.

2 My last name is Matheson, spelled M-A-T-H-E-S-O-N.

3 First name common Tom.

4 And, as you said, representing myself from
5 Goodyear.

6 First thing I want you to know is I don't want
7 your job. Okay.

8 Thankless job, very, very difficult.

9 Today I only wish to speak on a very narrow issue.
10 It's not going to be about the partisan part of this
11 procedure or the minority majority.

12 I wish to speak specifically about the communities
13 of interest and the physical boundaries. And specifically
14 for the city of Goodyear.

15 As I think has already been attested to by our
16 mayor and several of our council people, we're really a
17 suburban area.

18 Quite homogenous actually.

19 When I moved to Goodyear 15 years ago, we had
20 10,000. Now we've got 65,000. So in the last 15 years
21 we've gained, like, 55,000 people, something like that.

22 But we're pretty homogenous. It's a suburban
23 area.

24 I would like to see us kept together, if I can, as
25 a city.

1 We are a community, as has been expressed.

2 I think it's particularly awful that
3 Estrella Mountain Ranch, which is a major master-planned
4 community in the south of Goodyear, which has been around
5 for about 25 years, has now been separated totally from
6 Goodyear in both the congressional and legislative
7 districts.

8 I think that we -- that the community of Goodyear
9 are pretty, as I said, homogenous.

10 The exception might be that area of 67 square
11 miles south of Estrella Mountain Ranch that was annexed in
12 2007.

13 That's, that's the Mobile area, which I understand
14 perhaps could be considered maybe more rural than the rest.

15 But I would have two things that I would ask is
16 that you keep the city of Goodyear together wherever you
17 can.

18 I think it's been expressed by many other speakers
19 that we are very, very closely aligned with the rest of the
20 west valley and specifically the southwest valley. And
21 we're trying to promote ourselves there.

22 We have very little, I can see, in common, common
23 interest area, with, you know, Yuma area and Gila Bend and
24 clear down to the border, which in the case of the
25 congressional district, you know, we're lumped in there with

1 possibly three quarters of the border.

2 I just don't think that's at all a community of
3 interest.

4 And as far as the political boundaries, you know,
5 I would like those to be looked at a little bit better
6 because in the case of a congressional district, there's a
7 line in there that appears to have been drawn by a drunken
8 sailor. No offense to the people who did it. But in the
9 case of legislative, at least follows I-10.

10 But still you're splitting us up. I would like to
11 see it kept together as a city, because -- and keep us if
12 you can in west valley or central Arizona.

13 And I just don't believe that we have too much in
14 common with the areas that we're currently being suggested
15 to be as a community, very much southwestern Arizona.

16 And I thank you very much for your time.

17 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker is Christine Baker, representing
19 self, from Surprise.

20 After Christine will be Tory Anderson and then Ed
21 Casper.

22 CHRISTINE BAKER: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Christine Baker, B-A-K-E-R.

24 And I am a resident of Surprise, a neighbor to the
25 north of here.

1 I want to speak about two things, about what's
2 happened to Surprise as well as to -- I'd like to address
3 LD 13.

4 Surprise has gone from having two legislative
5 districts to three.

6 And I really have an issue with that.

7 People have a hard enough time knowing what
8 district they're in with two, never mind three.

9 It's really cut the city in three.

10 Surprise two decades ago was about 25,000 people.
11 It is now 117,000 as of this last census.

12 So that's my number one concern.

13 My second concern is as my neighbors to the south
14 in Goodyear and Buckeye and Avondale have so eloquently
15 spoken, it really isn't right to take the city of Surprise,
16 which has really become very urban, and have it go 148 miles
17 down to the outskirts of Yuma. It's not just a manageable
18 district.

19 I guess those are my two comments.

20 Number one and most important, I want to thank you
21 for the hard work that you've done. And thank you for
22 coming here today.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

25 Our next speaker is Tory Anderson, representing

1 self, from Goodyear.

2 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Tory left.

3 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Okay. Thank you.

4 How about Ed Casper, representing self, from
5 Maricopa.

6 He'll be followed by Jeffrey Rich.

7 ED CASPER: It's Maricopa County. I actually live
8 in Phoenix.

9 The name Casper is spelled just like the ghost,
10 C-A-S-P-E-R.

11 Thank you for this -- for doing this absolutely
12 thankless job.

13 The last meeting of yours that I attended was over
14 in Tempe when you were drawing what is now District 24. And
15 I found the process to be fascinating. And just I wanted to
16 let you know I did have a chance ten years ago to speak with
17 a number of the commissioners back in those days and also
18 with the demographer, but I haven't had a chance to speak
19 with you folks much.

20 I had a chance to speak with the Commissioners and
21 the demographer ten years ago. And in speaking with him, he
22 gave me a real insight, I think, into the kind of
23 compromises that you have to make.

24 And no matter what kind of a map you do come up
25 with, you're going to be compromising.

1 I've known Jim Buster for a number of years, and I
2 really sympathize with a lot of what he had to say.

3 One of the things that the commissioners mentioned
4 to me ten years ago, that he mentioned, part of your job of
5 drawing competitive districts is really complicated by the
6 Voting Rights Act.

7 It's an unfortunate by-product of the thing, but
8 you don't have any choice.

9 It's a -- you know, I hate to say it, but I
10 understand and I appreciate why the Voting Rights Act was
11 enacted, but maybe it's something that the congress should
12 look at instead of having to constantly strengthen things,
13 maybe they can find ways to fine tune it for
14 competitiveness.

15 No matter what you do, somebody is going to
16 complaint about it.

17 The more you hear complaints from both sides, the
18 more you realize you're getting better maps. And I think
19 that's one of the things that, as I see it, that you're --
20 that I think you're coming close, because you're hearing
21 complaints from both sides.

22 I don't have a lot of specifics, but just a lot of
23 philosophical waxing. I actually submitted things online in
24 a little bit more detail.

25 About compactness.

1 I would remind people, someone in the audience as
2 well as here, that you guys have a lot easier job if you
3 were drawing the congressional districts in the state of
4 Alaska.

5 The state of Alaska has one congressional
6 district.

7 Just to give you an idea, the distance, air
8 distance, from Ketchikan to Dutch Harbor, Alaska, in the
9 Aleutians, is 1387 miles.

10 The distance between Tucson and Page is about
11 314 miles by air.

12 The distance from Seattle to Tucson is 1216 miles.

13 So that's a longer distance a person, a
14 representative, in Congressional District 1 in Alaska is
15 going to have to travel.

16 So compactness is in the eye of the beholder.

17 And to segue into the next part, isn't rural
18 Arizona a community of interest? In many ways they've been
19 underrepresented in a lot of the maps because of the
20 demographics. You have to put them in Maricopa County to
21 get population to fill up the districts.

22 So you have guys have a tremendous opportunity to
23 not only draw one rural district, but two. And I think
24 that's great that they can get better representation.

25 But my big thing is competitiveness.

1 And I couch the term competitiveness in a
2 different word. Accountability.

3 Don't we want elected officials to be accountable?

4 We're accountable at our jobs. To me an election
5 process is a job interview.

6 There's a realtor named Russell Shaw who puts out
7 an ad here in the Phoenix area that says, I'm not bragging,
8 I'm applying for a job.

9 Isn't that what politicians are doing? Applying
10 for a job.

11 We hold people in jobs accountable.

12 So the more competitive you can make the
13 districts, the more accountable these people can hold our
14 elected representatives.

15 And so that's one of the big reasons I think we
16 need to try to work towards competitiveness and
17 accountability.

18 But that's all.

19 You guys know where you can tweak. And I am fully
20 aware that one move of a line one block, it affects five or
21 six or eight other districts.

22 I saw you drawing District 24.

23 I saw the compromises you were making to try to
24 get to your aims in District 24. And you're going to create
25 a salamander, a gerrymander.

1 You can -- to me you can gerrymander all you want
2 for competitiveness and you can gerrymander all you want for
3 communities of interest. But please don't gerrymander for
4 the reason that gerrymander was originally intended, which
5 is incumbency protection.

6 This is not an incumbency protection commission.
7 This is a redistricting commission.

8 So I really thank you for taking some time to
9 listen to me.

10 And, again, all the best of luck.

11 I think that you guys and your staff don't get
12 enough praise.

13 And, again, the more complaints you hear from both
14 sides, I think you're going to find you're drawing better
15 maps. Maybe that's a good sign.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker is Jeffrey Rich, representing
19 self, from Avondale.

20 After Jeffrey will be Gordon Poser, followed by
21 Dorothy Schultz.

22 JEFFREY RICH: Madam Chair, my name is Jeffrey
23 Rich, R-I-C-H.

24 I am from Avondale.

25 And I am also the chair of the Legislative

1 District 12 Democrats.

2 I'm here to address you today on the subject of
3 fair and competitive districts.

4 For the past ten years the voters of Arizona have
5 been straddled with notoriously unfair districts intended to
6 accomplish only one thing: Increase and consolidate one
7 party's power in our state.

8 There are attempts to continue that course
9 throughout this process, and that's unacceptable.

10 The electorate of our state is nearly evenly
11 divided, one third, one third, one third.

12 The new districts must reflect that.

13 Without fair and competitive districts, our state
14 will continue to be governed not for the many but for the
15 few.

16 I urge you not to buckle to the pressure from high
17 ranking officials and a few vocal voter groups.

18 I further urge you to honor the desires of the
19 electorate who overwhelmingly voted for fairness in the
20 redistricting process with Prop 106.

21 They didn't vote for power grabs or special
22 interests.

23 Thank you for the work you're doing, and thank you
24 for the allowing me to speak.

25 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Gordon Posner, representing
2 self, from Tolleson.

3 GORDON POSNER: Good afternoon.

4 Madam Chair, this is the third time I've addressed
5 the Commission, if I'm not mistaken, and the first time
6 you've been here, so I want to thank you for the hard work
7 you've done and tell you that the attacks that have been
8 made on you personally should be taken as an indication that
9 you're doing the job right.

10 I am very much in favor of competitive districts.

11 I'm in favor of competitive districts in part
12 because, as the last speaker said, this is not supposed to
13 be a incumbent districting committee.

14 And I have to disagree with an earlier speaker who
15 said he preferred to have the districts drawn by the
16 legislature.

17 No. Because I prefer the current system where the
18 people drawing the districts don't have a direct personal
19 interest in the outcome.

20 And I hope it stays that way.

21 Competitiveness is important not just what --
22 depending on what party you're on, because even if you're in
23 a so-called safe district, you lose if it isn't competitive.

24 I currently am in two safe Democratic districts.

25 According to the map, if I understand them

1 correctly, I'm going to still be in safe Democratic
2 districts. Which in one sense is fine by me. You're moving
3 me from what is, I believe, the seventh congressional
4 district previously, the third under your map, into what
5 will be the new seventh district. I happen to like that
6 because it means I go from a district that is affiliated
7 with Tucson to a district that's entirely within Maricopa
8 County.

9 So in terms of community of interest and the rest,
10 that works out fine.

11 But, whatever party you're in, if you live in a
12 safe district, in a sense your vote doesn't count.

13 Your representative only has to worry about the
14 primary, and we all know primaries are generally governed by
15 the most extreme of either side.

16 I think this is one of the reasons there's so much
17 partisanship and division in this country, in our congress,
18 because so many members, Democratic or Republican, come from
19 safe districts. So I want to urge you to make
20 competitiveness a very important part of what you do. Make
21 the districts more competitive.

22 I understand you have the Voting Rights Act and
23 other things to consider, but in the long run, it's
24 competitiveness that will make our democracy work.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

2 Oh, I'm sorry, do you mind spelling your name for
3 the record? Sorry about that.

4 GORDON POSNER: P-O-S-N-E-R. It's pronounced
5 Posner.

6 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Posner. Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Dorothy Schultz, representing
8 self and neighbors, from El Mirage.

9 DOROTHY SCHULTZ: First off, I want to thank you
10 guys for serving.

11 I have some appreciation for what you are doing.
12 1963 fall, I was a graduate student at Texas Christian. We
13 worked with a group from other campuses designing
14 legislative districts and congressional districts for the
15 state of Texas anticipating Reynolds versus Sims and
16 population equality becoming a criteria for representing.

17 And you don't know how lucky you are to have
18 computers now.

19 It was hair raising in trying to deal with rivers,
20 highways, et cetera.

21 I have a message from my 13-year-old grandson.

22 He says, don't let the bullies win.

23 When he's 18, he wants to vote in competitive
24 districts.

25 Now, he lives in El Mirage -- I mean, he lives in

1 Surprise. I live in El Mirage. It's about two miles
2 between us.

3 We all have common community interests.

4 I.e., I substitute teach. His mother's a teacher.
5 He's a student. His brothers and new baby sister are all
6 going to be students.

7 Now, we know the problems we have with Sun City
8 voting down bond issues years ago, and they don't pay school
9 taxes.

10 El Mirage has no community interest with Sun City.
11 We do have children there. We have a lot of
12 interest with the west valley here.

13 Now, District 13 right now is not compact. It's
14 all over the place. And El Mirage, Surprise,
15 Litchfield Park, Goodyear, Avondale, all of our west side
16 cities have a lot more in common than we have with La Paz
17 County.

18 I would like to be able as a doctorate -- a
19 doctorate in political science to look at your results and
20 say, by golly, we've got a competitive legislature and we've
21 got congressional districts that are competitive for a
22 change.

23 In the '90s I circulated petitions and helped
24 draft up the initiative that created this Commission.

25 I felt totally betrayed ten years ago when I saw

1 the results.

2 I went to a lot of meetings, and I saw people
3 telling me to tweak it here and tweak it there.

4 I'm not going to tell you how to tweak it.

5 I'm going to ask you to go back on your computers
6 and get us as many competitive legislative districts and
7 congressional districts as you can, so when my grandson
8 who's 13 now turns 18 and he goes to vote, he can choose
9 between a Democrat or Republican or whatever's running and
10 have a choice.

11 You know, I came back to Arizona after college
12 teaching for years in 1985.

13 I have yet to vote in a competitive election where
14 it wasn't either safe Democrat or safe Republican. And I've
15 lived in both districts.

16 I've even been a member of the other party just to
17 be able to vote in the primary.

18 So how people vote in elections may be more
19 indicative of the competitiveness than actual voter
20 registration, because when I lived in north central Phoenix,
21 I had to register Republican if I had a choice for congress
22 or the legislature because the other party didn't run any
23 candidates.

24 Safe districts.

25 In a democracy there should be no safe districts.

1 Because if we don't have competition, we don't
2 have accountability.

3 Thank you. And you know what, I really appreciate
4 your service.

5 You're going to catch a lot of criticism, but hang
6 in there and don't be bullied.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Thank you.

9 That was my last request to speak form. Is there
10 anybody who would like to address the Commission who I
11 missed?

12 (No oral response.)

13 CHAIRMAN MATHIS: Hearing, seeing none, I really
14 appreciate everyone's respectfulness today. You've been
15 wonderful, and you've provided really thoughtful, helpful
16 information to us. We appreciate that. And especially,
17 again, coming on a Saturday on a beautiful day like this.
18 And we thank you for taking time to participate in the
19 process. We really appreciate it.

20 This is not your last opportunity to participate
21 in the process.

22 As you know, we're going to continue on this tour
23 around the state.

24 And, in fact, on Monday is our next hearing, and
25 that's going to be 11:00 a.m. in Sells at the Tohono O'odham

1 Utility Authority.

2 And then Monday evening we'll be at the University
3 of Arizona at 6:00 p.m. in Tucson.

4 So, the hearings continue all through next week.
5 And if you can continue to come to more of them, please do.
6 We appreciate it.

7 Otherwise you can follow us online and watch the
8 hearings that way too.

9 With, with that, I think that will conclude our
10 meeting.

11 It's now 2:56 p.m., and this meeting is adjourned.
12 Thank you again for coming.

13 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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

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BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 61 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 27th day of October, 2011.

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