ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Monday, October 24, 2011
6:06 p.m.

Location

University of Arizona
Student Union Memorial Center
North Ballroom
1303 East University Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

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

Joe Kanefield, Legal Counsel

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

© Az Litigation Support Court Reporters
www.CourtReportersAz.com
(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening.

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

Today is Monday, October 24th. The time is 6:06 p.m.

It's wonderful to be here in Tucson, and thank you all for coming tonight.

Let's all begin by rising and stating the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I'll begin with the folks around the table.

I'm Chairman Mathis.

We also have tonight Commissioner McNulty and Commissioner Stertz, both Pima County residents. And I am as well.

The other two commissioners are Vice-Chair Freeman and Vice-Chair Herrera.
And since we're going to about 26 locations across the city -- across the state on this second round of hearings, we're dividing up responsibility, and so not all of the commissioners are going to every single meeting.

So too the other two can watch this via Internet. We're streaming live tonight.

And otherwise all of our meetings are also available for all of you to watch too. They're recorded and put on the website after they've occurred.

So you should be able to find those at azredistricting.org.

Other folks at the table tonight, we have legal counsel, Joe Kanefield.

Our mapping consultant, Korinne Kubena Belock. I got it just right this time.

Then we have a court reporter, Marty Herder, who's going to be taking a transcription of everything tonight.

Our chief technology officer is Buck Forst over there trying to make things happen for us.

And apparently, if you have difficulty hearing on this side of the room, our speaker wasn't working. And so if any of you need to move and be closer to that speaker so that you can hear better, please feel free to do so, and we apologize for that inconvenience.
Other folks here tonight are Kristina Gomez, our deputy executive director.

And we have two public outreach coordinators who you should have seen on the way in, Lisa Schmelling and Kristi Olson.

And those two women are in the back.

And please feel free to go to any of our staff should you have any needs tonight or have any questions or want to give them anything or give us anything, please give that to the staff and they'll make sure that we get it.

And I don't know if we have a translator tonight.

And, is there a translator in the house?

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. So maybe if they come later Ms. Gomez can let me know. They're not here right now, so we won't introduce them.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to hear from you. That's why we're all here, is so that we can get input on these draft congressional and draft legislative maps that the Commission approved.

And there's going to be a public comment session of the hearing that will be coming up after a presentation. And we'll be calling people up. So if you haven't already filled out a request to speak form and you'd like to address us tonight, please be sure to do that. And that form will
come up to me, and I'll be calling names later on in the meeting.

There's, of course, other ways to provide input if you don't want to stand at the podium tonight.

In the back of the packet that you should have received on the way in is a blue form. And that blue form allows you to give written comments to the Commission that will be entered into the record the same as if you sit at the podium.

So if you're not comfortable coming to the podium or if you need to leave early or anything, you can fill out that written form out and submit it here tonight by turning it in or sending it to us in the mail or calling it in. You can all us on the phone.

And you'll be hearing about all these different ways to provide input.

This isn't your only shot by any means.

And, as I mentioned, we'll also going to be continuing this second round of hearings to another 11 or 12 locations, so there's more opportunity to keep coming to hearings as well.

So with that, I want to make sure I covered everything.

And I think I have, so I will now turn this meeting over to Korinne, who will give us a presentation and
overview of the process.

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Thank you.

Good evening. My name is Korinne Kubena Belock with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be here this evening in Tucson to cover the draft congressional and legislative maps presented by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

Thank you, of course, for attending. And the goal of these meetings tonight is to hear comments from you about these draft maps.

The draft maps you will see today are currently under a 30-day review period so the Commission can hear your opinion about these maps.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Korinne, I'm sorry.

Our translator just arrived, so I'm going to allow him to come up to the podium.

Federal law requires us to provide translation and interpretive services at these hearings, and tonight we have a Spanish translator, Carlos Reyes. And he will come up and say his message in English and then follow it up in Spanish to find out if there's anybody here who needs those services.

CARLOS REYES: Good afternoon, I do apologize for -- give me a second.

Chair Mathis, commissioners, ladies and gentlemen,
in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a translator interpreter -- and interpreter will be available at all the public hearings.

In order to provide the interpreting services that might be needed for the citizens that need translating and/or interpreting services.

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

Now I'll read it in Spanish.

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

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Sorry for the interruption, Korinne.

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: No, you're fine.

So, again, as I mentioned, the draft maps you see today are currently under a 30-day review period. I want to say that again.

And before I get into the maps, I want to give you a quick overview of the redistricting process.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If you can hold it -- hold the mic close.

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Let me try it. Is that better?

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Maybe if you moved it to the center.
KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: It's better now? Okay.

No problem.

So just going into a quick overview, so Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the state constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the passage of Proposition 106.

It stipulates that Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the most recent census.

Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a congressional seat, going from eight to nine seats.

So what are the requirements of the state via Proposition 106?

The new district boundaries must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act and the districts must have equal population.

So criteria A and B are federally mandated.

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

Just briefly about the Voting Rights Act.

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

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

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

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

So very, very briefly, I'm going to go with a video from Bruce Adelson with the Federal Compliance Consulting group. He is advising the Commission on matters related to the Voting Rights Act.

(Whereupon, a video presentation of Bruce Adelson was shown.)

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Great.

So just moving on with the presentation. So, very briefly, before we get into the maps again, a little more on the timeline of the Commission.

So, earlier this year as step one, the Commission was established. The commissioners were appointed following
a thorough screening process and serve in a voluntary role
for the state of Arizona.

Tonight, of course, we have Chairman Colleen
Mathis, Commissioner Richard Stertz, and Commissioner Linda
McNulty.

Not present are Vice-Chair Scott Freeman and
Vice-Chair Jose Herrera.

The second step of the Commission were first round
of hearings. So before drawing a single line, the
Commission held 23 hearings around the state, in July and
August, to get input from members of the public on issues
related to redistricting. Their comments were anything such
as geographic, communities of interest, minority voting
rights, and competitiveness.

After the first round of hearings, the mapping
process actually began.

Per Proposition 106, which we'll talk about in a
moment this, they started with a clean slate. They then
divided the state into equal population in compact,
grid-like districts.

The grid maps were approved on August 18th.

Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission's met
more than 25 times to consider adjustments to accommodate
all of the state's constitutional criteria.

During this time they received additional comments
from the public, as well as draft maps from the public as well.

Approval of the draft maps was the next step. On October 3rd the Commission approved the draft congressional map that incorporated changes based on all at constitutional criteria.

They also approved the draft legislative map on October 10th.

Which brings us now to the second round of hearing. The Commission is currently visiting 25 towns and cities to share the draft map and to receive additional public input during the months of October and November.

Step five will be approval of the final maps. On completion of the public comment period, the AIRC will adopt final maps.

And then as Bruce touched upon, step six is preclearance.

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

So now moving into maps.

To show how the Commission came to the current draft map, we will show you the progression of the maps
through the process.

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

And this is the blank slate that I was talking about. So per Proposition 106, the Commission was required to start with a blank slate, not taking into account any previous election districts or incumbents.

Then in the congressional grid map, also per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a grid map. However, the grid map only takes into consideration two of the constitutional criteria: Equal population and compactness.

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

Which gets us to the congressional draft map. So after more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted to approve the draft map that you see here.

In addition to taking into consideration the six constitutional criteria, the Commission took into consideration public comment that was provided via public meetings, round one of public hearings, comments mailed, e-mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, and telephoned. Any way people could possibly get in touch with the Commission,
those comments were accepted. And over 5,000 comments
helped develop this draft map.

So as we see, we'll briefly cover some of the
highlights of the congressional map -- draft map.

First creates two predominantly rural districts.
It creates three border districts. Three districts in the
greater Tucson region. Five districts that are entirely in
Maricopa County. It avoids splitting -- it avoids splitting
Arizona's Indian reservations. And it creates two districts
where minority voters have an opportunity to elect a
candidate of their choice.

So moving into the legislative map.

Much like the congressional draft map, developing
the legislative map followed a very similar process.

Here you see legislative map that was used by the
last Commission -- developed by the last Commission, which
was last used in the 2010 elections.

Again, per Proposition 106, the Commission started
with a blank slate.

They then moved to the grid map, which was
approved in August. And similar to the congressional map,
the legislative grid map only took into consideration equal
population and compactness.

Which leads us to the legislative draft map.

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

Some of the points to cover about the legislative draft map. The Commission took into consideration population growth and reduction. In the old districts, population ranged from about 155,000 to 378,000.

In the draft map that you see here, population ranges from 207,000 to 215,000.

And to comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft map includes ten districts in which minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. And the draft map includes three districts wholly within Pima County, and three additional southern Arizona districts, 17 districts primarily within Maricopa County and nine districts that are primarily rural.

So, the main reason we're here tonight is because the AIRC wants to hear your input on these maps. There are many ways that you can stay connected. You can fill out a request to speak form at a public hearing and provide the Commission with your input.

Examples of input might include your thoughts on any of the constitutional criteria or any specific recommendation for the congressional or legislative draft maps.

You can submit your hearing -- your input by speaking at a hearing, filling out a public input form at a
hearing, or on the AIRC website.

And you can visit the AIRC online at azredistricting.org or call (602)542-5221, or toll free at (855)733-7478, with any input you might have about the maps.

Another important goal of the AIRC is to make sure that you can stay connected through this process. This, you see here, is a screen shot of the Commission's website.

The arrows highlight a couple key areas of interest. Under meetings, you can find future and past meetings. If you'd like to watch any of the deliberation that went into the formation of the draft maps, you can view past hearings by date to watch those -- that input.

If you'd like to make comments, you can fill out the public input form online that you see highlighted here.

And, finally, most importantly, you can access the draft maps.

The arrow down at the bottom is one place where you can get to the maps.

So, if you click on the link there, I'll show you an example of the screen that will show up.

This is basically where you can find all of the versions of the draft maps.

The thing that you see here is that these are different file types. So some might be PDFs or JPEGs.
The one that we're going to highlight tonight is the KMZ file, because it's a great way for you to be able to view these draft maps and to zoom in and zoom out, which we'll talk about.

If you click on the Google Maps/KMZ link, which is circled in red here, this is a screen that you're brought to.

So, Google maps is a great way for you to view the maps, because you can zoom in and out to specific areas of the interest.

On the left-hand column, you have the ability to turn on and off county filters, filters for population, filters for the different colors, basically play around with this and check on and off boxes that are of interest to you, it's just a better way for you to clearly view the area that you're looking to highlight. So that's an explanation of what you see on this side corner here.

Of course right here you see a zoomed out version of the congressional map.

So if you zoom into the map, this is the view that you'll get.

For the purposes of this example, this slide shows you a zoomed in look on some of the areas surrounding Maricopa County.

Again, you have an ability using the KMZ/Google
maps to zoom in and out down to specific blocks or streets
to see exactly where those boundaries run.

So, as I wrap this up, I just want to highlight
the Commission's website one more time for you,
azredistricting.org.

On that website you can draw maps of your own, you
can watch current and past meetings, and you can get updates
about future meetings as well.

And if you're into social media, I encourage you
to follow us on Twitter at AIRC, hash tag AIRC, and you can
friend us on Facebook. Both Facebook and Twitter will give
you an opportunity to get up-to-the-minute updates from the
Commission.

So, as I wrap this up, I want to thank you again
for coming out tonight to be a part of this process.

A final point about these maps, of course
copies are available in the packet that you received this
evening. We also have poster sized versions on the wall
over here that you can -- just makes viewing maps even
easier for you.

Also I'm available after the public comment period
with any questions you might have about the mapping process,
or how to access maps or how to decipher them a bit better.
And of course the staff is available to do the same.

So I look forward to speaking with you, and I
Thank you for having us today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Korinne.

So that brings us to the public comment section of the meeting. And I've got about 75 request to speak forms, if you can believe it. I think this might be a record for us.

So thank you all for being here.

It does mean we should limit comments so that everybody gets a chance to speak their mind tonight. And so what we'd ask if you could try to limit your comments to two minutes. I won't pull you off if you go over two minutes, but if you hear the timer go off, the buzzer so to speak, please be mindful and just try to wrap it up if you can as soon as possible just to give everybody a chance tonight.

Just to restate the purpose of this. It's really to provide input on these draft maps, the legislative and congressional. And to the extent you can be specific in your remarks, please do so.

We really would appreciate any specificity given to changes that you think need to be made. Even if you thought about kind of the ripple effect around it, what we might do to mitigate any ripples that would occur from the changes you're suggesting. Because, as you know, any change requires changes elsewhere. So we're open to all those
ideas, and we very much appreciate hearing your thoughts on that.

If you like the maps, we'd also like to hear that too.

It's always good to hear. But if it's, if it's constructive criticism, all the better.

So with that, just a few ground rules to remember.

When you come up to the microphone, please adjust the microphone so that you're speaking directly into it so we can all hear you really well and that our court reporter gets an accurate transcript.

If you could state your name and spell your last name so that also we get an accurate transcript. And if you could also state where you're from. Please don't give us your address, just give us your city, town, or county, where you reside. That's plenty.

And if you're representing a group, please let us know who the group is.

So, with that, I think I will move into the first speaker.

And tonight that is State Senator Olivia Cajero Bedford.

SENATOR OLIVIA CAJERO BEDFORD: Good evening. My name is Olivia Cajero Bedford.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, if you could speak

I'm the current state senator from District 27.  You'll excuse my voice.  I'm just getting over pneumonia.

District 27 encompasses the central, west side, and southwest area of Tucson, University of Arizona, and Pima Community College.

I thank you for allowing me to speak.

I am strongly and enthusiastically in support of the boundaries of Legislative District 3.  Strongly and enthusiastically.

I firmly believe you have made a district that meets the number one goal of the voting rights requirements for this majority-minority district.

Legislative District 3 is not packed, a district with too many minorities.  An important criterion.

A five star feature is the compactness.

All of these points I have mentioned I believe will speak well for the Department of Justice.

The only small negative that can and should be fixed is to not break up Precinct 25.
I wish I knew the logic for taking away a four block by four block neighborhood out of District 3. Those 16 small blocks should be a part of District 3, even possibly extending the boundary of 40th Street to the east, almost to South Sixth.

All of that neighborhood area ties in with neighborhoods to the south.

These are all similar neighborhoods, communities that share commonalities.

I know.

I grew up in that south side area.

I thank you. The Commission has done a wonderful job with Legislative District 3. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Georgette Escobar, from Tucson.

After Georgette will be Matthew Laos, Mohur Sidhwa, and William Sobeck.

GEORGETTE ESCOBAR: Thank you very much.


I'm a Latino voter. I currently live in LD 29.

And so soon I'll be a voter in LD 2, which, again, I also -- I do like LD 2, but just a couple things I'd like to change with it.
Two changes actually.

The first one is we have Latino voters are packed into the draft LD 2, and I think at over 61 percent.

And the Commission should go for that target of 54 percent in LD 2. This would be a fair change which would keep LD strong while helping Latino voting power and election competition in other Arizona districts.

The best way to try fixing minority packing in draft two may be to delete the dog leg across southern Cochise County, and maybe add voters to LD 2 from downtown and east side of Tucson, which would also help Cochise County election competition and communities.

Also, LD 2 should still include part of downtown Tucson. LD 29 includes parts of downtown Tucson now, and that would be easy to do by moving the draft LD 2 northwest boundary slightly north to Congress Street, using the Union Pacific Nogales line railroad track as the east border in the downtown part. This would help keep our closely related historic south downtown neighborhood people connected.

And the current LD 29 boundary starts at Congress Street, and the district includes south downtown, and so should the new district.

To fairly represent the interest of the community.

And, again, I'd like to thank you for your service to the people here in Arizona very much, listening to my
comments and hopefully make some reasonable changes to LD 2.

Again, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Matthew Laos, representing self, from Tucson.

MATTHEW LAOS: Hello to the Commission.

Again, my name is Matthew Laos. That's L-A-O-S.

I am from Tucson, Arizona.

I'd just like to say first that I'm a former Army officer, I am an Iraq war veteran, and I am a very concerned citizen for the entire state of Arizona.

I want to congratulate the Commission on their hard work, and I want to extend my concern that the Commission's work will affect not only the current economic state of Arizona but the future.

And with regards to the entire process, I would like to consider focusing on the criteria of competitiveness.

For me, as a veteran, a former soldier, I can tell you that competitiveness equates to equality, democracy that we're seeing all around the world at this time, and ultimately a better electoral process.

I know you have many decisions to make in tweaking these maps. I can't begin to extend to you my thanks on the hard work you're doing to do this with yourself and staff.
And, again, I would just end by saying the entire state owes you a debt of gratitude for the seriousness of the issue that you are embarking upon.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Mohur Sidhwa, representing self, from Pima County.

THE WITNESS: Madam Chairwoman, commissioners, and the two who are not here, hi.

It takes courage to run for office in a competitive district.

That is how it should be. That is our system of government.

Bully tactics are a refuge of incompetence.

I suspect the draft maps will hold up to legal scrutiny, as will this committee.

I have followed you closely for the past five months. While I may have disagreed vehemently with you at times, I know you are doing exactly what you have been charged to do.

If legislative incumbents in the legislature somehow manage to draw the maps to their own liking, it would undermine the principles of democracy and a free people.
This brings me to the newly formed joint legislative committee, which seems to have shown contempt for constitutional provisions, both of this Independent Commission and the right of the free press under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

This contempt was displayed Friday in a bizarre meeting -- committee meeting to discredit and undermine you. A member of the media was tossed out, not for speaking a single word, rather than what that legislator thought he saw him mouth.

That's pretty thin-skinned. What next? Thought police?

This Commission has endured a campaign of threats and intimidation, lawsuits, politically motivated investigations, lawyer lobbyists, and of course the usual colorful characters who make these meetings such fun.

What part of independent do they not understand?

If legislatures -- legislators' positions or issues are so anemic that they would not hold up to a vigorously contested general election, then they should not have the honor of representing us and should not run for reelection.

I have been very sorry to see this difficult third world mob mentality of the intimidation and bullying that you have to endure these past months. Past five months
actually.

One party ruled about competitive elections is not
the American way.

That the -- generates the best candidates. Rather
it generates automatons that mindlessly shovel out the same
talking points.

Do not sell our uniquely American system of
competitive democracy to bully tactics and intimidation by
the legislators who are too lazy or too narrow to get out
there and campaign for our votes.

Our unique system of competitive democracy is now
in your hands. You should treat it with respect.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is William Sobuck, representing
Citizens for Common Sense Redistricting, from Pima.

After William will be Harvey Akeson, Fletcher
Strickler, and Dee O'Neill.

WILLIAM SOBUCK: Commissioner. William Sobuck,
S-O-B-U-C-K.

I'm a little confused on the compliance with the
Arizona Constitution.

It says we're supposed to be -- priorities are
communities of interest and geographic boundaries, towns,
county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.
On one of the maps, Congressional District 1, I counted over ten counties involved in that. That doesn't comply with the Arizona Constitution.

Excuse me.

There's some other areas, in particular of District 3 and District 8, Buckeye, and not Litchfield Park. One is in District 3. One is District 8.

Communities of interest, I was stationed up there years ago, and they are connected to Yuma.

I don't understand the rationale there. Why, why, why with Yuma.

There should be a separation.

Camelback not with Glendale municipal airport.

They're right next together.

But they're connected more so -- not so with San Luis down at the border.

So I'm a little confused on this compliance with the Arizona Constitution.

That's all I have to say. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Harvey Akeson, representing self, from Pima.

HARVEY AKESON: Harvey Akeson, A-K-E-S-O-N.

Madam Chair and members of the Commission and staff, thank you very much for all the hard work you're
I just recently saw the legislature was attempting to have some additional input into the committee. I sort of at first resented it because when we went out with the petitions to amend the constitution, it was hard work. But then I remembered how I got a lot of signatures, and that was because of what was going on at the legislature at that time.

I won't go into the history any more, but I do believe that like any sports game or football or basketball or baseball, competition is what brings people to the game. If we want the citizens of Arizona to participate in the election, we want competition.

And so I leave that with you.

I know that there are so many other criterias you have to look at, but competition would be good to get people to the polls and participate.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Fletcher Strickler, representing self, from Pima.

After Fletcher is Dee O'Neill, followed by Victoria Steele and Matthew Kopec.

FLETCHER STRICKLER: Good evening, Madam Chair, fellow commissioners, and ladies and gentlemen.
My name is Fletcher Strickler, S-T-R-I-C-K-L-E-R. I live in unincorporated Pima County.

I think competition has been the watch word so far, and continues to be so with me.

I believe that under the extreme pressures that your Commission has been placed, you have done an admirable job bringing competitiveness to the map that we are now considering.

Personally I would have selected two border districts as we had over the past decade. I know you were under pressure to bring in four districts on the border, and you finally selected three. And I think you've done a nice job.

While the mapping of Arizona obviously contains a lot of empty land and very few people, you've had to pull together 700,000 people in each district. And with such concentrated populations in the Maricopa County and in Pima County, the map begins to look rather squirrely, and you kind of look at these borders, and you wonder how in the world did you get there.

But I think in District 1, the proposed District 1, you have kept many of the native Indian populations in a competitive district being represented fairly by one representative.

I believe that in the legislative district you
have not given as much competitiveness as I would have liked to have seen.

Somebody described it to me that if the Democratic side of the political scene won every single competitive district and held all the districts that they currently have, they would still not be in any position to be close to having a closer vote with the Republicans.

Thank you.

And I will say to you how much we appreciate your volunteerism and the time that it's drawing you from your families and everyday life.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. Our next speaker is Dee O'Neill, representing self, from Tucson.

DEE O'NEILL: Good afternoon, good evening, whatever we're doing.

My name is Dee O'Neill, O, apostrophe, N-E-I-L-L. I have lived in central Tucson for 51 years.

First I want to thank the Commission for all of your dedication to the process of making our elections as competitive and fair as humanly possible. You have an amazingly hard job.

In -- I believe in this process of redistricting by an independent Commission above any other process, so thank you for all your hard work.
Even though the map isn't perfect, and obviously when people are complaining about it from all sides, that gives you a pretty good idea you've done a good job.

It isn't as competitive as I would like to see it. I would like to register my support for the congressional map as it is currently drafted because it accomplishes what I believe is most important, more rather than fewer competitive districts, which is good for our state and for our country.

Any changes you make should increase not decrease competitiveness.

Voters need to believe that their vote can make a difference, and that is only true when there is true competition between the candidates and their views.

From my point of view living in central Tucson, I believe this draft map accomplishes several important goals. One, it ensures the Voting Rights Act is adhered to.

And, also provides a third district for -- a third representative district for congress in the central city and Tucson area and southern Arizona.

Tucson also has more in common with the unincorporated portions of Pima County than it does with cities that have incorporated in the northwest side of town, so I would urge you not to change the way in which you have
included northwest Tucson, who has much more interest in --
much more in common with Pinal County by including them with
Pinal County, including some economic development that's been going on between the city of Marana and Pinal County.

Also your map helps keep the community of interest along I-10 together, and I think that's a good thing.

Tucson should have one third of the congressional districts. For the Republicans to complain because they only have four for sure Republican districts, when by registration they only have one third of the voters, is unhealthy for a democracy and the state.

It isn't really wise for races to be decided in the primary.

So for all these reasons I support this draft map knowing that you will have to tweak it more, but hopefully only to provide more competition.

As for the legislative district map, I believe it does need a lot of change.

As it is now, if anyone other than a Republican won all of the Democratic leaning districts and all the competitive districts, there would still be no chance of ever having a majority of representatives in the state legislature be other than Republican.

Guaranteeing the Republicans will control the legislature is bad for all of us in Arizona and for our
state as a whole.

Many countries with only one party in power are usually called authoritarian dictatorships. I urge you to reconsider enough to make more -- many more legislative districts competitive just as you have in the congressional districts.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Victoria Steele, representing self, from Tucson.

Followed by Matthew Kopec, and then Sam Almy, Molly Moore, and Sean Durns.

VICTORIA STEELE: Hi. My name is Victoria Steele, S-T-E-E-L-E.
I want to thank you for your time as well.
I just am here to simply state my strong preference for competitive districts.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Matthew Kopec, representing self, from Tucson.

MATTHEW KOPEC: Thank you. My name is Matt Kopec, K-O-P-E-C. I've lived in Tucson and Arizona my entire life.
I believe the people have the right to change the course of government when they feel it is on the wrong
I believe the draft congressional map achieves this goal. I believe you've done a good job, and it should move forward as is.

I would like to say the same thing about the legislative draft map.

As it stands, both parties do not stand a chance of winning a majority in one or two of the houses of the legislature.

As it stands, there are about three competitive districts, and I would encourage you to move it up to at least ten.

The competitive districts in southern Arizona are to be applauded. I've moved from a one party dominated district to a competitive one, and I think this will be a big help toward delegation there.

I ask you that you expand what you've done in southern Arizona to the state as a whole.

Thank you for your time, and I appreciate what you're doing.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

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

SAM ALMY: My name is Sam Almy, A-L-M-Y.

And I was asked to come here and mention that I
I have made a map and I was wondering -- sorry about that folks.

I was asked to come here and mention that I have made a map and I was one of the winners of the statewide competition for that. And I was able to come up with ten competitive districts in my legislative map.

As Matthew just said, this current legislative map has three competitive districts, and that is not where we need to be.

We need to have more.

The congressional map does do this. In Pima County, the legislative, there are competitive districts, but the rest of the state is very much lacking.

I think that if the Democrats were to sweep all their races and the competitive districts, they would not have a majority.

That does not form an effective government.

We need to have parties moving back and forth so that they are working in the interest of the people rather than the interest of their party.

My quick suggestion for you guys, unfortunately most of them are in Maricopa County, which I'm a little unfamiliar with, but I would suggest that you take the sort of airplane rudder from LD 24 and add it to the LD 23, that is sort of the northwest portion of that.
LD 21, you can add more Republicans from that district to LD 29.

And also LD 30 could go more north into LD 20 and that would, that would there create six competitive districts.

Unfortunately I don't know where you move people around from there. I haven't spent the hours on your map. I spent about 15 to 20 hours working on my map. And, again, I was able to get ten competitive districts.

I'm sure with your technology and the brains behind what's going on here you will easily get this number as well.

So I wish you luck. And, please, more competitive districts.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Molly Moore, representing self, from Tucson.

Then Sean Durns will be next, followed by Alex Mich, Jr., and Barbara M. Cain.

MOLLY MOORE: My name is Molly Moore. And I'm a long-time resident of Tucson.

Moore, M-O-O-R-E.

First I'd like to compliment and congratulate the Commission for all its hard work, and particularly for the
Chair Mathis for standing up and staying focused in spite of all the political pressure coming on you.

In 2002 the citizens voted to have this Commission because we're tired of having our legislature determined by incumbency what your districts are. And as it now stands it does not really reflect the true sentiments and feelings of the citizens of Arizona. So I would like to encourage you to be focused on the principle of competitiveness.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Sean Durns, representing self, from Tucson.

SEAN DURNS: Good evening. My name is Sean Durns, and I am a Tucson native. That's D, as in David, U-R-N-S.

I'd like to thank the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission for holding public meetings and performing what must be at times a trying, but nonetheless important public service.

As a native of this state, Pima County resident, and a recent college graduate, I feel it's absolutely important and imperative to have involvement of the community in politics and public service. I think this can only be done through competitiveness.

As such, I am completely satisfied within reason with the congressional districts. I think the Commission

© Az Litigation Support Court Reporters
www.CourtReportersAz.com
has done an excellent job in instilling competitiveness as far as the congressional map goes. However, I would like to see more competitiveness with the legislative map. I think that three districts just really isn't cutting it.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Alex Mich, Jr., representing self, from Pima.

After Alex will be Barbara M. Cain, Cecilia Cruz, Claudette Olson.

ALEX MICH, JR.: My name is Alex Mich, Jr. My last name is M-I-C-H. I want to thank you for your very difficult work. I just want to add my voice to the idea that competitiveness is an important factor, and salute you for what you have done to this point and to continue and make it as competitive as you can.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Barbara M. Cain, representing self, from Pima County.

BARBARA M. CAIN: Cain, C-A-I-N. I'm going to join everybody out there. Thank you,
thank you, thank you for your work.

   I'm sure you'll never volunteer again after this experience.

   But I'm not unhappy with congressional districts, although I personally wouldn't want to have District 1. It would be a lot of traveling there in that situation.

   (Applause.)

BARBARA M. CAIN: However I have a bone to pick about the legislative districts.

   We're not happy with what's been happening in the state of Arizona. We need competition in the legislature here. And that's not going to happen. I've gone over these statistics that you have given us, and there are only four or five districts where there's even a chance of having a competitive election.

   That's not going to make our state any better.

   You have it in your hands to make a difference, so that we won't be the lowest state in the nation when it comes to education, when it comes to other valuable things.

   We have a beautiful state, but it's not respected.

   I just got back from Michigan, and quite frankly we're pretty much considered a laughingstock by some of the other states.

   That's a heavy duty for you.

   But go back and look at those figures and readjust
your lines and give us at least 10 to 15 legislative
districts that are competitive.

We must have it to have a future for Arizona.

Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Cecilia Cruz, representing

self, from Tucson.

CECILIA CRUZ: Hello. My name is Cecilia Cruz. I was born and have been raised in Arizona my entire life.

I want to thank you for your hard work to all the commissioners who have volunteered their time to this service for our state.

I've been a registered voter since the day I registered at age 21.

I've never ever missed an election. I think it's a responsibility that's what makes our state great.

I've heard the comments from people who want competitive districts.

I think that especially north of Pima County where we are here in Tucson, and in the southern part, you have done that.

But, again, further up the state we need that to occur.

My main concern with addressing you here today is
that I'm very -- wish that you continue to work in compliance with the Voter Rights Act, especially with respect to communities of interest and not to ignore that minority voting power.

And I want to thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Claudette Olson, representing self.

And you'll have to tell us where you reside.

After Claudette will be Shirley Muney, William Ferrell, and Roger Salzgeber.

CLAUDETTE OLSON: Hello. My name is Claudette Olson, O-L-S-O-N. And I reside at the eastern edge of Tucson.

I want to thank the Commission so much for your work.

I'm a recent resident of Arizona, and I am surprised and very pleased to see that we have an independent Commission. And it's not -- our districts are not determined by the legislatures, which, which can do redistricting to their own advantage.

I am very happy with the congressional district map.

I applaud you for that.

I think the legislative districts need help.
Competitiveness is a watch word. We have to make them more competitive.

When people vote, they have to believe that their vote counts.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Shirley Muney, representing self, from Tucson.

SHIRLEY MUNEY: Last name is Muney, M-U-N-E-Y.

Thank you.

And like other people, I do appreciate all the work you've put in. I know you've had many long, long hours and a lot of miles that went into your work.

I also want to speak about competitiveness.

You've had speakers here who are incumbent representatives elected in a majority party in their districts, and they have said that they want more competitive districts.

With representation -- voting representation about equal between Republicans, Democrats, and Independents statewide, surely we can have more competitive districts than has been allotted so far.

And I really urge you to rethink the way the districts are split up.

Thank you very much.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is William Ferrell, representing self, from Tucson.

WILLIAM FERRELL: William Ferrell from Tucson. I represent myself.

And I'm impressed at your attempting an impossible job, and I am very grateful for you trying to do that.

Mathematically I think it's impossible to satisfy all the criteria.

The criteria does -- it seems to me the most important, in particular for the legislative districts, is the fact that the state is divided roughly one third Republican, Democratic, and Independent. And one would expect that a state so divided would be one in which it was -- elections would be competitive.

So I think that the competitiveness is the most important factor here.

And then the legislative districts I think greater attention to that would be important.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Roger Salzgeber, representing self, from Pima.

He'll be followed by Faith Salzgeber, Cheri Bludau, and Mary Gresham.
ROGER SALZGEBER: Good evening. My name is Roger Salzgeber, S-A-L-Z-G-E-B-E-R.

And, first of all, like everyone else, I'd like to thank you for your service and your dedication in implementing the voter passed proposition.

After attending more than a few of these meetings and hearing much talk of communities of interest and competitiveness, I am struck by the fact that the largest community of interest I have heard are the voters who overwhelmingly support the constitutional amendment that would create more fair and competitive districts.

With regards to the current proposed congressional map, I believe that it is an important improvement over the current map.

With the creation of two competitive districts along with the voting rights district, southern Arizona is headed in the right direction.

I support the draft congressional map that I would encourage you that if any changes should be made, those changes should increase, not decrease competitiveness.

As far as the Arizona legislative map, I live in proposed LD 9, and I have seen -- and I see an increase in competitiveness, which I support.

But statewide I am concerned that other LDs do not share in that competition.
In conclusion the majority of voters want to pick their legislators rather than the legislators picking their voters.

Competition in my mind is the name of the game. When candidates compete for votes, they should have to engage the whole community.

Competition brings out the best in the business world, and it does so in politics too.

Every voter must feel that his or her vote counts on election day.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Faith Salzgeber, followed by Cheri Bludau, Mary Gresham, and then Shirley Sandelands.

FAITH SALZGEBER: Good evening.

And you're doing really well with our name.

I, first of all, would like to thank the Commission members for all their hard work, often done in spite of outside pressures that continue to try to influence them.

I particularly would like to thank Commissioners Freeman and McNulty who, if I heard correctly, actually jointly developed the state legislative map. That was a huge undertaking.

As far as the congressional map goes, initially I
did not favor three border districts. And I would rather have had four competitive districts instead of three. However, I believe that the draft congressional map as it now stands is a huge improvement and should go forward.

The state legislative map, however, while a good start, really needs to be improved in terms of developing competitive districts.

While the competitiveness has been improved in my district, excuse me, in the northwest Tucson area, there's still much work to be done overall with many of the districts in order to increase competition.

That is what the voters wanted when they passed Proposition 106, and that's what clearly has been stated at so many of these meetings.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Cheri Bludau, representing self, from Tucson.

CHERI BLUDAU: Good evening.

And I celebrate your work, because you are a result of what has happened when Arizona citizens get it right. They have gotten an independent Commission, and now we can move forward.

I agree with everyone that competitiveness is probably the most important as what you need to look at.
I have been horrified to find that in our state legislature that one party sits and makes all the decisions excluding very specifically everybody else.

That's not right. That's not representing the people of Arizona. And only through competitive districts will you give the people an opportunity to be able to have a voice, because right now the voice that comes out in our state legislature is pretty much through one perspective. And so through these competitive districts I think we can make it better.

And wouldn't it be a grand time when we celebrate the 100th birthday of our state to truly become a state that allows all people to have an equal opportunity to have their perspective heard.

So I applaud you for what you've done. Congressional is looking good. It could be better. State really does need a little more competitiveness in it. Thank you very much.

Thank you.

Oh, sorry. And if I can remind you to spell your name for the court reporter.

CHERI BLUDAU: B-L-U-D-A-U.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And if everyone could remember to spell your last name, that would be helpful.

Our next speaker is Mary Gresham, representing
self, from Pima.

MARY GRESHAM: Mary Gresham, G-R-E-S-H-A-M.

I want to thank you for all the work that you’ve done, the long hours and miles on the road and listening to us.

Thank you very much for that, and I would urge you to continue your work to keep as many competitive districts and make them as you can.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Cheri -- sorry, Shirley Sandelands, representing self, from Pima.

SHIRLEY SANDELANDS: Thank you. I know it’s a hard name.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I’m sorry about that.

SHIRLEY SANDELANDS: My name is Shirley Sandelands, S-A-N-D-E-L-A-N-D-S. Speaking as an individual.

I want to thank the chair and the Commission for all of their work that you’ve been doing.

I was here two weeks ago when you went through -- had your consultant go through all of the categories and explain every legislative district.

I too would like to see as much competition as possible, but I do know that we have to follow the voter act and you have to consider many things. So thank you for all
of your work.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Irvin Lee Tucker, representing self, from Pinal.

Followed by Jim March, Charles Evans, and Brooke Francisco.

TOMMY TUCKER: It's Tommy Tucker, T-U-C-K-E-R.

In your first meeting at Oro Valley at which I was at and several others, there was a strong request to be sure to have Saddlebrooke and Oro Valley stay together. And you have done that, of course, in the LD 8 that is planned. And we want to thank you for that.

Saddlebrooke, of course, representing a community that is, first, it is out of Pima here tonight. We're in greater Tucson, but we're just over the line in Pinal.

We're an unusual community because we're not a town. We are 9100 population, 9100 people, and we represent two homeowners associations.

So our real concern is that the congressional district we put in not only will we possibly quite strongly have our representative over 400 miles away in an area that -- Pinal is larger than any one of three other states and actually LD -- Congressional District 1 is much larger than that.

We have no common interest to the north. As an
adult community, we're actually a community under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. All our people are either 55 or older, except there are some exceptions to that.

We would deeply ask you to look at the criteria that are in the constitution. We are clearly not in a good situation with Congressional District 1.

And we certainly see ourselves as part of greater Tucson and not a rural community. So placing us in LD 1 -- Congressional District 1, changing that, please look at that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Jim March, second vice chair for Pima County Libertarians.

JIM MARCH: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, members of the Commission.

I know a thing or two about being bullied.

Personally, growing up, I'm a mild Asperger's case, so that means going -- being bullied pretty much goes along with the territory in school.

As a political activist, I know where my head's at. I don't like bullies.

I didn't like the kind of sheriffs that would sell gun permits for campaign contributions in California.

I didn't like the kind of people who would rig electronic voting machines across the entire U.S. and across
the globe.

And I don't like the kind of bullies that are picking on you guys right about now.

They clearly are.

It never helps anybody to cave in to a bully. And legally speaking, you don't have to.

You're supposed to be an independent Commission.

You've done an independent job of carving up the state like a big Christmas turkey, which you're supposed to do every ten years.

From a purely Libertarian point of view, a completely race neutral set of boundaries would be the preferred alternative. But given past misconduct, past racism in this state, that's off the table. That's not going to happen because of DOJ preclearance.

Given the limits that DOJ places on you for these reasons, you've done about the best job you probably could have done.

There are people asking to get more competitiveness. But, again, carving up the racial lines is probably closed that some.

What I'm here to ask you to do is to hold tough.

Okay?

Stand up to the people who are saying -- something. I don't even know precisely what argument they
You've got a tough job to do. You've done it. You can't be sued for doing your jobs. And you haven't done it in a corrupt fashion. You have nothing to worry about. Stand up to them.

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Charles Evans, representing self, from Pinal County.

After Charles is Brooke Francisco, Sherese Steffens, and --

CHARLES EVANS: Thank you. My name is Charles Evans, and I am a resident of Saddlebrooke, Arizona.

It's my belief that Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana should be placed back into CD 2.

As it stands, our small pocket of population finds themselves in CD 1, which is, in fact, larger than several contiguous northern states.

I receive my newspaper from Tucson. I receive my television from Tucson. I shop in Tucson. I should be able to select my representative to Washington who has the same area interests as I do.

As it stands, I believe the district has now
disenfranchised me.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Brooke Francisco, representing PALF/UFCW from Tucson.

BROOKE FRANCISCO: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Brooke Francisco, F-R-A-N-C-I-S-C-O.

As a resident of Tucson and a student here at the U of A in the department of political science, I recognize the need for competitive districts here in southern Arizona.

Without competitive districts, elections are predictable along party lines, and Independent voters are often uncounted. Last year only 41 percent of registered voters turned out in the election, and this is due to the fact that they feel under-represented and their votes do not matter.

Competition is a part of democracy, and if we do not implement the type of districts, is it going to continue to be a party of extremists among Democrats and Republicans.

More seriously, the number of voters who turn out in elections will continue to dwindle. More people -- excuse me, the answer to the questions presented to us here today is the need for competition among districts in
southern Arizona.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Sherese Steffens, representing Northwest Conservatives, from Pima.

SHERESE STEFFENS: Good evening. My name is Sherese Steffens, and that's S-T-E-F-F-E-N-S.

I live in northern Pima County, and I am here today to represent the Northwest Conservatives Group.

Our group is very concerned that the Redistricting Commission has lost sight of what the voters wanted when we passed Proposition 106.

In regards to southern Arizona, neither the CD or LD maps make any sense at all.

There are 13 rural counties in Arizona. No rural county should be joined with any part of metro Phoenix or Tucson.

According to the 2010 census, Arizona has enough people in the rural parts of the state to deserve at least two completely rural districts, one in eastern Arizona and the other in western Arizona.

The CD 1 draft map places rural counties like Coconino, Navajo, and Apache with the suburban communities of Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, and unincorporated west Pima County -- northwest Pima County, all of which are
northern suburbs connected directly to the city of Tucson. These areas do not have anything in common with central and northern Arizona. We don't even share the same TV news stations.

Additionally, the Navajo and Apache Nations do not share the same visions, issues, and concerns that we do. They are a sovereign nation with their own very specific needs and goals.

Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, and unincorporated northwest Pima County which includes Avra Valley, Picture Rocks, Casas Adobes, and Tortolita areas belong in southern Arizona and should be moved into Congressional District 2.

Legislative Districts 11 and 8 are so large that they inhibit the citizens of both political parties from gathering together and electing a representative who can fairly represent the residents.

Attending LD meetings will not be possible for many residents because of time restraints and transportation costs.

Those living in the southern end of the LD like Marana in northwest Pima County or Maricopa at the far north end will be much less likely to have the opportunity to participate in choosing their representatives than those living in the middle.
Attending LD meetings will be difficult for everybody.

The same goes for Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrook, Florence, Coolidge, and the San Tan Valley. These areas cannot be fairly represented by the same elected officials. It is over an hour's drive from northern to the southern boundary.

So why not put Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke in unincorporated northwest Pima County which includes Avra Valley, Picture Rocks, Casas Adobes, and Tortolita in the same LD? There are only 30 minutes from end to end in all directions. These areas share the same roads, schools, doctors, and hospitals, grocery stores, and libraries. Also Sun Tran, the public transportation system, connects all of these communities together.

They are bordered by the Silver Bell Mountains on the west and the Catalinas on the east and River Road on the south. We would use geographical features and have compactness, communities of interest, competitiveness, and diversity.

Both the congressional district draft map and legislative draft map do not comply with the Arizona Constitution in many ways.

Many of the districts especially in southern Arizona are not compact.
The CD districts do not separate rural communities of interest from suburban areas which have totally different needs.

Geographical features as well as city, town, and county boundaries were not used whenever possible.

The Arizona Constitution states that to the extent practicable the district lines shall use visible geographical features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

Southern Arizona should elect our representatives from southern Arizona, not from central or northern Arizona.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Demion Clinco, representing self, from Tucson.

Followed by Demion will be Keith Bagwell, Leiann Anderson, and Joyce Friedericy.

DEMION CLINCO: Thank you. Good evening, commissioners. Thank you so much for the time to address you. I'll be very brief. I think it's important that we do have more competitive districts. It's important that we have more competitive districts, but additionally I have a concern about the boundaries of proposed LD 2 and 3 in downtown Tucson.
The proposed boundaries exclude two neighborhoods that are part of downtown Tucson, Santa Rita Park and Barrio Santa Rosa.

And there are two ways to remedy this, which are move the boundary to the line of the city of south Tucson, 25th Ave., or move the boundary north to Congress Street. So I recommend that you look at both of those. To exclude those neighborhoods from downtown really doesn't respect communities of interest.

So thanks very much.

My last name is Clinco, C-L-I-N-C-O. And the two communities are Santa Rita Park and Barrio Santa Rosa.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Keith Bagwell, representing self, from Tucson.

KEITH BAGWELL: My name is Keith Bagwell, B-A-G-W-E-L-L.

I'm here, as I have been in the past, in support of the map that was created earlier by the Hispanic Coalition For Good Government.

To that end I would like to suggest a little tweaking on the congressional map as it relates to Congressional District 3.

I'd like to see you add one precinct to the east of this all the way from Grant Road all the way to
Interstate 10.

And that would be Precinct 73, 78, 63, 82, 85, and 66.

And the reason for this is that these are all -- there are a lot of community of interests.

The northern precincts there are -- represent historic neighborhoods, like the one I live in, Harmon Park.

These -- they're near the university. They're racially diverse. There's age diversity. They have a lot in common. They meet together once a month with the university.

And so they have a lot in common.

There's a high union density and union halls in these areas.

And then when you get down to the south we're talking about three precincts that have very high minority populations, have a lot in common with the precincts to the west.

So I think you would do everybody a service by tweaking this a bit and adding one precinct to the east all the way from Grant Road to I-10 on Congressional District 3.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Leiann Anderson, representing CCSR, from Pima.

I ask that you keep Green Valley and Sahuarita together. We are a family of shared lives. Our goals and aspirations dovetail in myriad areas. We are a community of interest.

I also support two rural districts in southern Arizona.

Please give southern Arizona what we have asked for over the last four months. There have been hours of testimony given. Phone calls, faxes, e-mails have all been sent.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Joyce Friedericy.

You can correct me when you come up.

Representing self, from Oro Valley.

Following Joyce will be Payton Davies, Alex Bissett, and Garland Cox.

JOYCE FRIEDERICY: My name is Joyce Friedericy, from Oro Valley. That's F-R-I-E-D-E-R-I-C-Y.

Congressional District 1 shown on the current map is a perfect example of a gerrymandered district.
It does not keep communities of interest together or keep from splitting counties. Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana need to be joined in CD 2, which would make both CD 1 and CD 2 more compact.

These communities are not close to northern Arizona and have nothing in common with them and would not be well served by one representative.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

PAYTON DAVIES: My name is Payton Davies, D-A-V-I-E-S. I'm from Oro Valley.

Those of us from Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, and Marana have been asked to be kept together.

So with what I feel has been malice, you have done that.

But you've put us in northern Arizona. Where we will have very little influence. And if we even want to go to a district meeting, it will take two days. Some of us are not able to be away at night.

The proposed CD 1 is a travesty. You should put us in the CD 2.

Give southern Arizona what we've been asking for for the last four months.
We have been ignored.

Southern Arizona does not belong in the same congressional district as northern Arizona.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Alex Bissett, representing Sun City Vistoso residents, Oro Valley.

ALEX BISSETT: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Congressional District 1, I agree, as shown on the current map, takes up about half of the area of the state of Arizona.

And it does set a perfect example of a gerrymandered district.

I believe this -- that we have -- this tiny little area here of Oro Valley, Marana, and Saddlebrooke has been dropped into this huge District 1 as a result of many of us complaining about some of the improprieties on the part of the chairman.

It does not keep communities of interest together or keep from splitting counties.

Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana need to be joined into CD 2, which would make both CD 1 and CD 2 more compact and preserve communities of interest in CD 2.
These communities are not close to northern Arizona and have nothing in common with them and could not be served well by one representative. We feel we wouldn't have a representative. To travel the CD 1 district would take a representative a couple of days at least, but CD 2 district with Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana could be done in one day with events in each part of the district.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can you spell your name, please? Sir? Mr. Bissett? Can you please spell your name? Thank you.

ALEX BISSETT: Alex Bissett, last name B-I-S-S-E-T-T. From Oro Valley.


Our next speaker is Garland Cox, representing self, from Pima.

GARLAND COX: I am Garland Cox, C-O-X.

I'm addressing the point that the counsel for the Commission have become surrogates for the Department of Justice and they have not given sound legal advice to their clients, the AIRC.
Due to their malpractice, they have violated the civil rights of millions of Arizonans.

I suspect that the dynamic between Mary O'Grady and Joe Kanefield is very important to the way this process has unfolded. Mary was Joe's boss at the Attorney General's Office.

These two attorneys are supposed to advise the Commission about the law, the actual law as written, not interpreted by attorneys at the DOJ Civil Rights Division.

However, from the outset both attorneys, representing the two sides, have consistently bought into the DOJ idea that Hispanics as a minority are protected by regression analysis.

This is not, this is not correct.

Regression analysis only applies to racial minorities.

Hispanic is not a race in either DOJ guidelines or in the census. Hispanics are members of an ethnic group and may be members of a language minority under the Voting Rights Act if they are eligible to vote and have limited proficiency with English such that it affects their ability to vote and elect a candidate of their choice.

That is exactly what the Voting Rights Act, the DOJ civil rights guidelines, and the AG guidelines say.

This idea that the voting strength of Hispanics
must be protected as if they were a minority race is a creation of some imaginative lawyers at the DOJ and the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund.

Hispanic are potentially members of a language minority, but only if they are eligible to vote and have limited English proficiency.

That is why only 2.65 percent of Arizona's total population should be considered as both Hispanic and members of a language minority for Voting Rights Act purposes.

The only special consideration for members of a language minority is that election and registration materials be available in a language they understand and oral assistance provided for language minorities that do not have a written language.

The Commission will argue that they have been following Arizona constitutional guidelines and goals by attempting to comply with the Voting Rights Act at the outset and designing two congressional districts and nine legislative districts where election of a Hispanic is assured.

This redistricting process has been guided by an attempt to establish proportional representation for Hispanics that is 29.8 percent. This is a position of the DOJ and the advice given by O'Grady and Kanefield.

However, that is legally unfounded. It is
contrary to the holdings of several decisions by the
U.S. Supreme Court, but most specifically the holdings in
Shaw versus Reno, 509 U.S. 630 (1993.)

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

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

After Dustin will be Barbara Tellman, Tom McConnell, and Luci Messing.

DUSTIN COX: Good evening, commissioners.

I want to start off by just saying thank you, again, for traveling the state and spending so much of your
time, you know, working hard on creating these maps.

And I'm going to talk mostly on the legislative
districts map.

I think you did fairly well on the congressional
districts map as far as competitiveness goes.

But I'm a little disappointed on the legislative

maps.

We only have about three out of 30 districts that
are competitive.

And when Arizona's split into roughly thirds,
Republican, Democratic, and Independent, I don't think that
is reflective of our population.
So I'm going to tell a little bit of a story because that's kind of how I think that -- and I think how people understand.

In honor of our upcoming holiday Halloween, I'm going to tell you a little story about that.

On Halloween I would go trick or treating with my brother, and we would get our candy, and our parents would split it up, you know, equally among us. And then he would steal it from me.

And I would cry foul, of course, because that was my candy.

And he'd give me, you know, maybe one out of ten pieces of candy that was mine just to shut me up.

And that kind of kept me quiet.

I think that is what is happening in this case, because we're getting just a few competitive districts when we deserve more.

And while my brother got all of his candy and most of mine, it kept me quiet. And now he's a little fatter than I am now.

But he got what he wanted.

And that's kind of what I'm trying to describe in a poorly worded story, is we deserve more, as Arizonans, we deserve more competitive districts.

And while this map is better than what we have
right now, there is more work to be done, because we need competitive districts so that we can have the ability to change the status quo.

So please consider that as you go in and tweak the districts to try to make some more competitiveness. I think at least ten would be reasonable.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Barbara Tellman, representing self, from Tucson.

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

Like everyone else I want to thank all of you commissioners and your staff for your hard work and dedication. I think you've come up with some really good products in a lot of ways.

I'm only going to comment on the southern Arizona portion of the legislative district map.

It has a lot of really good features, but it falls short in several respects.

I think the division of Pima County into eight LDs right now is excessively splitting Pima County.

We currently have six LDs. And what you have proposed is three LDs entirely within Pima County, two with a sizable number of voters in Pima County shared with
two other counties and three have only a small number of Pima County voters that are shared with two to three other counties.

This is bad for two reasons. This is a time when almost every county in Arizona has had to cut its budget for its elections department and cut staff. We're having difficulty finding expertise. And increasing the complexity of the number of ballots that have to be produced in the computer programming is very difficult at this time of financial hardship.

In addition, dividing a county such as Pima into so many separate districts makes it very difficult for either party to organize.

In rural counties you can avoid this. In Pima County you could have minimized it.

We now face a situation as we now have with Legislative District 25 where no one county has enough voters to make the district an ability to organize.

We would now have three such problem areas in Pima County, and I think this is a problem for both parties.

Even the Green Valley, Sahuarita area has been split by this map.

Competitiveness has been talked about by a number of people. I would like to give you two specific ways in which I think you could increase competitiveness in this
Cochise County has been divided into the Republican north and the Democratic south, both of which are shared with Pima County.

If you were to move the Democratic section into Cochise County so that it's one entire county, you would still have a minority -- majority-minority district with the remaining Democrats, remaining voters in District 2.

It would go from 62 percent Hispanic to approximately 52 percent, and that's plenty in order to assure a voting for Hispanic representative.

The other one is District 3. It's hard to say for Democrats, that's where I lived a long time. A Republican might not even bother to run in that district.

It can be made more competitive by moving the northern boundary to the Pinal County line west of the freeway and moving the non-Hispanic Democratic areas east of the freeway to increase competitiveness in an adjacent district to the north.

This will reduce the Democratic majority margin there from a sure thing to make sure it is competitive.

I urge you to consider this and put competitiveness and county lines more in balance with the other criteria.

I was able to draw a map that did this using
Maptitude, and I am sure that your experts can do even a better job.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Tom McConnell, representing self, from Tucson.

TOM MCCONNELL: Thank you for your service.

I, I wanted to comment that I've some analysis of your response to the Voting Rights Act requirements.

The Native American districts seemed absolutely fine.

The Hispanic districts I believe contain far more Hispanics than are actually needed to accomplish the VRA requirement.

The Section 5 requirement is that they be able to elect a candidate of choice.

When I analyzed four of the current legislative districts that cover most of your majority-minority region, I find that 43 percent was the maximum amount that was needed to ensure electability, since all of these were heavily Democratic safe districts. Safe in quotes.

But the result was that the primary determined the result of the election in almost every case where more than 43 percent were Hispanic voting age population.

Therefore I think you have some flexibility in
that -- in those majority districts that could be used to create more competitive districts.

I did a map to show the ability to create as many as 13 competitive districts given that sort of shift in minority area.

The other comment -- and this is strictly applying to the LD map at this point. I can live with this CD map even though it puts me in the largest congressional district.

That's a great experiment. We'll see how it works out.

The other point is that you have spared the scalpel only with respect to two counties in the LD map. Every county has been carved up to some degree with the exception of La Paz and Apache.

I think that county lines should be of much higher priority. As Ms. Tellman just indicated, there are huge budget issues administering this.

It's currently not well administered in counties, particularly rural counties, and this adds a burden just as they are asked to reduce budgets.

I believe you can maintain county lines with a great deal more success than you've had so far.

Thank you.

I have a copy of the analysis.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Please spell your name.

TOM MCCONNELL: McConnell, M-C-C-O-N-N-E-L-L.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Luci Messing, from Pima.

LUCI MESSING: My name is Luci Messing, M-E-S-S-I-N-G.

I'm the past president of the Tucson Education Association and an active member of the Arizona Education Association, retired.

Like many others who have come to speak before you, I urge you to seek competitive districts. In an ideal situation, we would have 30 competitive legislative districts, but that probably is not possible.

Therefore we should probably have equal number of districts competitive with the political parties, ten Republican, ten Democrat, ten competitive. Then no one would have any reason to complain. And we would be able to tell our students that your vote does count, because that is what we try to teach them, the importance of going to the polls and exercising their right to vote and have a say in the political process.

My concern is that while yours is an impossible task, it's important for you to be independent. That is what the voters wanted when they voted in Prop 106. And please don't allow some of the issues that are occurring
with the committee that is being formed by the Republican legislature to interfere in the process.

Voters specifically did not want this left up into the hands of the legislature, and so, therefore, it is incumbent upon you to be as independent as possible and do the job that you are doing.

Specifically with the CD districts.

We're going to obtain another one, so there will be nine, so, again, I would say to you there should be three, three, and three, so that individuals won't have a complaint, it will be fair, and it will be serving the intent of the voters.

And as always, the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Court reporter check.

Okay. We'll keep going.

Our next speaker is Magdalena Barajas, representing Hispanic Coalition For Good Government.

After Magdalena is Doris Clatanoff, Rita Fjelseth, and Carolyn Cox.


I'm here representing the Hispanic Coalition For
Good Government. Of course I want to thank you for listening and making adjustments based on public input and testimony.

The Hispanic Coalition stands by the maps that we originally presented to the Commission. However, we do recognize that those won't replace the work that you've done.

We commend you for your efforts. We thank you for your consideration.

That being said, the Coalition is asking for a minor adjustment that we believe has a significant impact to several neighborhoods.

Pueblo Gardens, Las Vistas, and Western Hills neighborhoods, which are essentially bound by the -- on the -- to the north by 22nd Street, to the south by I-10, to the east just by Aviation Highway -- Parkway, excuse me, and Campbell and Kino Parkway to the west.

There are like communities surrounding this area, and we would like to see them be included in, incorporated into the Congressional District 3, the proposed Congressional District 3.

I'll give an example.

These neighborhoods are very key in working on the bridges project that's along the Kino Parkway. These neighborhoods have done work together for decades and have
been represented by the same representative, been in the
same districts for a very long time, and even are in the
same ward for the city of Tucson.

So, again, we ask that you incorporate these
neighborhoods into proposed CD 3, and we believe that you
have some options when making adjustments in other areas of
the districts.

The Coalition will be meeting very soon. And
should this minor adjustment be accomplished, we will
consider withdrawing any objections to the maps and help
support you moving forward with the Department of Justice
preclosure.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Doris Clatanoff, representing
self, from Saddlebrooke.

Followed by Rita Fjelseth and Carolyn Cox.

DORIS CLATANOFF: Thank you very much,

Madam Chairman.

My name is Doris Clatanoff, spelled
County.

I wish to address this evening a layoff for our
Congressional District 1.

As projected, this district covers all or part of
seven Arizona counties, if my count is correct, and borders
two states at least, maybe even three.

I went on a MapQuest to check out this district
and found out it's over 531 miles from Douglas, Arizona, way
up to Page, and it takes nine hours and nine minutes to make
the trip.

And by gosh you guys can identify with what a big
district this would be, and I would pity anybody who would
try to represent congress in such a vast district.

This actually, as it's laid out in my judgment,
and I thought this was original but it's not, it is a
travesty.

How are any people in this area to be fairly
represented.

You look at that, and you have northern Arizona up
there. And that's in the national forest area.

You have this great big rural area here that's
completely separate from northern Arizona and southern
Arizona.

And here we are in the southern -- in the Sonoran
Desert, and we're all packed together into one congressional
district.

There's absolutely no way that one human being
could fairly represent all of us.

It's just utterly impossible.
I don't care whether they're Independent, Democrat, or Republican. I'm all for competition there, but I don't see competition there because I just don't see how one person could travel around and/or represent this particular district.

Saddlebrooke needs to be linked with the urban area and rural areas near it where it has community of interest and contiguity.

The rural area could be banded together because they have a lot in common.

Northern Arizona can be incorporated into a congressional district up there.

I want to thank you for your attention to these concerns because I know that you can do better than this for the people who reside in this proposed district.

Every Arizona citizen deserves to have a fair chance to be represented in congress. And frankly the way this is set up, I don't see it reflected.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Rita Fjelseth, representing self, in Oro Valley.

RITA FJELSETH: Rita Fjelseth, F-J-E-L-S-E-T-H.

I am from Oro Valley.
Congressional District 1 shown on the current map is a perfect example of a gerrymandered district.

It is not competitive or compact. As the lady before me just said, it takes nine hours to drive from one end to another.

It does not keep communities of interest together or keep from splitting counties.

Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana need to be joined into CD 2, which would make both CD 1 and CD 2 more compact.

These communities are not close to Arizona and have nothing in common with them.

It could not be well served by one representative. Not at all. Unless he had a helicopter.

To travel the CD 1 district would take a representative at least two days, but the CD district with Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana could be done in one day with events in each part of the district.

I thank you for your consideration in changing this outrageous line.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Carolyn Cox, representing Pima Republican Party.
CAROLYN COX: My name is Carolyn Cox.

I have a resolution of the Pima County Republican Party, Pima County, state of Arizona, strongly condemning the actions of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

Whereas, the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission has knowingly violated its responsibilities for redistricting under federal and Arizona law including, but not limited to, the 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973, and Article 4 of the Arizona Constitution.

And, whereas, the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission has failed to demonstrate a sincere commitment to performing its responsibilities in an honest, independent, and impartial fashion, and to upholding public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process.

And, whereas, the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission has knowingly violated its responsibilities for conducting open meetings to the public under Arizona law including, but not limited to, Title 38 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.

And, whereas, the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission has knowingly violates its procurement responsibilities to the public under Arizona law including, but not limited to, Title 41 of the Arizona Constitution.
Revised Statutes.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Pima County Republican Party, Pima County, state of Arizona, strongly condemn the partisan and unlawful actions of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission and recommends the following.

That Governor Jan Brewer, state of Arizona, remove the five members of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission the in accordance with Article 4 of the Arizona Constitution.

That Attorney General Tom Horne, state of Arizona, aggressively continue his criminal investigation and civil litigation against the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

That the majority leadership of the senate and house of representative, state of Arizona, make written redistricting recommendations to the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission in accordance with Article 4 of the Arizona Constitution that are in the best interest of the state of Arizona and all Arizona citizens, not the Commission's favored special interest groups.

These recommendations should be eliminated -- should eliminate the wholesale gerrymandering of Arizona and protect the voters' constitutional and democratic rights guaranteed under both the equal treatment clause of the
14th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Are you good still? Okay.

Our next speaker is Margaret Knowles, representing self, from Tucson.

And then Raquel Cook from Oro Valley followed by James Cook from Oro Valley.

MARGARET KNOWLES: Thank you for your patience.

I'm a little slow.

I'm Margaret Knowles, K-N-O-W-L-E-S.

And I live in the community of Saddlebrooke in Pinal County.

Chairman Mathis and commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to share my opinion.

I think the legislative district map is well drawn and should stand.

However, I'm very concerned about the congressional district map.

In particular CD 1.

It is so far-flung that it totally ignores communities of interest.

As you've heard from others, Saddlebrooke is linked with rural communities hundreds of miles away. There is no way this could possibly comply with the criteria to be
compact.

So bottom line, please include Saddlebrooke with Oro Valley and Marana and our neighbors to the south in CD 2.

Thank you very much for your time.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Raquel Cook, representing self, from Oro Valley.

RAQUEL COOK: Raquel Cook, C-O-O-K.

When I first saw the lines that were drawn for CD 1, I thought there must be some huge mistake. This is almost funny if it were not so serious.

I regret to say that the Congressional District No. 1 appears to me to be an egregious example of gerrymandering. Covering nearly half the state of Arizona as currently drawn, it is not competitive and certainly not compact. It does not keep communities of interest together or prevent the splitting up of counties.

Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana should be placed into CD 2, which would make both districts more compact.

These communities are geographically distant from those in northern Arizona, having nothing in common, and could not be well served by one representative. It would
take a representative two days at least to travel Congressional District 1 as currently drawn.

But with Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana included in CD 2, it could be done in one day.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is James Cook, from Oro Valley.

After James will be Maria Apodaca and Adela Lara-Lubbers.

JAMES COOK: Thank you, Madam Chairman and commissioners and staff.

Once again, not to get redundant, you've been hearing this from all the people at Oro Valley, but the CD 1 is just not workable.

And it's contiguous, but it's not compact.

And I feel that the voters would really be disenfranchised to have a district this large.

And I really encourage the Commission to break that up somehow.

So put us in CD 2.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Maria
Apodaca, representing self, from Tucson.

MARIA APODACA: Good evening. My name is Maria Apodaca, A-P-O-D-A-C-A.

I have a question before I get started. This is for legal counsel. I just wanted to ask a question.

This says here what are the requirements of the state constitution via Prop 106. Is this in order of importance, in the way it's written? You know, with -- you know what I'm talking about? Okay. It says what are the requirements of the state constitution via Prop 106. It was in the handout.

(Brief pause.)

MARIA APODACA: Okay. So the reason I ask that if it was -- if it's put -- worded in the order of importance, I see competitive districts as last.

And the way the map, the CD map is drawn, the communities of interest, it's not there.

So I want to let you know that when I purchased my house I did not go in thinking what is the most competitive district I can live in. I went with communities of interest.

And what the map does is break that up.

So I just wanted to make that point about that.

I have to put my glasses on to read my statement.

The Commission should draw at least two districts...
completely outside metro Phoenix and metro Tucson, one in eastern Arizona and one in western Arizona.

If Coconino County must be included in a district with a heavily populated area, it should be kept completely out of Maricopa County and Pima County.

No rural county should be joined with any part of metro Phoenix or metro Tucson except when necessary to complete -- to comply with the Voting Rights Act.

The new CD 1 places Coconino County with the suburban communities of Marana, Oro Valley, and Saddlebrooke just north of Tucson.

Do not put Pima County communities of Marana and Oro Valley in with the eastern rural district that includes Coconino County.

The rural counties should be able to elect a candidate from rural Arizona, not from suburban Tucson.

If two rural districts and three border districts are truly desired by the Commission, this can be accomplished without putting the eastern counties in with Pima County and without putting the western counties in with the urban areas of Maricopa County and Pinal County.

Arizona has more than enough people in the rural parts of our state to deserve a minimum of two complete -- completely rural districts.

The northern parts of Pinal County that are
currently drawn in CD 4, such as Florence, Gold Canyon, Queen Valley, and the San Tan Valley, should be in the -- in currently drawn in CD 1 and non-reservation part of Coconino County currently drawn into CD 1.

This would be a very easy swap that would create two real rural counties and not make the Commission have to completely redraw the map. It would be an easy fix.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: It's 8:05 p.m., and we've got about 42 more request to speak forms. More got added from the very beginning. So we'll take maybe a ten-minute break and be back shortly.

The time is now 8:05.

(Brief recess taken.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. We'll end recess now.

The time is 8:23 p.m.

And we're in the midst of public comment.

Our next speaker, next three speakers, Adela Lara-Lubbers, excuse me, former State Representative Tom Prezelski, and Mariana Spier.

ADELA LARA-LUBBERS: My name is Adele Lara-Lubbers, L-A-R-A, L-U-B-B-E-R-S.

I just want to say thank you to the committee for
the time and commitment that you've put into this. And I know that you're away from your families and so I know -- I greatly appreciate the time that you are putting in.

My issue will be short, and it's just about the congressional district.

I just would like for you to consider putting Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, Marana, Cochise County, Graham, and Greenlee into CD 2.

The Rillito River should be the northern line, Alvernon, the east Tucson dividing line.

We share communities, school boards, and interest.

I feel that the committee can go back to the drawing board and come up with something that will be favorable to everyone in the CD 1 as it is now wanting to be passed.

And so any efforts to make this a more comparable congressional district for the people that live in this community would be great.

Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is former State Representative Tom Prezelski, from Tucson.

TOM PREZELSKI: Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair, commissioners.
I just wanted -- first before I go into my comment, I just wanted to address the issue about CD 1. The truth is is that northern Arizona has always been very problematic in terms of drawing congressional districts.

Currently the district as it stands extends to Casa Grande and Graham County. It's currently an unwieldy and large district and looks like there's very little way to fix that given the sparse population of the rest of the state.

I would like to remind some of the people who came up to speak that these districts in rural Arizona have always been very large, have always been districts that cannot be traversed easily within a day. In 1960 Arizona had two congressional districts. One was Maricopa County and the other was the rest of the state.

And I'm sure that there were similar complaints then.

It's just a problem of our geography and demographics, and I don't think there's really a good way to resolve that at this point.

My second point is about the maps we have available right now. Speaking as a resident of Barrio Viejo, first I think it's very strange that I am currently -- under the maps you're working with now, I'm in
a legislative district that includes Bisbee and Douglas.

This looks like an effort to pack all the Mexican Americans in one district.

It doesn't make much sense, and I hope you revisit that.

Also there's a problem with some neighborhoods, particularly Las Vistas and Pueblo Gardens neighborhood. Those are currently marginally African American neighborhoods, but they have a long history with the Mexican American community in that area.

They've always been in the same district as the adjacent Mexican American areas, whether it's Congressman Udall's district or the old District 10. They've always shared that history.

The -- when I was on the city's redistricting commission, we got the city, in 2001, we got the city to create an ArcView layer of all the organized neighborhood associations in Tucson. And we used that to make sure we didn't divide any established organized neighborhood associations.

The current map does divide some of those organized neighborhood associations.

And I'd urge you to try to get that data and make sure that those neighborhoods on the south side in particular are kept whole.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. Yeah, please spell.

TOM PREZELSKI: P-R-E-Z-E-L-S-K-I.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Mariana Spier, representing self, from Tucson.

MARIANA SPIER: Good evening. My name is Mariana Spier, S-P-I-E-R.

Madam Chair, commissioners, thank you for your service.

I am a United States citizen by choice. I strongly believe in democracy and the democratic political process.

I follow politics and elections very closely.

To my surprise, last November in 2010 only 55.6 percent of the registered voters in Arizona voted.

Probably, as a matter of fact, I'm sure, my choice number down the ballot to elect their senator or representative in Arizona district.

I wonder myself why.

For me there is only one obvious answer to this lack of civic interest and involvement. People feel that their votes don't count.

It is not good, not for good for anybody, not good for Arizona, not good for democracy.

I don't think this is American way.
You have the opportunity to restore the democratic process in Arizona by creating as many fair and competitive districts as possible.

I have a couple of suggestions regarding the community of interest point, from that point of view.

I didn't hear anybody here representing Rita Ranch. I don't live there, but I know the area.

I suggest you consider keeping the community of Rita Ranch together, either in District 1 or 2. I'm not sure how the numbers would play.

And probably shifting some population from District 2 to 1 along the border will solve some of the problems and keep also Cochise County as a whole.

Thank you for your service.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Our next speaker is Bob Breault, representing Tucson.

After Bob is Frank Bergen, followed by Ben Love, and Sami Hamed.


I'm here to represent myself, a businessman in the optics industry.

Chair Mathis and commissioners, thank you very much for today's occasion, the vast amount of time you have put in.
For the judicial record, I support what you have conceived as the congressional district, especially the third district in Tucson and the three border districts.

I trust in what you have done, and therefore I trust in what you may have to do to accommodate all these conversations.

I believe it will be good for the economy.

I go to Washington about eight times a year, interface with a vast number of people who represent me in District 2.

And Adam Smith from Oregon, Barbara Boxer from California, Jeff Bingaman from New Mexico, Colorado, Florida, Gephardt, Gingrich, Dole, Pat Choate, running mate to Perot, clear through Pennsylvania, and Kennedy.

So this district stuff that they're talking about in District 1, that whoever you assigned it to, somebody's going to say it's too big.

And if you meet all the requirements of A and B, that it's going to be big.

So the way you have done the districts I believe will be good for the economy, it will be competitive, it shows fairness and balance in Proposition 106 as far well, I want more competitiveness in the legislative districts.

We're politically split into thirds, so if you
I could find some more, thank you very much.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Frank Bergen, representing self, from Tucson.

FRANK BERGEN: Madam Chair, commissioners, my name is Frank Bergen, and it's B-E-R-G-E-N.

And I'm here once again, but tonight I'd like to begin by reminding everyone who's here that we began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, which ends with a reference to this country as being one in which there is liberty and justice for all.

When the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965, there were reasons for it. And the reasons had to do with the lack of justice for all.

Those reasons have to a very great extent been lessened.

But apparently this state has not yet got itself together enough to come out from under the aegis of the Voting Rights Act.

That act is the law of the land.

We have to comply with it in order to go ahead with new districts in which hopefully we can vote as our minds and our consciences urge us.

Were there never a need for a Voting Rights Act, I
am convinced that in the year 2000 the state voters would
still have found that the legislature was not doing a
terribly good job of fairly and competitively drawing
district lines and would still have passed Proposition 106,
which calls specifically in its very preamble for fair and
competitive districts.

All the other stuff is really in, in the long run,
subordinate to fair and competitive districts.

And I am going to end right there, but with this
one last word -- two last words.

One is, I'm thankful that up to the present point
I find myself in a congressional district which is probably
a tad more competitive than the one that I have been in for
the past ten years. And in a legislative district in which
I can hope at some point in the next ten years to elect one,
two, or three people who will represent me better than those
have in the last ten years.

The other thing is, I don't think that any of the
commissioners, except for Commission Stertz, may be aware
that when I'm dressed up on Sunday, it's with a collar on.
And I would be happy, if necessary, to pay chaplain visits
to you when you're sent to jail for the excellent job that
you are doing.

Thank you and God bless.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks.
Our next speaker is Ben Love, representing Oro Valley Democrats, from Oro Valley.

BEN LOVE: Madam Chair, commissioners.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you.

Ben. L-O-V-E is my last name.

And I am here because I've heard so much about competitiveness.

I am a Democrat in Sun City.

I don't have any proposition or resolution to threaten you with.

I'm not like Terri Proud and Williams and Melvin who threatened you, but it apparently worked, because you got Oro Valley with Saddlebrooke. And we love our Saddlebrooke people. We just don't have to vote with them. And they say they have to come to Oro Valley to get their golf carts serviced.

Well, they will still vote in the same place they are right now, in Saddlebrooke. So I don't believe that that's a valid thing.

This Oro Valley has been cast out of Pima County by these people who have threatened you, and I'm sorry that that happened. I just hate to think of it.

They have us in District 8 now. They picked off some of our candidates for the house legislature up, up in Phoenix.
We're now in this eight, Legislative 8. And it's obviously their threats and, and lawsuits and stuff worked, because they have an 11-point advantage.

And that's not enough for them apparently.

They never want competitive.

And District 26, out the last ten elections, only two Democrats have been elected. So we're not -- we're not going to change much there. And the possibility of anyone in the bottom of the District 8 ever being elected, well, we got wonderful Democratic candidates, but we can't outlaw the Republicans like that.

What happened to competitive districts?

Why can't it be more competitive? Why is Oro Valley cast out?

I worked and retired in Tucson. I volunteer down there.

Did you forget about Arroyo Grande? That's coming up. That's going to be right in their area in Pima and Pinal County.

It's going to be a big development, just opposite the city of Oracle.

Please follow the Pima County line. There's different rules up there in their neck of the woods.

Give Oro Valley Tucson roots instead of Pinal County.
Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Sami Hamed, representing self, from Tucson.

Not here? Okay.

Our next three speakers, JoAnn Evans, followed by Greg Wagner, followed by Justin Schmidt.

So our next speaker is JoAnn Evans, precinct committee person, in Pinal County.

JOANN EVANS: Hello. My name is JoAnn Evans. And thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you. Evans, E-V-A-N-S.

I live in Pinal County, in Saddlebrooke.

I do my shopping, my grocery shopping, any kind, in Oro Valley and Tucson. I use the medical facilities there. My mailing address is Tucson.

I am interested in keeping communities of interest together, per draft map District 2.

Saddlebrooke has nothing, absolutely nothing in common with northern Arizona.

I've lived there for ten years. And I've never been to northern Arizona.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
Our next speaker is Greg Wagner, representing self, from Pima.

GREG WAGNER: I want to first thank the Commission for this very thankless work. I'm lucky to be thanking you guys today, so I guess that made me feel a little better about your job.

My name is Greg Wagner. My last name is W-A-G-N-E-R.

And I live in what in your current maps would be CD 3, LD 3.

And when you guys are looking at tweaking the maps, obviously the first focus is on meeting the federal requirements, but I also want to see the districts becoming more competitive and also protect communities of interest.

And when I'm looking at the maps I see that LD 3 butts up against LD 11. And LD 3 and LD 11 are basically not that -- they've very competitive. And one thing you could do was maybe move up the district from LD 3 further up maybe to Tangerine and to make that district more competitive.

So I see it as a community of interest, west Tucson having more in common with Marana than, say, Marana has in common with Casa Grande, which LD 11 is in right now.

So thank you again for your time, and hope you guys have a fun selection process.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Justin Schmidt, representing self, from Pima.

JUSTIN SCHMIDT: Justin Schmidt, S-C-H-M-I-D-T.

When I was growing up I was thought that gerrymandering is a bad word.

It is bad because it makes it so that all of us do not get a fair shot at quality, and it's bad because it makes our system very biased.

But some people have forgotten what gerrymandering means.

Gerrymandering comes from a term a legislature or a party of the legislature are using districting lines to promote their own interest in opposition to the interest of we as the citizens of that area.

And I would say a corollary of that is special interest.

Special interest is bad. We all know that. Oh, it's mine, it's them, then it's good.

And so I plead to the Commission to consider that their job on the congressional districts I think was outstanding.

The complaints about District 1. Oh, it's big.

Well, remember, way back Mo Udall had the entire state, except for a small area of Pima County he had to
There was no Internet. There was no Facebook. There was no Skype. And you couldn't pay your phone bills. It all worked quite well. So I don't think that size itself is the problem. Now I don't know what the problem is why people are complaining about that. I don't want to get into that. I think that's beyond the purpose here. But my point here is that I think we're all Arizonans, we should all try to work together, and not be separating each other. I was also taught that competition is a good word. Competition is the American way. That's how we make things better. If we don't have competition, then we have somebody who is able to be unfair to at least part of the population. That's not what I want in my Arizona. So I guess in conclusion what I want to say is I congratulate you as commissioners. You've done an outstanding job. I think you've had a lot of vitriolous attacks at various points, and you stood up to those, and I commend you on that. If I had one little minor criticism, I would say
try to make the legislative districts a little more competitive.

But I trust you. I want you to keep your spirits right and do the right thing for all of us.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next three speakers are Martin Drozdoff, Christine Lee Oler, and Frank Olivieri.

So this is Martin Drozdoff, representing self, from Tucson.

MARTIN DROZDOFF: And hi. It's D-R-O-Z-D-O-F-F.

And I'm from Casas Adobes. In fact, I'm vice president of the Casas Adobes neighborhood association. But in addition to that, I'm representing myself, not Casas Adobes neighborhood association.

So I've been living in the northwest of Arizona for -- of Tucson here for 31 years.

First off, I want to thank all of you for your personal sacrifice, for your extreme efforts to try and make competitive districts.

I know this has been a big charge on yourselves and on your family and on your personal life. So, I really appreciate all that you've done.

Okay. In addition to that, I want to say
gerrymandering is what we have right now.

Gerrymandering comes from England, the term, where I think it was William Gerrymander actually is where they got the term from.

And that's what we have now.

Where constituent interests would change areas to make sure that they get reelected.

And that's not what we want.

We want what your charge is. Your charge is to make competitive districts. And so far you've done a good job, I think.

On the congressional level.

Of course, being in the northwest for 31 years, I have my own feelings about Oro Valley. I feel like they're neighbors.

I can see where they would easily fit into District 2.

As far as Dove Mountain, Marana, they would be more in the District 3 that you have. They're more rural, in the more -- they would fit in more with the District 3.

As far as Saddlebrooke goes, well, as an adult-isolated community, part of Pinal County, which is central Arizona. And I think they made their choice in isolating themselves from Tucson.
Isolating children, isolating themselves from the community.

They want it both ways. That's fine. They're allowed to want things both ways. But that's not reality.

In terms of what of I would ask from you folks, and you've tried so hard, please keep up with the competitive districts. It's an impossible task, I know. But that's really a wonderful thing you folks are trying to do.

You're working very hard.

So thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Christine Lee Oler, from Tucson.

CHRISTINE LEE OLER: Good evening, all of you wonderful people who are doing this for day in and day out. My name is Christine Lee Oler. Last name is O-L-E-R. I live in Tucson.

Last time I spoke a few weeks ago I was just Lee Oler, so don't put me in there twice, please.

Okay.

I came at a quarter to 6:00, signed in, got my blue sheet, whatever it is, and I only had one thing to say. Please make the districts competitive.
Since I've sat here for three hours, I've added to that list.

We do have problems in Pima County and southern Arizona, because we don't have enough competitive districts. One of the speakers said we deserve more competitive districts than we have. I agree with that speaker.

I think that, for example, some of our people are disenfranchised right away by the primaries. Because the primary candidates are basically the people that are going to win the general. There's no, the way that the districts were previously drawn, the general election was just a farce because it was done by the primary. And that needs to be fixed.

I personally thinking of 26, LD 26 along River Road, the old LD 26. But that isn't a good system to have these people pre-selected and then the election comes and what are we going to do? Nothing. And good people have run against each other in those races, I would say. The Democrats have been really good to not keep us partisan, but it just slipped out.

The other thing that I want to talk about is that
the people in Saddlebrooke and Oro Valley and Marana are wanting to be down with us out of the district, the top district, and we -- I know why. One lady said, well, I buy my groceries in Oro Valley.

Well, go ahead and buy your groceries in Oro Valley. But stay up in the district that the committee has put you in.

It's -- you can do other things down in Tucson too, but your election will be in the other district.

Justin Schmidt made a wonderful statement. I'll just say that you can refer to his because he made a good job on that.

We need to remain independent. You're doing that. And we need to also have competitive districts because we deserve more down here than we get.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Frank Olivieri, representing Northwest Conservatives from Pima.

After Frank will be Steve Dotson, Onita Davis, and Paul Hilts.

FRANK OLIVIERI: I'm Frank Olivieri, O-L-I-V-I-E-R-I.

I too am from Northwest Conservatives. I live in the unincorporated section of northwest Pima County.
Northwest Conservatives is about 700 members.

Thank you for saying -- letting me address the Commission.

Our group is very concerned that the Redistricting Commission has lost sight of what the voters wanted.

We also want to know a little bit about -- like to have a little information regarding the lost 90 minutes of testimony that's missing on 4-13 meeting in Flagstaff, and that's the testimony disagreeing with the Flagstaff Forty.

So we'll put it on record.

In regards to southern Arizona, neither the CD or LD maps make any sense.

Let me read quickly. I'll finish in the two minutes.

Let me read the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission legal counsel review by Joseph Kanefield and Mary O'Grady, section two, subsection B.

The IRC must create districts of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the state. Working from the map the IRC must next adjust the grid as necessary to accommodate the following six goals.

Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution, districts shall have equal population to extent practical(sic) and state legislative districts shall be equal population, districts shall be geographically
compact, be contiguous to the extent -- contiguous to the extent practical, district boundaries shall represent communities of interest to the extent practical.

The other to extent practical district lines, use visible geographic features, city, town, county boundaries, undivided census tracts, to the extent practical.

Competitive districts should be favored to where we do not create no significant determine(sic) to the other goals.

Throughout the process in navigating through these first two phases, the IRC must exclude party registration by the voting history from the initial phase of mapping process, but may use the data to test mapping for compliance goals.

So, section B in the order of six goals, competitiveness is number six.

Goals one and two, numerically correct.

Goals three, four, and five, geographically, compact, communities of interest, and via visible geographic features are from our meeting criteria.

The CD 1 draft map places rural counties like Coconino, Navajo, and Apache with suburban communities like Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, and unincorporated northwest Pima County.

The Navajo Apache Nations do not share the same
visions, issues, concerns of Pima County. They are sovereign nations with their own specific goals.

CD 2 should include Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, and unincorporated northwest Pima County, including Avra Valley, Picture Rocks, Casas Adobes, and Tortolita, belongs in southern Arizona, not in Navajo or Apache County.

There is no common interest.

In the new LD 9 the Casas Adobes area is -- in unincorporated northwest Pima County does not share the same interests of downtown Tucson, nor the university --

Sorry. In LD 9 the Casas Adobes area in unincorporated northwest Pima County does not share the same interest of downtown Tucson or the university such as medical facilities, doctors, hospitals, shopping, schools. We're more in common with Marana and Oro Valley.

It is clear we need to reevaluate these maps.

Southern Arizona should not have a representative be from central or northern Arizona.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Steve Dotson, representing self, from Marana.

STEVE DOTSON: Steve Dotson, D-O-T-S-O-N.
First of all, when I got this at the door, I thought it was kind of funny. I thought it was something my three-year old son drew.

This is, this is kind of ridiculous.

This size of this map for this one district is larger than the state of New Hampshire.

The entire state.

And you expect one representative to cover that entire area.

There is no way on earth the people from Marana have anything in common with their living habits, shopping, hospitals, doctors, anything with the people of northeastern Arizona along the Grand Canyon or in the very southeastern corner.

This is pathetic.

With regards to the legislative districts, you seem, you seem to punish the people of Marana, or the southern part of the new District 11, by including the people from Tempe, Casa Grande, and Maricopa.

They have nothing in common either. They are separated by more than 100 miles.

The congressional district is separated by several hundred miles.

I know you read in the past the size of the districts. But with the ability to draw the maps today, I'm
sure you could have made it a little easier on it us.

Arizona has roughly -- well, has 13 counties of a total population of about 1.6 million people, according to our 2010 census.

That's enough to make at least two rural counties -- or two rural congressional districts that yield a district having roughly 710,000 residents. This Commission should draw at least two districts completely outside of metro Phoenix and metro Tucson. One in eastern and one in western Arizona.

No rural counties should be joined with any part of the two large metropolitan areas.

The draft map does not comply with the Arizona Constitution in many ways.

Districts are much less compact than those represented in the previous maps.

The districts do not respect rural communities of interest. And all of District 9 shown on the draft map has a connection with metro Phoenix or metro Tucson area.

I find it funny that we're having to punish the people of Oro Valley, Marana, and Saddlebrooke by splitting them up when they are communities that are the same minded people.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Onita Davis, representing Smart Girl Politics, from Pima.

After Onita is Paul Hilts, Linda Rosenthal, and Claire Morgan.

ONITA DAVIS: Commissioners, my name is Onita Davis, O-N-I-T-A, D-A-V-I-S.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you again.

I find it rather difficult to speak right now, because it seems like those of us who have a difference of opinion have been under attack all afternoon.

So isn't it wonderful to live in the great United States of America where we can agree to disagree and still be respectful of each other.

CD 1 to me is the perfect example of a manipulated electoral district.

It's not competitive. It's not compact. It's not respectful of geographic and county boundaries.

It does not keep communities of interest together, nor does it prevent the splitting of counties. And although some people might disagree with me on the importance of communities of interest, I do have that right to hold that opinion.

Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana should be moved into CD 2. Thereby making both CD 1 and CD 2 more
compact.

These communities are not close to northern Arizona and have nothing in common with them and could not be well served by one representative.

Now, we can agree until the end of time that, yes, modern technology has made it easier for us all to communicate. That does not change the fact that northern Arizona has very specific issues that are important to them.

Flagstaff, Prescott, Verde Valley share economic development interests, transportation, education, forest restoration, water management, medical and health care issues, and of course tourism.

Those issues are unique to that area, just as the issues and interests of Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, and Marana are unique to our area.

And certainly that Navajo and Apache Nations have acknowledged that those nations do not have the same interest as the non-reservation portions of the currently drafted CD 1.

They want to be represented by someone who is going to look out for their interest.

And because they are, quote, unquote, an affected category, that seems to be okay.

But it's not okay for the residents of Oro Valley, Marana, and Saddlebrooke to feel the same way.
Now, you may hear this again before the end of the evening, because it's a statement that was made by my favorite constitutionalist, but I think it bears being repeated.

Making areas competitive is based on the democratic idea of majority rule only, which always leads to majority tyranny. We are a republic. Republics are about majority rule with minority consent.

It is not a one-way street. And that's all I hear.

And it's rooted in the concept of representation. The more varied the representation, the more discussion there will be about legislation.

But representation is not about parties. All I hear is Democrats versus Republicans, and I'm an Independent, and I'm not a piece of furniture. I vote too. It is about communities of interest having a voice.

The Marana, Oro Valley, and Saddlebrooke communities of interest certainly have those attributes before being moved into CD 1.

Please move us to CD 2. Thank you.

(Appause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Paul
Hilts, representing self, from Tucson.

After Paul is Linda Rosenthal and Claire Morgan and Tracy Scheinkman.

PAUL HILTS: Thank you. My name, last name, is H-I-L-T-S. And I am from LD 28. I represent myself.

Madam Chair and honored commissioners, welcome.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Just your stamina alone is very impressive.

I came before you folks a while back to ask to keep with regard to congressional districts the mass of mainstream Republican voters east of central Tucson associated with the mass of Democratic voters in the north end of LD 28 in order to keep the competitive balance that has kept our representatives from both parties attentive to the voters' needs.

You managed to do that in this congressional map, and I really appreciate your efforts.

That plus the fact that you managed overall to add a whole district that was more competitive thus keeping the competition more even, more possible for the future, together that means to me personally that you have fulfilled the independent nature of your Commission from Proposition 106. And I thank you for that.

Everybody I know has problems with the maps as drawn. I hope we can fix that.
I would really like to see the folks in Saddlebrooke and Oro Valley attended to, but given the problems of population, if you take that group of folks and put them into two where I am now, we had to lose 40,000 voters to go from eight to two.

I don't know what you would do with those other voters to make the balance redressed.

I have to say that we should endorse this map as drawn until something can be done to redress that other balance.

So I think this is as good as I can suggest at this time.

With regard -- oh, there's also one other note that no one has mentioned.

CD 8 has the largest number of veterans of any congressional district in the United States.

Keeping Fort Huachuca and Davis-Monthan in one congressional district helps to ensure that those people will be served by whoever their representative is. And I thank you for that.

And so I have other comments about the legislative map, but I'll have to keep them for another time. Thank you very much for your service, and have a good evening.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. You too.

(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Linda Rosenthal, Citizens For Common Sense Redistricting, from Tucson.

After Linda, Claire Morgan, Tracy Scheinkman, and Peg Sutherland-Jones.

LINDA ROSENTHAL: Linda Rosenthal, from Tucson.


And I -- talking here again about the community of interest. In my first letter I lived in -- lived here since 1973, we've raised our children, and now enjoy watching our grandchildren growing up in the same area.

We have many horse properties and are right near the Tanque Verde Wash. We enjoy the bike path and hiking available within riding and walking distance.

Get down here.

The rural areas need to have districts that will address their specific needs that cannot be represented in the suburban metropolitan areas.

There are many natural boundaries that seem to have been ignored during this process. We're wondering why our rural area is being combined with a metropolitan area.

Here is a suggestion that will address this matter.

The 2010 census shows Arizona's 13 rural counties have a total population of 1,594,637 residents.
That's enough to make at least two rural congressional districts with an ideal district having 7,110 -- 710,224 residents for two districts. That would leave 174,189 people who could be incorporated into other districts close to them.

Cochise, Graham, Greenlee County have approximately 170,000 people. They could be added to two southern districts by adding them to eastern and northwest Pima County and northwest Santa Cruz County.

The eastern and western rural districts can make those choices in the north. We are concerned about the southern rural districts.

The current maps does not allow for any rural southern Arizona representation in congress. We realize that your job is a difficult one. Appreciate your time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Claire Morgan, representing self, from Tucson.

CLAIRE MORGAN: My name is Claire Morgan, M-O-R-G-A-N.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.
Arizona has a republican form of government, little R, as guaranteed and required by the constitution of the United States and our own state constitution. Consequently our laws are made by elected representatives in a state legislature.

The purpose of a state legislature is to make laws for the entire state, laws that have been deliberated on, deliberated on by all members of the legislature. Those members represent the people of various districts. They are not there to represent the concerns of particular political parties, although unfortunately they do.

The districts are to be composed of communities of interest. That is, areas of similar topography, culture, resources, and like-mindedness. That will send a representative to represent and defend that district's interest.

If these districts create safe seats for some parties, so be it. The emphasis should not be on competitiveness. Majoring on competitiveness focuses on parties and not on the protection of the people's rights to be represented fairly in district composed of people with similar concerns. That is, communities of interest. The legislature must have voices from all the
communities of interest in order to make just laws. To emphasize political party competitiveness means that the legislature will be dominated by party interest not the interest voiced by the varied communities we have around our state.

Besides, more and more people are registering as Independents.

Why would Democrat, Republican parry be the driving factor for district lines?

Our state and our country are not democracies, but republics.

The goal of districts in a republic is to have as many different voices as possible from the various communities of interest in order to discuss, deliberate, and decide on effective laws.

You should not be looking for more districts that are competitive, but more districts that represent the various communities of interest so that the people have a voice.

The redistricting is about the people, not parties.

Your maps eviscerate Glendale, putting parts of it into five separate districts in the LD maps.

Cochise County is lumped in with northern Arizona. Two areas widely diverse.
Any representative in that district would have to juggle competing interests.

Fountain Hills is completely detached from the surrounding area and totally separate and a very different community of interest.

Please stop focusing on political parties.

We the people want representatives that are a voice for our communities of interest. Some of those communities will be conservative. Some of them will be liberal. Others will be a mix, a mixture.

We want our rights and interests protected, not the interests of political parties. Let the parties compete for the right to represent we the people. They have to compete in the marketplace of ideas.

The people are not here to serve the parties or to serve the government.

The parties and government are here to serve the people.

And one other comment.

The way that you get more people involved in local politics is to start practicing federalism. When the power is taken away from Washington, D.C., and put back in the counties and cities and states where it belongs, then people will compete. Look at the history. It will prove it --
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Tracy Scheinkman, representing self, from Tucson.


And I want to thank the Commission for its work on the congressional map and the legislative map.

I think you guys have been doing a very, very difficult job. It's been a very arduous and combative process. And I know that you've done your best to be fair to everybody, which is almost an impossible task.

But you've done a very good job on the congressional map, and I want to thank you for that.

One of the things -- it's not, it's not an ideal map. It's not what I would consider to be a perfect map.

There are problems with it that maybe or maybe not -- maybe can be solved, maybe can't be solved.

But I really appreciate the work that you've done on it.

And I really appreciate the fact that there are three competitive districts within that map.

If you do tweak the congressional map, please do so to increase competitiveness or to maintain competitiveness within those districts that you have
I say this despite the fact that my family has property up in northern Arizona, and I am -- that property is actually in District 4, which is a relatively noncompetitive district.

But I still think that competitiveness in at least a reasonable portion of our congressional districts is a good thing for the state.

I view the situation with Saddlebrooke and Oro Valley being in CD 1 as actually beneficial to Tucson.

It gives Tucson a voice in three different congressional districts.

Maricopa County has quite a number of congressional districts that have voices for it. Tucson only had two.

Now we have three that have voices.

And I think that that could be to our advantage.

So I think that I'd like to leave the congressional map situation right now and discuss the legislative map, which is my area of main concern right now.

The legislative draft map is very interesting. However, I think that it could be improved by making at least four or five additional safe districts into competitive districts. Now, because the Republicans hold a larger majority, this would probably be from mostly
Republican districts.

My concern is that there seems to be packing in both directions.

There are some districts that are heavily packed Democratic and some districts that are heavily packed Republican.

It wouldn't take much to tweak those just a little bit to make more competitive districts.

I would appreciate it if you would consider that, and I thank you very much for your work.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Peg Sutherland-Jones, representing self, from Pima.

No?

How about Max Rubin, representing self, from Pima?

How about Patricia Maisch, representing self?


I'm a registered Independent in the proposed Congressional District 2 and Legislative District No. 9 -- No. 9.

Thank you for taking on this daunting task. I know you've worked hard with lots of problems.
I cannot stress how pleased I was when Proposition 106 passed in 2000.

This state is not as red as some would want us to believe.

According to my calculation, there are approximately 36 percent Republicans, 33 percent Independents, and 32 percent Democrats.

Please do not be bullied or intimidated by the opposition that you have encountered.

Do not let them relax standards that we the people have asked for and got with Proposition 106.

I understand the dissatisfaction to some degree with District 1.

I know you have constraints that are difficult.

And although not perfect, I feel the rest of the congressional districts are reasonable and workable representations of our state.

The legislative districts are another matter, and I think they need improvement to improve competitiveness.

Thank you for your time and work.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Richard Elias. Pima County supervisor.

I don't see him.

Okay.
Keith Van Heyningen.

Pam Branch, representing self, from Pima.

How about Scott Wilson, representing self, from Marana?

After Scott, Diana Rhoades, then Brian Flagg, and then Regina Romero.

SCOTT WILSON: Hello. My name is Scott Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N.

I'm going to read from the second page of the handout that was handed out this morning, which -- this evening, which is pretty compliant with the law.

But what it basically says is this sort of pecking order.

In creation of competitive districts where there is no significant detriment to other goals. Okay.

If you're going to respect geographic boundaries, the city of Tucson itself is probably a congressional district.

It really is.

And that anything -- the fact that people of one particular political persuasion tend to live in Tucson is historic.

I moved here in 1981.

In 1981 there were two parts of Pima County politics you could almost feel.
They weren't really official, but they were real.

Those who lived in the city of Tucson and those who wanted nothing to do with the city of Tucson.

We formed a fire district to keep the city of Tucson from encroaching into our suburban areas.

The city -- town of Marana is as big as it is, Marana was a little town way out there.

Why did it come to down to Tucson, to border Tucson?

Because those of us who were in suburban areas did not want to become annexed by the city of Tucson.

Quite honestly, folks, this whole discussion of competitiveness is not in keeping with the law.

The law says that communities of interest should be kept together.

Community of interest is the city of Tucson.

I think I did some quick numbers, and pretty close to the incorporated areas city of Tucson would pretty much make a congressional district.

It would have to be some modifications obviously, but that's my feeling.

The city of Tucson should be a congressional district.

The fact that it is a safe district for one party, that is by self-selection quite honestly.
People who wanted all the services and the politics of a city in a metropolitan area chose to live on that side of the city line.

Those of us who more like the more rural lifestyle, many of us who were very happy to stay in unincorporated counties became part of small towns in order to keep the city of Tucson.

Respect communities of interest. Make Tucson a district. Competitive splitting of the city of Tucson is ridiculous.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Diana Rhoades.

No?

Brian Flagg, from Pima?

No.

Regina Romero?

Mark Kerr?

How about Steve Nygren? Representing Vote For Tucson.

After Steve is Ken Smalley, Angelica Alvarex, and Geri Ottoboni.


I'm here to talk about neighborhoods. Something that seems to be in the back of everybody's mind, but not
being showing up in the maps.

I think that the community of interest that has been discussed today is probably the stronger vein.

We all might be calling for competition, but when I dial down in my map in my area of my city, in Tucson, I was amazed at the way District 10, 1, and 2 actually kind of doglegged into my neighborhood missing the major streets, missing geographical boundaries, and basically apparently coming up with some sort of map that this lady's firm considers to be an honest representation of a district.

I think what we've been hearing is that because of Arizona's topography, natural history, and geography, that these districts that we're seeing are very much not communities of interest, but are some sort of mathematical equation to equality that may be ten years out of date at the time that the maps are accepted.

I hope that there is a way to manipulate or put in public input into the maps.

Is that true?

I'm making a direct question to the lady here. Is the site still up as far as doing map manipulations?

Are we able to mail in -- you know, e-mail maps?

Okay. That's what I was trying to figure out.

That period is going to end when?
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We're under a 30-day comment period right now, so --

STEVE NYGREN: So within the 30 days that's allowable. That's what I was after.

All right. Thank you.

So, again, I believe that tonight we've heard a lot of people talk about competition, but then they've asked for personal adjustments to their district.

Interesting.

Whereas people who ask about community of interest basically celebrate the natural qualities of their areas and their neighborhoods.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Ken Smalley.

Not here?

How about Angelica Alvarez?

Geri Ottoboni, representing Rancho Vistoso, from Pima.

After Geri, John Antliff, Gary Gomez, and David Graff.

GERI OTTOBONI: Good evening, commissioners.

My name is the Geri Ottoboni, and that's O-T-T-O-B-O-N-I.

I want to address CD 1. It is so gerrymandered
that it looks like a salamander, or better yet, Puff the Magic Dragon.

What was the commissioner thinking or what were the commissioners thinking?

It would appear that some of the Democrats and the Republicans are not pleased with this map.

For one congressional representative to represent the district would require a helicopter whereas in other districts that you have drawn it would take one congressional person two days to drive around in a VW Bug, the whole district.

This map borders Mexico, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah, and almost to Nevada.

The people in this district in many cities would receive little or no representation.

This district, CD 1, is not compact, does not have communities of interest or competitive districts. Instead Saddlebrooke, Oro Valley, Marana, Cochise County, Graham, and Greenlee, should be moved to CD 2.

Thank you very much.

And I am going to leave this.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is John Antliff, representing self, from Oro Valley.

After John, Gary Gomez, Dave Graff, Tim Sultan.
JOHN ANTLIFF: Thanks. I'm John Antliff, A-N-T-L-I-F-F. Double F as in Frank.

I'm from Oro Valley, representing myself. And I just want to make a brief statement to the effect that the proposed CD 1 is not compact and does not respect communities of interest.

Oro Valley, Marana, and Saddlebrooke have nothing in common with Flagstaff. They should be moved into CD 2. That would make both districts more compact and will respect communities of interest.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Gary Gomez, representing self, from Pima.

GARY GOMEZ: Hi. I'm Gary Gomez, G-O-M-E-Z.

I came to speak on primarily CD 1, which is bizarre to say the least. I really don't understand it. I've lived in Flag. It's very much a different mentality of Flagstaff from Oro Valley.

How that can be tied together is beyond imagination.

This district is too large. As was previously mentioned, borders a number of states. And does not respect communities of interest.

Communities of interest to me is far more
People don't buy a house because of what congressional district they're in. They buy a house because of the people that live there, the schools, the activities. And by the constitution, communities of interest should be respected.

This district must be changed. It is just not a workable district whatsoever. Representation would be minimal for one area or the other. If the representative lives in the southern part of the state, they're probably not going to get up to the northern part very often, or vice versa.

Legislative districts.

A lot of people made a lot more better comments than I can make on that.

But I'm very concerned with CD 1, and I hope that you all would consider taking Oro Valley and bringing it back into, you know, Tucson metro in some form or another, Congressional Districts 2 or 3.

It just makes sense.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker, David Graff, representing self, from Tucson.

DAVID GRAFF: Hi. My name is David Graff,
G-R-A-F-F.

First I want to thank you guys for your time for listening to all the concerns, and obviously there's a lot of them.

My concern -- my first concern is that the University of Arizona and downtown are combined with south Tucson in central District 3, while I believe the U of A should probably be, and most neighborhoods that surround it, should be in the central -- not central, Congressional District 2.

And possibly two should be split along the train tracks that separate downtown from Fourth Avenue and most of -- and a lot of southern Tucson from northern Tucson.

The second thing is that Congressional District 3 should not include parts of both Phoenix and the Phoenix metro area and Tucson, as I don't think any of the communities, there's any, like, similar interests in terms of that.

And I also believe that central District 1 is a little bit too, too large. I don't think it can represent communities of interest the way it is designed.

However, I don't necessarily agree with everyone that Marana and Oro Valley need to be in central District 2, because doing so might make the district uncompetitive. And I think competitiveness is a bigger concern, should be a
bigger concern to evaluate.

As for the legislative map, I think that especially in the Phoenix area, I think it's largely uncompetitive the way it is designed.

Specifically, LD 23 needs to be redesigned.

I think part where it stretches into Scottsdale, it shouldn't go quite that far to the south.

LD 18 and 26 I think should be designed a little differently to be more competitive.

And LD 30 and 20 need to be changed as well.

And similar, LD 25, LD 22, LD 19, and LD 20 in my opinion are not competitive as they both strongly in favor of one party.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Tim Sultan, representing self, from Tucson.

After Tim is Shirl Lamonna, Dee Pfeiffer, and Benjamin Brookhart.

TIM SULTAN: Hi there. My name is Tim, Tim Sultan. It's S-U-L-T-A-N.

And I'm from Tucson.

And thanks for letting me speak.

First, you know, I just want to applaud you. You guys are incredible public servants. All the time you're
spending on this with your families and jobs and everything else, so thank you. Thank you.

And I understand you have a few slings and arrows that have been thrown at you too, so I appreciate you dodging those and coming back.

I -- well, who is it, Winston Churchill said democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the rest.

And it is a messy process that you're doing, but you're making democracy better. And we're all better for it. So thank you.

I came here tonight to speak to competitiveness and to just say that I think you did a great job.

I looked at the congressional map. And I live here in Tucson, have lived here my whole life, born and raised here. And I think that you did great.

So I came just to say hold steady. You don't need to change a thing. But since I been here, I've listened to some of these, these comments, and a lot of folks have good points.

And I just wanted to address a couple of them.

To me personally, the most important thing is competitiveness.

So I think on that mark you, you, you did a great job, at least here in my hometown.
And the reason I think it's important, a couple other folks mentioned it, but it really frustrates me as a citizen that we have sometimes so polarized representatives that we have folks, you know, far left and far right, and then no one gets along, and we can't get anything done.

I think that competitiveness helps us find the best candidate, regardless of party.

So I think that we're all going to be better for it.

A lot of folks have mentioned communities of interest, which I hadn't thought too much about before coming here tonight. But some -- we mentioned Marana, Saddlebrooke, and Oro Valley. And, you know, sure, I think that those three clearly are a community of interest.

We all think of them as that. It's pretty obvious.

But I think what you've done actually is you fixed a lot of the things that were in the old map that didn't really make sense.

I mean, we have, you know, a lot of communities of interest that really weren't connected.

You know, currently I think we have those areas, Oro Valley and the others, in the same district as Naco, which clearly had nothing in common.

So I think you're actually doing a great job of
keeping those three together.

I grew up in San Hughes, and I am glad to see that you put that back in, in the district with the rest of them, so that those of us who went to school, you know, on the east side and grew up in San Hughes, we feel like we're all sort of in the same area as our friends and neighbors, because that really is a community.

So I guess my point really is is to come back to holding steady and continue dodging those bullets if you can. And thank you for your hard work.

I think you did it right.

So I know a lot of people have small things they would like to tweak here and there, but in general I think you've accomplished your goal.

So I think you can pretty much settle this and go home tonight.

So, it was my pleasure speaking with you, and thanks again for the time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

TIM SULTAN: I think Winston Churchill is smiling down upon us. And you've done your job.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks.

Our next speaker is Shirl Lamonna, representing self, from Oro Valley.

Followed by Dee Pfeiffer, Benjamin Brookhart, and
the last request to speak form I have is Barney Brenner.


And as you all know, I'm no stranger to your redistricting meetings.

But unlike many who are here tonight, I got involved in this process early on.

And not because some college professor or political leader told me to come here and handed me his talking points and told me what I should share with you. My comments are mine. I sat here throughout the night scribbling them, because I worked today and I didn't have time to prepare all of this.

They do contain many points that were brought out by others tonight from Oro Valley and Marana, simply because we are a community of interest and we are like minded.

So in terms of the congressional districts, as many as have said before me, CD 1 is not compact. It's simply too large for effective representation of the citizens.

And while someone mentioned it was okay, you know, back in the days of Mo Udall, I kind of think that the population has grown considerably since then, so that seems to me like a bit of an odd rationale for accepting that reasoning.
CD 1 also doesn't have any respect for our communities of interest.

What on earth could a border town have in common with Sedona or Flagstaff.

As far as the LDs, I live in the new LD 8 and members of that community have told you repeatedly about the Oro Valley, Marana business corridor, and the unique relationship that we have with Saddlebrooke. And yet you ignored that community of interest. You split Marana into LD 11. And you need to make us whole again and put us all into CD 2.

Finally we've heard a lot of competitiveness tonight. And for some reason you and many of the others choose to ignore the requirement of Prop 106 which has been identified as dead last on the handout, and that is that competitive districts are favored where there's no significant detriment to the other goals.

And sadly these maps do offer a significant detriment to our state, and I sincerely hope this round of public hearings is not in vain.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Dee Pfeiffer, representing self, from Pima.
DEE PFEIFFER: Dee Pfeiffer, P-F-E-I-F-F-E-R.

I came tonight with some suggestions to the maps. And after I sat here through this whole meeting, I will submit those changes via the website.

But mostly I'm concerned with LD 1, which has now put four solid conservatives against each other. Seems pretty obvious to me the purpose of doing that.

Others have been very complimentary of the Commission. And I too appreciate your time and effort.

However, a lot of people mentioned pressures put on the Commission, threatening to the Commission, attacks, being bullied and intimidated, dodging bullets. I just have to wonder why -- or if they just don't understand why that is happening to the Commission.

That it's due to the misleading party title of our independent commissioner, the possible unlawful process of choosing the mapping company, and mostly because the Democrats and chairwoman refuses to testify to the attorney general and clear up the missteps regarding the scoring sheets and even the destruction of those cards.

I really encourage the Commission to be open about that and speak to the attorney general.

I reread Proposition 106 again. I've done it several times, but once again, and I see that it still says that competitiveness is the last priority and is to be
considered and accomplished only if the competitive district
does not harm the other goals listed.

No matter how many people want it to be a
competitive district, Prop 106 states otherwise.

You need to get it changed if that's what you want
it to say.

Communities of interest and compactness must take
priority over competitiveness per your Prop 106.

I voted for Prop 106. It sounded great. It
sounded fair.

How misleading was it.

Five people deciding our fate for ten years makes
no sense.

It is far too expensive by the time we get through
the legal battle that is sure to follow because of the
closed situation with the board not -- or the Commission not
reporting and testifying in front of the attorney general.

I hope there is a call for a repeal of 106, and
let our elected representatives, which we elected, represent
us by drawing the lines next time in open session of the
congress where we can all watch it on C-SPAN or whatever,
but this has been just an atrocious process.

Thank you for letting me speak.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

(Applause.)
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Benjamin Brookhart, representing self, from Pima. And then followed by Barney Brenner.


Thank you for again for allowing me to speak to you concerning these congressional and legislative districts that are being drawn.

I just want to say first off that I represent myself. I don't represent an interest group. I'm not trying to support some organization.

I live in the proposed area of Legislative District 11, in Picture Rocks.

And I'm a hard worker. I pay my taxes. I vote. And I believe that one of the things that concerns me the most is that we're doing so much to let one group of people over another group of people rather than just focusing on total population in regards to and respect to geographic areas and communities of like interest.

Now, the purpose of you guys drawing up these lines is so that we have equitable representation per population for each district. And I'm concerned that what's going on is that we're trying to determine the outcome of elections.
And that is not what we into should be doing whatsoever.

That should be determined by those that live in their local areas, and that competitiveness should be looked at based on the message of their candidates in their areas, not based on the drawing up of these lines.

Now, I have to say that you guys have been working very hard, and that there is a map that you guys put together that I thought was a good sounding board to build off of, and that's the river/three border combo version 1A map.

I have it right here.

And I'll certainly issue it to you.

But the thing that I liked about it is that you have basically two rural districts, you have three border districts, you have compactness in terms of communities of like interest within the Phoenix area of Maricopa. And the other thing that I liked about it the most was that you could divide all your legislative districts pretty fairly and equally along county lines within those districts.

So I'm very confused and puzzled as to why we're not operating off that map as opposed to the one we currently have now, where the Congressional District No. 1 is clearly disproportionate, and, I just would like to suggest that we consider looking at this from a different
standpoint, starting off with this river/three border combo version 1A map, and that that we scrap the legislative map completely and start again so that we fit these legislative districts in within those congressional districts. It will make sense, and, you know, in regards to that, I mean, even a two year old can put this thing together.

I mean, it wouldn't be difficult for them to figure out how to put this map together versus what we have now, which is so confusing, so I'd like to suggest that.

Also, in regards to where I live specifically, being in Picture Rocks, Picture Rocks, Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, all these areas of communities are very tightly knit. Most of my social circles, the industry, the resources, the commerce, is deeply connected. And we're getting split.

And I'd ask that that be once again put back together.

I thank you for your time.

I hope that you guys would maintain openness in what I have shared with you tonight.

I think that it's reflective of the fact that I'm focusing on the individual and not groups, so that we're having representation based on the total population in a geographic area where people are determining their own destiny because of where they live, not because of these
lines being purposely changed around based on party affiliation or racial balance or any of that. That should not even be a factor.

And I appreciate the time that you've given me. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Sure. Thank you.

Our next speaker is Barney Brenner, representing self, from Pima.

BARNEY BRENNER: Yeah, there seems to be one after me --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I don't have one, so -- and I'll do a call to the audience after.

BARNEY BRENNER: My name is Barney Brenner, B-R-E-N-N-E-R.

I've got concerns about any number of the districts.

In the first decades of our country, voting districts were naturally compact and represented communities of interest.

Then a man came along by the name of Elbridge Gerry and became our fifth vice president, and he drew a district purely for partisan political advantage that was bizarrely drawn and extended through, I believe it was, Massachusetts, to pick up voters for something that Ms. Pfeiffer earlier alluded to, but didn't state clearly
when she said four conservatives were brought together in one district for obvious reasons.

    But I'll state the reasons.

It seems to have been done for purely partisan political advantage. Which is against multiple laws and against the spirit of what they're supposed to be doing here.

    Now, at the time what Mr. Gerry did was legal.

And it remained that way through much of the history of our country, where the law allowed legislators to draw -- these are representatives elected by the people who drew district lines. But they did it within the bounds of the law.

    And in the late '90s the citizens of Arizona passed Proposition 106, which was supposedly to put an end to such travesties of drawing districts purely for partisan political advantage. And it was intended and intended us to return to a system which placed a higher priority on keeping communities of interest together.

    And also which was, by the way, required on the Voting Rights Act.

    And in addition it was to place an emphasis on compactness, which is of crucial consideration to voters.

    And I think it was our first speaker, Olivia Cajero Bedford, was thrilled that her district was compact
and it would be nice if this consideration was extended to
as many other voters and candidates as possible.

   Somebody made mention of the needs of the many
and the needs of the few.

   Well, this would certainly be of help to the many.
Although in this country, the needs of the law are what's
paramount.

   And it was mentioned many, many times tonight the
word competitiveness or competitive district. But it
doesn't matter how many times you mention the word or the
phrase, it doesn't change the law.

   And although it's not the only one, not the only
problem district, when you take a district that puts Marana,
takes it out of Pima County, puts it all the way to the Utah
border, the northern border of the state of Arizona, also
puts it in a district which goes to the southeast corner of
the state of Arizona, you are deliberately diluting
communities of interest in violation of the law, including
portions of the U.S. Constitution, the Arizona Constitution,
the Voting Rights Act, and Prop 106, the very law that you
are sworn to uphold.

   So if there's any suggestions to be made, it would
be similar to the one that Benjamin just a couple speakers
ago mentioned, to go back to an earlier version and work
from there prior to this gerrymandered effort which is
against the law on many levels.

    Thank you.

    (Applause.)

    CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. So I think Christine Bauserman would like to speak. And we'll just need you to fill out a request to speak form --


    This will be my last time speaking. I was at my son's college the last time you were in Tucson, which is why I was not here.

    I know you been tracking all my comments, so I started this out wanting four border districts.

    I actually had a map I submitted.

    And something I have seen through the process of this map making is it was too difficult to do. The maps really went all the way up and snaked into Phoenix.

    And like you, hearing all these comments, nobody seems to really want that.

    That map that he talked about with the three border districts, I actually liked a lot too at one time, but I don't know how much goes into Phoenix.

    My point being, I preferred three to four border districts, but I don't know if it will work.

    This definitely does not work.
I've talked to people who live in ranches out there, and they're afraid. Because they're -- you know, the guy who was killed, the rancher down there, lives in one of little border district. And they know they're not going to get any representation. And they were just dealing with the horrible tragedy of Gabby Giffords.

You know, they're not getting representation that is important to them.

So I think we should go back to two.

I know on this map you're asking for a domino effect, so here are some lines.

Cochise, all of Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee back into two, Saddlebrooke and Oro Valley, and then in Pinal County you really could take the rest of that county, which is the Florence, Gold Canyon, Green Valley, San Tan, all that, put Pinal County back in CD 1.

And then I don't really know the rest of the area, but I know I've heard a lot from Flagstaff that the county people, the non-reservation people, would rather be over in four.

So I don't know exactly how that population would work, but I do know -- I just saw a recent map where -- I should have wrote it down. It was on -- the state has a rural population of 1,420,448 people.

Two congressional districts, if you minus those
up, that leaves 174,000. The population of Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee is 170,000, so you could easily do that.

The LD areas. We have had hours and hours and hours of testimony in Tucson.

Is that horribly -- it looks like I'll be in some LD area.

But Rita Ranch, you know, a lot of the testimony of communities of interest of Pima County needs to be listened to a little bit more, with that Tanque Verde, mountain corridor, Rita Ranch, Sahuarita, Green Valley being split with some simple little switcheroos that you could make there.

And since everybody wants it more competitive, I'm been in a CD area with a Democrat for eight years, so give me some Republicans in there, so we can give them all what they want.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Is there anyone else that we've missed that wanted to speak tonight?

(No oral response.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Wow. Well, we thank you for hanging in with us, and for anybody still watching online, if they are.

Let me, let me turn it over to my fellow
commissioners and see if they have anything to say.

Commissioner Stertz?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

For anybody that's still here, I wanted to thank you for still sticking around.

I was trying to keep a tally tonight of people that came up and complimented us on our hard work and then wanted competitive districts.

And they equaled each other.

So thank you for the compliments and thank you for asking for competitive districts.

It was an interesting exercise to find out the balance of talking points that were looking at competitiveness versus looking at independent thought and independent thinking.

I'm hoping that as we move through these last half of comment periods that we're going to get that we're going to get a lot of people coming out with independent thought and independent thinking and checking the talking points at the door, because it's not doing us any good other than piling a bunch of stuff on the record.

So thank you for coming out tonight.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

And Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thank you for sharing your
evening with us.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And with that, the time now is 9:56 p.m., and we'll declare this meeting adjourned.

Thank you all for coming out tonight.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

* * * * *
STATE OF ARIZONA ) ) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA )

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 153 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 1st day of November, 2011.

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