ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Wednesday, October 26, 2011
6:02 p.m.

Location
Mesa Convention Center
Palo Verde I Building B Main Campus
263 North Center Street
Mesa, Arizona 85201

Attending
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Joe Kanefield, Legal Counsel

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

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VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will come to order.

It is October 26, 2011. The time is 6:02 p.m. We are on the record.

We are in Mesa, Arizona.

Won't you all rise with me and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, thank you all for coming tonight.

Tonight's hearing is a part of round two of the Commission's public comment hearings.

The Commission has published two maps, a draft congressional map and a draft legislative map.

The purpose of these public comment hearings is to get your input on these maps. We want to hear what you have to say.

If you would like to address the Commission later,
please go ahead and fill out one of these yellow request to speak forms, you'll find them in the back, and give them to any one of our staff, and you'll be able to speak.

Before we get too much farther, I want to ask our translator, Carlos Reyes, to come to the microphone. He is going to read an announcement in English and in Spanish. To comply with federal law, the Commission is required to make translation services available, so I'll turn it over to Carlos.

CARLOS REYES: Thank you, Chair Freeman, ladies and gentlemen, commissioners.

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

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

Now I will read the script in Spanish.

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

CARLOS REYES: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Reyes.

My name is Scott Freeman. I'm one of the five commissioners on the Independent Redistricting
Commission.

As part of these public comment hearings, what we're doing about 26, 27 of them across the state over about a three-week period.

So the individual commissioners are sort of dividing the duties in pairs or single commissioners or even three, I think, at one hearing, are sort of dividing up the state and attending these hearings.

All of our hearings are live streamed when that capability is available to us. So I know the other commissioners, our chair Colleen Mathis, our other vice chair Jose Herrera, Commissioner McNulty, Commissioner Stertz, are watching these proceedings online and listening to what you're saying tonight.

I'd like to introduce a few other people.

To my right is counsel for the Commission, Joe Kanefield.

We have our mapping consultant, Korinne Belock, is here as well. She's going to have a brief presentation about redistricting that she'll provide to you in a moment.

We also have our assistant executive director, Kristina Gomez, in the back.

We have one of our outreach coordinators, Lisa Schmelling, is in the back with the forms.

Buck Forst, our chief technology adviser, chief
technology expert, is manning the live stream.

And everything that is being said here tonight is being taken down by our court reporter, Marty Herder.

Let's make sure I've covered everything.

Again, the yellow request to speak forms are in the back.

You'll also see in the back a packet that begins with a cover letter by the chair, and it has some of the maps included in it.

At the back of the packet you'll see a blue comment form. If you don't want to speak tonight, but rather submit your comments in writing, I encourage you to go ahead and fill out this form. You can fill it out tonight and submit it to any member of our staff or you can take it home and mail it in to the Commission.

The Commission also has a website, azredistricting.org.

On that website there is an ability to leave comments through the website, or you can call the Commission where the phone number is available -- also available on the website.

With that, I'm going to turn the program over to Ms. Belock, who's got a presentation about the redistricting process.

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Thank you.
Good evening. My name is Korinne Kubena Belock with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be here in Mesa to discuss the draft congressional and legislative maps presented by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

So the goal of these meetings, of course, is to hear comments from you. So thank you for taking the time to attend this evening.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The new district boundaries must comply with the
U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, and they must have equal population. And 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 geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

So just a little bit about the Voting Rights Act in particular.

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

To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate in purpose 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 quickly just want to show you a quick video from Bruce Adelson, who's been advising the Commission on matters related to the Voting Rights Act and preclearance. So just to go into that video now.

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

KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Great. So we'll go back into the presentation very quickly.

Give me one minute here.

Okay. So moving on to the timeline for the Commission.

So the overall timeline for the redistricting process can be broken down into five steps. Earlier this year, step one, the Commission was established, and the commissioners were appointed following a thorough screening process and serve in a voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

Of course, tonight we have Vice-Chair Scott Freeman. And also on the Commission, Jose Herrera, vice chair, Chairman Colleen Mathis, Linda McNulty, and Richard Stertz.

The second round -- the second step was the first round of public hearings.

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

Then the mapping process actually began.

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

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

And since adopting the grid map, the Commission has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid to accommodate all six of the constitutional criteria.

During this time they also received additional public comment and draft maps from the public.

Then came the approval of the draft maps. So on October 3rd the Commission approved a draft congressional map that incorporated changes based on the constitutional criteria.

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

Which brings us to step four, which is the second round of public hearings, which we're going through now. So currently the Commission's visiting 25 towns and cities to
share the draft maps and to receive additional public input during the months of October and November.

Step five is with the approval of the final maps. Upon completion of the public comment period, the AIRC will adopt the final maps.

And then step six, which Bruce Adelson spoke about, is the preclearance process.

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

So now moving on to the maps.

To show you how the Commission came to the current draft maps, I'm going to go through the progression of the mapping process.

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

Then, as I touched on earlier, the blank slate maps.

So per Proposition 106, the Commission was required to start with a blank slate, not taking into consideration any previous election districts or incumbents.
Which brought us to the congressional grid map.

Again, also per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a grid map. However, the grid map only takes into consideration two of the six 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 is the version that you see on the screen here.

So after more than the 25 meetings, the Commission voted to approve the draft map that's now on the screen, the draft congressional map.

In addition to taking into consideration the six constitutional criteria, the Commission took into consideration public comment that was provided via public hearings, public meetings, round one of the public hearings, comments mailed, e-mailed, telephoned, faxed, any communication that came into the Commission about changes to these maps or recommendations.

So over 5,000 comments in total helped to develop the draft map which you see here.

And to go through a couple of the highlights for you of this map. The draft congressional map includes two predominantly rural districts, it includes three border districts, it includes three districts in the greater Tucson
region, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa County, it avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations, and it creates two districts where minority voters have an opportunity to elect a candidate of choice.

So now just moving into the legislative maps.

So, much like the congressional draft map, developing the legislative map followed a very similar process. So here we see the legislative map that was last used -- that was developed by the last commission and was last used in the 2010 elections.

Again, per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a blank slate. And the grid map was approved in August, which is on the screen now.

So similar to the congressional map, the 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.

So some points about the legislative draft map to share with you today.

So, the Commission took into consideration population growth and reduction. So, in the old districts, the population ranged from 155,000 to 378,000.

In the current draft, the population ranges from
207,000 to 215,000.

So to comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft map also includes ten districts in which minority voters should have an opportunity to elect a candidate of choice.

And then this draft legislative map includes three districts wholly within Pima County and three additional southern Arizona districts. It includes 17 districts primarily within Maricopa County, and nine districts that are primarily rural.

So, again, one of the most important reasons for these meetings are so that the AIRC can get your input. A couple ways you can do that. You can fill out a request to speak form at a public hearing and provide the Commission with your input. Examples of your input might include anything from thoughts on constitutional criteria to specific suggestions for the draft congressional and legislative maps.

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

Which I'll show you in a bit.

And you can also visit the azredistricting.org which is the AIRC's website and submit public input that way for us. You can call (602)542-5221, or toll free at
(855)733-7478. You can also phone in your input. So we want to give you all those options.

Another important part of this process is that you can stay connected throughout the redistricting process.

So what you see on the screen here is a screen shot of the Commission's website.

The arrows here highlight a couple of key areas that you might be interested in.

So, one, you can find meetings on the website.

So the red arrow shows you here. You can basically find future and past meetings. And in case you'd like to watch any of the deliberation that went into drawing the draft maps, you can find meetings by date under this link.

You can also make public comments, which is the public input form link, which shows you where that link is.

And then finally you see two arrows for maps. The one at the top takes you to the maps, but tonight I'm going to talk about the arrow at the bottom that takes you to the same page basically.

So if you click on the link there, the screen that will come up is this screen here, which basically is a listing of the congressional and legislative maps in different file times, so something like a JPEG or a PDF. So basically just different file types.
But tonight to talk about one specific type of file, which is the KMZ/Google map file.

If you click on the red circle here, or the link to the red circle here, for Google maps, you're brought up to this slide here, which is viewing the KMZ/Google map.

So, of course, most people are interested in viewing these draft maps.

And once you click on the map, you'll see the menu of choices and you're brought to this screen.

The great thing about the Google maps is that you can zoom in and out to specific areas that you're interested in, which gives you a great opportunity to view down to specific blocks and boundaries of these maps.

So just to take you through what's shown on the left side here in the screen, those are a series of filters that you can click on and off of to highlight different areas of the maps.

So, for example, you can click on and off counties or on and off population -- basically population data here, but on and off different districts, and also on and off -- you can click on and off colors which allows you to better view the maps.

So that's worth noting on the side there.

So now what you see, of course, is a zoomed-out version of the congressional map.
And if you zoom in, this slide shows you a zoomed in look on some of the areas surrounding Maricopa County.

Again, just noting you have the ability to zoom in and out down to viewing street names and blocks. So it's a really great way to view the maps.

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

Again, at the website you can draw maps of your own. You can watch current or past meetings and get updates about future meetings as well.

If you're into social media, I encourage you to follow us on Twitter at the hash tag AIRC and you can also friend the Commission on Facebook and you'll get up-to-the-minute updates through both of those social media mediums as well.

And that is the end of the slide. But, again, thank you for coming out this evening and being a part of this process with the Commission.

A final word on these maps, just to note, copies of these maps can be found in the packets that you received this evening. We also have large blown-up copies of the maps on the walls in the back of the room, which are a great way to view the different areas.

Also, I'm available after the public comment
period should you have any questions regarding the mapping process or any advice, you know, about accessing the maps or questions about that as well.

And, of course, the staff is available to help you if you have any questions regarding how to find the maps or anything along those lines.

So I look forward to speaking with you this evening, and thank you for having us here.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Belock.

We'll now turn to the public comment portion of the program.

In providing comments, whether you do it at the microphone or in writing, the more specific you can be about the maps, what you like about the maps, what you don't like about the maps, is very helpful to the Commission.

If you have specific changes you'd like to see, please lay them out.

If you've thought about the next step and how other districts might need to be adjusted to accommodate the change you would like, even better.

Once again, if you'd like to speak to address the Commission, yellow request to speak forms are in the back.

We also have the blue forms. You can submit them in writing.

If you brought written materials or maps that
you'd like to submit to the Commission, please submit them to any member of our staff. They will get them to the commissioners, and they become part of our record.

Right now I think I have about ten request to speak forms.

So I think going forward I'd ask that if you're speaking to try to limit your comments to five minutes.

And we'll keep a timer on that. If you hear -- Mr. Forst will keep the timer. When you hear the chime or whatever it is, the buzzer, don't feel you have to end your comments immediately, but do try -- please try to sort of wrap up your thoughts so we're fair to everyone else who has come and make sure everyone else has a chance to speak.

When I call your name, please come up to the microphone. Don't be shy about wrestling with it, because we need you to speak right into it so the people in the back will hear and so people on live stream will hear as well.

Please state your name and spell your name so Mr. Herder has an accurate record of who you are.

And if I haven't mentioned who you stated on your form who you are here representing, or where you're from, please go ahead and add that.

And when you say where you're from, what we're
looking for is not a street address. We're not looking for
that, but a city or county where you're from.

So with that, I'll invite our first speaker, Lynne
Pancrazi, who is a state representative from the former
District 24, from Yuma, representing her constituents.

REPRESENTATIVE LYNNE PANCRAZI: Good evening. You
look lost by yourself up there. Nice to see you again.

I am here as I was in three other meetings to let
you know that rural Arizona would like to stay rural and
would not -- does not want to be attached to Surprise,
Litchfield Park, and all of Glendale and Avondale and all
the places that belong to Maricopa County.

We are very concerned about losing our rural
voice, and also ask that Yuma County has been a competitive
district in the past. Let's put it this way, District 24
has been a competitive district in the past. And we'd like
to remain a competitive district.

We'd also like to remain all of Yuma County and
all of La Paz County if that is at all possible.

If not, and we do need to split for some reason
because of federal requirements, La Paz County has been with
Yuma County as part of Yuma County and as part of La Paz
County from its very existence.

And we know the issues there, that we connect
really well together, and we represent La Paz County very
well and would like to have La Paz County connected to and not to the Mohave district.

I understand the strip wants to come down to La Paz County. That would allow La Paz County to come out of that and be able to go with Yuma County and District 13 if at all possible.

But if it's possible and we can do that, I would -- Yuma County wants to remain whole.

So that's what I'm here for. And you've heard me before, but I'm asking you again and again until you get tired of seeing me here to please keep Yuma intact, Yuma County intact, and keep La Paz County with us.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next will be Jenn Daniels, vice mayor, town of Gilbert, representing the town of Gilbert, and from Gilbert.

VICE-MAYOR JENN DANIELS: Thank you,

Vice-Chair Freeman.

My name is Jenn Daniels, J-E-N-N, D-A-N-I-E-L-S.

I am the vice mayor from the town of Gilbert and I am here representing the council.

While we very much appreciate the difficult nature of your work, the Town of Gilbert was disappointed to see the IRC's draft legislative map that was adopted for consideration.
The IRC's proposed map clearly contradicts the Town's expressed preference and legitimate need for stronger representation in the Arizona state legislature.

On October 6, 2011, the Gilbert Town Council unanimously passed a resolution supporting IRC proposed map Legislative 9 minority district, option one, version 8A.

And we respectfully requested the IRC to honor the Town of Gilbert's input into its creation of legislative districts.

Your vote, however, approved a legislative map that places the bulk of Gilbert into one single legislative district, at the same time alienating a small sliver of our town by placing it into another district where our residents will be grossly outnumbered by residents of a neighboring municipality. Under the IRC's map these residents will be harmed by being effectively disenfranchised.

The town of Gilbert, despite our town designation, we are 74 square miles and 209,000 citizens strong.

We represent the fastest growing region of the Phoenix metropolitan area. And despite the downturn of the economy, Gilbert maintains steady rates of growth that surpass any city in the state.

Again, by placing the vast majority of Gilbert into one legislative district, the IRC has effectively diluted the representation of Gilbert residents from the
Arizona state legislature and done harm to the one man, one vote principle.

If the IRC's proposed legislative map is firmly adopted, it is important for this Commission to know that within just a few short years Gilbert's population will render its one legislative district substantially overpopulated and severely underrepresented.

The consequence of this is that Gilbert residents will have to endure ten long years of underrepresentation.

In light of these facts, the Town of Gilbert respectfully asks the distinguished members of this Commission to understand that its adopted draft map is not in the best interest of the town or its residents.

The Town of Gilbert supports the concept of two strong legislative districts for the town, as embodied in the IRC's originally proposed map, Legislative 9 minority district version 8A.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is Lerry Alderman, Globe city councilman, representing rural eastern Arizona.

COUNCILMAN LERRY ALDERMAN: Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight.

Superior Mayor Hing was supposed to speak tonight on behalf of rural eastern Arizona. However, his father was
hospitalized just hours ago, and I was asked to fill in for him.

And unfortunately I grabbed the wrong stack of papers, but, as you know, we had submitted maps for rural Arizona, rural eastern Arizona.

We have joined with other citizens of governments of eastern rural Arizona in urging the Commission to keep the congressional representation of this region solely rural and undivided.

If you'll notice that your map divides specifically Gila County into three different sections, which is unacceptable.

We also in rural Arizona have some common interests. And that's mining, ranching, timber, and tourism.

We would like to have that recognized as like things that we have in common.

And also I would also like to bring to your attention that we now have 12 cities who have adopted resolutions supporting rural eastern Arizona and keeping it together.

The last two last night, the City of Winslow and the Town of Snowflake, adopted a resolution. And as you know, we are a representative type of government.

Unfortunately everyone from our communities, and
they are widespread, are unable to come to these meetings. So we, as representatives of those people, speak on their behalf.

There hasn't been any opposition to the resolutions that we've all passed supporting rural Arizona.

I would like to remind you that the City of Winslow has a total of 9,655 signatures by virtue of that resolution.

The Town of Snowflake has 5,590 signatures tagged with that.

I would also like to let you know that St. Johns and Camp Verde have a resolution on the table for tonight, and they will probably pass as well without any opposition.

We are fundamentally alike in all aspects of what your requirements for the redistricting process is.

We are a little bit on the heavy side as far as minority representation. We have more minority representation in rural Arizona. And we also have -- we're right at 54 short of having the exact amount of people represented in that district -- or in that rural Arizona coalition.

I'd just like to ask you to be mindful that each one of those resolutions carry a number of individuals that we represent.

Most of those people -- I have 1200 people that I
represent. I deal with them on a daily basis. I interact with them. I know what their desires are, and I try to serve that.

If you take $36.15 away from my pay, every payday, every -- twice a month, I will have to pay to serve them. Which I would gladly do.

I believe that in these rural communities as well as the bigger communities, we on the front line, grassroots, feel the same way.

We are here to serve, and we feel that our interests would be better served with a rural Arizona as it is mapped out and it's -- it doesn't cut counties up, and it's -- it represents all the people and meets all the right criteria for the redistricting process.

That's about all I've got to say.

If you have any questions for me?

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Councilman Alderman.

And please extend the Commission's sympathies to Mayor Hing. I had the opportunity to meet him when we were up in Globe. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN LERRY ALDERMAN: Thank you. God bless.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next will be Douglas Coleman, councilman, city of Apache Junction, representing Apache Junction.
COUNCILMAN DOUGLAS COLEMAN: Hello,


I need to tell you that our council discussed the proposed maps, and I differ from the majority of our council.

I think the other six members all felt that on the legislative district that we should stay in Pinal County and should be in Pinal County and so that the legislative district should stop at the county line and go further east.

I actually like the compactness of proposed Legislative District 16.

I think it's far better than what we have been operating under the last ten years, where I live in a little finger that connects me with Gilbert, whereas the rest of my community is in District 23.

So I like that.

Like I say, if I'm representing the council, I need to tell you that the majority, in fact all six of the rest of the council, feels that we need to be in Pinal County exclusively.

The main problem that all of us have though is with the congressional district. And I believe that I'm the third council person to come before the Commission and testify.
We have concerns about the compactness and communities of interest and the geographic features.

We are in Congressional District 4, proposed Congressional District 4, which is the river cities communities, the Superstition Mountains.

We'd have to go through three other congressional districts to get to the other population areas of our own district.

There's no way -- well, I guess we could go up through Globe and around through Payson. I don't know how we get there.

But to get to Bullhead City, for example, we just -- we have nothing in common.

We do support the map that the Pinal County Governmental Alliance proposed.

I will give this to your staff.

We feel that it better suits our needs. It keeps us with regions of which we share common interest.

And so we would ask that on the congressional district side that the Commission take a look at that.

We're part of that claw that comes down and around Mesa, which we just feel is unfair and will make it so that we don't really have a voice, we feel.

And that's all I have to say. Thank you for your time.
VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is Robin Benning, council member, town of
Queen Creek.

COUNCILMAN ROBIN BENNING: Good evening,
Vice-Chair Freeman, and other members of the Commission who
are probably watching right now.

For the record, my name is Robin Benning,
B-E-N-N-I-N-G. I'm the council member representing the
town of Queen Creek.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for a
chance to share the Queen Creek Town Council's thoughts on
the proposed congressional and legislative map -- district
maps.

The town is focused on two primary issues with
regard to redistricting.

First and foremost, we believe that the entire
town should be included in only one congressional and only
one legislative district.

Queen Creek is a small town of approximately
26 square miles with 27,000 residents.

We're unique in that the town falls for the
majority in Maricopa, but we do have some area within
Pinal County.

Even though our geographic boundaries cross the
county line, our residents share a strong sense of
They do not see themselves as Maricopa or Pinal County residents, but rather see themselves as residents of Queen Creek.

Unlike some other cities and towns looking to increase their representation, the town council feels strongly that they cannot support districts which would split our town into more than one congressional or legislative district.

That would in turn split our residents and cause great pain and anxiety.

The second key issue for our town is that the town be located in a urbanized district.

Queen Creek for the most part falls into a friendly relationship with both the urbanized county of Maricopa as well as the rural -- more rural county of Pinal. However, our alignment is and our partnerships are stronger in relation to the urbanized county.

The mayor has sent several letters to the Commission explaining the town's community of interest is with Maricopa County, because we partner with our neighboring communities and jurisdictions to deliver many of the services that our residents demand.

Unfortunately both the proposed congressional and legislative maps divide the town along the county line.
This is a problem for us.

So the town council respectfully asks that the Commission consider amending the maps to move the entire town into Congressional District 5 and Legislative District 12.

We really do not want our town to be divided.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to speak. And on behalf of the mayor and my fellow council members, I sincerely hope that you can consider revising the maps and include the town in one congressional district and one legislative district.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we'll have Mayor Jay Schlum, mayor of Fountain Hills.

MAYOR JAY SCHLUM: Thank you, Vice Chair, and thanks commissioners and staff for doing an important job and I know not an easy one.

We have forwarded a resolution signed off by our council, town of Fountain Hills, and our staff, our citizens have voiced a lot of concern with the congressional district. And that's what I'm here to speak about tonight.

Before you is the Resolution No. 2011-45, to your attention. It's signed. I'll leave a copy as well tonight.

We are urging the Arizona Independent
Redistricting Commission reconsider its determination regarding placement of the town of Fountain Hills on the finalized draft 6 congressional district map.

Obviously, you know, on October 10th you adopted that map, which has nine congressional districts.

And the draft map shows Fountain Hills in Congressional District 4, while surrounding communities of interest including the city of Scottsdale, Fort McDowell, Yavapai Nation, Salt River Indian community, all surrounding communities of ours, actually all attached to us, they are our neighbors, all in a different district, District No. 6.

The town and the surrounding communities of interest have very strong ties with one another in many respects, including joint cooperation, coordination of fire and emergency medical services.

The town and Fort McDowell jointly provide -- or promote town's funding and tourism efforts through common tourism bureau and various other events. And the economies of the town and Fort McDowell are inextricably linked.

The town and Fort McDowell share a common school district and the children of both communities share many of the same schools.

The town and the surrounding communities often share common interests with respect to major infrastructure projects, which projects often require the communities to
work cooperatively through regional and federal transportation agencies, which cooperation will be severely hampered if the town is located in District 4.

The current boundaries between District 4 and 6 divide these tightly-bound communities of interest into separate congressional districts, splintering representation of the town and aligning it with rural Arizona communities with whom it has very few common interests. And, in some cases, placing it at odds with communities in District 4 where urban/metro areas of interest collide with the interests of rural Arizona communities.

The shape and extremely -- is extremely diverse and remote geographic locations of the major population centers of the proposed District 4 creates substantial difficulties for representatives elected from one portion of the district to be familiar with or even physically reach the other areas of the district.

And the unique physical land forms around the town give it a particularly intimate relationship with the surrounding communities, particularly with respect to the interconnected open spaces.

THE REPORTER: Could you repeat that, sir? Could you repeat that last part, please?

MAYOR JAY SCHLUM: The shape and extremely diverse and remote geographical locations of the major population
centers of the proposed District 4 creates substantial
difficulties for a representative elected from one portion
of the district to be familiar with or even physically reach
the other areas of the district.

The unique physical land forms around the town
give it a particular intimate relationship with surrounding
communities, particularly with respect to the interconnected
open space and recreational facilities.

The boundaries of District 4 and District 6 on the
map if left unchanged with respect to the town may cause
irreparable damage to the decades -- to the decades of
cooperative efforts between the town and surrounding
communities.

So the mayor of the town of Fountain Hills,
myself, hereby request the IRC to approve an amendment to
the draft map to alter the boundary -- boundary line between
District 4 and District 6 to also include the town and its
community neighbors of Rio Verde within the boundaries of
District 6.

On the map you'll see, and you're probably
familiar because it's already been a challenge, is that the
map uniquely seems to come down and grab Fountain Hills
and it removes us from every one of our neighboring
communities.

So it's very important for us to remain in those
communities of interest that we partner with. And we believe greatly in regionalism, so we would appreciate your strong consideration of realigning Fountain Hills with the district that is the same with our neighbors.

Thank you for doing a difficult job.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mayor.

Next I have Ken Hand, representing self, from Tempe.

KEN HAND: My name is Ken Hand, H-A-N-D.

And I want to thank all the members for taking on this difficult and probably thankless task.

Maricopa County is about four times the population of Pima County, so I was a little bit surprised when I saw that the members of the committee were -- the Commission were about 60 percent.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Would you pull that microphone up a little bit?

KEN HAND: So Pima County has about 60 percent of the representation.

So I thought it might be of benefit for me to provide information being a more than 44 year resident of proposed CD 9 continuously.

I lived in the northeast Phoenix area and all the way to south Tempe, so I've lived in that area for more than 44 years and gone to school and worked in that CD area.
My issue is really the community of interest on the -- for the congressional districts in Arizona.

Northeast Phoenix, as you know, CD 9 stretches all the way from northeast Phoenix all the way to Chandler. And northeast Phoenix is much more a part of north Phoenix or Phoenix than it is or even Scottsdale than it is of Tempe, Mesa, and the east valley.

And so I'm not too sure why it would have been spread all the way up that far north.

Tempe is also more identified as part of the east valley of Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, and so forth.

I also will second -- or actually you've heard this a number of times, and you just heard now, of Fountain Hills and Apache Junction being part of the Phoenix metro area.

They're much more identified with the Phoenix metro area than cities like Yuma, Bullhead City, and even Colorado City.

And I think it's in their best interest, and the residents know much better and say so.

My solution is to -- I think northeast Phoenix should be included in proposed CD 6 or 7.

And that's more aligned with their community interest in that area.

CD 9 should be expanded east rather than north
into Mesa to make up for the northeast Phoenix being draw up
to that district.

CD 5 should be expanded to include
Apache Junction, all of Queen Creek, Florence, San Tan,
et cetera.

And I think you've heard that from those towns
specifically, but I'm just kind of voicing my agreement with
those, just making those part of that and change those
boundaries.

Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next I have Pam Whitney, representing LD 18.

PAM WHITNEY: Hi. I am Pam Whitney, P-A-M,
W-H-I-T-N-E-Y.

Okay. You want to vote taxation without
representation, we need every vote to count.

If political parties in these districts are
grossly unbalanced, those people aren't being represented
there. They aren't being heard.

To be fair, we need to make -- we need to have
these be competitive. We need it to actually be a true,
true race between the political parties so we know what a
true majority feels about things.

And I think that it's important that we try to get
it as balanced as we can.
That's all.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is Randy Keating, representing self, from Tempe.

RANDY KEATING: Hi, my name is Randy Keating, R-A-N-D-Y, K-E-A-T-I-N-G. And I'm here tonight to talk to you briefly about competitiveness. But, first of all, thank you for your public service. It's a thankless job, I know. I've been to a lot of these. You've taken a lot of abuse, and you're almost done, which I'm sure you're very happy about.

Overall, I have mixed feelings about both of these maps, legislative and congressional.

I would like to see more competitiveness, particularly in our legislative maps.

An example of a district I think that would be a good model would be the new LD 26.

Only a few points separate the Rs and the Ds. A majority of those voters are registered as Independents. And it kind of -- you know, it's contiguous. It's compact. It respects for the most part communities of interest.

Although I do think that it is a mistake to not include the Tempe Links in that district.

I lived in Tempe Links for a number of years, and
that's just as much a part of Tempe as is the university.

So I would like to see that included in the future LD for that area.

But, overall I think that other legislative maps -- other legislative districts would do well to be modeled after the new LD 26.

As far as the congressional maps, I do -- I live in what will be Congressional District 9, and I think that that is another good example of what a competitive district can look like.

Again, only a few points separate the Ds and the Rs. The majority of the voters are registered Independents. So it gives us an opportunity to have a real race for our congressman about real issues.

If a Republican only has to talk to a Republican and a Democrat only has to talk to a Democrat to win an election, we don't get anything done.

We turn over our democracy then to special interests that compose our political parties.

So the only way to move forward in this country -- and I do believe that a vast majority of our problems right now have to do with polarization of our political parties. I think that the only way to solve that is to make sure that all races for congress, all races for state legislature are competitive.
Without that, we're just going to have more of the same, no matter who's voted in.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Next I have Amy Kalman, representing self, from LD 17, perhaps 12.


Just wanting to tag in a bit on what Mr. Keating just said very eloquently about competitiveness.

It's been posited lately that competitiveness in some ways is secondary, or even more than that, tertiary, that somehow it is the last in for any kind of goal this body should be establishing.

And I'd just like to forward you the language of the most recent Arizona Supreme Court redistricting decisions that affirmed that competitiveness is as important as communities of interest, is as important as everything except the Voting Rights Act, which must, of course, come first.

It says that the direction -- the direction that competitiveness should be favored unless one of two conditions occurs, and that would be practicality and
harming the other goals, substantially occurs does not, contrary to the Commission's assertion, mean that the competitiveness goal is less mandatory than the other goals, can be ignored, or should be relegated to a secondary role. The constitutional language means what it says. There's been a lot of outside bodies trying to influence this one, and a lot of rumors, a lot of threats, and a lot of name calling.

And I think that's seriously a concern. Because this body is supposed to be independent, is supposed to be able to do its job without harassment, and is supposed to be taking competitiveness and making it work, making it work within these districts, making it work within the parameters that it has.

I very much appreciate that it has been doing so. Under what I would consider to be horrible political outside attempts at influence.

And I would just like to stand up here and affirm that competitiveness need not be feared. Competitiveness could be what saves Arizona from extremism on both sides rendering it completely impractical to do anything at all.

And therefore your goal, your job here, is and has been an extremely important one.

I appreciate everything that you and the other members of the Commission have done.
I have looked at these maps. I think that some of the people who stood up here before me have made very well researched and very poignant points.

But on the larger global level, I would urge the Commission to consider that competitiveness also needs to be one of those overarching goals.

There are plenty of ways we can tweak something here and there. And then of course we have to go back and fix things as far as whether we're complying with the Voting Rights Act and then we have to fix things as to whether we're complying with population issues, landmarks, things such as this.

Don't let competitiveness get lost in the dust.

We all are looking not only to have our towns kept together, to have the people that we formed communities with, people that we work with, but to have our system work. And that above all is why you are here and why are of you are so important.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next I have Jana Granillo, representing self, from Tempe.

I live in Tempe. I'm currently in District 17. And I'm here today to speak again in support of the proposed Congressional District 9.

I support what the drawn map is.

I do understand based on comments that tweaks will be done, and I appreciate that, as long as the prior speaker informed me, as her point was made, that there is some competitiveness.

When looking at the compact, Maricopa County, yes, there are communities of interest, but we're all compact. We're pretty close together with very few exceptions. And I think that we have the ability to work together and to collaborate.

I have faith in Arizona that we can do that when given the opportunity, but we need that foundation in which to work.

As far as the legislative district, the only one that I've looked at is the one that it was going to affect me directly, no surprise.

And that would be potentially District 26, Legislative District 26.

Again, I'm okay with that.

If things get moved, then the competitiveness seems to be -- needs to be there.

If things get moved down and over, that's fine by
If it stays like that, like it is, that's fine, again, with the competitiveness there.

We're very compact in that particular area.

And although it doesn't fit my ideal, I need to take into consideration what the impact is of the whole state.

And I truly support your efforts in doing so.

The other reason I come here today is to -- I told my story before as to why I think competitiveness is so important, and today I come to you with a new story.

I was able to go to the hearing in the capital last Friday and witnessed what happens to a participating individual when you have a partisan body.

And for me personally I went there on my own with my own ideas, was allowed to give testimony, and then subjected to questioning that I thought was very leading, and also more like an interrogation as opposed to being able to give testimony like I was here today.

I think in that particular hearing there was a tone and manner that was set. And particularly for the first woman who spoke, who was an African American woman. And I have to tell you that it took all my courage as a woman of color to get up there and express an opposing viewpoint.
And I took it.

And I'm here to tell you today that that's unacceptable, that we can have such partisan politics, and I hope that Arizona can do better than that so that citizens like myself, a woman, of color, who just simply wants to express an opinion, doesn't get beat up in the process.

I appreciate your work that you've done.

I can't imagine being in your shoes and going through what you have gone through, what you have been doing.

And I support your efforts. I support your work that you've done in Arizona.

I support your ability to make quality decisions and tweak the lines as need to be so that they hold back for Arizona is competitiveness and keeping that in balance.

And I thank you very much for your time. Thank you for your service.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is Lauren Kuby, representing self, from Maricopa County.

LAUREN KUBY: Hello. Lauren Kuby, K-U-B-Y.

And from Tempe, a 23-year resident of Tempe, Arizona.

And I'd like to speak today also in support of Congressional District 9.
I've heard some arguments before that the Commission -- that this not does not represent a natural community of interest. And I would like to say it actually really does. When you look at the flow of people from Mesa Community College and ASU Tempe campus to downtown campus, there's been a natural flow in terms of social, academic, economic interests that has been sort of encapsulated by the lightrail, lightrail system. And I think it creates a natural community of interest that seems to be helpful in creating the only competitive district that is in congressional map.

I'd also like to give another example of why I think CD 9 is a community of interest.

Council -- city council district six, which is represented now by Council Member Sal DiCiccio, that district is almost entirely within CD 9. So that makes a lot of sense I think. There's a lot natural community there.

Another reason I'd like to give, ASU has a current project now called Energize Phoenix that is funded by the Department of Energy.

And the idea behind Energize Phoenix is to create the green rail, to make the lightrail and the communities, the institutions, schools, homes, along the lightrail as green as possible in terms of lot of retrofitting of
buildings and such.

So ASU and the U.S. government saw that that would be a natural community of interest that needed to be supported and sort of held up as a model in the state of how we can have a greener, greener economy and more sustainable community.

So those are my reasons why I think CD 6 should be -- sorry, CD 9 as proposed should be kept the way it is.

I wish there were more competitive districts within the congressional map. I know you're balancing a lot of criteria there.

I also, like Jana who spoke before me, would like to speak out very strongly against interference from the governor and the legislature in the proceedings. You're all public servants. You're all volunteers giving enormous amounts of your time.

I know my husband was being considered for the -- to be on the Commission, and he withdrew when he realized what kind of commitment we're talking about here, ten years, ten years of your time and countless hours with not much thanks.

And I want to thank you for that.

But I see all that interference is happening. And I second the experience that Jana related on Friday, because I was there today, and found a lot of bullying tactics going
I happen to be the fifth of sixth kids, so I know about bullies. So I felt like I handled myself well in reaction. But some in ways with the commission -- sorry, the committee the legislature has put together, in some ways it's very poetic I find because it reaffirms exactly why we need an Independent Redistricting Commission.

It reaffirms that Proposition 106 and the voters' will in 2000 was to keep this out of the hands of the legislature and not to be interfered with.

And today I mentioned to the legislators that all their comments were -- could be aimed and directed at the legislative -- I'm sorry, at one of your many public hearings.

There are many opportunities to do that.

I spoke with thousands of people that have given public testimony.

And I sort of paused and thought, oh, wait, no, you wouldn't want to do that because that would be seen as interfering with an independent Commission. So you're not going to go there. So why are you doing it in this body?

So I reaffirm too that you need to continue your constitutional obligation, and please continue to protect the will of the voters as expressed in 2000 and beyond.

Thank you very much.
(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is CJ Briggle, representing self, from Maricopa County.

CJ BRIGGLE: Thank you. CJ Briggle, B-R-I-G-G-L-E.

And I do applaud the Commission for all of your very hard work.

We're getting close to the finish line, and I am confident that it feels pretty good on your side.

I know it does from ours. We've been diligently following you also. And it's been quite a process.

I've been -- I'm an Arizona resident for over 26 years, and I now live in Ahwatukee.

And, it is now encompassed, in your new map, LD 18.

And I approach this commission to tweak just a few map lines in order to make this new LD 18 a truly competitive 50/50 district.

If you take the proposed Baseline divider and move it north to 60, and move the eastern border west to Dobson, the other districts affected by this map can be easily adjusted with minor change -- line changes either north or further east.

And with these changes, our district will be a
true 50/50 competitive district at the legislative level.

And that's a first for our community.

With just a few minor tweaks, our district would be the most competitive in the state and the model for all competitive districts statewide.

And with these changes, competition will give each of us a voice in our election process. And that's really what we're all after.

Thank you for listening.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is Genevieve Vega, representing self. I believe I probably mispronounced your name before.

GENEVIEVE VEGA: You did, but you got it right this time.

Genevieve Vega, G-E-N-E-V-I-E-V-E, last name V-E-G-A.

I just wanted to come in front of the Commission again. Thank you very much for your time. I understand this is a really difficult task and you got a lot of things that you have to weigh.

One of -- just to reiterate my previous statement about keeping the integrity of Congressional District 9, I think that's, gosh, one of the only ones that's actually truly competitive.

And, and competitive is such an important step for
how we succeed as a state.

So, so to please keep the integrity of Congressional District 9.

Also to please -- I've heard a lot of comments about all the different legislative districts, so I'm not going to reiterate any of those.

But, again, I notice there's a high deviance from what ideal as far as competitiveness goes.

And want to just state that all the criteria for the different, the different criteria set forth upon the Commission to consider withdrawing these maps, that they all need to be considered equally.

So please do look at the competitiveness of the legislative districts.

That's all I have to say.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you. That was the last request to speak form I have.

Is there anyone else who would like to address the Commission?

One more.

(Brief pause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Janie Thom.

JANIE THOM: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Director of Central Arizona

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Janie Thom: Yes.

Thank you very much for allowing me to speak, and I apologize my tardiness.

I am elected to represent Maricopa County's countywide office.

I represent Central Arizona Water Conservation District. And you may more familiar with us. We operate the Central Arizona Project canal. We take water from the Colorado River and supply it to cities, farms, industry. And we do recharge and replenishment in Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima Counties.

We -- our canal is 336 miles long. And to move the water, we are the largest power user in the state.

It's very important for us that we have legislators who understand our issues and who are able to deal with water and power in Arizona.

And looking at the legislative maps, I see that there's a problem.

We have in the state, I'm not sure you're aware of it, what we call active management areas. They were created by the state government in 1980.

And those active management areas are in Maricopa, Pinal, and Pima County.

And I see that some of these legislative districts
combine parts of two active management areas and also parts of two counties.

And I don't think that that really respects the communities of interest and compactness that the Constitution provides that you folks need to go by.

Also, as far as communities of interest go, the legislative districts specifically that you have drawn for No. 25 and 16. It -- they -- it follows Power Road. And 16 encompasses part of Pinal County, part of Maricopa County, part of Apache Junction, part of Mesa.

We're not looking at community of interest here at all.

We have a shotgun sort of situation where we have just all kinds of people thrown together into one legislative district. This does not address communities of interest and compactness. We're dealing with several school districts, several cultures, different active management areas, different counties.

And I think that returning the dividing line to Meridian Road makes a lot of sense.

It does for Central Arizona Water Conservation District.

It does for the school districts in Apache Junction and in Mesa.

And the communities themselves are quite distinct.
Their water issues are different.
And I just think that a close review would be in order.

And I just want you to think about the communities. School districts are a really, really good definition. It's something that people are always close to, even if they don't have children in school.

I know I look at it myself, and my children are grown.

So, anyway, that is kind of what I had to say.

I'm a resident of Mesa, and I'm the only person on my board of directors from the east valley.

So did you have any questions you wanted to ask me?

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: No, ma'am. Thank you very much.

JANIE THOM: Oh, thank you very much for the opportunity to address you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: One -- two more.

Allison Shannon, representing self, from Tempe.


A lot has been said tonight about competitiveness and how important that is in this process and in the political process in general.
And I wanted to let you know I moved to Tempe four years ago. And the first thing I did was get involved in the political process in the city where I lived.

Why was that important? It was important because the community that I lived in had a competitive political process.

And I think that if we think about political participation in our state, and the need for people to be involved, and all of the dissatisfaction that we currently see, if we encourage political participation by maintaining districts like Legislative District 26 or encouraging districts like 26, Congressional District 9, more people will want to participate.

Communities matter to people.

And if they feel like they have a stake in their community and the political process that occurs in their community, more people will participate in politics in this state, and I think that we'll have a better political climate for it.

So in the interest of maintaining competitiveness and encouraging participation, I encourage you to look at other districts that are maybe skewed toward one political side or the other and rethink those in terms of competitiveness.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.
Next is Donald Savino, representing self, from Maricopa County.

DONALD SAVINO:  Hi. My name is Don Savino, S-A-V-I-N-O.

This is impromptu. I didn't mean to speak. I just thought I'd broach some subject that I heard.

First I want to thank you for what the independent -- the district has done.

To be independent has been, I'm sure, incredibly difficult. There's so many special interests that are vying for attention that I can't believe. Today, if you haven't heard, you've been sued by just about everybody who's Republican, including Governor Brewer.

So I wouldn't want your job for anything.

Competitiveness, which has been brought out by a huge number of people here today, seems to be the topic that most people are concerned about. Because that's what gives us our opportunity to speak.

What is it about competitiveness that people don't get.

I know that just looking at the numbers, getting the districts numerically as close as possible as you did is tremendous compared to the way it was before.

Astounding.

And I'm sure that was incredibly difficult to do.
Competitiveness is probably the most important thing that can be done.

There's all these criteria. None of them are more important other than the Fair Act. Competitive, as far as the rest of us are concerned, probably number one. Really is.

In that case, reason rules.

People can make their choice based on how they feel. They don't have to just vote because that's your party, and then once that person gets in there, especially this area, that automatically gets them elected. So the most extremism rule.

And we need to get beyond that.

So, that's my point.

Competitiveness.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is Glen Gaddie, representing self, from Mesa.

GLEN GADDIE: I came here just to listen -- first of all, thank you for allowing me to speak, Vice-Chair Freeman.

America basically came together as a group of individuals and people who had like ideals.

When they didn't like the ideals of the people they were with, they shifted and made other communities and even states.
Competitiveness to me is another word for trying to take a community or an area and make it different than what it is.

I've lived in the same area for 30 years. I chose to raise my kids there. I like my neighbors. I like how they think. I like how they vote. I like my representative.

And I would hate to see that changed into something where I have to go to battle with people that are different.

So I don't see competitiveness as something that's anything but very divisive.

I live in a district where we are very divided right now. It's ugly.

And if that's competitiveness, than I would rather not participate.

I hope you keep that in consideration that we live -- I think we heard that tonight. We have people in rural that want to stay rural, because that's their community. That's what they are comfortable with. They want representatives from that area. They don't want to have representatives from other things.

And that's, that's how I feel. And I appreciate your time.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.
Well, once again, that was the last request to speak form.

Is there anyone else who would like to address the Commission?

Going once, going twice.

Did you -- I'd ask that you please fill out a form.

BILL KILGORE: I don't have a form.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, after you make your comments you can --

BILL KILGORE: Well, you want to wait?

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Go ahead and make your comments. State your name and then you can spell it.

BILL KILGORE: Bill Kilgore, K-I-L-G-O-R-E.

And that's just interesting hearing all this because I've read some on it and had a lot of friends who have varied opinions on it. And I've written a letter.

But this competitive, I guess I'm not too sure I understand what that is.

But I do know the community aspect.

I moved into a community in Tempe, and it's not quite the same community as when I lived there.

Used to be competitive.

The high schools were more competitive. There's two high schools. No problem.
But I didn't leave the community. Different people moved in. We got along together. And we voted. But we elected our representative from our area based on who lived there.

So I guess my whole thing is I listen to what's being said here, and I thought about it is, if I don't like it, I'm going to move.

But I'm electing and helping to elect a person from our community based on what I think the interests are for our community. And the people there are voting.

So I believe we should be deciding, not the state or Commission, deciding on the rural, over here, joining this section over here.

It looks like a mismatch. I couldn't believe it when I saw it.

And I heard the rural people express their desires.

But, boy, do I empathize with all of you and what you're doing. It's not an easy task. And I do commend you on it.

I'll live here anyway.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Two more?

Mike Conway, representing self, from Mesa.

I was not planning on speaking. I don't have anything prepared, so hopefully I will not ramble.

Competitiveness to me is -- must be approached equally based on the Arizona Supreme Court decision, but the same as everything except the federal Voting Rights Act.

I'm somewhat perplexed that the people who seem to be from the party mostly Republicans are afraid of competitiveness.

It has been a mantra my entire life growing up in the era of Reagan and forward that Republicans believe that competitiveness drives everything to a better level.

I'm a school teacher. I get the idea of competitiveness in schools improving the outcome of kids' learning.

Competitiveness works.

Republicans claim that public service workers must be privatized because competitiveness will improve the product.

What is it about competitive districts that Republicans are afraid of?

If competition reaps a better product in the end, competitive districts should reap better politicians in the end, which represent all the people, not special interests, and not just one faction way to the right or way to the
Be true to yourselves.

You promote competition in all aspects of our life, except when it comes to competitive districts.

I want to thank you for your time, but I do not think you have succeeded. When you guarantee one political party, no matter which one it is, a hold on 50 percent of the districts or legislative seats, you failed.

Go back, do your job like the voters wanted you to do when they passed this.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Bob Bourke, representing self, from Mesa.

BOB BOURKE: My name is Bob Bourke, spelled B-O-U-R-K-E.

I want to thank the Commissioners for their time, dedication, and putting up with a lot of aggravation.

Choice is an option that has always brought out the best solution as people choose by voting on the ballot as they choose by putting their money with ideas and products that work for them at the time.
C-O-M-P-E-T-I-T-I-O-N.

I don't know how the maps reflect the competition statistically.

Now, as far as community of interest, I know in Mesa having lived there for about -- in downtown area -- for about six and a half years, minor changes could be made based on how I see, but it is relatively fair and representative based on what I see and how things stack in the area.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.

Anyone else?

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: All right then.

I want to thank everyone for coming out tonight. The Commission holds a hearing tomorrow night in Safford, and I get to have that enjoyable drive out to Safford tomorrow. And then in -- on Friday we are in Nogales, I believe, and Saturday in Yuma.

Then the hearing -- I don't believe there's a hearing scheduled on Monday, but hearings for the rest of that week.

And you can go to azredistricting.org, and the entire schedule is on there. And I'm saying that because I don't remember all the -- I know we're in Scottsdale,
Peoria, south Phoenix, Casa Grande, and a few others, Cottonwood, and a few other places.

Anyway, thank you for your comments. Your comments are very important.

As many of the commissioners said, when the draft maps were adopted, that they were drafts, and that I think it's incumbent upon all the commissioners to take all the public comments into account and to apply the six constitutional criteria and make whatever adjustments are appropriate to these maps before we get to final maps.

So what we've done here tonight is important to that process, so I thank you.

And with that, it is 7:26 p.m., and I declare the meeting adjourned.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

* * * * *
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 63 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 3rd day of November, 2011.

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