ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Thursday, November 3, 2011
6:20 p.m.

Location
Granite Reef Senior Center
1700 North Granite Reef Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257

Attending
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
Scottsdale, Arizona  
November 3, 2011  
6:20 p.m.  

PROCEDINGS  

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)  

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So, thank you first to the  

city of Scottsdale for these wonderful accommodations.  

My name is Rick Stertz. I'm one of the  

commissioners of the Arizona Independent Redistricting  

Commission. And I would like to say on behalf of my other  

commissioners who are watching and streaming this evening  

that you are missing the largest crowd that we've had so far  

in our tour around the state of Arizona.  

So, Scottsdale, give yourself --  

(Applause.)  

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And also I'd like to  

introduce -- pardon me.  

Marty reminded me that the time is 6:20 and we're  

starting the meeting at 6:20.  

I'd like to introduce some of the folks that we  

have with us.  

To my left we have our legal counsel, Joe  

Kanefield.
Our deputy executive director, Kristina Gomez.

Our public relations coordinators, and they are working at the tables out there, Lisa Schmelling and Kristi Olson.

Our chief technology officer, Buck Forst, who is behind the box. And he is managing the speakers and the streaming. And he'll also assist as we are -- as you're coming up and giving testimony, if you need any help with the microphone, for people that need it to be raised, lowered, or moved.

To my right we have Andrew Drechsler, a fellow Packer fan, with Strategic Telemetry.

Our court reporter is Marty Herder who has been traveling the state with us.

Our interpreter tonight is Carlos Reyes.

And I want to give a special thanks to the organizer from the City of Scottsdale Brad Lundahl. So I'd like to give a special thanks to Brad as well.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Before we get started, I'm going to ask everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, everyone.

We do have a few housekeeping items that we need
to take care of.

The first is that we have our interpreter, Carlos Reyes, who I would like to have come up to the microphone, giving the opportunity that if we have anyone that needs assistance in a language and interpretation, he can make that announcement.

So Mr. Reyes.

CARLOS REYES: Good evening, Commissioner Stertz, ladies and gentlemen. In accordance with the Voting Rights Act, an interpreter will be available at all the public hearings in order to provide interpreting services that might be needed. For those citizens that need interpreting services, please contact the interpreter present at this meeting so that he or she can assist you.

And I'll read that same script in Spanish.

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

CARLOS REYES: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much, Mr. Reyes.

When you entered the hall this evening, you should have received a packet that looks like this.

And you should have had the opportunity to also have a yellow sheet.

Now, the yellow sheet is a speaker sheet. So if
you have -- if you wish to speak tonight, please fill one out and turn in the speaker sheet to one of the staff members, and I will put it in the pack.

We've got about 80 different speakers that would like to speak so far.

In the back of this packet is a blue sheet. On this blue sheet is if you do not wish to speak but you would like to have your comments entered into the record, because the importance of these tours that we are doing in the 27 locations around the state is to collect information and data.

So if you don't feel comfortable about what you are -- uncomfortable about getting in front of a microphone or speaking in public, please put your comments on this blue sheet.

You've made it here tonight and you've taken out your time and your day to do this.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where do we get those sheets?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: They are in the pack of the packet. And if you do not have one, or if you came in, the entrance sign-in desk is right outside these doors. So right outside these doors you can either get a yellow sheet or blue sheet.

Yellow is for speakers and the blue sheet if you
do not wish to speak but you wish to have your comments put on the record.

Before we begin testimony, we're going to have -- I'm going to introduce Andrew Drechsler. He is a mapping consultant with Strategic Telemetry. And he will give you an overview of the Independent Redistricting Commission and the process that has been taking place so far today.

Andrew.

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much. Before we get started tonight, as Commissioner Stertz said, we want to do a quick overview of the process that got us to this date and we're going to display the draft maps tonight.

And one of the big things that we're here for is to hear your comments. We want to hear what you like about the maps, what you might not like about the maps, what changes you would make to the maps. And we're here to hear your comments, and there's a number of different ways to do that.

Before we start, just want to quick do an overview of why we're here.

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 results of the most recent census.

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

And for the legislative seats, we're still going to remain at 30 senate seats, and with -- nested within them are going to be two -- within each of the 30 senate seats is going to be two house of representative seats. So there will be 60.

But of course with the population changes, that's why we're changing the lines.

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

There are sort of six main guidelines that the Commission has sort of their rule book, what they need to follow.

New district boundaries must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. And, B, equal population.

So those two are federally mandated, and all the states have to do those two.

The next four are parts of the Proposition 106 that were passed. And to the extent practicable the districts must be compact and contiguous; respect
communities of interest; E, use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts; F, favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

We just wanted to quick highlight the Voting Rights Act, and I have a quick video to show after this.

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 give preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate against minority voters in purpose or effect. Which means that they can have no intentional or accidental discrimination.

Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voting -- voters' rights. The presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

Quick pause and play a video by Bruce Adelson.

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

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Okay. Just want to do a quick review of the timeline that we're dealing with with the redistricting process.
The first step is setting up the Commission.

Earlier this year the commissioners were selected through a process, a thorough screening process, and all five commissioners serve as a volunteer in a voluntary role onto the Commission.

Step two was the first round of hearings.

Before a single line was drawn, the Commission met 23 -- had 23 public hearings around the state in July and August to get input from members of the public regarding issues relevant to redistricting, such as geography, communities of interest, minority voting rights, and competitiveness.

The third step was the mapping.

Per Proposition 106, they want -- they require us to start with a blank slate.

From there we then divide the state into equal population and compact grid-like districts, which was -- which is the grid map which was approved on August 18th.

Since the adopting the grid maps, the Commission has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid to accommodate all six constitutional criteria.

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

Approval of the draft maps.

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

It approved a draft legislative map on October 10th.

The second round of hearings, which you're a part of tonight.

We're currently visiting over 25 towns and cities around the state to hear inputs and see what your thoughts are on the maps during the months of October and November.

Step five is the final maps.

Upon completion of the public comment period, the AIRC will adopt the final maps.

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

Before we show you the draft congressional map, I just want to show you the current map.

This was the map that was used by the last Commission or drafted by the last Commission and most recently used in the 2010 elections.

Per Proposition 106 we need to start with a blank slate, and then we create the grid map. The grid map takes
in only two of the six criteria. It takes in equal population and compactness.

And finally, we after -- after all the meetings and the public hearings and getting comments and the 25 meetings at the end of August and then to September and October, we came up with a congressional draft map.

Some highlights of the congressional draft map is that they have two predominantly rural districts, three border districts, three districts in greater Tucson region, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa County, avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations, two districts where minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

The legislative map followed a very similar process.

To start for a starting point for tonight, this is the legislative map that the last Commission approved and was most recently used in the 2010 elections.

And just like the congressional map, we needed to start with a blank slate.

And then we created the grid map.

Again, the grid map only took into consideration two of the six criteria.

Again, it took into consideration equal population and compactness.
Once the grid maps were established in the end of August, then they came up with a legislative map. Again, that's when they took in the other four constitutional criteria.

And this is the draft map that we're currently proposing.

The draft map includes -- some highlights of the draft map, the old districts, the population of the old districts ranged from 155,000 to 378,000.

Under this current draft map, they are roughly 207,000 to 215,000.

To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft map includes ten districts which -- in which minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

The draft includes three districts wholly within Pima County and three additional southern Arizona districts, 17 districts primarily within Maricopa County, and nine districts primarily rural.

And, of course, one of the main reasons that we're here tonight is because we want to hear your input on the draft maps.

There's a number of different ways that you can give us your input.

You can fill out one of the request to speak forms, the yellow forms, if you want to speak here tonight.
And some examples of what you may want to tell us, you may talk about some of the constitutional criteria, what you like about the draft congressional map, what you don't like about the draft congressional map, and same thing with the legislative map.

So you can either give us your comments by speaking at the hearing, as Commissioner Stertz, there's a blue sheet at the back of your packets. You can either hand those in tonight.

We have the address, the Commission's address, if you want to mail these in. You have that at the bottom.

If you want to call us and give us your comments, you can do that as well.

You can also visit us at our website, www.azredistricting.org. And there's the opportunity to fill out public -- submit public input there, or you can call us either at the number (602)542-5221, or toll free (855)733-7478.

This is just a screen shot of our website, and it's one of -- we just wanted to highlight a couple of things for the public.

You can -- there's public -- in the upper left-hand corner you'll find a link to all the maps.

If you want to see the grid maps a little bit closer, if you want to see some of the work, the what-if
maps that were developed along the way, you can see those under the maps.

Also under the mapping section is the ability to draw your own maps. We have an online mapping software where you can go in and draw those.

There's a meeting link.

As we only have a couple more days in the second round of hearings, if you wanted to go review any of the past meetings or if you wanted to see how the draft maps came in, were developed, watching any of the commissioners' meetings that happened between the end of August and throughout September and into October, you could watch the development of the maps.

The public input is there as well.

And down at the bottom is a quick link to the draft maps as well.

If you click on either of those congressional or legislative maps, you'll come to a page like this that has a number of different maps in different formats.

There's a number of different reports on different population tables. There's compactness, competitive tables on there as well.

And one of the things we have highlighted is the Google maps. We've heard a lot of great comments from citizens liking the Google maps because you can click on
either of those links and it will take you to a page that
looks like this.

And what this does -- one of the really nice
features about the Google maps is it allows you to zoom in
and really see the -- your districts and see what the exact
boundaries are of either of the congressional or draft maps.

This is just an example of a zoomed in shot on
Maricopa County.

Finally, we want you to stay connected through our
website. Where, again, I mentioned you can draw maps. You
can watch current or past meetings and get updates on future
meetings.

You can follow us on Twitter or friend us on
Facebook.

Thank you very much.

I will be here for -- until after the meeting if
there's any questions that you have, I'd be more than happy
to answer them, and we look forward to hearing your
comments.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Andrew.

The good news is that we're going to wrap this up
at 9:00 o'clock.

That's because that's how long we have in this
hall.
The bad news is that I've got currently 88 comment sheets.

Which means when we do the math, that we've got two and a half hours slightly between now and 9:00 o'clock that we're going have to do the best we can to keep our comments appropriate.

We know that this has been an emotionally charged week, folks.

We're all aware of that.

So I want everybody to do the best that they can to try to get the specific reason about what they want to speak about on the record tonight as efficiently as possible.

So we are going to set a timer at two minutes. Then the two minutes that still -- I know that doesn't give much time, but we'll also have the blue sheets available, so if you not able to put it on testimony verbally, then we're going to have to try to take the testimony on the blue sheets.

Tomorrow night we're going to be at the Tohono O'odham -- tomorrow afternoon we're going to be at Tohono O'odham legislative chambers, tomorrow night in Marana, and Saturday at the Desert Hills Social Center in Green Valley and then Saturday afternoon in Casa Grande.

So if there's an opportunity that's closer to city
of Scottsdale, it would be Casa Grande, which is at 3:30 in
the afternoon on Saturday, November 5th.

So with that being said, I'm going to go ahead and
begin public comment.

And we're going to start with City of Scottsdale
Mayor Jim Lane.

I'm also going to be doing a couple things. What
I'd like to do is I've set these two chairs up because the
two subsequent -- go ahead, Mayor -- I'm going to call up
the next two speakers, so I set these two chairs
conveniently so that you can just go ahead and sit down and
quickly pop up.

So the two speakers after Mayor Lane are Gail
Barney and Robin Benning.

So, Mr. Mayor, would you spell your name -- and
also would you please spell your names for the record.

MAYOR JIM LANE: Good evening. Thanks.

My name is Jim Lane. That's J-I-M, L-A-N-E. The
mayor of Scottsdale.

I just want to say very plainly thanks very much
for coming. You can see that the invitation to have you
here is -- was well designed, and we've got a great crowd,
and I understand maybe even a record clear. So the citizens
of Scottsdale and the surrounding area are certainly very,
very interested in participating. So I'm glad that you're
I'd also wanted to make a particular note that in addition to having the folks from the surrounding area, we do have President Enos from the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community here with us as well. So she'll be speaking to you later as well.

And, for the record, because I don't have any comments tonight, I want to just thank you for my previous two visits and my conversation on the subject. I do appreciate some of the changes that were made to accommodate my concerns on the area as I see it on the map.

So thank you very much, and welcome to Scottsdale.

Gail Barney will be followed by Robin Benning and Diane Enos will be coming up to speak.

Gail Barney will be followed by Robin Benning and Diane Enos will be coming up to speak.

Garfield Stertz: Thank you, Mayor Lane.

Mayor Gail Barney: Thank you. I'm Gail Barney, mayor of Queen Creek.

And you spell my name G-A-I-L, B-A-R-N-E-Y.

I'm here tonight with one of my fellow council members Robin Benning, and we want to thank you for the opportunity to share Queen Creek's town council's thoughts on the congressional maps.

We understand it's been a challenging week, and as you can see there's a lot of people here this evening as you've already stated, so I'll be very, very brief.
Queen Creek is a small town of about 26 square miles and 27,000 people, and we feel it's imperative that Queen Creek be in one legislative district and one congressional district. And right now we are split down county lines.

Some of our residents do live in Pinal County, and the congressional and legislative districts are being split down the county line.

And we feel it divides our community, and we want to be whole as one community.

And so as a council we can't support our division.

We've sent -- I've sent some letters explaining to the Commission and we've attended a couple of other meetings and presented maps to show this.

So respectfully as it is written now we'd like to be in Congressional District 5 and Legislative District 12.

Again, I thank you for your efforts. I know it's not easy.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much, mayor.

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

Following Diana Enos is -- Diane Enos is Jewel Whitman.

ROBIN BENNING: Good evening, honorable members of the Independent Redistricting Commission.
For the record, my name is Robin Benning, R-O-B-I-N, B-E-N-N-I-N-G.

I'm a council member representing the town of Queen Creek.

I'll try to be very brief, because as you already know I'm following right behind our mayor.

As the mayor stated, we appreciate the opportunity to present the town's perspective on redistricting maps, and we hope that our attendance at multiple public hearings emphasizes how important it is to the town of Queen Creek that the final redistricting maps keep the town of Queen Creek in one congressional and one legislative district, which reflect our desire to be within the urban Arizona and Maricopa County core.

As explained in multiple letters to the Commission as well as in previous statements at public hearings, it is extremely important for our town that we are kept with the urban Maricopa County population core.

The town of Queen Creek respectfully requests the Commission amend the draft maps to place the entire town within Congressional District 5 and within Legislative District 12, including that portion of the town's incorporated areas which lie within Pinal County.

The portions of our population that reside in Pinal County do not wish to be separated into a
predominantly rural and non-Maricopa district.

Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

I apologize for taking so much time.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, sir.

Next to speak is President Diane Enos of the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community.

Following Diane will be Joe Wittman and Scott Butler.

PRESIDENT DIANE ENOS: Thank you. Good evening, members the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. It's a pleasure to be here to provide a few comments on behalf the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community.

While we are well aware of the challenges that the Commission has been confronted with during this redistricting process, I'm hopeful that our recommendations will be heard and given your full consideration.

Briefly by way of background, as a community composed of the Au-Authm and Piipaash people, we have thrived in this region for thousands of years. As a result we have independently and collaboratively developed a well-established history in the state of Arizona and the Phoenix metropolitan area. Yet culturally and politically we are a distinct community of interest.
Importantly our circumstance is unique from other mostly rural Indian tribes throughout the state in that we are active participants with our regional and municipal neighbors in areas including but not limited to transportation, resource allocation, infrastructure, health care, education, economic development.

It is from this perspective that I share our views with the Commission.

With regard to the draft congressional map, we recommend -- we commend the work of the Commission to start a draft congressional map that balances the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and concerns the many interests of stakeholders throughout the state.

In this context we have three recommendations for the Commission to consider.

First, generally speaking we do not believe it is in our best interest to be included in any large mostly rural district, such as District 1 as defined in the draft map.

Importantly our community is a part of the Phoenix metropolitan area, and we share boundaries with several of the largest cities in the state of Arizona.

So I would ask the Commission to keep this in mind in any future alignments.

Additionally we have formed intergovernmental
mutual aid and development agreements, and our children attend nearby school districts.

Consequently we have become active partners with our city and municipal neighbors.

Transportation projects, intercommunity cooperation, infrastructure, and economic development are just a few examples, is -- is that my signal?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We've already made arrangements.

Folks, she's reading a letter that will entered into the record.

So if you could do your best to wrap up. And your entire context of your towns will be entered into the record.

PRESIDENT DIANE ENOS: Sure.

Second and specifically we request the Commission to consider amending the current congressional map to include the town of Fountain Hills in District 6 for the same reasons. Fountain Hills is a part of the Fort McDowell and our community. We believe there's a strong community of interest and strong economic ties within the three governing bodies within the region to more than justify inclusion in District 6.

Number three, given the strong community ties I just mentioned, we strongly urge the Commission to keep the
city of Scottsdale in the same congressional district and any future congressional alignments.

With regard to the state legislative map, we request that the Commission realign District 23 to include the Fort McDowell community. It better mirrors the rationale I spoke of before.

McDowell and Salt River agree that this representation will recognize each tribe individually and collectively.

Closing up, our community believes the alignments requested will be entirely consistent with the criteria and constitutional requirements. Given our unique mutual tribal and neighboring communities of interest, our recommendations fall in line with that criteria.

I encourage the Commission to incorporate our recommendations in future congressional and legislative alignments.

I want to share with the Commission a joint letter from my community, the Salt River community, Fort McDowell, and Gila River will be provided to you in the coming days.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much, President Enos.

Next to speak is Jewel Whitman, councilman Gila River Indian community, followed by Scot Butler and Carole Klopatek.
I hope I'm not butchering that too badly.

COUNCILMAN JEWEL WHITMAN: Good evening, commissioners, executive director, staff, Arizona Independent Redistrict Commission.

My name is Jewel Whitman, J-E-W-E-L, W-H-I-T-M-A-N. Council member of the Gila River community. The Gila River community appreciates both the opportunity to address you this evening and to take part in the 2011 redistrict process.

From the time that the draft maps were issued by the Commission, the community has developed extensive and careful attention to develop its views regarding the maps.

The community has also engaged in thorough discussions with the -- with the two other tribes in metro Phoenix metropolitan area, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Salt River Pima Maricopa and that community.

In order the community respectfully submits the following positions.

The communities and the urban tribes of metropolitan Phoenix area, and should be treated as an urban tribe for the purpose of the area or redistricting.

Congressional and legislative district maps should not include the community in any district that is mostly rural or that separates the community from its neighboring
jurisdictions in metropolitan Phoenix.

The community has extensive and close ties with both, with both the west and east valley of metropolitan Phoenix.

The community suggests that in order to recognize a situation characteristics facing the community in more than one congressional and more than one legislative district may be the most appropriate method of redistricting.

The community fully supports the principles and positions that are presented by the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the Salt River Pima Maricopa community.

We have representatives of the community here to provide any additional information and a letter from the community will be submitted as soon as available.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.
Next up Scot Butler, Gila River Indian community.
Followed by Carole Klopatek and State Representative John Kavanagh.

SCOT BUTLER: Thank you, members of the Commission.

Is that better?

My name is Scott Butler, S-C-O-T, B-U-T-L-E-R.
I represent the Gila River Indian community.
I'm here to elaborate just a little bit on Councilman Whitman's remarks.

I should tell you that he is the chair of Gila River's legislative standing community, which deals with all of these types of issues. And he's also the chair of the redistricting team that the community has had in place. So he's been working on this extensively for the last several weeks.

The gist of the community's position is that it is an urban tribe and it should be treated as such.

We've had significant discussions with both Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community.

The three tribes I think agree on that, but unfortunately in the past we've been redistricted in various ways that are no longer consistent with the nature of the tribe, the nature of its relationships, its communities of interest, or the Voting Rights Act.

What the community suggests is the following.

Under the congressional draft map, the community is currently in Congressional District 1. We believe that's completely inappropriate.

The community is not a rural tribe, and its interests are significantly different from the other tribes that are in Congressional District 1.
In addition, the only part of Maricopa County that is put into Congressional District 1 is the Native American population that's on the western side of the Gila River Indian community, and that's a rather odd result for redistricting.

The community believes that it's far more appropriate for it to be placed into one of the districts that is an urban metropolitan Phoenix district.

The community is willing to have the community divided for that purpose, one, because we actually have population centers on both the west side of the community and the east side of the community with quite a bit of space in between.

And, two, because we recognize if the Commission is going to redraw the maps, it's easier to move a fewer people in one place or another than to have to try to move the entire community, which is a population of about 11 or 12,000 people in one place.

So our suggestion is that the community be placed in Congressional Districts 5 and 7 on the draft map as it's redrawn.

On the legislative map, same principle. We believe the community should be included in metropolitan Phoenix district. On the legislative map, the community is actually contiguous to eight legislative districts. So
that's a big number to have to work with.

Our suggestion is to -- is that the western part of the community be in District 27 and the eastern portion in District 18.

We also don't have an objection if a portion of the community is left in District 11, which is where it is on the map, around Maricopa and Casa Grande, which is a growth area around the community.

We don't have any particular suggestion for you, but there are some natural ways to look at this. One is the Maricopa Pinal County line, which runs through the community.

The second is Interstate 10 which runs essentially northwest to southeast through the community.

And then as we said, there are some population centers. They're not huge, but population centers.

So those are our suggestions, and we're happy to continue to work with the Commission and staff going forward.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up, Carole Klopatek, State Representative John Kavanagh, and Mayor Greg Bryant.

CAROLE KLOPATEK: Carole Klopatek, K-L-O-P-A-T-E-K.
I'm the government relations director for Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation.

On behalf of the nation, I wish to read a letter that was signed by President Clint Pattea that was recently submitted to the Commission as the Nation's recommendations on the draft congressional and legislative maps. I'm provide to testimony in this format in order to be concise and clear and not to deviate from tribal council's decisions.

The Nation appreciates this opportunity.

As you've just heard from both Salt River and Gila River, Fort McDowell supports their positions as well. Since time immemorial the Yavapai people occupied much of this region, and, in fact, are one of the original inhabitants. Through more modern times, the Nation has established not only a well-documented legacy within the nation -- within the region, but within the entire state.

Although we are a sovereign nation, with distinct cultural practices and beliefs, we are interwoven with the fabric of this region. Our relationship and interactions with the surrounding community are unique from other rural Indian tribes throughout the state.

We have become ensconced within the greater community of interest and share common geographic boundaries.
We have formed numerous and various partnerships with our neighboring cities and towns that include, but are not limited to, infrastructure, development, economic and joint tourism, destination ventures, transportation, education, resource allocation, and the list goes on.

Thus it is from this perspective that we provide our views and recommendations in regard to congressional redistricting.

We understand and appreciate the daunting task before the IRC to construct the draft congressional map that balances the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and the criteria set out by the U.S. and state constitution, along with the concerns of the vested state cultures throughout the state.

We commend your efforts. You’ve done very well.

In that vein, below the Nation provides three recommendations that uphold legal requirements the IRC must abide by when reconfiguring district boundaries.

Number one, we agree wholeheartedly with the Commission's recommendations that is in the Nation's best interest to be excluded from any large predominantly rural district such as defined by District 1 in the recently approval congressional map -- draft map.

As such Fort McDowell strongly contends that it remain in Congressional District 6 alongside Salt River Pima
Maricopa Indian community and the city of Scottsdale.

The Nation, being part of Phoenix metropolitan area and the Maricopa County, share boundaries not only with Salt River Pima Maricopa but with other municipalities. As working partners and communities of interest, we have jointly formed numerous IGAs, mutual aid agreements, development agreements, our children attend nearby school districts, and have formed our various strategic alliances, economic alliances as well.

As a result we have become active associates with our city and municipal neighbors, thus from transportation projects, intercommunity cooperation, infrastructure, and economic development, we are very much a vital and cohesive part of the urban regional community and economy of the metropolitan Phoenix area.

We support Fountain Hills. The Town of Fountain Hills requests we be included in Congressional District 6. The town is an urban partner with Fort McDowell. Moreover, Fort McDowell children attend schools in Fountain Hills. We mutually work together on federal issues, such as transportation and telecommunications, and we jointly run a tourism deal which drives our economic engines.

We do believe that along with geographic integrity including compactness and contiguousness issues, there's an
implicit strong community of interest, a strong economic
ties among our governing bodies that more than justify and
merit their inclusion in District 6.

We strongly concur with the IRC findings that the Nation be aligned in Congressional District 6. This alignment is of utmost importance due to our sovereign people.

Fort McDowell collaboratively partnered with the northeast valley entities on a number of ongoing and future strategic projects in the region and the alliances vital to the Nation.

Consistent with our views --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am, ma'am.

Could you please wrap it up?

CAROLE KLOPATEK: Okay.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We've got a lot of folks here.

CAROLE KLOPATEK: Okay.

In regard to the redistricting in Legislative District 23, Fort McDowell requests that we be actually moved from District 24 into District 23.

The Nation's proposed changes to the draft legislative map would move more than 900 -- would move only 971 people into District 24 -- or from District 24, into District 23, of whom 614 are voting age.
This decision isn't -- in regard to this decision, since there is current configuration, Legislative District 24 is currently overpopulated by 517 people. This would help to even out the overpopulated --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am. Thank you. We'll wrap that up.

We'll take the entire letter and put it in the record.

Next up is State Representative John Kavanagh, followed by Mayor Greg Bryan and William Engler.


My original reason for coming here, and is still a reason, is to plead that Fountain Hills and Rio Verde be returned to its east valley neighbors. To also publicly thank them for defending us, standing up for us.

The so-called Fountain Hills gorge in the congressional district has become the poster child for problems with these maps.

And I hope it's going to be corrected.

However, recent events have also required me to make other comments.

I think the results of a legislative committee which detail numerous problems with the maps also needs to
be heeded and dealt with.

I think the basic problem was that the criteria of competitiveness was elevated to a second position below the Voting Rights Act when in reality the voters who passed Proposition 106 said that the competitiveness should, in fact, be the last criteria. It's important but it should not trump size, compactness, boundaries, political and physical.

I think the Commission went wrong there.

It's important that competitiveness be there, but it is a very subjective criteria. And that's the one that people can play games with. And whether that was done or it simply looks that way, it appears the maps have been gerrymandered. And if you stuck to the original, very strict rules that the voters voted for, to first deal with compactness and equal size and communities of interest, I don't think you would have gotten there.

The second problem deals with the findings or the filings of the attorney general which suggest that one or more members of the Commission have violated the open meetings law in a serious way. And in addition in an area --

(Crowd interruption.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Hold on, folks.

Folks.
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN KAVANAGH: That one or more members of the -- one or more members of the Commission may have violated the open meeting law.

And on the issue of the mapping firm, this is a critical decision and a controversial one, and if that in fact is true, then the process has been poisoned. And the fruits of the poisonous tree, which are the maps, should not be considered.

I think at this point, it's incumbent on the Commission to go back to the grid maps, use the real criteria, get a new mapping firm, and move forward, clean without the cloud of controversy.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Greg Bryan, William Engler, followed by Barry Spiker.

MAYOR GREG BRYAN: I'm not even welcomed like that in my own council meeting. That's great.


We reside at the gates of the Grand Canyon National Park, which is one of our concerns in that the current draft of the map putting us in, I think, District 6, splits it right at the park boundaries and it separates us from the very large community of both Tusayan area and the Grand Canyon National Park facilities people that reside
We have some great concerns about being placed in with Flagstaff. We incorporated to have some independence and not be associated with the urban area like that.

And we feel we have much more in common with the folks that we've been voting with and worked with and represented by in the former District 1, through Chino Valley, Prescott, and down into Sedona, and Verde Valley area.

And we ask that we be placed back in that area of common -- communities of interest with those communities as well.

Thank you very much.
she spoke, and you'll note that all the commissioners sought
to have their picture taken with her.

The gist of what she said that day was that this
Commission as mandated by the Constitution should be
independent.

Arrive at their decisions in independently.

(Applause.)

WILLIAM ENGLER: After this week, I just wonder
where we find ourselves now.

I'm going to speak for the voters of Arizona.

I'm not completely thrilled with the legislative
map nor the congressional map.

However, I believe the Commission as a whole has
done a good job.

And I don't agree with Representative Kavanagh in
that competitiveness should not be considered.

In what you read this evening, it says
competitiveness should be considered as long as not to the
detriment of anything else.

And I believe that in order not to disenfranchise
the one third of the population of this state which have not
declared their party preference, you should try to get
competitive districts.

(Applause.)

WILLIAM ENGLER: The voters of this state --
(Applause.)

WILLIAM ENGLER: -- are not doing well when people can't vote in the primaries have no reason to go to the polls in November because their vote does not count.

Thanks so much for hearing me this evening.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Barry Spikers, followed by Susan Leeper, and then next up after that is Karen Garrett.

Mr. Spiker.

BARRY SPIKER: Thank you. I'm Barry Spiker, S-P-I-K-E-R, former precinct captain and resident of Fountain Hills.

Thank you, commission members, for the opportunity to address this Commission and getting my comments on the record.

You hold this drawing up to a mirror. You'll see it's essentially Congressional District 4 in reverse.

This drawing is the first gerrymandered signed by Elbridge Gerry, the governor of the state of Massachusetts in 1812.

This is what you guys have done.

What I'm going to say is I don't understand from a business perspective why you would hire Strategic Telemetry
when mapping is not your core line of business.

They plainly said on their website up until July 7 that they worked on behalf of progressive organizations.

The CEO, Ken Strasma, worked for the progressive lobbying group Effective Congress, and everyone knows that they are the first and foremost were a microtargeting firm for President Obama.

I speak the facts.

This is a social networking and marketing work, and should be removed from any further proceedings.

(Applause.)

BARRY SPIKER: Again, from a business perspective, the National Demographic Corporation, who had a lower bid than Strategic Telemetry, was also vying for the contract, and they had done this work for our state before.

They know the state. They could have gotten up to speed much more quickly.

And actually Strategic Telemetry used a number of their Power Point presentations -- their Power Point presentations to educate us and the commissioners.

Finally, in light of Ms. Mathis' removal, I would like to know specifically what amendments, motions, or actions she ever voted on with just the two Republicans on the Commission.

Thank you very much.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Followed by Karen Garrett and then followed up by Bill Chambers.

SUSAN LEEPER: In February 2008 --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Stop one moment, please.

Our court reporter is having a difficult time with being able to record with the applauding.

And also the clock doesn't stop or pause when the applauding takes place.

So when you get up there to speak and there might be applause or booing or some other commentary that might be made, it might interfere with what you're trying to get on the record as well.

So let's do the best we can at being understanding that this is an emotional issue and emotional time and let's try to get our information on the record.

And please make sure to spell your name for the court record.

SUSAN LEEPER: My name is Susan Leeper, L-E-E-P-E-R.

And in February, 2008, Michelle Obama said, for the first time in my adult lifetime I'm really proud of my country, and not just because Barack Obama has done well, but because I think people are hungry for change.

I can say for the first time in my adult lifetime I am hungry for change too. I am extremely fearful for the
future of my country because of the corruption I see in
government, the decline of moral values, and the unAmerican
influences attacking every facet of our government and
society.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak
to this Commission, who in my opinion has acted without
integrity and balance.

One egregious decision the Commission made from
the start was the selection of Strategic Telemetry, a
heavily partisan firm that performed microtargeting to the
precinct level for Obama 2008.

Clients listed on the website before being purged
were mostly progressive or left leaning and therefore hardly
nonpartisan.

The last criterion in the Arizona Constitution
mentioned is creation of competitive districts where there
is no significant detriment to other goals.

The Commission has ignored the requirement to
create compact districts and protect communities of interest
in favor of trying to create as many politically competitive
districts as possible.

Where is the logic for the suburban town of
Fountain Hills to be cut out of your proposed CD 6, which
surrounds it on three sides, and lumping the town into a
district that stretches to an area south of Yuma and winds
around to the northwest to include Kingman and Boulder City?

Your proposed CD 6, which includes Scottsdale, rambles westward through commercial areas, over highways and mount ranges to Route 17, when it makes more sense to keep Scottsdale together with the adjacent residential suburban communities of Fountain Hills, Cave Creek, and Carefree to preserve these natural communities of interest.

Is it just by coincidence that the way the lines are drawn the new District 9, which includes much of Ben Quayle's present district and whose border is 500 feet from his house, does not have an incumbent and that this action will likely result in a primary runoff between two of Arizona's conservative Republicans?

I would just like to make two more remarks.

An excerpt from the Hill of October 6th, the new congressional map released by Arizona bipartisan redistricting commission appears to give Democrats a major boost, its Democrats' dream map.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, ma'am. And if you like to enter your documents for the record, that would be fine.

Okay. Next up is -- ma'am, please -- next up is Karen Garrett, followed by Bill Chambers and Gina Gennaro.

I just received an e-mail from someone that I'm taking my time to read his comments. His name is Kevin C. Brown, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

As a 20-year Fountain Hills citizen, I am outraged at the extreme gerrymandering efforts that rip us away from neighboring Scottsdale and tosses us into a congressional district that absolutely has zero in common with our community.

Our family has circulated the draft map with community details to state and federal officials with the request to review each Commission member's logic behind this travesty of justice.

You have set the standards for political gerrymandering in the 21st century and should be ashamed of yourselves.

We have lost any semblance of trust in your decisions and request that every one of you step down from your role thereby allowing a newly created Commission to uphold fairness in Arizona's congressional districts.

(Applause.)

KAREN GARRETT: I'm from Scottsdale, and it violated visible graphic features, city, town, and county boundaries, in CDs 1, 4, and 9. These -- this criteria is violated in multiple areas throughout the draft congressional map due to where you place city of
Scottsdale -- I mean, Flagstaff in both the CD and the legislative districts.

Several counties could be kept whole if Flagstaff were placed in CD 4.

I was tired, as I watched many of these proceedings, that Fountain Hills lobbied this Commission like probably no other city in the state.

Is Fountain Hills less important than Flagstaff?

Lastly, improper consideration of the places of residents of incumbents and candidates.

Of eight incumbent congressmen, two Republicans have been divided from the vast majority of their current districts.

No Democrat congressman has been divided from the population of their current districts.

Two incumbent congressmen were moved into new districts, and it had to have gone down to the block level to have gotten Congressman Quayle.

Now, we're not suppose to make these important, but for you to go down to the block level to pull Congressman Quayle means there's a violation of some sort.

But, you know, I don't have enough time, but the last thing I want to stay is that most numerous examples in the legislative draft -- drafting focusing on places of residents appears to occur in Pima County where several
Democrat incumbents appear to have been protected by breaking census tracts, and one incumbent stays with the bulk of his district by block redistricting literally down the middle of his street.

If you want to learn more about what the egregious errors have been made, which most of you aren't aware of, then I would have you go to the legislative report, which is what I just read from, to allow you to know what these are.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Bill Chambers, Gina Gennaro, and Zofia Rawner.

BILL CHAMBERS: Good evening.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Good evening.

BILL CHAMBERS: My name is Bill Chambers, B-I-L-L, C-H-A-M-B-E-R-S.

This originally timed out at two minutes and 30 seconds. I'm going to have to abbreviate it.

I'm uncomfortable with the redistricting plan as currently proposed.

There's a lack of public information about how the Commission does our business.

Perception may be shared by other members of the public who express themselves differently from what I'm
about to say.

    The Arizona Constitution has six provisions for requiring adherence.

    The Voting Rights Act is clear and unmistakable.

    The remaining five provisions are qualified by phrase to the extent practicable.

    And the wording is not the fault of the Commission, but this phrase makes these requirements flexible beyond being useful. Something only a politician could love.

    Additionally, terms such as communities of interest and competitive are not well defined as already admitted by the chair in previous public forums.

    As with the concept of compactness, there are three or four legitimate definitions that could be used.

    Since the Commission has not settled on a definition for each requirement, everyone has to supply his or her own meaning for each term within the context of the meaning to you.

    Assuming my definition is the same as yours makes useful public discussion almost impossible.

    Among the required criteria, there are no priorities established.

    Priorities are necessary to provide a uniform and rational basis for the actions and conclusions of the
However, in years past redistricting in Arizona did have priorities, to the extent that three criteria were given more weight than the remaining criteria in both congressional and legislative districts.

Those criteria were the Voting Rights Act, compactness, and contiguousness.

The remaining criteria were satisfied to the extent practicable.

All right. I'll ask that this whole thing be entered into the record.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chambers. Just give it to Ms. Gomez and the entire content of your letter will be entered into the record.

Next up is Gina Gennaro, Zofia Rawner, and Sandra Fischer will be coming up in third.


And I would like to know, can I second somebody's testimony?

That's a question.

I would like to second Bill Engler's testimony about competitiveness.

It is actually defined, because it would be competitive, so if you have 50 percent Republican,
50 percent Democrat, or if you have 30 Republican, 30 Democrat, 30 Independent, that would be competitive.

So I think underneath the voting rights, competitiveness should be the next thing.

I think it's the most important thing.

This way we have to all listen to each other, as far as candidates, voters. If it's spread out, that's the way I would do it.

What I have to ask you though is, is there a requirement for how many Republicans or Green Party or Libertarians in a district?

Do you have the answer for that?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am, tonight is the night where we're taking comment.

GINA GENNARO: Okay. Well, then what I would do is I would say that if you have nine districts, then you should try to -- if you can't split it up so that it's competitive by Republican, Democrat, or Independent, then I would go to 4.5 districts that are Republican, 4.5 that are Democratic.

That would be the way that it would be fair.

And if you can't do that -- right. Well, 31 percent in the state are Independent.

So you obviously should try to make more areas
competitive based on that.

And that's all I have to say.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Zofia Rawner, followed by Sandra Fischer, and Jim Morgan.

ZOFIA RAWNER: Good evening. My name is Zofia Rawner. I'm a mother that lives in the Scottsdale Unified District. Currently the district is divided into two areas. Proposed map asks that the district, the unified school district, be cut up into three different areas.

The fact is that the parents, the teachers, the students, we are a unified district, because we have a unified goal about educating our children, about raising money for our schools, and making sure that despite the legislature's decision to undermine our children's education, we fight so that they receive that education.

And I know that we're talking tonight a lot of about gerrymandering.

And I know that, yes, my district has been cut up into three. My school district has been cut up into three areas.

But just because I don't like it, I'm not going to now tell the Commission that they are gerrymandering. But I will ask them to make those changes.
In addition, there has been some talk that competitiveness is to be considered less than the other criteria.

There is actually an Arizona court ruling that says competitiveness is equal to other criteria. It is not to be considered less.

And that is a court ruling.

So, have we over-considered competitiveness?

And I think, as a last person spoke, there is no showing that competitiveness was over-considered.

In fact, despite Republicans only making up one third of the population, they have four strong seats where they're going to win.

In spite of the Independents making up one third of the population, there was only one congressional district where they are the -- have any chance of being the majority in that district.

In terms of Democrats, they make up one third of our population, and yet there is only two districts that Democrats have any control over.

So, we know, just from the facts, from the numbers, competitiveness has not been a major factor.

But what we have seen in the last 24, in the first round, was that a lot of communities of interest came together.
For example, I am community of interest. The Scottsdale Unified District is a community of interest because we care about our children.

The different tribes that came here, they are communities of interest, and their voices should be heard. So when they say we should be in one area, that's what makes the map look a little messy.

And the fact is that the map that we have right now, when you see District 2, there's a skinny little line and big fat area, that looks much more strange than the current map, which actually is a lot more compact.

So what I'm saying is, let us not play politics with our population.

Let us remember that each of these criteria need to be listened to and that all of our interest needs to be added into this map.

And so when people come on the record and they perjure themselves, when they lie, or when this Commission does not give accurate information, that is when you have a lot of people angry, because we voted to keep politics out of this and to make sure that this commission considers all six criteria that we wanted. And we don't want to be washed by the Department of Justice. We want to know that this state can stand on its own and no longer will politics play games with us.
And it's unfortunate that they are.

Thank you.

(Applause.)


COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is Sandra Fischer, followed by Jim Morgan and Linda Bordow.


While I agree that there were six criteria, the understanding from me is that there were two that absolutely the federal government requires, the Voting Rights Act and the equal population.

The others, again, are important -- important criteria. And I think what we're hearing tonight is that competitiveness has to be considered extremely equal, because too many people have said their voice has not been heard.

And we find that with the Republicans having so much more of a voice in this area, that neither the Independents or Republicans have their voice heard.

Same with you, when you hear the Indian nations, rural areas, they say their voice has not been heard.

This independent Commission needs to have -- make
up these maps, make it so that every voice is heard, and not just one ideology over another.  

Which is what we have now, which is why the Commission is under fire.  

And I find that reprehensible.  

And I think that we -- again, this was supposed to be independent. Politics is not supposed to play a part, and now it's in the middle of it.  

Something is definitely wrong with that regard.  

This is our chance here to tell you.  

I want to see that we have a chance -- that we need to talk to each other.  

Regardless of whether we're Republican, Democrats, or Independents, or Green Party or whatever, and that when we go to vote, our voice is heard with that map because they have to talk to us.  

Because at that point -- thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Jim Morgan, followed by Linda, and Patrice Kraus.

JIM MORGAN: Good evening. My name is Jim Morgan, J-I-M, M-O-R-G-A-N.

I am from the town of Fountain Hills.
And just off the bat, I'd like to say I don't envy the position you guys have, the job you have, the task you have to figure this all out. It seems daunting to me. So congratulations to those who are attempting to do this.

Having said that, my main reason for being here is that I think that the splitting of Fountain Hills off from the old congressional district into a new one is problematic for me. Mainly because we don't have anything in common with all the other areas that we've been put with. And I basically would like to even agree with what Representative Kavanagh had to say about this whole issue. It seems to me that you have tried to fix something that wasn't broken to begin with. And I really do question the independence of this Commission from, from the decisions that you have made to split Fountain Hills off from the old congressional district.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Appreciate that.

Next up Linda Bordow, followed by Patrice Kraus and Richard Tracy, Sr.

LINDA BORDOW: I'm just going to keep it really short. My name is Linda Bordow, B, like boy, O-R-D, like David, O-W.
I'd like to echo everything people from Fountain Hills said about why we should keep our district where it is. It's kind of an unnatural placement to carve Fountain Hills out of that, which is why a lot of people from Fountain Hills have accused gerrymandering.

We have -- with that carve out of Fountain Hills, it's violated no less than three criteria, geographic features, communities of interest and contiguous and compact nature.

We absolutely have nothing in common with the side of the state that borders with California, the rural area. And it strips away our partnership with Fort McDowell in the form of our cultural exchange.

We have the River of Time Museum that we do a lot of work back and forth with the Fort, as well as the schooling of the Fort children of which I am a volunteer at the school.

It further splits our district over three or more county over 450 miles.

No elected official could possibly effectively represent such a district.

So I strongly urge the community to put Fountain Hills back in CD 6 along with Scottsdale of which Fountain Hills was born back in 1974. Thank you.
(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Patrice Kraus, Richard Tracy, Sr., and then Lynne Breyer.

PATRICE KRAUS: Good evening.

For the record, my name is Patrice Kraus, P-A-T-R-I-C-E, K-R-A-U-S, as in Sam.

I'm here on the behalf of the City of Chandler.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear you.

PATRICE KRAUS: I'm here on the behalf of the City of Chandler. The City's taken this process very seriously.

I think I've only missed a handful of meetings during the whole time that the Commission has met.

We understand how important this is. And from the beginning, Chandler's mayor and council have made it a priority and have directed me to devote the time and attention that this critical matter deserves.

We're happy with our legislative district that has been it proposed for Chandler in the draft map. The district is compact, they reflect our community of interest, they give us a fair opportunity to elect someone who will understand our issues and who will represent our city.

I realize this is the time when the Commission will likely be making changes to the maps.

If the Commission contemplates any changes to our proposed district, I would just ask that we be given an
opportunity to work directly with the Commission and staff on these proposals so that we can ensure that our goals as a community continue to be met.

In closing, I just want to say I know how tedious and often thankless this work has been, and how it must seem like that from this perspective.

I personally would like to say I appreciate the willingness to -- that you had to listen to our concerns as a city, and I want to thank you for your service to the state of Arizona.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is Richard Tracy, Sr., followed by Lynne Breyer and Richard Breyer.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Tracy had to leave.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Tracy had to leave.

Okay. Thank you.

Next up is Lynne Breyer, followed by Richard Breyer, and Charles Russell.

LYNNE BREYER: Thank you, commissioner.

First I'd like to pop the -- oh, I'm sorry, Lynne Breyer, L-Y-N-N-E, B-R-E-Y-E-R.

I'm going to pop the registration myth that voter registration in the state of Arizona at this moment I
believe is 30 percent Democrat, 33 percent Independent, and 36 percent Republican.

    This does make a difference. It is not one third, one third, one third, despite the myth.
    I'm going to just talk one second about why these legislative districts look so tortured. It's because there are five legislative districts that reach 50 percent or more Hispanic or Native American voting age population.
    This automatically kicks into retrogression.
    Up to 25 -- or 27 percent of the new LD maps will have a minority-majority population.
    These areas can never ever retrogress to less than 61 percent or so.
    As to the communities of interest, I looked at Congressional District 9 down to the block level, and I followed that boundary, if I can count on that boundary to be accurate.
    That boundary does definitely show gerrymandering.
    It goes across the road and into a residential neighbor and plucks one or two blocks out of that neighborhood and puts it into nine, and this affects four other congressional districts as well.
    In some areas -- in one area of Paradise Valley it actually cuts between two houses that are side by side on the same street and puts them in separate districts, in
Paradise Valley.

It goes on and it takes out half a block here, one side of a street there, a few houses in another neighborhood are left out of the district, while the rest of the neighborhood is in the district.

This does not happen naturally.

One that the criteria is to follow natural boundaries. And this CD 9 does not begin to follow any kind of natural boundaries, natural boundaries being mountain ranges or thoroughfares or something like that.

It definitely reaches in and takes away rights of voters in given residential neighborhoods.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Richard Breyer, followed by Charles Russell, and Dorothy Campbell.

RICHARD Breyer: Thank you. My name is Richard Breyer. Last name B-R-E-Y-E-R.

I live in Scottsdale with my wife. We also have a property in Pinetop, Arizona.

You've gerrymandered both of those districts by splitting them in half. Congressional District 1 you've mixed urban and renewal -- or urban and rural. You've -- legislative you've separated Pinetop and Show Low, which is
a community of interest, two communities of interest.

You've stated District 1 includes reservation from the Gila River on the northeast all the way over to the northwest.

There's no community of interest, and there's not even a competitive situation there because no Republican will ever be put in that district again if that takes place.

Excuse me, I'm speaking.

One of the goals was to use the natural boundaries to keep cities and communities together. You've failed to do those throughout the state.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Charles Russell followed by Dorothy Campbell and Eric Kurland.

CHARLES RUSSELL: Good evening, commissioners.

Thank you very much for having us tonight.

My name is Charles Russell, C-H-A-R-L-E-S, R-U-S-S-E-L-L.

I live in south Scottsdale, about two and a half miles west of here.

And I've been there for about 30 years.

I chose this spot because it was convenient both from a geographical perspective where I work as well as
amongst my friends and like-minded people.

As far as the district that is proposed for me, the Legislative District 24, you've heard everyone speak about the communities of interest and the considerations given to geographical boundaries.

I wish to make an exception on Legislative District 24 from the compact and contiguous perspective. It's a big stretch in my mind to understand how something 55 miles long and 20 miles wide can be considered compact, especially for an urban area.

And with the center of that 55-mile wide district, shaped being two miles wide, holding the two bells together, it really is a stretch in my mind how that can be considered contiguous.

I'm in that two-mile connector, in that zone between those two larger areas, and I feel the sole purpose of that little stretch there is to bring two areas completely disparate with little common interest together.

I ask that you return to your drawing board and place the three district neighborhoods or distinct neighborhoods in legislative districts that are like-minded interest and provide representatives from the district a chance to actually talk to their constituents without spending most of their time on the road.

As for the Congressional District 9, I also ask
that you reconsider your suggestion there and place me in
the city of Scottsdale.

I understand the population cutoff for the CDs is
very nearly what Scottsdale's population is right now. I
live in Scottsdale.

I'd like to team with my fellow citizens to decide
my state and federal representation.

Thank you again for your time.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Dorothy Campbell,
followed by Eric Kurland and Nancy Mario.

DOROTHY CAMPBELL: Good evening. My name is
Dorothy Campbell, D-O-R-O-T-H-Y, Campbell, C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L.
I am a resident of the Verdes communities.
At the present time we are in District 6. The
proposal is that we become part of District 4.
I would like you to consider that our borders to
the north and east of us are the Tonto National Forest.
We interact with the communities of Scottsdale,
Fountain Hills, Fort McDowell.
And we wish, I wish, and I know many of my friends
do too, to remain in District 6.
We are a development of residential homes. We
whether that be the TV, radio, newspapers. We rely on their communities for cultural activities as well.

Also economic. We contribute to the economy of Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and the gambling at Fort McDowell.

So that we have no shopping in our area. We go to Scottsdale, Fountain Hills area. And we wish to remain with them.

All access to our communities comes through District 6, the draft of District 6.

We only can reach our communities through Scottsdale or through the Scottsdale, Fountain Hills area.

So please do not remove us from District 6.

Thank you so much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much, Ms. Campbell.

Next up is Eric Kurland, followed by Nancy Mario and Doris Freeman.

And before you start, Eric.

Marty, how we doing?

THE REPORTER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: All right.

Mr. Kurland.

ERIC KURLAND: Eric with a C. Kurland,
I'd like to thank you. I might not agree with how you got on the Commission, but I thank you for serving as a volunteer. One of the things that happens with volunteers is they just never get paid enough.

It's a tough room.

I'll take part of my two minutes to get a little bit of laughter.

I am an Independent.

And I just feel very badly that the one person who is supposed to represent my interest was improperly booted before her time in the wrong venue.

(Applause.)

ERIC KURLAND: Before I get back to that subject, I will say that if you do not split my house in half, I will be fine.

I heard the tape. One person, one vote.

I have one vote. I will try to influence as many more, but as long as you don't split my house, my wife and I can still sleep in the same room, I am fine.

I will talk to my representative.

I would like to thank Representative Kavanagh, my representative, for speaking in the appropriate venue tonight.

I might not agree with what he says, but I am really happy that he came and said it.
I do not agree with his vote the other night or even taking up that vote, because I believe that was the inappropriate venue.

I think he talked about stick with the rules that the voters voted for.

I think that's a quote.

The rules that the voters voted for was what's in my registration, independence.

Declaration of independence is cool. Independence of the committee, not so cool.

Eventually the independent member of this committee will have to vote with a Republican or a Democrat. That's just the way it works. They can't just vote by themselves, because there's either a yes or a no.

So I'd like to just end by saying there is no poisonous fruit from the tree. There's only the legislature, and I would say not the Democrats or the Independents in the legislature, but the Republicans who have stepped on and trampled that fruit.

Thank you.

(Appause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Nancy Mario, followed by Doris Freeman and Karen Van Hooft.

NANCY MARIO: Good evening, commissioners.

My name is Nancy Mario, N-A-N-C-Y, M-A-R-I-O.
Thank you for the opportunity.

I wanted to start first by saying that I'm really very disappointed that there's only four commissioners here and not five.

I'm a registered Democrat.

I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm the only commissioner here this evening. We've got --

NANCY MARIO: But I'm saying that there are only -- I'm saying -- what I mean to say is there are only four commissioners at this point, at this moment, and not five.

The removal of chairman -- Chairwoman Mathis, I believe, was an over -- was overstepped their bounds by the governor and also the senate, Senator Russell Pearce.

(Applause.)

NANCY MARIO: I'm a registered Democrat, and I live in Paradise Valley. I'm one of very, very few Democrats in Paradise Valley.

But what I want to say to you is this. I believe in the political process.

I believe Democrats and Republicans and Independents can get along, can make decisions that are difficult but that are fair.

I believe in Prop 106, and I believe it was
I believe an independent Commission is appropriate.

And I am certain that you will do the best you can to make sure that the districting is done properly.

My last comment has to do with competitiveness. I believe that when you look at the three major parties, and everyone has spoken of the percentages, that when you look at the Republicans, the Democrats, and the Independents as a group of registered voters, they equal approximately 99 percent of all the registered voters in Arizona.

I believe that each district as closely as you can needs to be equally represented by those three political parties.

I also want you to think about and consider what the voting behavior is of Independents, because Independents may not be pigeonholed into either a Democratic or Republican ideology. And consider their voting behavior and history.

Thank you.

Thank you.

I have been to several of the redistricting meetings. I've never asked to speak before.

I've asked to speak tonight mainly because of the actions that were taken this week that I really think are despicable and criminal.

So, you know where I stand on that.

I've lived in Arizona for several -- a number of decades. I've been in the same home and the same district and legislative district for over 30 years.

In 1964 I was a kid for Goldwater.

I have been a Republican, an Independent, and a Democrat.

However, I don't think Goldwater would recognize what's going on in his state today. I don't think he would like it. He might recognize it, but he wouldn't like it.

Number two, what I'd like to say is, during the time that I have lived in the same CD 3, LD 11 area, I have never been represented.

I have been taxed, but I have never ever been represented.

I will tell you now. I have written to my congressperson and my legislators over and over. I have
called their offices. When I call their offices, I usually
never, ever get a phone back -- phone call back.

   When I write to them, whether it's through e-mail
or as it used to be in the regular mail, I would get a form
letter response only.

   I never had my issues addressed. I never had my
questions answered.

   It is the same today as it was over 30 years ago.
   The reason for that is gerrymandering.

   If you look at the history of the state, we've had
gerrymandering for one political party purposes for
99 years.

   (Applause.)

DORIS FREEMAN: Ten years ago, the voters elected
and voted to stop that practice.

   They attempted, they attempted ten years ago. It
didn't happen completely.

   But it was a little bit better than it had been
for the previous 89 years.

   Now, we have had -- we have an attempt this year
to try to institute a system whereby everyone can be
represented. Maybe not as much as they would like, but at
least some representation.

   In my case, and in many other areas, we have had
zero representation.
I don't want that to continue. I don't want that to continue for my great-grandnephews that live in the same area I do.

That's why I live there.

I don't want them to have to deal with being ignored as a voter, as I have been.

Ignored. Taxed, but ignored.

That was why our forefathers ostensibly fought a revolution. Is that what it's going to take again?

And when Mr. Kavanagh says that competitiveness is the least important, he is wrong. He is absolutely wrong.

To me it's the most important.

I just want to remind people who approve of this past week's actions, you think you live in a Republican state. You don't. You live in a Banana Republic.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Karen Van Hooft, followed by Jim Judge and Anne B. Denomme(sic).

KAREN VAN HOOFT: Good evening. And thank you for the opportunity to speak.


I'm here tonight as a citizen who has a particular community of interest. And that is not a geographical one
or a one of a particular city. It's a community of interest of those people who want to see us function well as a state and stop yelling at each other from opposite ends of the political ideologies.

I think the thing that is the most important of the characteristics that we are looking for is to try to find competitive districts.

And that is because competitive districts will bring us people who can talk to each other. Because they have to. They have to attract people who are going to listen to them from a fair point of view and not from one of the extremes.

I -- so that is a community of interest of people who want to see things get sane in this state.

I was very distressed as having a supporter of Proposition 106 ever since it came, came up years ago, and it was an Independent Redistricting Commission. I am so distressed by what has happened this week, because I see independence flying out the door.

This should not have happened.

People I've talked to are absolutely astounded that this could have happened.

And I think we need to get back to some sanity.

I don't think we should start this process over.

I think we need to move in the -- considering some of these
changes.

    I see some problems with the maps. Particularly
I'd like to affirm some of the things that were said with
respect to the Indian communities. It doesn't seem logical
they have the ones that are Maricopa County based be with
rural groups.

    And there are some other problems I see such as
with Fountain Hills.

    But I believe that the Commission has made a good
start, and I think that we should be supportive of them to
continue their work.

    Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is Jim Judge, followed by Arne(sic) and
Brian Kaufman.

    JIM JUDGE: Good evening, commissioners. My name
is Jim Judge, J-I-M, J-U-D-G-E.

    My -- I'm here tonight representing the Town
Council of Fountain Hills.
    They have the regularly scheduled council meeting
tonight.

    A resolution by the mayor and council of the
Fountain Hills, Arizona, urging the Arizona Independent
Redistricting Commission to reconsider its determination
regarding placement of the town of Fountain Hills on the
finalized draft six.

The draft map assigned the town of Fountain Hills to Congressional District 4 while surrounding communities of interest, including the city of Scottsdale, Fort McDowell, Yavapai Nation, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community, the surrounding communities, are located in Congressional District 6.

The draft map fails to set forth a reasonable district shape and long-standing relationship of the town and the surrounding communities. Who have strong ties with one another in many respects, including joint cooperation and coordination of fire and emergency medical services.

The town and Fort McDowell jointly promote and fund tourism efforts to a 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 system, school district, and the children of both communities share many of the same schools.

The current boundary between District 4 and District 6 divides those 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
The shape and extremely diverse and remote geographical location of the major population centers of proposed District 4 creates substantial difficulties for a representative elected from one portion of the district to another.

I will wrap up.

Therefore, be it resolved by the mayor and council of the town of Fountain Hills that the mayor and council request that the IRC approve an amendment to the draft map to alter the boundary lines between District 4 and District 6 to include the town and its neighbor community of Rio Verde within District 6.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Judge.

Give that, give that document to Ms. Gomez right behind you.

JIM JUDGE: I'm sorry?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: You can give that document to Ms. Gomez right behind you. She'll include it in the record.

Next up is Arlie -- queen of everything she has listed here.

Followed by Brian Kaufman and Margaret Grannis.

ARLIE DENOMME: Good evening. My name is Arlie Denomme, A-R-L-I-E, Denomme, D-E-N-O-M-M-E.
And, yes, sometimes I have been called the queen
of everything.

I find that unfortunately this Commission entirely
insults our intelligence.

We are a suburban community. We have very unique,
natural beauty, and especially strong community feelings
with Scottsdale, our Yavapai neighbors in Fort McDowell. We
are grounded in also the Verdes.

I find it inappropriate to be away from this
family, and I would strongly ask you to reconsider the
boundaries.

I totally support the natural ties that we now
have.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Brian Kaufman,
followed by Margaret Grannis or Grannis, and next up is
Marcia Imber.

BRIAN KAUFMAN: Thank you, commissioner. It's

I'm here today to ask you to break up your draft
District 24. You've heard a few people comment that. And
I'm also here to ask you when you do that to stick south
Scottsdale, that extreme south Scottsdale that's in 24, to
stick that with the rest of Scottsdale.

I don't think breaking up 24 is too controversial.

You've already heard from former minority leader Ken Chevron that he wants his central Phoenix area to be separate from the Indian reservation, and you also heard tonight from the Indian reservation requesting to be kept in the east valley district with Scottsdale in that area.

And so I think if you follow both those reasonable requests, the question mark remaining is what do you do with Scottsdale.

I just ask you not to keep that with Phoenix, because those precincts have been stuck with -- kind of tacked on to Tempe for the last ten years. And it's been a little rough politically because being -- having such a small influence in the Tempe district, we've always been represented by Tempeans, and it's just been awkward politically. And I just foresee that if you stick that small area with a Phoenix district, it's going to be the same for the next ten years.

So it's basically I'd ask you to put south Scottsdale with the rest of Scottsdale.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much, Mr. Kaufman.

Next up is Margaret Grannis, followed by Marcia Imber and Paul Brierley.

My family lives just north of Indian School and west of Pima Road.

For the last 20 years, we have been disenfranchised.

We vote, but I don't know why, because the district is not competitive.

I know you have other things to consider, but in that particular area I don't think any of the other considerations bear nearly so much as putting us, please, in a competitive district.

I'm not asking for things my way. I just want it to be competitive, so we have a chance and our vote will count, one way or the other.

Now it's just -- I can see why people don't bother to vote. It's stupid to vote when you know that it's not going to make a bit of difference.

If you could please gerrymander us into the Tempe, gerrymander us into Tempe or Phoenix, just to the slightly south and west of us, where we would economically and socially we are more in tune, up to Camelback Road. You can see your line there, if you please move it up to Camelback Road instead of Thomas and put us either in Tempe or Phoenix to the west of us, we would have a chance for our vote to
Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Marty, how we doing?

THE REPORTER: I'm good.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Good.

Next up is Marcia Imber, followed by Paul Brierley and Gene Pizzario, I believe.

MARCIA IMBER: I am Marcia Imber, M-A-R-C-I-A, I-M-B-E-R.

I live in CD 3 and Legislative District 11.

And I simply agree with the people who said we have been unrepresented for many years, and we are unanswered with letters, and so on.

I have faith in you people to do the job appropriately. And if you don't, I'm hoping that the Department of Justice will fix that. But I think you will do that.

And I'm incensed about this removal of the chairman. Absolutely I think it was a power grab, and I just hate it.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Paul Brierley, followed by Gene Pizzario and Bonnie Sneed.
PAUL BRIERLEY: Thank you, Commissioner Stertz.

My name is Paul Brierley, B-R-I-E-L-E-Y.

I'm here representing the Arizona Farm Bureau tonight and I want to read part of the statement that was submitted for the record.

The Arizona Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization representing 22,000 member families statewide. We appreciate the hard work of the Commission and realize that there are many factors to balance as you create maps that will best represent Arizona residents.

Having said that, we are very concerned about the effect that the draft maps would have on rural communities. In our view keeping communities of interest together so that they can elect like-minded representatives is the best way to provide effective representation.

The draft maps appear to have inappropriately split many rural communities of interest in order to meet other objectives.

One of Arizona's strongest communities of interest is our rural areas.

They share much in common with each other, no matter how far apart they may be. Their voices can be drowned out by an urban population that may be closer in proximity but not in ideology.

Some of our most cherished commodities from the
five Cs include cotton, copper, citrus, and cattle, all of which come from our rural communities. Ensuring the survival of these industries will require rural communities of interest to be represented at the state capital and in Washington, D.C.

It's crucial that rural communities be grouped with other rural communities, not with an urban corner of the district that will drown out their voice. Many of the districts as drawn absolutely nullify the rural voice.

We see many areas of concern with the maps, and would like to point out a new examples of which I speak. Yuma is split in two for both legislate and congressional districts, meaning that their rights to the Colorado River could be shepherded by representatives from Pima and Maricopa Counties, both of which have a strong interest in obtaining more of that resource.

The rural CD that runs from the southern to northern borders on the east side of the state could end up with someone from north Tucson as a representative. And agricultural areas in the west valley are split into four CDs and as many legislative districts. Cottonwood is kept whole with the Verde Valley in the congressional map but it is split off with Flagstaff in the legislative map.
I'll wrap up.

In closing, we ask you to remember that if you combine rural and urban populations, the rural residents will lose their voice in state and national politics. This violates not only their rights, the vote -- their mandates in the Voting Rights Act but it jeopardizes some of the treasures that make Arizona a great place to live.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Brierley.

Next up is Gene Pizzario, I believe.

Followed by Bonnie Sneed and Evelyn Mary Munn.

TIM HORN: Hi. I've got a proxy for Gene. He had to go.

My name is Tim Horn, H-O-R-N, last name. I'm a resident of Scottsdale, and by complete disclosure I'm a conservative.

And I actually was a conservative Democrat when that was still permitted.

Today I'm a conservative.

I've been an Independent for a long time.

And here's what I have to say about what you guys are doing.

First of all, thank you. I do a lot of volunteer work. I've been involved in politics as well for years.

The problem we've got here is I've heard people
say things like, gosh, we ought to all just be able to get along.

And I've heard detailed things about this street and that side of the street and so forth. And while all of that is good, I don't think that's the real big issue.

People would like to have us all get along, but the fact of the matter is we are in a life struggle right now for this country.

We're in desperate opposition, and it's just the beginning. It's not the end.

What all of us want, on either side, is fairness.

And the problem that we have with this, the way this Commission has been done and information has come out, isn't especially, it's information that has come out, as far as I'm concerned, it's the issue of fairness.

When this proposition was passed in 2000, what we wanted in our state was kind of a trophy for fairness, to eliminate the parties from the shenanigans that have always gone on in this thing called gerrymandering.

The reality is that while that trophy was there and it was pulled into, let's say, the fortress of our freedom, what's happened is it opened up, and what fell out was things that were unfair.

People that were representing one side more than the other.
Now, if that's the case, no matter what is done, no matter what -- how it changes, this group will be discredited from fairness.

And what we need is a fair battlefield, because that's really what we're doing here, we're specifying what our battlefield is.

And whether you're left or right, we need it to be fair.

This thing need to be scrapped, the Commission redone, and let's start with an attitude of beginning with fairness in mind.

(Appause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Bonnie Sneed, followed by Evelyn Mary Munn and Robert Deppe.

BONNIE SNEED: Good evening. My name is Bonnie Sneed, B-O-N-N-I-E, S-N-E-E-D.

I am here as a governing board member of the Scottsdale Unified School District. And we have already submitted a resolution to the committee, but I wanted to in a public forum just reiterate our feelings on the issue.

The governing board of the Scottsdale Unified School District thanks the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission for holding this public hearing in Scottsdale. That was one of the meetings we asked for.
in 1896 and has a current student population of 26,400 pre-K through 12 students, and we are a political subdivision of the state of Arizona, governed by the laws of the state of Arizona and the Arizona Department of Education.

As a community of interest, the Scottsdale Unified School District desires that the best interests of its stakeholders be considered during the redistricting process as it impacts their future representation at Arizona legislature and the United States congress.

Scottsdale Unified School District is concerned that the legislative and congressional districts for our stakeholders be properly compact and contiguous, respectful of communities of interest, which includes the unified school district population, and considerate of geographical boundaries.

We respectfully request that the Scottsdale Unified School District population be split into no more than two legislative and/or congressional districts as we have worked hard over the last ten years especially to unify our district and not, not separate different populations.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Appause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Folks, I've got, I've got
about 50 more speakers, and 50 times two equals 100, and
that's going to take us past 9:00 o'clock.

So --

(Brief interruption.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: It's not our opportunity.

We -- the doors are being closed on us.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: The mayor is here.

Let's ask the mayor.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'll have staff ask that
question, but what I will ask of you if there's anyone --

(Brief interruption.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Please, please, ma'am,
please.

What I'd like to do is if anyone has a statement
that they've already had pre-prepared, and they want it read
into the record, if you would -- if you know that you're
going to be doing that, submit it to make sure that it gets
into the record if we don't make it through the time
tonight.

I also would like to ask staff to go ahead and
check with the operations folks if there's any opportunity
of us going past the 9:00 o'clock time so that we can
honor all these folks' time and effort to coming out this
evening.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. Thank
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So, next up is Evelyn Mary Munn -- I can't guaranty a thing, folks. All I can do is to say we'll give it a try.

Evelyn Mary Munn, followed by Robert Deppe and Joan Chiazza.


I thank you for allowing me to address you this evening.

As a former mayor and council member in Walnut Creek, California, I cannot tell you that I have never seen guidelines where Voters Rights Act so blatantly disregarded as I have seen in Arizona.

And what it really is called is really the G word, gerrymander.

In fact, the congressional district map here looks like a Rorschach ink blot test. It makes no sense to us.

We would worry if it made sense to you.

Be fair. Do it over.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks very much.

Next up is Robert Deppe, John Chiazza, or Joan Chiazza, my apologies, and Nancy Ordowski.
ROBERT DEPPE: My name's Bob Deppe, B-O-B, D-E-P-P-E.

Congressional District 4 runs from Colorado City down to Yuma with a finger pointing down to Fountain Hills. I'm from Fountain Hills.

I go to Scottsdale a lot. I've been to the senior center many times. If I have to go to the hospital, I go to Scottsdale.

Let's face it, Fountain Hills is a suburb of Scottsdale.

Fountain Hills may look like Lake Havasu City, but we have nothing in common.

We have no contact. We don't go along with them in the same district.

We go along with Scottsdale.

My other point is, the district population is basically in the west.

A congressional representative that runs for congress will likely run from the west somewhere.

What do they care about Fountain Hills.

Again, we're at the end of the finger point down here. They're not going to bother with us.

You've got a certain amount of Republicans that are going to vote one way, a certain amount of Democrats another way, and they're not going to spend any time with us.
because you're not going to change that dynamics that much.

So what's going to happen to Fountain Hills?

We're not going to be represented any longer in congress.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ:  Thank you, Mr. Deppe.

Next up is, I believe, Joan Chiazza -- John Chiazza.  My apologies.

JOHN CHIAZZA:  John Chiazza, and it's C-H-I-A-Z-Z-A.

I am a 23-year resident of Gilbert.

I want to compliment the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission for the tough job they're trying to do.

The maps you are trying to finalize are not going to please all of us.

I still think more competitive districts should be closely looked at, even if communities of interest are split up.

Please continue your work and push hard to make districts balanced, fair, and competitive.

I think the removal of the chair of this Commission by our elected officials is truly a travesty.

This Commission was to be free of political input by elected officials.
It is a known fact that the Arizona state senate was happy with the maps. It was the pleading of the two congressional incumbents to our governor that pushed this majority party into breaking the law and ignoring the constitution, just to protect the incumbents from the true competitiveness.

The governor and the Republican-held senate has broken the process that was the actual will of the people. I would hope the chair of this Commission stay on and complete her work and let the courts rule on this illegal power grab by the majority party of this state. The gross misconduct of the majority party soundly proves why it is so critical that this Commission should make sure things like this do not happen again.

This is exactly why the Commission was put into place by the people. We need to have competitive districts and a balanced voice at the capital so there's no runaway takeover by one party as we have just seen this past week.

I was in the gallery of the senate when this vote took place to remove the chair of this Commission. When I left, I felt like I was watching Nazi Germany in action.

(APplause.)

JOHN CHIAZZA: This kind of politics is ruining
the state, ruining the fabric of this country, and I would
hope it would inspire this Commission even more now to move
towards a balanced and fairness so all of Arizona can be
once heard in our government.

Thank you for all of your hard work. I hope you
continue to make this process in favor of the people and not
the politicians.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Nancy Ordowksi,
Jerry Gettinger, and Nancy Buell.

NANCY ORDOWKSI: Hello. My name is Nancy,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak
with you tonight.

I'm from Fountain Hills.

And like somebody mentioned earlier, it's like you
stuck a finger in the pie and took Fountain Hills and
Rio Verde out, thus following -- not following the
directives of the compact and contiguous areas.

Fountain Hills is a community of around
21,000 people.

We have no community of interest with the rural
areas of Arizona.

As nice as the people are in these areas, we still
I have no relationship with them in our service, in our communities.

Our interest is with Scottsdale and Fort McDowell. We need to be placed in CD 6.

Fountain -- Fort McDowell students are part of our Fountain Hills School District.

And I appreciate what the president of the Salt River and Yavapai communities have said tonight. By pulling Fountain Hills out of the CD 6 area, it does not appear to me that you've met the state constitutional redistricting laws.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Following is Jerry Gettinger, followed by Nancy Buell and Patty Stetson.

Mr. -- is Jerry here? He's left?

Nancy Buell.

Followed by Patty Stetson and Laurie Coe.

NANCY BUELL: My name is Nancy Buell, B-U-E-L-L. And as a community volunteer, I just want to commend you all for being on this Commission. It's certainly been a thankless job, and I hope you can continue with it.

I -- one factor that I find important is competitiveness.
So many places in the state, everybody's vote does not count.

So I hope you can continue with all your members.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is Patty Stetson, followed by Laurie Coe and Harold Stahl.

PATTY STETSON: Good evening, gentlemen.

Thank you for the job that you've done with the Redistricting Commission.

I am here for two reasons. I'm a citizen of Scottsdale. My name is Patricia Stetson, spelled S-T-E-T-S-O-N.

I was out of the state when the hearings began. When I returned my perception and what I heard was my very favorite congressman was no longer in my district, and I decided to attend the first possible meeting, which was the meeting that they approved the final draft map.

I was a little concerned when two of the board members made the comment, and they were the conservative board members, that they had not had the time sufficient to review what had happened over the weekend of the tweaking of the map and therefore they could not in good conscience vote either yea or nay on this particular issue because they did not have the information, and I quote one, he did not have
time to run the numbers.

   However, the chairman went ahead with calling the
vote, and it passed with one abstention and one no.

   So, I would like the -- if that's my perception of
that's what happened, I would really like to consider that
maybe there was a misrepresentation of the map that was
presented to all the members of the chair -- of the
Commission.

   Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Laurie Coe,
followed by Harold Stahl and Jonathan, Albina, and David,
all signing up on the same sheet.

LAURIE COE: Good evening. I'm very grateful to
be here, and I am also grateful for the Commission and the
work that you've done.

I've lived in Arizona for 33 years, and I've been
affiliated with several parties.

So it's about what's going on today.

I wouldn't have even come to a redistricting
meeting because I don't know anything about it.

But when the legislature voted to take the
commissioner off, that really, really pushed me to come
tonight.

I am here because I feel as a citizen who pays
taxes in our state, who works in our state, and makes a
living, who's raised their family in this state, I feel that
as a voter I have been transgressed.

We voted in 2000 for this Commission to be
empowered outside of politics.

I am satisfied that if there is a representation
with two Democrats, two Republicans -- and if I was an
Independent right now, I would feel underrepresented. So I
would like to just state this for the record that I am very
angry, and I feel that all of us should be, at how this
process just happened on Tuesday.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We can stay here until 9:15.

I've just got you for if we stick to our two minutes,
everybody, and we're efficient getting up to the microphone,
we should be able to make it through our list.

So Mr. Harold Stahl, followed by Jonathan
Urquidez, and Jim O'Connor.

HAROLD STAHL: I'm Harold Stahl from the Biltmore,
representing myself.

In a previous appearance before this Commission, I
implored the chair, Colleen Mathis, to stand firm against
the high level partisan political pressure which was then
being applied to the Commission.

I'm here to congratulate Colleen Mathis in particular and the commissioners who are standing up and retaining the independence of the redistricting process against unjustified and malicious charges by the Arizona governors, the secretary of state, and the Republican members of the Arizona senate.

You have heard and you will hear requests for changes including those for improvements in the lines affecting geographic areas such as mine, the Biltmore Arcadia area of Phoenix.

It's reasonable to include this area with Paradise Valley, for example, as a community of interest.

These requests are quite proper and stand in stark contrast to the tactics of those politicians who are engaging in an unprecedented power grab to usurp the political will of the people.

Please continue to work for fair and competitive voting districts, and you will continue to earn the admiration of a grateful electorate.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Next up Jonathan, and because all three of you included yourselves on one sheet, if you can keep the entire
presentation to two minutes, I would really appreciate it.

JONATHAN URQUIDEZ: I'd like to thank the Commission for hearing us.

I'm a student. We're students at Arizona State, and we worked on a congressional map that we would like to propose that focused on more competitiveness as far as the districts are concerned, mainly six and nine.

Six, according to the presidential election of '08, six was almost at 58 percent Republican, and District 9 was a little under 47 percent.

We did our best regarding communities to keep them intact.

We arranged -- we managed to get six down to 55 percent to try to make it more competitive, and District 9 to about 50/50 percent.

The rest of the moves we made were intended to try to keep the populations even, and also, like I said, to use natural boundaries and communities to keep everything intact.

Just like to thank the Commission for all the work you have done and for hearing us.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

ALBINA HIDIC: So I'm just here -- my name is Albina, A-L-B-I-N-A, Hidic.

And I just want to thank the Commission for doing such hard work, but I would like to give you guys a proposal to continue working and hear us all out so we can have that fairness thing, because I think that's really important, to make everybody happy, since we are all citizens of Arizona.

And my political standpoints are not more important than anybody else's here, so thank you guys so much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks so much.

Next up is Jim O'Connor, city council member, Robert Littlefield, and I'm not sure -- I apologize for Councilmember Littlefield for having provided him a slot, and Sherri Smith-Dodgson.

Jim O'Connor? Jim O'Connor is here or not here?

Jim O'Connor has left.

Council member, Mr. Littlefield, please.

COUNCILMAN ROBERT LITTLEFIELD: My name is Bob Littlefield, L-I-T-T-L-E-F-I-E-L-D. I've been on the Scottsdale city council for nine and a half years.

And I'm here tonight to talk about the community of interest standard.

One of the things that disturbs me about both the
congressional and legislative map is that on both maps you've cut off south Scottsdale south of Osborn and Thomas from the rest of Scottsdale.

And I believe that's a real violation of the community of interest standard.

We have a situation in the legislature which is particularly important to the city.

And, by the way, I should say we don't have districts in Scottsdale, so our political futures are not impacted by this at all.

But it is important that south Scottsdale has been cut off from the rest of Scottsdale in all of these maps.

And that's particularly pernicious because in the nine and a half years I've been on the city council I hear often from residents of south Scottsdale that they often feel almost disenfranchised and certainly cut off from the rest of Scottsdale already. And this would make it even worse.

I know that Scottsdale Unified School District is also concerned about this issue, and I believe they may even have somebody here to testify tonight.

But it would certainly be -- it would certainly move forward on the community of interest standard to move south Scottsdale back in with the rest of Scottsdale, particularly on the congressional map, but really
particularly in the legislative map.

Because we at the city and in the school district have a lot of interaction with the legislature.

And it would certainly be important for south Scottsdale to be with the rest of Scottsdale, both from a practical standpoint and frankly from a symbolic standpoint too.

So thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Next up is Sherri Smith-Dodgson, followed by John Gallagher and Mark Grenard.

SHERRI SMITH-DODGSON: Good evening, members of the Commission.

My name is Sherri Smith-Dodgson. I'm the vice president of legislation for the Scottsdale Parent Council.

The Scottsdale Parent Council is an all-volunteer parent organization dedicated to supporting excellence in teaching and learning in all Scottsdale Unified School District schools, through parent education, communication, and legislative advocacy.

I'm here today on behalf of the SPC executive board to ask you to give serious consideration to an important component of your charge.

Please keep our community of interest intact as
you redraw our state legislative districts.

   As an active group of parent advocates for our public schools, we know that the more legislatively divided our school district is, the less impact we can have as a collective group of concern parents on policies that effect our schools.

Scottsdale Unified School District currently overlays three legislative districts, 8, 11, and 17.

   The legislators in LD 8 and 11 know that the bulk of their constituents lie within the boundaries of our school district, and they are actively engaged with us in decisions about public school policies.

   Conversely the one school in our district that lies within LD 17 is largely isolated from our advocacy efforts since the elected officials from that district are rightfully more concerned with the school districts that comprise the bulk of their legislative district. Limiting the legislative district within Scottsdale Unified's boundaries is an important consideration for our community of interest.

   We are one school district with a set of distinct and unique interests, with our community warrants legislative representation that is as focused as possible.

   While we understand that our issue cannot be the sole focus of your work, it is important to keep in mind
that the law admonishes that boundaries should, quote,
respect communities of interest to the extent practicable,
end quote.

We hope this Commission seriously considers our
community of parent advocates for the Scottsdale Unified
School District when deciding where to draw the legislative
district boundaries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am, Sherri, can you spell
your name, please?

SHERRI SMITH-DODGSON: S-H-E-R-R-I, Smith,
S-M-I-T-H, D-O-D-G-S-O-N.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is John Gallagher, Mark Grenard, and
Dr. Janie Hydrick.

JOHN GALLAGHER: My name is John Gallagher,

Members -- remaining members of the Arizona
Independent Redistricting Commission, first of all, I'd like
to thank you for your dedication and service.

At this point if you have to select a fifth member
of the Commission, I'm not sure why anyone would want to
serve on a Commission though whose independence has been
compromised.

When a commissioner can be removed for reasons
that are arbitrary and capricious, for no reason at all, when a coalition of incumbent congressmen doesn't like the lines you draw, it seems like the Commission isn't really independent.

Now, why do I say it's arbitrary and capricious? Well, I was at the senate hearings when they voted to remove Colleen Mathis.

And one senator said, well, gross misconduct is whatever we decide it is.

That's arbitrary.

Another said, well, it's like pornography, I can't tell you what it is, but you know it when you see it.

That's arbitrary. That's capricious.

Earlier Representative Kavanagh talked about the attorney general is investigating violations of the open meeting law and improprieties in the selection of the mapping firm.

And what he said, if that is, in fact, true, the fruits of the tree are poisonous.

He said, if that is, in fact, true.

They determined the guilt of Colleen Mathis before they ever examined the evidence.

Representative Kavanagh doesn't know if that is, in fact, true.

And he said we should start over.
What's really poisoned about the process is it's tainted by the fact that a commissioner cannot be independent without fear of being removed when a group of congressmen don't like the lines that they drew. That's what's poisoned about the fruit. That's what's tainted about this process.

Your job as defined by the law was not to protect incumbents. You were, in fact, instructed to do quite the opposite, to disregard where the incumbents live when addressing the other criteria of equal population, compactness, et cetera.

Your job was to create districts that accurately reflect the interest of Arizona voters.

And I'm just afraid at this point that you're not really able to do that, because of the political pressure.

Professor Paul Bender said, he questions how any appointee can act truly independently given Mathis' removal, and he said that the above action to remove for lack of detail about her alleged gross misconduct creates a chilling effect.

Well, I'd like --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Sir, Mr. Gallagher, would you please wrap up?

JOHN GALLAGHER: Yes. I'm wrapping up right now.

And more than ever you need to refuse to be
intimidated by the powerful interest representing incumbent politicians which this law was designed to take out of the process.

Thank you.

(Appause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next is Mark Grenard, followed by Dr. Janie Hydrick and Chase Williams.


I'm from District 3.

And I have felt I've not been represented by my congressman in that district.

I've made numerous calls to him.

So I'm urging you to make all districts as competitive as possible. And I'm also urging you to keep those districts -- keep competitiveness as the number one concern that I have.

And I am sorry that Colleen Mathis is not here to hear my opinions about the Redistricting Commission. I commend you for your work.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Dr. Janie Hydrick, Chase Williams, and CG --

CJ Briggle.

JANIE HYDRICK: I'm Janie Hydrick, H-Y-D-R-I-C-K.

Please note that the most vitriolic voices are
neither the majority nor the ones which should deter you from the courageous path you as a Commission have chosen to follow.

Your perseverance alone could shepherd Arizona into a politically active future that can be fair, equitable, and truly reflective of its population.

On Tuesday 20 of my friends and I wrote separate different letters to our LD senator. His answer to each of us was the same form letter.

McComish denied that Tuesday's legislative travesty was a political power play.

I have two Ph.D.s and I can tell you for certain that when the Republican congressional delegation, Republican governor, and every Republican member of the state legislature vote to deny the will of the people, that is a political power play.

My legislative and congressional districts have been evolving. We no longer overwhelmingly reflect the unbending, predictable ideology of a single party.

So thank you for making the new CD 9 and LD 18 more competitive so they can truly reflect the increasing moderate character of our community.

For the first time in many years and for the first time in too many election cycles we feel there is finally the opportunity to be represented rather than to be
disenfranchised by the political system.

However, there are a couple of tweaks that would render two adjoining legislative districts, LD 18 and LD 26, even more competitive.

Baseline is the proposed divider between 18 and 26.

By moving that divider north to Route 60 and by pulling the eastern border back west to Dobson, both 18 and 26 would be virtually 50/50.

With the current drafts Kyrene district essentially matches the boundary of LD 18, and Tempe Union High School District fits right inside of CD 9.

The lifelong friendships and the intense community engagement that our four children garnered from their years in those two districts should be hallmarks of every community.

With a truly competitive legislative district and congressional district, our community will finally have an opportunity to impact education policy and education funding.

Thank you so much for your work.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Dr. Hydrick.

Next up is Chase Williams, CJ Briggle and Dorothy Ward.

CHASE WILLIAMS: Chase, C-H-A-S-E, Williams,
W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

I'm here speaking on behalf of my future, because if we continue to allow the Republicans and our state senate and allow our governor to continue her illegal power grab, we will never have competitive districts in the state of Arizona.

For the next ten years we have to deal with these districts. And if you allow these sitting congressmen to pick their districts so that they can run unopposed in a primary, I'm sorry, Congressman Schweikert and Ben Quayle, it's time you answer for the votes that you've made in U.S. Congress. And if that means you have to fight it out in the primary, then so be it.

In fact, even Congressman Franks said today that it's a politically awkward and unpopular move of what the governor did.

Especially because she's in New York, instead of being here in Arizona to answer to the citizens of this state.

The three authors of Proposition 106 outlined today how they feel that her move was unconstitutional and not in line with the will of the voters.

It's time for our state to start working for the voters again and stop working for the partisan politics they have controlled for too long.
We need to protect competitive districts, because the only way that I or any of my generation will have a voice, and I'm tired of our older generations controlling my future, which is unfair and unjust.

The bottom line of this Commission and districts in general in the redistricting process is not everyone's going to be happy all of the time. We're never going to have 100 percent agreement.

I'm not happy with all the maps in the same way that my opponents, I guess, on the other side are not happy with all of the maps.

But the bottom line is that's part of the independence process. We're not going to agree on every single issue, just as we don't agree on every policy issue.

The bottom line of this process is that we allow for the independence of this Commission to exist.

Chairwoman Mathis should be reinstated.

Governor Brewer needs to apologize for her independent power grab and her illegal actions this week in the senate. And Russell Pearce better be recalled next Tuesday because we need changes --

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up, CJ Briggle,
followed by Dorothy Ward and Toby Stahl.

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

And thank you, commissioner.
I do have a -- I've been preempted with a special request to keep this open so that all of us can speak this evening.

And I know you're doing your best to do so.

I'm personally satisfied that the maps are fair. As a matter of fact, for the first time my new LD 18 and CD 9 are going to be competitive.

That is going to be the first time my voice will be heard. And can be heard.

However, the process has been disrupted.

I'm an activist.

As an activist, I am going to, on all future phone banks and canvassing, which I do often, I will remind those voters of a very popular Latin phrase.

Caveat emptor.

And as a four-year student of Latin in high school by the way, I will now interpret that for you, Colleen.

Don't let the bastards get you down.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Dorothy Ward, Toby Stahl, and Paula Linker.

DOROTHY WARD: My name is Dorothy Ward, D-O-R-O-T-H-Y, W-A-R-D.

And I want the district map that was proposed in the October 10th Arizona Republic to be adopted.
I think it's a wonderful map, 710,000 people in each district. And hopefully the Native Americans being able to have a representative in congress.

There may need to be some tweaks here and there, but I think overall it is an excellent map.

I want to thank each of the commissioners for accepting a position knowing the contentious situation it would be.

I want particularly to acknowledge the chairman's position. I think she has done a suburb job, and I think Governor Brewer is absolutely wrong in trying to get her ousted.

She has done nothing wrong.

I hope that she sleeps well at night knowing that she's been doing the right thing, because she certainly has.

I think you should be commended.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is Toby Stahl, Paula Linker, and Mr. Charles McCracken.

TOBY STAHL: My name is Toby Stahl, T-O-B-Y, S-T-A-H-L.

And I'm here because I'm very angry and very upset.

I'm upset with our elected officials who took the word independent out of this Commission's name.
We voted for an independent Commission, and that's what we had until they decided that they didn't like it, that Quayle and Schweikert might have to compete.

So they colluded and got the governor to call the special session.

Although we all know she wasn't here.

But this is awful.

You are stepping on our rights as citizens of this state to elect an independent Commission and have it free of political interference.

And that goes for you too, Mr. Kavanagh.

Thank you -- I thank you for your work as independent as it may be, because that's what we need.

And we also need competitive districts.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Next up is Paula Linker, Charles McCracken and Matt Mason.


I'm a citizen of Scottsdale.

Okay. First of all, regarding the legislative districts here in Maricopa County, after several tries the Commission seems to have got it pretty much correct, although it would be nice to have south Scottsdale where we
reside right now, we're sitting right now, re-unified with
the rest of Scottsdale.

When I was outside, several people commented what
a nice senior center this is.

It is provided by unified Scottsdale, and
Scottsdale should be all in one piece.

Now I'm really here tonight to address the
sprawling CD 6.

The congressional maps that have been drawn really
don't make a lot of sense.

The last census showed population growth to the
south in Maricopa County, and that's where the new districts
should be formed.

So what does the Commission do, but they draw up a
map that already has dense districts, they split them up,
they link them up with other existing congressional
districts, totally disregarding clear communities of
interest and compactness and contiguosity.

This is evidence throughout the state but
particularly in proposed CD 6 and CD 9.

Both seem to have been drawn without considering
compact and contiguosity and communities of interest.

The proposed CD 6 covers a large east-west swab,
running from the 101 on the east over two highways and
mountain ranges picking up a lot of commercial areas and
rambling around to try to pick up 710,000 population.

They ignore the communities of interest.

If the 101 on the east could speak to the I-17 on the west, it might say something like my community worked hand in hand with the arts community and gave me nice amenities, it provided for nice soundproof decorations on the walls, showing the local flora and fauna, and it provided a nice bike and jogging path that was elevated for members of the community to utilize that weren't taking their cars, and it also provides where the 101 crosses into the Salt River Pima nation a very lovely monument called the Handshake.

Okay.  I'm going to cut myself off right here except that this is really a lot of gerrymandering here.

And I do want to make one statement regardless of this.

To the gentleman from Gilbert.  I am Jewish.  I was very insulted by his comparison of the actions of heir fuhrer to legally elected representatives in Arizona. I think he needs to get in touch with some history courses.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER:  I'm Jewish too, and he was fine.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ:  Ma'am.

If you have a written statement, please put it on the record with Ms. Gomez to your right.
(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Charles McCracken, Matt Mason and Janet Olivia.


I -- I'm a resident of Scottsdale and a native of our beloved Arizona. But I must report to you a tragedy to come.

No representation.

I'll say it again. No representation.

How would you feel if no one seemed to care? Or if no one listened to you?

I did live in a gerrymandered current LD 14. I'm a voting Republican, and no one there would listen to me.

My side of the story couldn't be told. My ideas to solve problems couldn't be told. And my needs for my neighbors and neighborhoods could not be told.

So, I had to make a real tough monumental decision, a decision to move away.

So now south Scottsdale is my permanent home, and I love it.

So if the boundaries around south Scottsdale, there's about 16 precincts, are now projected into this new gerrymandered LD 24, and that map looks like a big U, I'll be forced to endure no representation for a whole another
10 years all over again.

You know, I live here in Scottsdale. I pay Scottsdale sales taxes, property taxes. I get my services from Scottsdale.

I love it.

But with these new boundaries, I would be common with north central Phoenix. I would have something similar to do with West Indian School Road and 15th Avenue. I'd be part and have things to do with downtown Phoenix.

They've got nothing in common with my beautiful Papago Park, the zoo, or of course a little spring training games we get to go to.

So, don't let these boundaries stay. Put me back into regular Scottsdale, the new 23.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Chuck.

Next up is Matt Mason, Janet, and Miles Eggmann.


I'm here on behalf of myself. I'm a third generation Scottsdalian, and I have two young children growing up here in Scottsdale.

And I'd like to echo what Chuck said.

This district, this District 24 proposed, stretches from 19th Avenue all the way to this location.
And it's just absolutely ridiculous.

I don't see how I'm supposed to -- you know, when I look at a community of interest, do I take my kid to 19th Avenue and Northern for an ice cream cone, or do I take him over to Sugar Bowl in downtown Scottsdale.

It's a real obvious answer there.

And these maps don't address that. Instead they seem to address the competitiveness issue alone.

And what I'm seeing is that the natural boundaries, like Scottsdale Road, the Scottsdale Unified School District, the city of Scottsdale, it's completely ignored.

We instead cut off south Scottsdale from the rest, we use it as a bridge, and it just is grotesque.

So I really encourage you -- I've got kids that are coming up. They're going to be in the Scottsdale schools. I'd like a legislator that's going to hear me when I've got issues.

And I don't think the legislator that is representing a lot of Phoenix is going to care too much about a few residents in a little tucked away spot of south Scottsdale.

So, again, I'd like to urge the Commission rethink LD 24 and cut off that line. I appreciate it.

Thank you.
COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is Janet Olivia, or Oliver?

Is Janet here? No?

We're going to go to Miles Eggmann.

Miles is not here.

Going to go to Mary Cosaboom.

Not here.

Going to go to Kevin Jones.

KEVIN JONES: I see you've saved the best for last.

My name is Kevin Jones. Jones, common spelling.

Kevin, K-E-V-I-N. Middle initial P for Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

I must commend you, gentlemen, on the work that you have done in this redistricting endeavor, but I think it is all for naught.

I refer you to today's Arizona Republic.

After Saturday it's unclear how the Commission will proceed with this task of adjusting the draft maps.

This in response to our faux governor and Republican crybabies in the senate removing your chair. So I don't see how you can proceed, because the political process has taken over your independence.

I see this whole process going through the court system. I see the Republican meandering attempts to be
chided. And I think we're going to be back here again two
or three months from now answering the same questions.

So I guess I just was wondering why we're even
having a meeting tonight.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you. I appreciate
that.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Kathy Schneider,
followed by Janet Tillotson and Bob Thomas.

Okay. Followed by Judy Whitehouse.

Okay.

Judy Whitehouse will be followed by Alison Brevard
and Kyle Blackhorse.

Oh, Bob Thomas is here.

BOB THOMAS: Commissioner, council, and members of
our state, I wanted to come and state tonight to speak to
the record on a lot of my comments tonight about the new
LD 24. I'm in that new LD 24 which was historically for the
last ten years part of the LD 15.

I wanted to speak to the issue of communities of
interest in that what does the historical neighborhood of
downtown Phoenix have in common with the east side of 101,
the rural communities, and the Indian tribes.

I was glad to hear those people speak earlier and
want to be in a district that represents them and their
interest and their rural farming interest. It has nothing
in common with Encanto, Palmcroft, Willo, Coronado, any of
the areas downtown.

As you know, the LD 15 was a heavily gerrymandered
district. There was not a Republican being elected in that
district in the last 32 years.

So I was glad to see south Scottsdale included in
that.

I would like to see the Commission take the line
of Camelback Road and extend it more west -- I mean more
east that would include the Arcadia neighborhood which would
be a neighborhood that would be a community of interest with
the historical neighborhood.

The way that the numbers look on this district
now, you're aware of it, but LD 24, 25.3 percent
Republicans, 38.4 percent Democrats, and 31.4 Independents.
That's not competitive.

That's the same ten years of gerrymandered
district we've had.

If you move the line from Camelback eastward and
take in the Arcadia neighborhood splitting it all through
the Biltmore, you will have created a true competitive
district that any of the three party candidates could
campaign and win.
Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Thomas.

Next up is Judy Whitehouse, followed by Alison Brevard and Kyle Blackhorse.


And I am sorry that you're so light on commissioners tonight.

But, I think what I really want to say is for everyone, even those who are no longer here, I think this commission, particularly the ones who worked hard on getting the maps so that we had something to comment upon, we owe our thanks to them.

Because if they hadn't acted, we wouldn't have anything to discuss right now.

And those maps are a given that it's not final; they will be changed.

But I hope that those who think that their interests and their -- particularly their communities of interest are so exclusive to their school district or their neighborhood or their friends that they have nothing in common with the rest of Arizonans really need to get out more, and we need to break up those communities and have them find out that people really do have common interests.

You're not so exclusive that you don't care about
your children the way somebody else cares about their children, the way people in downtown Phoenix care about their children, care about the schools that their children attend.

You're not so exclusive that you have to have a voting district where you can elect someone that is a member of your club, rather than someone who might have some good ideas that you may not have heard of.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

Next up is Alison Brevard.

Alison Brevard, last call.

Kyle Blackhorse.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: He had to leave.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay. Thank you very much.

Maria Syms.

Danica Oparnica.

After Danica it will be Wil Howarth and Bradley Vandermark.

DANICA OPARNICA: Would you like me to spell my name?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Please.


And I am a nurse practitioner.

I'm here to speak on behalf of my patients. Who
in many cases cannot speak for themselves, but in all cases have suffered tremendously because of the last legislative redistricting map which is not competitive and has allowed for repeatedly electing partisan legislators who have relegated health care for the poor, for those on fixed incomes, for children, and for the mentally ill to the bottom of the heap.

The current map as it is drawn in some part allows for competitive districts. More competitive districts will allow voters to elect the legislature that is more competitive of our state's registration. There is nothing to fear from more competitive districts unless one desires a one party system.

In addition, I want to say that I'm very disturbed that the chair of this Commission has been told -- voted out just because -- without the benefit of so much as a hearing, which in my opinion goes against everything this country stands for.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up Wil Howarth.

Bradley Vandermark.


The first Commission set the precedent where the
final maps were fundamentally different than the drafts.

You folks unfortunately recently we've had the legislature governor say we don't like your drafts, and so I propose a solution.

This spring summer there was a competition held by the Arizona Competitive District Coalition. I'm going to submit the results of the public mapping contest in which it lists two winners for congressional maps, two winners for legislative maps, and honorable mention for each of those.

All six of these options are better than your current drafts for meeting the Voting Rights Act, the equal protection, compactness, communities of interest, geographic features, and competitive.

It was an open competition. Nobody knew who submitted the maps, Democrat, Independent, Republicans. We didn't know. The judges selected based on the name of a Walt Disney character.

And the winners were, for the congress map, Sleepy, Aladdin, and the honorable mention was Mickey.

For the legislative maps, the winners were Eeyore, Alice, and the honorable mention was Dewey.

I suggest, as a Commission, if the chairperson is not brought back, which I think she will because it's unconstitutional what happened, hopefully the rest of you
four -- and when I was here last time in South Mountain I said I have no doubt about your integrity, I may disagree with your each of your policy and positions, but I have no doubt you have great integrity.

Without the commissioner, you folks, there's four of you, you only need three votes, take any one of these six and select one.

If you can't agree, just agree to throw a dart and pick one.

All these six of these are better than your drafts and absolutely better than anything the Republican legislature or governor would submit.

I thank you very much. And I could say a lot more, but I don't want to.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Juan Mendez, Ed Hermes, and Susan Gerard.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think Juan left.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.

You must be Ed.

ED HERMES: I'm Ed, yes. Thank you so much.

I didn't think you guys would get to me, so I didn't really write a speech.

But my name is Ed Hermes, E-D, H-E-R-M, as in
Mary, E-S, as in Sam.

I didn't vote for Prop 106. I wasn't able to vote yet. But I -- when I learned about it in school, I was really proud of what our state had done. And when I became a government teacher myself, I was proud to teach my students about Prop 106 and about what it would do in terms of making an Independent Redistricting Commission.

So when I read about this week the governor -- the governor's move to inject politics into your Commission, I was really upset, and that's why I came down today.

I haven't been following the process very closely, but I did send an e-mail and try to contact my senator to tell him don't vote to remove Colleen Mathis.

As always, I didn't get a response.

Because -- I think it's because my legislator's in a safe district.

I live in Chandler, and he had no reason to respond.

We have to get to the root of the problem.

We need to create competitive districts in order to make all legislators listen to us and be responsive.

As a government teacher, I have to address the word gerrymandering, because I think it's been used incorrectly a lot today.

I think polling my students and ask them what
gerrymandering is, I think they would give you the right answer.

And that's creating -- artificially creating districts in order to favor one political party.

And that's what gerrymandering is.

So I ask you not to do that. And by creating competitive districts, you won't be doing gerrymandering.

Thank you so much for your time.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Susan Gerard, followed by Frank Ugenti and Randall Holmes.


And, boy, I would have not got to do this if we had to stop at 9:00 o'clock, so I appreciate the extra time.

I just like to start by saying --

(Laughter.)

SUSAN GERARD: Okay. I'd just like to start by saying I was actually a member of the state legislature the last time they did redistricting themselves. And as ugly as the process is with the Commission, it's still a whole lot better than the legislators doing it themselves. And I appreciate your work.

I've already submitted a map for you. I'm only
speaking to the draft of District 24 and 28 to try to make them a little better. Twenty-eight used to 11.

And what we've done here is make 28 more like it was.

I know there were people here that didn't like south Scottsdale being in a certain district.

This proposal moves them into 28.

It moves Sunnyslope into 24, which actually adds to their amount of Hispanic voting age.

But we -- 24 will still be a coalition district, a minority-majority district and it will better comply with the Voting Rights Act.

Both districts will be more compact and take into consideration neighborhoods.

We also in this have put most of the Scottsdale school district into 28 as well.

We move the Salt River Pimas and Fort McDowell tribes into 23.

And then to make it all balance, there's minor changes to 20, 21, and 23 that I think, you know, deal with balance and splitting cities, so I think it makes them -- it enhances them as well.

So they're going to be more compact.

Twenty-eight, I hope, will be more competitive.

And I think they'll pass muster not only with
Prop 106, but also the Voting Rights Act.

My maps also include the block equivalents that you all put together so it will be easy for you to, you know, analyze them.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And, just for the record, we do have that on file, and we have it submitted, so thank you very much.

Frank Ugenti. And if I mispronounce your name, I apologize.


I'd like to first speak on behalf of my wife, State Representative Michelle Ugenti, representing Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and Verde communities, currently LD 8 and proposed LD 23.

The proposed map is relatively good. It follows Scottsdale's city boundaries, Scottsdale Road to the west, all the way north to the county boundary.

It does abandon south Scottsdale. I think that can be fixed.

It also includes our sister city of Fountain Hills, which in my opinion must remain intact with Scottsdale. They're one in the same as far as community of
interests are concerned.

To Mr. -- commissioner -- Councilman Littlefield's point, education, shopping, real estate, jobs, all things of community interest are, in fact, represented by the natural boundaries and it almost perfectly represents the population requirements.

I'd like to now speak on my own behalf and make it very clear I'm not speaking on behalf of my wife in her official capacity. As it relates to the congressional district, my job affords me the opportunity to understand all aspects of this state. I travel it in a real estate capacity. I know the markets. I know the communities. I know the people.

You guys had to try real hard to screw up that congressional district, with all due respect.

What happened to Fountain Hills is deliberate. It's a hatchet job, as well as what happened in Arizona.

What happened in the central Phoenix, west Phoenix area was scalpel-like precision of carving out Democratic congressional districts for current congressmen and some hopefuls coming out of our legislature in Democratic districts.

I hope that can be remedied, especially as it relates to Fountain Hills.

While I appreciate your efforts, I think that you
can do better. And thanks for your time.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Appreciate that. Thanks very much.

Next up is Randall Holmes, Jeff Schriber, Randy Keating, and Melanie Beikman.

RANDALL HOLMES: Hello. You've all heard me talking on behalf of competitive districts in the past and on behalf of the independence of the Commission.

Something that was said by several people tonight really struck me.

Doris Freeman, the gentleman who used to vote Republican in District 14, people who have been taxed for years but not represented, and of course I speak on behalf of the largest community of interest in Arizona, and that's the people of Arizona, the people who are taxed and most of them are not represented because they don't live in competitive districts.

They live in a district that is safe, a safe district for one party or the other.

And even if you are a member of the party who controls your district, you are still disenfranchised because your representative, your incumbent representative takes your vote for granted.

Since the turnout for primary elections is so low, it's confined to activists pretty much and ideologues. And
they choose the most ideological member of that party who's running.

And since it's a safe district, the general election is a foregone conclusion. It's a formality. So therefore you are taxed and you are not represented, whether you're a blue person in a blue district or a red district or whether you're a red person. And of course if you're an Independent they don't care about you at all. They don't care what you think. They don't care how you vote. Because they don't need to compete for your vote.

Now, the other communities of interest that we've heard from tonight, whether it's a city, a school board, an Indian -- First Americans' community, their community of interest, there's this religion, they think their community of interest is best served if it's all in one district so they can have more power over choosing one representative. The upshot of that is, of course, is that they only get one representative.

And so I want to speak to the people who are not here tonight. They may not be watching on azredistricting.org. They may not be watching on AngryHousewife.com. The people who don't pay attention to this stuff, but the people who wonder why their legislative doesn't do what they want it to do and they get side tracked
into crazy stuff.

The reason for that is because of uncompetitive districts. And because you're disenfranchised, they don't care about your vote. They don't answer your letters. You are not important to them.

What is important to them is who pays them, who pays for their campaigns, and who they have to raise money from, since that's what they spent all their time doing is raising money from special interests.

Thanks.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Holmes.

Next up is -- and if we end this on time, we will get them all.

Jeff Schriber.

JEFF SCHRIBER: I'm Jeff Schriber. I represent myself and my small family. And I think many people have already spoken today. I want to remind you what the reason for Prop 106 in fact. With the Internet thing you can actually read it.

And what people voted on exactly was to oversee the balance -- oh, excuse me, but the balance of fair competitive districts. That's what people voted on. That's what the proposition was about.

And you might say, well, why is that important.

Well, you've heard today from a number of sides, both on the
left and on the right, that they don't have representation. The reason they don't have representation is because when, when you have extremes on either side, that's the group that takes over.

So by having a competitive district, which you're going to allow yourself, is to have a state where you can say both major parties have to have people that are somewhere in the middle, because that's where the vast majority of people are. People are sick of the partisan bickering that we have on the left and the right. And by having moderates come on both sides, and that's only possible if you don't have a safe district as someone just said, you have a Republican district, it can be as far to the right and people don't get represented, if it's Democratic it can be as far to the left.

Most people are somewhere in the middle. That's where we should be. That's why it's important to do this. And, finally, because you got to take those away from the politicians. That was the reason to do this.

And what's just happened shows us exactly why. The removal of your chair without any justification is criminal. And frankly all of the commissioners, I believe, on both sides should repudiate this and make a clear statement that this is wrong.

Because this could easily have been on the
Democrats. In fact, my understanding is they tried to do that but weren't able to do.

If you get a different governor the next time, it could easily be on your side. This is not in anyone's interest. This was created to get a better interest for everyone.

I think you guys are trying to do a good job of that.

I'm not an expert on that. I don't want you to tell me how to do transplants. I'm not going to tell you how to do this. But I can tell you it's time that you looked at the Independents and get people working together.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Spell your name, please.

JEFF SCHRIBER: S-C-H-R-I-B-E-R.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

Next up Randy Keating.

And following that is our final speaker, which will be Melanie Beikman.


And fortunately the gentleman earlier kind of stole my thunder. I had wanted to point out that gerrymandering as it's being used is completely wrong. And
that, two, for a district to be competitive, it cannot being
gerrymandered by definition, unless Merriam Webster has a
liberal bias, which I don't know if it does or not, but it
could.

So I want to speak about competitiveness.

What's so bad about competitiveness? Isn't
competitiveness and competition what America is built on?

We can compete for everything in our daily lives.
If competition make a better widget and competition makes a
better athlete, then won't competition make a better public
servant?

And if two sitting congressmen are then forced to
compete with each other, God forbid, for everyone's votes,
how is that bad? Ultimately the best man will win, and
ultimately Arizona will be better off for it.

And then that loser can go and run in some other
race, if they really want to.

And so, finally, I'll just say, I'm saddened. I'm
relatively new to politics and I'm definitely new into the
level of activism that I have been into the past couple
years. And this whole process has really turned me off.

I mean, I don't know about everyone else in this
room, but I feel like maybe there's no saving us. Maybe we
are just an ungovernable people, and no matter what we're
going to tear at each other's faces as our ship sinks.
I think that when Arizona voters in their wisdom voted this Commission into existence, they wanted fair and competitive districts.

And we held up this system in high regard as the very model of what is best about our democracy.

Instead it has become a caricature of the worst of our democracy.

And it's really turned me off.

But I think it's this Commission did itself a huge disservice when you allowed your unanimously elected chairwoman to be tarred and feathered and attacked and slandered publicly, and you did not -- not one of you stood up and said, enough is enough, this woman is a woman of integrity, and she is serving the people to the best of her ability. Instead we all stayed quiet, wink and nod, and now look where we are.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next we have Melanie Beikman, and we have one final speaker after Melanie.


First of all, as many as have done, I'd like to thank you for your service.
I know that it's -- it is a volunteer job.
I understand that you have many important criteria to balance, and I will not minimize the importance of true communities of interest.

But, I do believe that competitive districts serve the majority of Arizonans, and specifically moderates of both parties and independents. Many prominent Arizonans -- many prominent Arizonans have been trying to find very publicly trying to find solutions to the extreme partisanship in Arizona politics. And Sandra Day O'Connor is one of those who's been looking for solutions to that.

If moderates and independents had a vote, we wouldn't have the kind of abuse of power that we've had this week with our Arizona senate, not to mention the governor and secretary of state.

So I believe that the events of this week are just one example of many of why we need more competitive districts in Arizona.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.
Is there anyone else that would like to speak this evening?

LAUREN KUBY: Yes.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: You do not have a speaker slip because --
LAUREN KUBY: I really appreciate it.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Quite all right. Spell your name for the record, please.

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

So the actions of Jan Brewer, the legislature, and the Republican congressional delegations in the last few days bring to mind my favor childhood story, Alice In Wonderland.

So imagine, if you will, ask everyone to suspend belief here. Alice is Chair Colleen Mathis. The Queen of Hearts is Jan Brewer, whose philosophy, like the Queen's is sentence first and verdict afterwards. Off with their head, Jan proclaims as she orders Chair Mathis fired from the IRC.

The Mad Hatter is represented by the super majority in the senate, whose rush to judgment has, oh, so hastily overturned the will of the voters.

And who is the Cheshire Cat in this drama of democracy, this overdrawn drama of democracy. Well, it's Fair Trust Arizona, the SuperPAC funded by, as you know, Schweikert, Kyl, Gosar, and Quayle, the Republican delegation.

In Wonderland all that's seen is the cat's grin. His corporeal body is invisible, just like the shadowy group that's been influencing the independent redistricting --
All that is seen is the cat's Cheshire grin. His corporeal body is invisible just like the shadowy group that's been influencing the independent redistricting process. He's hiding from the voters. Curiouser and curiouser.

Only one thing is for sure, Arizona is down the rabbit hole.

(Appause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.
One more, which is -- after you will be Pam.

PAM LAPLACA: Thank you. My name is Pam LaPlaca. I live in Tempe. I've lived in Arizona for a total of 25 years.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Sorry to interrupt, spell your --

PAM LAPLACA: L-A, capital P, as in Peter, L-A-C-A.

And I've been proud of the law that Arizona passed on the Independent Redistricting Committee, and I am very disappointed that Governor Brewer just come in and, you know, off with her head, as Lauren said.

And, it's not good.

It's just -- it's really just reeks of politics, like lots of people said. We were a third, a third, a
third. You know, we have a third Independents who are really cut out of the process.

And it's important because this is going to set our stage for ten years.

And so I hope that Brewer and the Mad Hatters at the legislature will come to their senses.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm correct now in saying that Pam is our last speaker, Pam.

COUNCILWOMAN PAM KIRBY: Thank you for indulging me.

I serve on the town council for the town of Paradise Valley.

And I am late arriving tonight as I've been in a council meeting since 1:00 p.m. this afternoon drafting our general plan.

So -- which is also very important, so I appreciate you giving me the opportunity.

I am proud to represent the residents, get their feedback on issues of importance to them, and stand up for their best interests.

An undeniable connection for the residents of Paradise Valley is our strong connection to our neighboring
Communities in the city of Phoenix.

These ties to the Biltmore to our west, northeast Phoenix to the north, and Arcadia to the south are extremely strong and have been for decades.

There is great concern over the draft congressional maps and the way they split these very closely linked communities apart.

Specifically the maps pull the Biltmore and Arcadia areas apart from their neighbors of Paradise Valley and northeast Phoenix with the strong, long-standing social and economic links they share in common.

And they place them in a district with Tempe and other east valley cities.

The east valley enjoys its own unique characteristics and needs, which are not shared in the Biltmore and Arcadia areas.

I ask that you adjust the draft congressional maps so that you don't split the Biltmore and Arcadia away from Paradise Valley and northeast Phoenix.

We appreciate your hard work and the immense time commitment devoted to this important process.

And thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak tonight.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

I want to give special thanks to the city of
Scottsdale for allowing us to use this beautiful facility this evening. I want to give special thanks to everybody that came out and hung out there and, but above all, to the iron man, Marty, for being able to stand up to this --

(Applause.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- to the handle all of the public record without taking a break, allowing 100 percent of the public comment that wanted to be put on the record.

The iron man, Marty.

Thank you, everybody. Have a great night.

(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 143 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 14th day of November, 2011.

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