

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 21, 2011
6:06 p.m.

Location

South Mountain Community College
7050 South 24th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85402

Attending

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner

Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist

Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter 50162
www.courtreportersaz.com

Phoenix, Arizona
July 21, 2011
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: We don't have a gavel.
Okay. Let's go ahead and start the meeting.

First of all, thank you all for being here. And
the -- what we'll do is we'll start off with the Pledge of
Allegiance. It's the right thing to do.

The flag is. . .

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance commenced.)

VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Again, thank you, guys, for
being here and for being patient with us.

What we'll do is we have two presentations before
we start the public comments.

And what we're looking at is about a three-minute
comment period per person.

And what we want to do is, so we want to get as
much -- maximize the public input is limit it to
three minutes, no more than three minutes.

And we will have Buck -- where is Buck?

Buck will be monitoring the time, and we expect to

1 start on time and end on time.

2 Again, thank you for being here.

3 We're here to hear your thoughts and ideas of what
4 we can do to help you guys and make this redistricting fair,
5 a fair process, and transparent.

6 So Commissioner McNulty and Commissioner Freeman
7 are here with me.

8 So, let's go ahead and get started with Willie.
9 You want to go -- he's with Strategic Telemetry.

10 ANNA GARCIA: Vice Chair, excuse me, I need to
11 make the announcement for the interpreter.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Oh, please, I apologize.

13 So, we will have been having a Spanish
14 interpreter.

15 (Whereupon, AIRC staff member Anna Garcia made the
16 announcement in Spanish.)

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Anna.

18 As a requirement of federal law, we are required
19 to provide a Spanish translator in areas that are populated
20 by Spanish speaking individuals.

21 What we would like to do, in addition to
22 introducing my fellow commissioners, is introducing the
23 staff.

24 Kristina Gomez, who is talking to our attorney,
25 Mary O'Grady. Kristina Gomez.

1 Ray Bladine.

2 Buck Forst.

3 Thanks again.

4 So, are we forgetting anybody?

5 Marty, our court reporter.

6 And Kristin Windtberg.

7 And there's Andy Drechsler.

8 And Korrine Kubena.

9 You know, I am forgetting names right now. So,
10 are you waving at me?

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: We are having trouble hearing
12 you back here.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Really? Okay.

14 We'll go ahead and turn up the mic.

15 So, again, thank you for being here.

16 And now, Willie, if you don't mind starting the
17 presentation.

18 WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you, everyone, for being
19 here.

20 This is a short presentation on the Arizona
21 redistricting process.

22 During this presentation we'll have seven things.

23 The first is why do we have a Redistricting
24 Commission?

25 What is redistricting?

1 What is the difference between reapportionment and
2 redistricting?

3 Why do we have to redistrict?

4 What guidelines need to be followed when drawing
5 new districts?

6 What are the steps in the redistricting process?

7 And, finally, how can public input be submitted to
8 the AIRC?

9 So starting with why do we have Redistricting
10 Commission.

11 This is the second time that Arizona's districts
12 have been redrawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting
13 Commission.

14 In 2000 Arizona voters approved Proposition 106
15 that created the Arizona Independent Redistricting
16 Commission. It established a process and criteria for
17 drawing new district lines.

18 The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two
19 Republicans, and an Independent chair, elected by other
20 commissioners.

21 The fifth member shall not be registered with any
22 party already represented on the Commission.

23 The 2011 AIRC members are: Vice-Chairman Scott
24 Freeman, Vice-Chairman Jose Herrera, Chairwoman Colleen
25 Mathis, Commissioner Linda McNulty, who's also kind enough

1 to be here today, and Commissioner Richard Stertz.

2 What is redistricting?

3 Redistricting is the process of redrawing
4 congressional and legislative district lines.

5 The difference -- what is the difference between
6 redistricting and reapportionment?

7 The two terms are often used interchangeably.
8 However, there is a difference.

9 Reapportionment is the process of allocating
10 congressional districts among the states based on changes in
11 population.

12 That's what the census does. It tells you how
13 many Congress people every state receives.

14 Because of population growth over the last decade,
15 Arizona was allocated an additional congressional district
16 in 2010, after the 2010 census.

17 Now it's gone from nine -- or eight to nine
18 districts.

19 Redistricting specifically is the process of
20 drawing those actual boundaries of those districts.

21 Why do we have to redistrict?

22 First, because Arizona gained a congressional
23 district, new lines will have to be drawn to add the new
24 district.

25 Even if Arizona had not gained a district, the

1 congressional and legislative district lines would have to
2 be redrawn to account for changes in population over the
3 past decade.

4 The concept of one person, one vote, dictates
5 there should be as close to the same number of people per
6 district as possible.

7 Because population growth is not static, or equal,
8 in all areas, the existing districts now have different
9 populations.

10 What guidelines need to be followed when drawing
11 new districts?

12 First, we must comply with the U.S. Constitution
13 and the Voting Rights Act.

14 Next, must ensure equal population among all the
15 districts.

16 These first two criteria are federally mandated,
17 and all plans must satisfy these two criteria to be
18 accepted.

19 The third is compact and contiguous districts.

20 Fourth is respect communities of interest.

21 Fifth is use visible geographic features, city,
22 town, and county boundaries and, when possible, undivided
23 census tracts.

24 Lastly, create competitive districts where no
25 significant detriment to other goals.

1 The Arizona redistricting process.

2 Proposition 106 mandated that we start with a grid
3 map. In some states the previous plans are used as starting
4 points. This is not the case in Arizona.

5 The commencement of the mapping process for both
6 the congressional and legislative district shall be the
7 creation of equal population in a grid-like pattern across
8 the state.

9 The initial grid map will most likely only meet
10 criterias B and C, which is equal population and compact and
11 contiguous districts.

12 Following that, we adjust the grid map to meet the
13 other six criteria.

14 First one is the Voting Rights Act.

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

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

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

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

4 Following that, the next criteria are -- after
5 adjusting the grid map, are equal population among all the
6 districts, compact and contiguous districts, and respect for
7 communities of interest.

8 One of the goals of these public meetings is to
9 solicit public input about communities of interest.

10 There are forms available at the hearings or on
11 the AIRC website that can be used to define an area that you
12 feel should be considered a community of interest.

13 Finally, you must use visible geographic features,
14 such as county boundaries, cities and towns, and census
15 tracts.

16 Luckily, census geography often follows these
17 visible features.

18 And, lastly, we have to create competitive
19 districts where there is no significant detriment to other
20 goals.

21 Now, this is talking about how you can submit your
22 input to the AIRC.

23 First, you can fill out a request to speak form at
24 the public hearings and provide the Commission your input.

25 Examples of input include thoughts on criteria,

1 communities of interest, or anything else about the
2 redistricting process.

3 Also you can speak at hearing or submit your input
4 using one of the input forms at the hearing or on the AIRC
5 website.

6 Finally, you can visit us at azredistricting.org
7 or call (602)542-5221.

8 And I was supposed to mention at the beginning,
9 for anyone watching this on the live stream, this Power
10 Point is also available on the website.

11 Thank you very much for the opportunity to present
12 today, and we look forward to beginning this process.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Willie.

14 I just want to remind the audience that if you're
15 planning on speaking, you have to fill out a form. It's
16 very simple form, it looks kind of like this. And I would
17 recommend that you do that.

18 Now, if the -- our next speaker is the
19 Honorable Leah Landrum Taylor. I think she's in the
20 audience somewhere.

21 Senator Taylor?

22 She has a presentation.

23 LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: Good evening.

24 Thank you very much, and thank you for the
25 commissioners for being here, to the chairs as well as the

1 guests that are here.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Could you turn the volume up,
3 please?

4 LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: All right. As well as the
5 guests here today this evening. I'm extremely excited --
6 can I just take this off?

7 I'm extremely excited to see the number of people
8 that have come out for something that is so important. We
9 know how important, of course, the census was. And when the
10 census was going forward, we were letting people know that
11 this is one of the reasons we wanted to make sure that folks
12 filled out their census form.

13 So here we are, and I'm very glad to see that you
14 all are here, of course, in our district, and you want the
15 best districts in the entire world, so I'm not biased or
16 anything like that. But certainly when we think about the
17 South Mountain Village, it's a fabulous place.

18 But I do have a couple of maps that are there.

19 We worked really hard with a collation. It's the
20 Arizona Minority Coalition that we have. And we've come
21 together with some ideas that we put forward for four
22 districts in particular that we would like to take a look
23 and make sure that there are true opportunities to have
24 representation as it relates to, of course, minority
25 populations, but making sure that we have a voice there at

1 the capital and that the capital is truly reflective of what
2 our Arizona population is.

3 So we have four districts that we would like to
4 talk about.

5 One in particular tonight, and that's of course
6 where the lines that are around the South Mountain Village
7 area, Laveen as well as downtown, a little bit downtown
8 Phoenix as well.

9 The other districts I know individuals could not
10 make it this evening. It was a little bit of a short notice
11 and a lot of people are not here.

12 But, as I understand, there will be another
13 meeting that will be held in the West Valley, so it will be
14 a little bit of a bigger turnout for that.

15 So I don't know, I came in a little earlier and
16 put it up there on the Power Point.

17 The one that says 16 is the one I want to look at.

18 So if you take a look at what the -- what just the
19 proposed lines are, the beauty of this whole process is that
20 anyone actually here in this audience can come up with ideas
21 that they would like to see, to be able to come forward to
22 the Commission, and to be able to present these as you all
23 are going to be traveling across the state.

24 So this is not the last time to do that if folks
25 have ideas.

1 We worked really hard on this, and we wanted to
2 make sure that as we were looking at the different
3 boundaries of the district, if you notice it's, it's very
4 similar to what the district looks like now.

5 And there's a lot of reasons for that.

6 One of the things that we're really focused on are
7 communities of interest. And that's very important. When
8 you think about the South Mountain Village, we have, as
9 we're sitting here the right now in South Mountain Community
10 College, the satellites that are throughout the district.

11 There's a satellite that's in Laveen.

12 There's also a satellite school that's in the town
13 of Guadalupe for the South Mountain Community College.

14 Also, we're looking at the airport as being very
15 strong in staying in the district as well.

16 One of the things throughout the South Mountain
17 Village, we fought very hard to try to have things to help
18 with, you know, to build our revenues and our certain tax
19 pressure in order to be able to have funds coming into our
20 district.

21 And that's really important.

22 So the airport is certainly an important area that
23 we have.

24 We also have natural boundary lines. If you take
25 a look to the very bottom of the southern portion of that

1 green portion that we're talking about right now, it's a
2 beautiful area which is the largest municipal park in the
3 world, from what I understand, is our South Mountain Park.

4 So take a look at South Mountain along those
5 boundaries, it goes all the way down into Laveen. Goes over
6 up to the boundary of the I-10 freeway there.

7 So that's another thing is we're looking at
8 various communities of interest.

9 Another thing is even, for instance, with our
10 chamber. You know, we have the Laveen South Mountain
11 chamber, works very well together, and so we want to make
12 sure that as we're looking at our communities of interest,
13 things like our school districts, we have Roosevelt School
14 District, which encompasses a large portion of this
15 district.

16 So if we were to split that district, it would be
17 pretty difficult to be able to have, you know, different
18 representatives that are focusing in on those concerns of,
19 say, for instance, even Roosevelt or the Laveen School
20 District, to try and keep that together.

21 We've had an opportunity to talk to those that
22 have served on the Roosevelt School District, and certainly
23 they would like to -- they are in support and would like to
24 have this particular proposal go forward.

25 But we stand, of course, for any questions.

1 I know it's a lot of people that are here today to
2 speak on behalf of this particular map and others that they
3 would like to talk about.

4 But, again, I would like to thank you all.

5 I know we have a limit in our speaking time, so I
6 don't want anybody to buzz me.

7 So, questions? I'm here to stand for your
8 questions.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Well, thank you so much.

10 Did you submit the information to our staff?

11 LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: This is what I have, and I'd
12 like to make sure it's formally submitted. And I also have
13 some paperwork that I would bring up here to make sure
14 that's passed out as well that talks specifically about the
15 breakdown demographically of each of the districts as well.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much.

17 LEAH LANDRUM TAYLOR: You're very welcome.

18 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 Now, I also know that we have other distinguished
20 representatives within the audience.

21 I know Mr. -- Councilman Michael Johnson is in the
22 audience.

23 Mr. Johnson, do you want to say a few words? It's
24 up to you.

25 COUNCILMAN MICHAEL JOHNSON: Thank you.

1 Let me, first of all, just thank the Commission
2 for taking the opportunity and the time to come out here in
3 our district.

4 I think this is the best district in the entire
5 city of Phoenix. I know that it is the hub of the city of
6 Phoenix.

7 Because we have all of downtown. We have the
8 airport.

9 We have the fastest growing area in the city.

10 So, as we start to look at these maps and we look
11 at how contiguous these maps are, I hope that we're able to
12 keep these same communities of interest that have existed
13 for many, many years when you have a lot of residents that
14 are living here.

15 But what is also concerning is that you have a lot
16 of residents and families moving back home.

17 And, you know, I kind of call it youngsters or
18 young people moving back to be in the same area where their
19 parents have lived.

20 And you have South Phoenix, South Mountain
21 Village, the Laveen areas, has continually grown so that in
22 looking at the redistricting, that we're able to keep those
23 things together and take into consideration that growth that
24 we've actually had here within the area.

25 I know within the city, the Laveen area has been

1 the fastest growing area in the city, the southern part of
2 the city.

3 So we've had a lot of redevelopment, a lot of
4 growth, to put those things together, continue to work with,
5 and I am looking forward to really hearing some of the other
6 comments that the citizens actually have to have about what
7 their opinion, what they're thinking about the district, the
8 districts being contiguous, and all the things we're having.

9 So I take that opportunity to thank you.

10 I take that opportunity also to welcome all those
11 that are here, all the constituents that are here in the
12 district.

13 For those of you who don't know, the new ones, I
14 love District 8. So I hope you leave here today saying I
15 love District 8.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

17 We also have State Senator John McComish.

18 Is he here?

19 Would you like to speak?

20 SENATOR JOHN McCOMISH: Thank you very much for
21 that.

22 The first thing I should say is thank you for the
23 volunteer job that you folks do. I appreciate it, and I
24 know many others do, and I know it's a lot of hard work.

25 I wanted to make -- actually I can take what my

1 friend and colleague Senator Leah Landrum Taylor said about
2 the district she represents and pretty much flip it a little
3 bit south and say some of the similar comments about
4 district 20 that I represent.

5 And I'd like to make just three points, if I may.

6 Two have to do with communities of interest and
7 one with competitive districts.

8 And community of interest and District 20,
9 Ahwatukee Foothills is a part of District 20. Ahwatukee is
10 a community of interest.

11 In the '90s it was divided, and we never thought
12 that was very fair.

13 The last Redistricting Commission put it together,
14 recognized it as a community of interest. And Ahwatukee
15 Foothills as a whole is part of District 20.

16 Ahwatukee has its own Chamber of Commerce and its
17 own newspaper, has its own libraries, its own swimming pool,
18 has its own village planning committee, et cetera,
19 et cetera.

20 And it has natural boundaries with the South
21 Mountain Range on the north and the Gila Reservation on the
22 south.

23 So it clearly fits the definition of community of
24 interest, and I hope that's something that you people will
25 consider.

1 Another point regarding a community of interest is
2 District 20 itself, which includes Ahwatukee Foothills,
3 south Tempe, west Chandler. It's a very homogeneous area.
4 And I think, again, the Redistricting Commission from
5 ten years ago did a very good job in designing that
6 district. As I said, it's very homogeneous.

7 And it also encompasses almost perfectly, not
8 quite, but almost perfectly the Kyrene School District.

9 So those boundaries are pretty much a mirror of
10 each other, and I think that's a real strength.

11 That the -- and I know that you can't maintain
12 perfectly the integrity of districts because there's going
13 to be changes. In fact, District 20 would be -- if you left
14 it alone, it's a little too small. We would have to add
15 about 30,000 people.

16 So I know there has to be those changes, but I
17 hope that you'll consider Ahwatukee Foothills as a community
18 of interest and District 20 as much as possible, and
19 particularly how it is encompassed by the Kyrene School
20 District.

21 Final point is about competitive districts.

22 And while District 20 is -- has a Republican
23 majority and has had historically, those majorities are
24 shrinking over time, have shrunk. And, in fact, in 2008
25 there was a Democrat elected to the State House of

1 Representatives.

2 So I'm not sure exactly how we define a
3 competitive district, but I think if you have representation
4 from both parties, I think that's a -- should be part of the
5 definition.

6 So, again, thank you for giving me a chance to
7 speak. Appreciate what you do, and thank you very much.

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 We have Ben Miranda, who is the former state
10 representative and current Phoenix Union high school --
11 member of the Phoenix Union High School governing board.

12 BEN MIRANDA: Thank you very much.

13 I'd thank you, and I'd also like to welcome you to
14 the district.

15 As you know, I represented the district for
16 eight years.

17 My wife is in Rhode Island today on a -- actually
18 on a national group that she chairs, and she wasn't able to
19 be here today.

20 But she also has asked me to express some of the
21 sentiments that you'll hear today.

22 One of them is, to start off with, the proposal
23 for the map that was presented earlier today by
24 Senator Landrum Taylor. We support that, absolutely support
25 for the Arizona Minority Coalition.

1 But also I'd like to point out to you some of the
2 geographic features that I think you'll hear constantly
3 throughout this hearing.

4 Obviously we're bordered by the mountains, which
5 is probably the anchor for the whole district.

6 And then you've got the river bottom.

7 Even though the proposal extends beyond that, the
8 fact is for the most part that is vacant land. And the
9 airport has encroached on it to the point that really the
10 airport belongs to District 16 in many ways.

11 I'd like to also indicate that Guadalupe is a very
12 important community to us, and it's simply important because
13 of the cultural ties that it has to this district and the
14 fact that for 20 years it's been represented by the same
15 district that encompasses this south Phoenix, South Mountain
16 community.

17 I served with Roosevelt School Board, and I'm now
18 serving the governing board for Phoenix Union High School
19 District.

20 And Roosevelt is in many ways considered probably,
21 in terms of cultural, ethnicity, history, almost from every
22 perspective, a community of interest.

23 The fact is it also, next to the mountain,
24 probably anchors District 16 as well.

25 I'd like to also indicate to you that

1 South Mountain Community College, the campus that you're on
2 today, has a satellite office in Guadalupe, and it ties it
3 in naturally to what we feel is -- should be within the same
4 district.

5 Again, I'd ask that you consider very strongly the
6 proposed map.

7 This may very well be the easiest map that you'll
8 draw in Arizona.

9 Because of -- because it's so naturally compacted
10 and meets all the criteria that you set out in terms of
11 redistricting.

12 I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak
13 to you, and I also want to welcome you again to District 16.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16 Now, we have Rick Moreau with the Tonopah
17 Community Council.

18 He's the president.

19 RICK MOREAU: Hello.

20 I'm here to speak about community of interest.

21 I'm from the community of Tonopah. We're in the
22 far west valley. We're a very rural community.

23 But currently the districts are split, split us
24 right down the middle.

25 And we're not happy with that.

1 We don't feel we have proper representation being
2 split into two different districts.

3 We're on the far fringes of both of those
4 districts.

5 And we want to try to be considered as a community
6 of interest and pull together into one district. That would
7 give us, we feel, a much better representation.

8 We're about 5,000 residents out there. So it's
9 not just a sprinkling. It is a small community, but still
10 substantial as far as we're concerned.

11 So that's the boundaries that we'd like to have
12 considered would be west of the Hassayampa River, north of
13 Elliot Road, south of the Belmont Mountains, and east of
14 459th Avenue.

15 That gives a square that covers basically the area
16 that we represent.

17 Thank you.

18 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Well, thank you.

19 The next person would be a former city councilman
20 from Phoenix representing -- had represented District 16,
21 Calvin Goode.

22 Calvin Goode. That's what I meant.

23 CALVIN GOODE: Thank you. People have called me
24 worse names, so. . .

25 I'm in District 8. I'm also in District 16.

1 I was on the original city council on the
2 original -- when we redistrict -- all members of the council
3 supported that, and certainly it has worked out well.

4 I know they certainly support the proposal
5 submitted by Leah Landrum Taylor, Councilman Johnson, and
6 certainly I think that it is a great proposal.

7 Certainly hoping that you will see fit to apply
8 what they have told you today.

9 Again, thanks, all of you, all five of you, for
10 serving.

11 And it certainly is a worthy opportunity for you
12 to do what's right by the citizens of the city of Phoenix.

13 Again, good for good government, good for a better
14 redistricting.

15 Thank you.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Goode.

17 The next person is from the community of
18 Guadalupe, community development director, Gino
19 Turrubiartes.

20 I'm probably butchering his name.

21 GINO TURRUBIARTES: No, you did very well.

22 Thank you, Commission. I appreciate the
23 opportunity to speak to you, and I'm really happy to see
24 such an active participant here.

25 My name is Gino Turrubiartes. I'm from the town

1 of Guadalupe. I grew up there, and now today I am an
2 employee of the Town.

3 It's great that I've seen in the years that I've
4 been there where we have now South Mountain Community
5 College. We have a library, the Boys and Girls Club. We
6 have an active mercado.

7 We are working really diligently on economic
8 development there in the town of Guadalupe.

9 Great road project that's happening, Sun Circle
10 Trail.

11 We have, that's active right now, in Guadalupe,
12 road enhancement project been completed as well as updated
13 monthly.

14 But as the Town of Guadalupe council had a meeting
15 a couple of weeks ago, the council position is that the
16 Town of Guadalupe wants to stay in District 16.

17 We also want to be represented through the
18 Congressional District 4.

19 We feel that we have been very well represented,
20 not just in the last 20 years, but through the time of
21 Guadalupe's incorporation in 1975.

22 We've had a lot of great things that have happened
23 for Guadalupe.

24 I want to give a lot of kudos also to
25 Representative Richard Miranda, who has been very supportive

1 for the town of Guadalupe, been very active, you know, in
2 communicating well with the council, with us, you know, on,
3 on these processes and how redistricting works.

4 For a lot of us, that's brand-new stuff. And
5 we're just learning as we go.

6 I want to say thank you again to your staff, to
7 yourselves.

8 Guadalupe requests that -- not requests, but
9 actually Guadalupe takes the position that District 16
10 and -- I mean, District 16 and Congressional District 4 best
11 represent the town of Guadalupe.

12 Thank you.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

14 Before we have the next speaker, if you guys have
15 cell phones that are not turned off, please turn them off
16 now.

17 And also if you don't mind not speaking when
18 people are speaking, we'd appreciate it.

19 Next speaker is CJ Briggles, from Ahwatukee.

20 If I'm not pronouncing your last name correctly,
21 please accept my apologies.

22 CJ BRIGGLE: And I appreciate the opportunity.
23 Thank you very much for having me.

24 Although I will say Senator McComish has
25 reiterated most of my comments, we just are here to

1 represent Ahwatukee as a community of interest.

2 And do appreciate that the natural borders and
3 the Kyrene School District really are already sustained
4 within LD 20, and that is our purpose for being here this
5 evening.

6 Thank you.

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

8 As we're going forward, if you don't mind, when
9 you come up, say your name and spell it for Marty. It will
10 be very helpful.

11 The next person is Paul Lowes, representing
12 himself.

13 PAUL LOWES: Takes me a while.

14 Can you say the next person so they can be line?

15 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: That is a good idea.

16 I'm going to do this, let's call the next person.

17 Rosie Lopez will be next. Then Dave Wells. Then
18 Isaac Serna.

19 Go ahead, sir.

20 PAUL LOWES: All right. I'm Paul Lowes from
21 Tempe.

22 And I love politics.

23 I live politics.

24 But I'm hoping that one thing that you all
25 remember, and you've been undergoing a lot of pressure so

1 far, an awful lot of pressure from political people that
2 posterity matters more than politics. And I hope your goal
3 will remain keeping Arizona as fair as possible and making
4 it more fair all the time.

5 So, all these issues about, you know, mapping, all
6 that's important, but the key principles of posterity and
7 fairness should rule what we do in the long run.

8 Thank you so much.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

10 ROSIE LOPEZ: My name is Rosie Lopez, R-O-S-I-E,
11 L-O-P-E-Z.

12 And I'm representing the Arizona Hispanic
13 Community Forum, founder.

14 And I have been involved in redistricting before
15 in the past.

16 But, anyway, I'm here to speak on communities of
17 interests.

18 I want to start with the congressional, because I
19 think that we have a -- we have basically a very good bunch
20 of boundaries here.

21 And, by the way, I'm from Legislative District 16
22 here. And I thank you so much for having this here, because
23 I think it was wonderful that you chose south Phoenix,
24 because I don't think -- you know, sometimes we're
25 neglected.

1 So, anyway, but I have also lived in District 13
2 and 14. Used to be 22 in the old days.

3 I lived there for many years.

4 So I want to tell you that the community of
5 interests are Tolleson and central Phoenix, Maryvale,
6 historic Glendale, and, as I said, 13 and 14 and 16.

7 So those are community of interests that I'd like
8 to see, you know, and I'd like to recommend to the -- and
9 Guadalupe, how can I not -- how can I leave out Guadalupe.

10 I'm very supportive of what the gentleman said
11 about Guadalupe.

12 And I am in full support and we are in full
13 support of Guadalupe being a part of Congressional
14 District 4.

15 And, but also of District 16 as well.

16 I think that we are -- our communities of interest
17 are very much alike. We have the culture. We have the
18 history. We have the language as well.

19 And also I want to mention in terms of this
20 District 16 that we have the natural boundaries that
21 Senator Leah Landrum spoke so well of. And I reiterate what
22 she said. Those are the natural boundaries. I think they
23 should stay. I'm very appreciative that she and others put
24 that map together, and I'm very supportive of that map for
25 District 16.

1 So, I also want to say that we have, in terms of
2 our district, we have a very similar income -- low income
3 level to middle class level. And the language of course.
4 The education level is about the same.

5 I'm sorry I don't have data right now, but I
6 probably will have it later.

7 Transportation needs are very important here, in
8 our district.

9 And thank you to our congressman that represents
10 us now, we have some of that taken care of, but we're not
11 there yet.

12 We have the ancestry. We have religious worship,
13 south Phoenix churches. And we also have celebrations that
14 we celebrate here that are very unique to us, with the
15 fiestas, quinceaneras, and all of those good things that
16 happen in our district.

17 And of course Laveen, I cannot leave that out, is
18 very much a part of it, and we go to their barbecues and
19 have a lot of interest there.

20 So thank you very for having us, and thank you for
21 listening to me.

22 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

23 DAVE WELLS: I'm Dave Wells, and I live in Tempe.

24 I'm not representing ASU, but I teach political
25 science there.

1 And so I'm just going to talk to you a little bit
2 about some of the issues with redistricting.

3 As you can see from people who have already
4 spoken, that you're going to have a lot of micro pressures
5 about preserving the status quo.

6 You also have to look at the macro picture of, you
7 know, the general issue is these people are going to get
8 elected to office, especially at the state legislature and
9 congress. And collectively they need to represent the
10 collectivity of the state. If you don't get the balance
11 right, then we can distort political issues.

12 One of the things that most disturbs my students
13 when I teach about this stuff is gerrymandering. When they
14 find out it's actually legal to discriminate to where they
15 draw a line except for on racial issues, it really bothers
16 them.

17 And I'll give you a little thing where you can
18 draw your own.

19 These are much easier to draw these ones.

20 But you did draw ones where you can create massive
21 majorities that go beyond what the macro picture would show
22 you.

23 And so one of the key problems with the Voting
24 Rights Act and the challenge that poses, because number the
25 ethnic minorities tend to be registered Democrat.

1 And you're required by law to have a majority
2 minority district.

3 So you need to have at least 50 percent of the
4 voting age population be of the minority group that you're
5 trying to represent so they have a fair chance to elect.

6 But if you have a super majority, super minority
7 district, what you're going to do is super cluster a number
8 of Democrats and then make the Democratic interest generally
9 have a more difficult opportunity in a macro picture of
10 including of being well-represented.

11 And that's a difficult balance that you've got to
12 try to work through. And you'll likely work with the Voting
13 Rights Act and your options are initially as you go through
14 that.

15 Now, a number of people are concerned about the
16 population breakdowns.

17 Now, although you're supposed to have equal
18 population, when you actually look at it, you're allowed for
19 congressional districts to be plus or minus two percent by
20 districts.

21 And at the state level they give you even more
22 flexibility.

23 According to things I've read, it can be high as
24 ten percent.

25 You probably won't go that big, but you can have

1 some variation, so you're -- and that can enable you to keep
2 some of these communities of interest together that you
3 might otherwise feel like you have to cut up because of
4 population concerns.

5 And then with each -- with competitiveness you
6 also might want to think about what are your macro goals.

7 And I actually haven't had a chance to sit down
8 and try to plot things out.

9 But generally, and perhaps with a little deviation
10 from here, something like being able to find ten Democratic
11 districts, ten Republican districts, and ten competitive
12 districts might be, you know, a general broad macro goal
13 that might help assure things.

14 Because Independents are a little bit hard to
15 figure out. So although they are Independents, they tend to
16 vote one way or the other.

17 Some of the ways, and, again, I haven't run
18 numbers on these things, but some of the ways you can check
19 that might be in the presidential races, because although
20 Senator McComish talked about legislative races, sometimes
21 if it's not a really competitive district now, the minority
22 party won't bother running a candidate so the strongest
23 candidates don't run.

24 But in the presidential race is, and especially in
25 our governor race in 2002 and 2010, you had a chance to

1 actually see where they could vote for Republican or
2 Democrat, and you had got a good sense of how that -- how
3 the people in that district tended to vote.

4 So those are some of the things I'd like you to
5 think about and consider.

6 And just for fun, when you don't have any time,
7 you can play with these.

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Could you actually state your
9 name and spell it out.

10 DAVE WELLS: Sure. Dave Wells, D-A-V-E,
11 W-E-L-L-S.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much, sir.

13 And before we get to Mr. Serna, I'd like the next
14 three people that will be speaking will be Mari Alvarado,
15 and Bob Thomas, and Tony Sissons.

16 So, Mr. Serna.

17 ISAAC SERNA: Good evening. My name is Isaac
18 Serna, spelled I-S-A-A-C, S-E-R-N-A.

19 First, I'd like to thank you all for coming out
20 today. I know it's a very difficult job you have ahead of
21 you.

22 First thing we would like to say is we concur
23 fully with Senator Leah Landrum Taylor's maps and her
24 presentation.

25 We know that here in Laveen, which is bounded by

1 South Mountain to the south, the Salt River to the north,
2 and south Phoenix to the east, we know that, you know,
3 currently our representation, they travel our same roads,
4 they have our same issues, and they can fully see what our
5 concerns are.

6 So as representation goes, you know, that's what
7 we're hoping that we have.

8 Because if we were to go south over the mountain,
9 they no longer have the same concerns or issues.

10 On the congressional side, we feel that our
11 demographics in Laveen are similar to south Phoenix,
12 Guadalupe, west Phoenix, and Tolleson.

13 Which we currently do have now.

14 And same thing, we have full representation now.
15 We're hoping that we can continue to have that.

16 Thank you.

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 MARI ALVARADO: Good evening.

19 Can you hear me?

20 My name is Mari Alvarado, M-A-R-I,
21 A-L-V-A-R-A-D-O.

22 And, again, I also want to thank the Commission,
23 the chair, everyone here.

24 And I think you're right. This is a great turnout
25 for one of your first public meetings.

1 I actually represent three different options here,
2 different organizations.

3 I was a member of the Legislative Latino Caucus
4 that drew up the map that representative or Senator Richard
5 Miranda and also Senator Leah Landrum Taylor presented to
6 you.

7 And I am in support of that map.

8 I'm also a member of the Alhambra Elementary
9 School Board.

10 I serve on that board.

11 And it is also a voluntary position, so I know
12 that it's a lot of work and your task before you is very
13 daunting.

14 And, thirdly, I am the immediate past district
15 director for the League of United Latin American Citizens,
16 LULAC.

17 And it was in that position that in 2010 we came
18 out real hard and we worked very tirelessly to get everyone
19 counted. (Whereupon, Ms. Alvarado spoke in Spanish.) It was
20 a real important issue for us.

21 We wanted to make sure that all of our community
22 was counted in 2010.

23 So we got the word out right away.

24 The redistricting process is very critical. It's
25 very important because it only comes out every, you know,

1 ten years.

2 And you just mentioned. This is only the second
3 time in Arizona.

4 So it's very important to us.

5 I want to mention three things.

6 Number one, that the process is very, very
7 important to our population.

8 We are taking this very seriously.

9 The second thing is the voter participation as far
10 as getting our community out registered to vote, and to vote
11 on the day of voting is very, very critical to us.

12 Because, as you know, there are many of our
13 population that they just have a very hard time getting out
14 to vote.

15 So getting these maps drawn in a fair way and in a
16 way that our candidates have a chance to get in is very
17 important to us.

18 And thirdly I want to say that we are looking very
19 closely at the work that the Commission is doing, and that
20 we expect to have representatives at all of our public
21 meetings, and that we certainly are going to follow the
22 Voting Rights Act to make sure that it does not discriminate
23 against minority populations.

24 Thank you very much.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

1 BOB THOMAS: I'm Bob Thomas.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. The
3 microphone is up? Okay.

4 I'm glad to see counsel here and I'm glad to
5 see this being recorded, because I want to speak to the
6 record.

7 I want to speak to an issue about competitiveness
8 and community of interest that I'm involved with.

9 And I really hope that you will listen to what I'm
10 trying to say.

11 I live in the LD 15, which is the central corridor
12 of Phoenix just north of the state capital.

13 For 35 years we have been dominated by one party.

14 Seventy percent of the registered voters in LD 15
15 are one party.

16 Consequently you could run a course of Howdy Doody
17 Howdy Doody and Pinky Lee and put a D by their name and they
18 would get elected. It is not a competitive district. It is
19 a very gerrymandered district, one that is obvious to
20 everybody in the room and certainly the Commission and
21 counsel.

22 When you're considering this, I'm a board member
23 of the Willo Neighborhood Association currently, also a
24 representative to the Phoenix Historical Society
25 Neighborhood Association as well.

1 And I speak of community of interest for the
2 people that -- board members tonight that can't be here to
3 speak for their own selves.

4 We would like to see the LD 15 in a competitive
5 atmosphere.

6 We would like it to be a 50/50 district where the
7 Independents and Republicans would also have a voice in that
8 district in state government.

9 It's gone on too long.

10 I understand that this only happens every
11 ten years. This is your one chance to maybe correct this,
12 because it's not fair to the 67,000 people that are living
13 in that legislative district.

14 I would really appreciate if you all would look
15 into it and absolutely draw those lines for it to be more
16 competitive.

17 Thank you very much.

18 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 After Mr. Tony Sissons, the next three other
20 individuals are Karen Damaso representing herself, Todd
21 Schwartz representing himself, and then Janice Cottrill --
22 Reverend Janice Cottrill representing herself.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Sissons.

24 TONY SISSONS: Good evening, commissioners. My
25 name is Tony Sissons, that's T-O-N-Y, S-I-S-S-O-N-S.

1 I'm a redistricting consultant. I'm very busy
2 this time of the day.

3 But I wanted to -- and I was one of the applicants
4 to be your mapping consultant.

5 And during that process we included on our team a
6 man who has a particular expertise, and I'm really kind of
7 just hoping that you will consider finding a way to involve
8 him in your process.

9 Because most of my concerns really relate not to
10 competition or communities of interest, but to this
11 Commission's relationship and the state of Arizona's
12 relationship with the Department of Justice.

13 Now, Mr. Yazzie, Alfred Yazzie, who was on the
14 team, he is an expert in native languages and also in voting
15 rights.

16 And I think from the perspective of the Justice
17 Department reviewing this process and seeing the gentleman
18 of his caliber as part of Arizona's team would be a very
19 useful thing.

20 Let's see.

21 The second point that I'd like to make.

22 And I don't now how much has been discussed up to
23 now.

24 And that has to do with one of the, one of the
25 elements that was listed on the -- in the presentation

1 earlier was the matter of the kind of analysis of voting --
2 of racially polarized voting that has to be done to be able
3 to draw districts that do comply with the Voting Rights Act.

4 And two of the major elements of that kind of
5 statistical analysis are census data and election data.

6 Now, there's nothing particularly amiss with the
7 election data that is on record with the Secretary of
8 State's Office.

9 However, the census data where it aggregates data
10 by voting precincts, about 300 of those precincts in the
11 federal database have the wrong precinct name on them.

12 And this is a problem that your mapping consultant
13 is aware of, and there are ways for, in your use of the
14 data, to sort of make those crossovers to the correct names.

15 My concern is that knowledge of that needs to be
16 spread, you know, to -- for instance, the reviewers of the
17 Justice Department need to know about those name switch
18 problems, name scrambles, as I call them.

19 Also organizations like MALDEF and Southwest
20 Voters Registration and other groups who do their own
21 independent analyses of voting rights issues. If they are
22 not aware of these scrambled names, then in essence they
23 would be coming up with analyses that do not fit.

24 So I encourage you to have your mapping consultant
25 and your attorneys looking at this issue.

1 And the third point --

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: If you can be brief. You've
3 run out of time.

4 I think that that was the timer; right?

5 TONY SISSONS: Then I will give you the
6 microphone.

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much, sir.

8 We have Karen Damaso next.

9 KAREN DAMASO: Hi, I'm Karen Damaso, K-A-R-E-N,
10 D-A-M-A-S-O.

11 So, thank you again, Chair Mathis(sic) and
12 commissioners for your time and service today and hearing
13 my statement regarding the current redistricting
14 considerations for Arizona's congressional and legislative
15 boundaries.

16 I understand there's certain rules that must be
17 followed when drawing the district limits.

18 I see that one requirement includes communities of
19 interest in order to keep boundaries united. This is
20 important to me since I've resided in the Biltmore area of
21 Phoenix for almost seven years and I've worked in Kierland
22 for almost six.

23 And these are my communities of interest.

24 I spend most of my time with my family and
25 friends, colleagues, in the Biltmore, Arcadia,

1 Paradise Valley, and Kierland areas, which I consider to be
2 my neighborhood.

3 We frequently support many of the resorts,
4 restaurants, retail shops, schools, clubs, and churches, and
5 these are my communities of interest.

6 Within these areas I am driving to different
7 places, and these are linked via Tatum, Lincoln, Camelback
8 Roads. And I see Scottsdale Road as a logical divider
9 between congressional districts, since my communities of
10 interest or our communities on interest are west of
11 Scottsdale Road.

12 So I just wanted to say thank you for your
13 consideration, and I hope you will acknowledge my
14 neighborhood when you decide to draw new boundaries for the
15 congressional districts.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

17 I think it's Todd Schwarz.

18 TODD SCHWARZ: My name is Todd Schwarz, T-O-D-D,
19 S-C-H-W-A-R-Z.

20 And I am a member of the Balsz Elementary School
21 Board and am also an active Democrat in District 15.

22 And as a school board member, I can appreciate the
23 communities of interest question.

24 In terms of -- currently Balsz is representative
25 by five district -- different legislative districts, which

1 is kind of frustrating if you have to go talk to
2 15 different legislators on an education issue.

3 But also know that that district was drawn that
4 way because of, I think, some communities of interest being
5 defined.

6 District 15 might have been an unintended
7 consequence.

8 I would actually agree with Bob Thomas that it
9 would be hard for a Democrat to lose, but I think
10 Howdy Doody and Pinky Lee were Republicans.

11 But this is a district that's roughly 12 miles
12 long, and parts are only a half mile wide.

13 It's very heavily Democratic.

14 And it actually suppresses voter turnout that it
15 is so uncompetitive.

16 A lot of people think that their work is done in
17 the primary election and there's no reason to go out and
18 vote during a general election.

19 I just want to urge the Commission that when you
20 look at communities of interest, don't ignore competition.
21 Because, again, when competitiveness is not considered and
22 compactness is not considered, then the result of the
23 district where if there are communities of interest, they
24 are very diverse to the point of having very little in
25 common.

1 And, again, the voter suppression, voter
2 suppression issue I think is especially concerning for those
3 in the district.

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

5 TODD SCHWARZ: Thank you very much.

6 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: First one is French, Dan
7 Schultz, and Danny Sullivan, all representing themselves.

8 JANICE COTTRILL: My name is Janice Cottrill,
9 C-O-T-T-R-I-L-L.

10 First of all, I just wanted to start off with a
11 complaint.

12 I would like to have seen the mapping consultants
13 be more Arizonian.

14 But other than that, we didn't have a choice, so
15 now we have what we have.

16 And I would like to see all of the meetings open,
17 with good agendas put on the Internet, that people can see
18 exactly where the meetings are going to be, maybe even
19 locations would be a good idea.

20 And the more input you take from Arizona people,
21 we're very smart.

22 And I thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

24 DAN SCHULTZ: Hi, I'm Dan Schultz. That's
25 S-C-H-U-L-T-Z.

1 I'm going -- my community of interest, I'm going
2 to speak about community of interest, and I want to also
3 speak a little bit about competitiveness.

4 I'm in LD 17. And LD 17 does not seem to be
5 competitive.

6 We've been represented by the Democrats.

7 And I think it's because of the ASU influence
8 within the district.

9 But with respect to CD 5, I think that the
10 competitiveness is there.

11 My other community of interest is the people who
12 live in my district, and my congressional district, want to
13 see this Commission work in an independent and transparent
14 and nonpartisan fashion.

15 I know the name is independent Commission.

16 But there's been a lot of, a lot of information in
17 the press recently about the transparency of this
18 Commission, you know, why it meets in secret so much, why
19 the decision to select the mapping consultant was apparently
20 done behind closed doors.

21 I'd like to see more transparency.

22 And there's also been some comment in the press
23 about the fact that the meetings, or your minutes, don't
24 seem to get published very quickly.

25 I don't know that to be a fact, but that's what

1 I've read.

2 So I'd like to see that too.

3 You know, again, that word independent.

4 As I understand it, there's two Republicans,
5 there's two Democrats, and then there's an Independent on
6 the Commission.

7 But there's really been some question in the press
8 as to whether that Independent really is Independent.

9 And I think that calls into question the process,
10 and the process has been mentioned here earlier tonight.

11 And then with respect the Commission being
12 nonpartisan.

13 I've looked at the Strategic Telemetry
14 application.

15 It doesn't look like a nonpartisan outfit to me at
16 all. It looks very partisan, based on the bios and past
17 client list.

18 Now, that's water over the bridge. There may be
19 nothing that we can do about that.

20 But I would like you to try to be as nonpartisan
21 and independent and transparent as you can be for this
22 process going forward.

23 And I appreciate all you're doing.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: To save some time, the people
2 that are clapping, you will always -- if everybody claps,
3 we'll be here all day. So if you'll to hold the applause
4 until the end.

5 I think Kristen French was next.

6 So -- you got to move up.

7 KRISTEN FRENCH: Hi, I'm Kristen, K-R-I-S-T-E-N,
8 F-R-E-N-C-H.

9 First I'd like to thank you for volunteering.

10 I'm a resident of the 40th Street and Camelback
11 area.

12 And when I think about my communities of interest,
13 I think about what I have in common with my neighbors,
14 friends, and coworkers.

15 And living in the 40th Street and Camelback area
16 for most of my adult life, I feel most connected to the
17 areas north of me, including Paradise Valley, Biltmore, and
18 north central Phoenix. This is where most of my time is
19 spent, whether it's shopping, dining, worshiping, or other
20 community-type activities.

21 And I feel specifically connected to the city of
22 Phoenix, just because of the fact that we share public
23 amenities, schools, and recreational areas.

24 As large as Phoenix is, I feel like I'm still able
25 to maintain that hometown feeling, running into friends,

1 coworkers, and neighbors, while out on the weekend hiking
2 Camelback, Piestewa Peak, shopping at the Biltmore, or
3 eating within Arcadia area.

4 Since all of these communities of interest lie
5 within -- lie west of Scottsdale Road and north of Thomas, I
6 believe that they should be in their own congressional
7 district.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 I hope you'll acknowledge my neighborhood when
10 you're redrawing the boundaries.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 Mr. Sullivan, before you speak, let me introduce
14 the next three.

15 Jacquie St. James.

16 Brian Woloshin, representing the -- business owner
17 representing the Computer Wizard.

18 Jacquie St. James is representing herself.

19 And Lauren Kuby, the first vice chair of the
20 Maricopa County Democratic Party.

21 DANNY SULLIVAN: My name is Danny Sullivan.

22 That's D-A-N-N-Y, S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N.

23 First of all, I'd like to thank the Commission.
24 It is a daunting task that you've taken on.

25 Again, I can't imagine what you're going to go

1 through in the process, but it's greatly appreciated.

2 Also thank you for allowing these kinds of public
3 forums and comments. That's greatly appreciated.

4 My wife and I live in Moon Valley, which is
5 roughly Bell Road and 7th Street.

6 Moon Valley is kind of a bedroom community, if you
7 will.

8 A lot of us in Moon Valley work in the business
9 district of northeast Phoenix, the Biltmore area, the
10 Camelback corridor.

11 And my wife and I attend church on Seventh Street
12 between Bethany Home and Glendale.

13 So with the restaurants we've frequent, the
14 businesses we do business with, our church, our doctors, my
15 work, everything we do pretty much is in an area west of
16 Scottsdale Road, north of Indian School, and east of
17 35th Avenue, really.

18 So that that entire area really composes our
19 community of interest.

20 I quite often get involved in conversations
21 regarding the issues that face us, whether it's city of
22 Phoenix planning and zoning issues or whether it's, you
23 know, issues on the national level.

24 And I can't really imagine what it would look like
25 or feel like if somehow that area that I've described was

1 split up and we didn't all have the same representative in
2 Congress.

3 It would be disconcerting, and I think it would
4 divide that community.

5 So I want to thank you for this opportunity, and I
6 hope you'll seriously consider what I've presented to you.

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

8 JACQUIE ST. JAMES: Good evening. My name is
9 Jacquie St. James, spelled J-A-C-Q-U-I-E, St. James, S-T,
10 J-A-M-E-S.

11 I'm a relatively new resident.

12 I live in Ahwatukee.

13 I thank you for the opportunity to have this forum
14 so that I get to know my community better.

15 Thank you.

16 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

17 BRIAN WOLOSHIN: My name is Brian Woloshin.
18 B-R-I-A-N, W-O-L-O-S-H-I-N.

19 I first want to thank you for taking on a
20 difficult job and for taking on the pressures and firestorms
21 surrounding this. You're doing a magnificent job, and I
22 commend you on the approach and actions you've taken thus
23 far.

24 I'm a local small business owner and formerly a
25 ten-year school teacher. I'm here to speak today on

1 non-competitive districts and a need for competitive
2 districts in the future.

3 Due to having non-competitive districts, my voice
4 is not being heard.

5 As a business owner and a former teacher, this has
6 a very negative impact on me directly.

7 Districts have got to be created -- districts have
8 been created currently to protect the legislature's job and
9 promote an extreme agenda, not to represent the best
10 interests of our state.

11 This leads to too much partisanship because of
12 this.

13 Our legislature is no longer working for my
14 interest, for my state's interest, for my family's interest,
15 but instead is working for their interest in promoting its
16 agenda.

17 Thinking back as a Phoenix native, and the last
18 truly nonpartisan act that I can truly remember our district
19 doing as a team and standing up doing something difficult,
20 believe it or not, was the impeachment of Evan Mecham
21 24 years ago.

22 Twenty-four years ago. I had hair back then.

23 That should not be what's happening. That needs
24 to change.

25 Since then we've had nothing but extreme

1 partisanship. We need to get back to having people work
2 together, making the difficult choices, and doing the right
3 thing for our state, not for themselves, not for an agenda,
4 but for us.

5 You have the knowledge, the power, the time, and
6 the high amount of skill and information it takes to do
7 this.

8 It is my expectation as a small business owner
9 and Phoenix native and former teacher that this will take
10 place.

11 Thank you again for all the work you're doing.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 Before the next speaker. We have Barney Switzer,
14 representing himself.

15 Kim Allen, representing herself.

16 And Michael A., I think McAfee, representing
17 himself.

18 And, again, I encourage you to hold the applause
19 or any comments, hold them to yourself.

20 LAUREN KUBY: My name is Lauren Kuby, L-A-U-R-E-N,
21 K-U-B-Y.

22 So I represent Legislative District 17 Democrats
23 as well as the Maricopa County Democratic Party. I'm also a
24 23-year resident of Tempe and a Sun Devil.

25 So two equal criteria of the independent

1 redistricting process are communities of interest and
2 competitiveness, as you well know.

3 First off, I urge you to keep Tempe mostly intact
4 as a community of interest.

5 We also have our own community edition of the
6 Republic, and we're focused on higher education as we are
7 the home of ASU.

8 Go Devils.

9 I also, in contradiction to Mr. Schultz, we are
10 not a Democratic dominated district. We are -- there's
11 36 percent Independents, 34 percent Democrats, and
12 30 percent Republicans in District 17.

13 So Legislative District 17 currently represents
14 most of Tempe, and some of south Scottsdale, needs to add
15 about 42,000 more voters to its legislative boundaries.

16 I realize that it's highly probable that Tempe
17 will become less Democratic, more Republican, more
18 Independent, when the new maps are drawn.

19 Currently we are only one of nine legislative
20 districts in the state that have an all Democratic
21 representation in the Legislature.

22 You might think that I as a Democrat and an
23 activist might fear competitiveness as the redrawn maps will
24 invariably become a more -- Tempe will invariably become a
25 more red district.

1 But I say bring it on.

2 Voters always benefit when their legislative
3 district is competitive.

4 That way decisions are not made for them by the
5 party regulars and in the primaries.

6 Competitiveness must continue to be emphasized so
7 that candidates and elected officials speak to all
8 constituents instead of only their party loyalists, like me.

9 I also want to remind, you know, Mr. Schultz,
10 because you also made this point, and we'll spar outside if
11 you want, that those who complain about the choice of the
12 mapping consultant, that it is the Commission, you
13 commissioners, that will make the decisions about the final
14 map, not the technical consultants and not the staff.

15 So thank you, commissioners, for all your
16 thankless work, and for all the public input you are
17 gathering over the next few months.

18 You're all to be commended for your public
19 service.

20 Thank you.

21 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

22 BARNEY SWITZER: Hi, my name is Barney Switzer,
23 B-A-R-N-E-Y, S-W-I-T-Z-E-R.

24 I live on the southern edge of
25 Congressional District 3, close to central Phoenix, but I

1 live, work, and volunteer regularly in four -- at least four
2 congressional districts.

3 I don't feel like I have a community of interest,
4 but I do feel like partisanship has elevated to a point
5 where political discourse has been dumbed down.

6 And I can no longer have intelligent conversations
7 with people who I suspect were moderates not too long ago.
8 Or at least were capable of having an intelligent
9 conversation.

10 I believe that having competitive districts will
11 help that process.

12 And I've lived in a bunch of different districts.

13 Right now I can think of seven people who
14 represent me, and only one of them I feel would be willing
15 to actually listen to anything I have to say.

16 I've lived in districts where my representatives
17 were on, you know, my side of the political spectrum,
18 although I consider myself somewhat moderate, and they are
19 less accountable to me as well.

20 Competitive districts are about accountability.

21 Thank you.

22 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

23 KIM ALLEN: My name is Kim Allen, K-I-M,
24 A-L-L-E-N.

25 And I object to the Strategic Telemetry -- what a

1 word -- being hired, because I believe it is biased towards
2 the progressive Democrats, they have no experience in state
3 mapping, and they work for the progressive campaigns and
4 lobbyists that should be -- that should not be redrawing
5 Arizona lines.

6 I believe it should be done by Arizonans.

7 Thank you.

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 Before we have Michael -- is it McAfee?

10 MICHAEL MCAFEE: McAfee.

11 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I'm sorry. Diego, just goes
12 by Diego, U.S. veteran.

13 We have Gordon Posner, representing himself, and
14 Sean Bowie, also representing himself, next in line for when
15 we speak.

16 MICHAEL MCAFEE: It's Michael R. McAfee,
17 M-C-A-F-E-E.

18 Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to
19 speak.

20 You folks have your work cut out for you.

21 We are to achieve the goals set forth in our state
22 constitution, the goals of the competitive elections,
23 geographically sane boundaries, which consider communities
24 of interest, and then meet all the requirements of the
25 United States, we will have accomplished something.

1 It must be a hard task.

2 The previous Commission's efforts fell well short
3 in my opinion.

4 Take a look at current Legislative District 21,
5 where I live and vote.

6 It may be contiguous, but that's about the only
7 criteria it satisfies.

8 Ranging from Dobson Ranch in southwest Mesa to the
9 north, the district stretches south incorporating parts of
10 Chandler, down to the Maricopa County line, and then shoots
11 east dozens of miles all the way to the Maricopa County
12 eastern boundaries.

13 It's a huge district.

14 Communities of interest? No.

15 Compact? No.

16 Geographical features? No.

17 Municipalities? Parts of several.

18 Competitiveness? Don't make me laugh.

19 District 21 is at least one of the poster boys for
20 failure from the last effort.

21 We can do better.

22 It seems to me that competitiveness is the key to
23 a successful redistricting.

24 If our districts are competitive, then democracy
25 will apply.

1 Democracy is not served when the outcome of a
2 general election is assured just because the redistricting
3 Commission drew the district boundaries in such a way that
4 only a few districts are competitive.

5 Such results stifle prospective candidates and end
6 up regulating our representation to government to just a
7 few -- just the anointed few.

8 America is supposed to be the world's greatest
9 democracy.

10 Now is our time to make that patriotic maxim come
11 true, at least so far as Arizona is concerned, by drawing
12 our district boundaries, especially our legislative
13 districts boundaries, in a manner that will foster
14 competitive elections.

15 I think you can do it.

16 I believe that we have a chance right here in
17 Arizona to fashion a model for the entire world to follow.

18 You can draw boundaries that result in competitive
19 districts while preserving communities of interest that are
20 compact and contiguous.

21 I know that I'm rooting for you. And I am sure
22 that many, many others are too.

23 Thank you.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

25 Diego, are you here?

1 If not, we can go to Gordon Posner.

2 GORDON POSNER: My name is Gordon Posner,
3 G-O-R-D-O-N, P-O-S-N-E-R.

4 I want to thank the Commission for giving us the
5 opportunity to speak.

6 I want to emphasize the importance of
7 competitiveness.

8 Whether you're a Democratic voter in a Democratic
9 district or a Republican voter in a Republican district, if
10 election is assured, your vote doesn't count.

11 All that matters is the primary voters.

12 These districts should not be futile thieftoms
13 handed down based on the divine right of party membership
14 where a candidate can be assured that their political kin
15 will win the next time.

16 We must have competitive districts, because that's
17 the only way our votes will count.

18 I don't want a government that just listens to the
19 primary voters. I want a government that listens to all the
20 voters.

21 Make our vote count.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Again, hold the applause.

25 So after Sean Bowie, I'd like to have Steve

1 Muratore, the publisher representing the Arizona
2 Eagletarian.

3 Kelly Townsend, and representing -- she's a
4 committee woman representing herself.

5 And then Bill Mitchell.

6 SEAN BOWIE: My name is Sean, S-E-A-N, Bowie,
7 B-O-W-I-E.

8 I want to thank the Commission for allowing me and
9 everyone else the opportunity to speak tonight.

10 I just want to take this opportunity to tell you
11 firsthand how important competitive districts are to our
12 communities.

13 I've lived in the Chandler, Ahwatukee area for
14 almost 20 years, and throughout this time we've had the
15 benefit of living in a legislative district that has grown
16 more competitive over time.

17 In fact, since 2008 there's only been
18 two legislative districts in all of Maricopa County that
19 have elected both Democrats and Republicans to the
20 Legislature. And my district, District 20, is one of those
21 two districts.

22 Over the years we've received more attention,
23 better candidates, and higher voter turnout because we've
24 evolved into a competitive district.

25 The core of our district, Ahwatukee, has about

1 78,000 voters, and has its own unique section of Phoenix,
2 we're blocked off by South Mountain from the rest of the
3 city.

4 And I always believed that Ahwatukee represents a
5 community of interest.

6 And like Senator McComish said earlier, we really
7 evolved into our own community. And it's my hope it will
8 continue to stay that way for another 10 years.

9 With the new census numbers, District 20 has about
10 176,000 voters, so it needs to gain an additional 37,000 to
11 form a new district.

12 It's my hope that the Commission will keep our
13 district intact, also currently includes south Tempe and
14 west Chandler, and seek to add voters that would create a
15 true 50/50 Democratic and Republican vote split in future
16 elections.

17 With the Commission stating that competitiveness
18 is one of the most important priorities in drawing lines, I
19 would encourage them to focus on districts that already have
20 roughly equal numbers of registered Democrats, Republicans,
21 and Independents, and seek to modify those districts and
22 make them truly competitive.

23 Out of all legislatures in Maricopa County,
24 District 20, I believe, is the easiest to achieve the goal
25 of creating a more truly fair and competitive district.

1 Thank you.

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

3 Kelly Townsend.

4 Do you mind stepping up?

5 KELLY TOWNSEND: My name is Kelly Townsend. I'm
6 from Gilbert, Arizona.

7 I have a dual passion. My personal work is right
8 here in south Phoenix, with South Phoenix Healthy Start
9 helping family, parents.

10 My other passion is what we're doing here and
11 what's going on in our state.

12 And I represent a very large group, the Greater
13 Phoenix Tea Party.

14 And I preface what I'm going to say with I'm
15 spending quite a bit of time this past week working on an
16 issue in Quartzsite. If you haven't been watching the news
17 last week, I recommend you watch what's happening Arizona.

18 People are watching this around the world right
19 now that.

20 Because what's happening in Quartzsite is gross
21 corruption, basically alleged gross corruption.

22 And the world is asking what's happening in
23 Arizona, why the corruption, while the lack of involvement
24 in the political process.

25 And it's quite embarrassing.

1 And it is a multi-partisan effort.

2 We have racial Democrats and racial Republicans
3 and everyone in between working on this issue, because
4 what's important is a cry for integrity. Everybody is
5 interested in integrity.

6 And I was here on the 7th. I listened to the
7 comments, listened to everything you presented.

8 And because what's most important to me is
9 integrity.

10 I am even more disappointed in the information
11 I've learned since that time.

12 One of my biggest concerns was the application
13 that the mistake was made on, Madam Chair, where you failed
14 to disclose your husband's work experience.

15 And I understand you apologized to us and
16 explained it was a mistake.

17 So whether it was a mistake or if it was done
18 intentionally, neither one is -- because that's an attention
19 to detail issue, and I am concerned with your further work
20 on this Commission, if you can't see the first item on the
21 spouse. It's concerning to me.

22 I don't mean to be mean about it. I'm just very
23 concerned. Because I really believe had you marked that, it
24 would have made a big change on the consideration.

25 I believe the result of that mistake is now

1 another issue of integrity, where I've read in Arizona
2 Capital Times.

3 I'm astounded at this, but one of the Democrats on
4 this board, a Democrat Jose Herrera, gave -- said that all
5 three of you gave Strategic Telemetry perfect scores during
6 the final round scoring, and Herrera told the Arizona
7 Capital Times he had to, quote, had to give the firm a
8 perfect score even though he actually preferred another
9 applicant because there were concerns that the Republicans
10 would give the company poor marks because it caters to
11 Democratic candidates and unions.

12 Now, whether I was a Democratic or Republican, I
13 take issue with that, because that's lack of integrity, that
14 you didn't vote according to what you felt. And I think
15 damages Arizona's reputation.

16 I think this will be a second scandal in this.

17 And I care about every single person in here, as
18 an Arizona -- a fellow Arizonan, we don't need another
19 scandal, and we need to work together.

20 And I am petitioning you to step down, and I
21 petition all of you to reconsider.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Just -- I really want to
25 caution all of you, because we do have police officers that

1 I don't want to be using to escort people out of the room.
2 I think that, you know, we're all adults here.

3 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Go ahead.

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's keep it civil. I
5 appreciate that.

6 Steve -- so, please, let's not do that again.

7 After Steve, we'll have Bill Mitchell representing
8 himself, Dave Wong representing himself, and Bradley -- I
9 think it's Vandermark, representing himself as well.

10 So you guys can step up and get ready to speak
11 after Steve.

12 STEVE MURATORE: Thank you, commissioners.

13 My name is Steve Muratore, M-U-R-A-T-O-R-E.

14 I publish the Arizona Eagletarian.

15 And I think I'm in a unique position to speak
16 about integrity of this Commission.

17 I know these guys.

18 I've been to almost every meeting.

19 I follow them. I listen to them. I talk with
20 them.

21 And I know that this process has been as open as
22 it can be. I know that the integrity of all five of the
23 Commission members is without question, and I think it's
24 time to move on beyond the controversy.

25 Anyways, I want to tell you, number one, the

1 previous speaker apparently thought you, Ms. McNulty, were
2 the commissioner -- or the chair.

3 And we know that's not true.

4 But, anyways, I appreciate the service of all
5 three of you, and Ms. Mathis and Mr. Stertz who are not
6 here.

7 And, of course, you know where I stand on a lot of
8 the issues.

9 I'm very interested in competitiveness. Because,
10 like many others have said already, that's when the
11 politicians will be accountable to the voters in their
12 district.

13 Thank you.

14 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 BILL MITCHELL: My name is Bill Mitchell,
17 M-I-T-C-H-E-L-L.

18 I live in the northwest Valley, and I appreciate
19 the opportunity to visit with everybody.

20 And I also appreciate the Commission's work. I
21 know it's daunting. It's probably the least happy
22 experience you can have in your life.

23 I became interested in this starting in the papers
24 back in November with the process, because I was a bit
25 concerned what was going on.

1 By the way, Howdy Doody and Pinky Lee were not
2 Republicans. I know this because they're still not trying
3 to vote, they're Republicans.

4 I became very concerned because of the
5 independence of the Commission. The chair's comments about
6 the selection of the Strategic Telemetry, I did read her
7 comments.

8 I did read the applications.

9 And then today I find out that our
10 attorney general's investigating the Commission, and one of
11 the issues is the perfect score given.

12 Well, I guess the good news is it was only a ten.
13 The bad news it was a perfect score. The good news is it
14 wasn't extra credit, which we can find today in liberal
15 education.

16 I noticed on financial commercials they say that
17 past results don't guarantee future performance.

18 Well, the same thing is true of what you have to
19 do.

20 We have a population increase of almost
21 24 percent.

22 The United States of America is comprised of
23 50 states.

24 Arizona is one of those states.

25 The more I think that we have communities of

1 interest, which I think have a tendency to weaken that
2 dream. I think that one of the strengths of this country,
3 Americana, and the democracy that we have, is the ability of
4 our citizens to assimilate for the purpose of creating a
5 better life for themselves and for their neighbors and for
6 every state in this country.

7 So I think sometimes this community of interest
8 stuff is a bit overblown, because it takes away the
9 opportunity for the people in those communities of interest
10 to know what the people -- with their fellow citizens.

11 The main reason they came up is to talk about
12 competitiveness.

13 I've been researching the Commission, and I'm
14 concerned about your definition of competitiveness which has
15 yet to be established.

16 And like a number of other people here, I have a
17 partisan side.

18 I came here because I think the rudder of the ship
19 is a little bit to the left. Not a lot, just a little bit.
20 And I think the more the people come here, find out about
21 the process, understand what's going on and what needs to be
22 done, may help you.

23 I know it's a little bit about the equivalency
24 with respect to the parties and people that are Republicans,
25 Democrats, or Independents, but you can't always figure out

1 which of those people are going to vote.

2 So I'm not sure how you're going to figure out
3 competitiveness or how you're going to define it, but I'm
4 very concerned about what that definition ends up being.

5 I think one of the things you might want to
6 consider is nonpartisan votes, like for CAP or something
7 where you've got people who aren't partisan candidates in
8 theory.

9 I think competitiveness is good, and I do have a
10 partisan side, but I think competitiveness brings out the
11 ideas of people to explore, to examine, and encourages
12 participation of all the citizens for a better government.

13 And Senator Taylor brought a slide of District 16.

14 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Can we --

15 BILL MITCHELL: Yes. Just a note that it was a
16 very progressive congress that did it.

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 DAVE LONG: Hi, my name is Dave Long. L-O-N-G.

19 I'm from LD 8, a resident of Fountain Hills.

20 I just want to thank the Commission for their hard
21 work.

22 And I did attend the last meeting, and I had my
23 hats off to you for that six-hour meeting you had.

24 I bailed after two hours.

25 So I applaud you for the patience you demonstrated

1 at the last meeting.

2 I'm becoming a groupie.

3 Anyway, I just wanted to say what I like.

4 What I like is that despite some of the
5 controversy that is apparent there about the Commission, I
6 like the fact that the Proposition 106 gives us the
7 guidelines that we need and that we should abide by for
8 coming up with fair districting.

9 I like the fact that there are legal constraints.

10 I remember last time it was a legal presentation
11 about what the state and the federal government expects of
12 the Commission.

13 There are lots and lots of places where folks can
14 look at the district maps, redistricting, and get their
15 input.

16 I like the way we have these meetings throughout
17 Arizona that's going to be going on for several weeks now.

18 I think that we're off to a good start.

19 And I really appreciate the fact that I think
20 we're going to have a fair result.

21 We have a good opportunity.

22 Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

24 Before we have Bradley speak, Marty, did you want
25 a break?

1 After Bradley will be Bob Stannard, and
2 representing himself.

3 Ray Sweeney representing PC District No. 11.

4 And then Mel Hannah, chairman of the African
5 American Leadership and Legislative Council.

6 Those will be the next speakers.

7 BRADLEY VANDERMARK: My name is Bradley
8 Vandermark. That's B-R-A-D-L-E-Y, V-A-N-D-E-R-M-A-R-K.

9 I'm from LD 20 in the Ahwatukee area.

10 First I'd like to compliment the Commission. You
11 folks also have today have your communities of interest,
12 hopefully selected, and even though four of you are because
13 of partisan politics, that's fine.

14 And the fifth one is basically Independent. You
15 were selected. And I do not question your integrity.

16 I might disagree with your ideology, but I don't
17 question your integrity.

18 And I am personally outraged at the innuendoes
19 going -- that are going on recently.

20 Number two, in the future hopefully redistricting
21 will be done by now, July the 15th, July the 20th.

22 Currently 10 -- 17 states are done.

23 Seven because they only had one representative.

24 Ten because they're done.

25 We should be done by now. Period.

1 Three. The Hopi Navajo relationships are much
2 better than they were last redistricting cycle. However,
3 please honor their request to either be kept in separate
4 districts or integrated into a unified district.

5 Four, for compactness, communities of interest,
6 and geographic features, keep Ahwatukee area solely within
7 Maricopa County and separate from Pinal County.

8 And, five, since Ms. Townsend brought up
9 Quartzsite, Sunday's paper about two council members saying
10 outright they have violated open meeting and public records
11 laws, and yet our attorney general hasn't slapped them with
12 a cease and desist order. Yet today as I'm riding in here
13 at 5:34, on the radio they're talking about he is doing an
14 investigation for your procurement of whatever the hell.

15 My sense is the U.S. Attorney should be
16 investigating Attorney General Horne for interfering with
17 this process, for the innuendos and outrageousness of what
18 he's going through.

19 So thank you -- and by the way, there are people
20 like me in the society, keep up your integrity, hang in
21 there. You have a tough job.

22 And like I said, you may have your political
23 parties, but I have no doubt you have strong integrity.

24 Thank you very much.

25 (Applause.)

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Bob, if you don't mind
2 stepping up.

3 I think it's Bob Stannard. I apologize if I'm not
4 pronouncing your name correctly.

5 BOB STANNARD: It's Bob, B-O-B, Stannard,
6 S-T-A-N-N-A-R-D.

7 And I am representing myself or possibly a very
8 shrinking minority in this country that recognizes that
9 we're not a democracy, we're a democratic republic.
10 Democracy is nothing more than a mob.

11 At any rate, the reason I'm concerned or one of my
12 concerns is the way the proposal was allotted to Strategic
13 Telemetry.

14 I didn't see anything in the paperwork that was
15 supplied to us at the first meeting about what the
16 procedures were or what the criteria were for evaluating the
17 responses to the request for proposal.

18 And that concerned me, and the fact that there
19 were only seven replies.

20 In a country of 310 million people with what must
21 be hundreds of thousands of computer information technology
22 majors and many, many GIS majors, that we couldn't find more
23 companies to respond to that.

24 The second thing that kind of jumped out at me was
25 the fact that all of the projects previously worked on by

1 them were Democratic or progressive organizations. In fact,
2 it looked like it was a division of a Democratic national
3 committee that was responding.

4 Also, all the employees of that company had the
5 same backgrounds.

6 So I think that process probably should be redone
7 and reevaluated.

8 That's about it.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

11 RAY SWEENEY: My name is Ray Sweeney,
12 S-W-E-E-N-E-Y.

13 I'm a PC, District 11.

14 And, first of all, I'd like to thank you for
15 choosing a room that's much more appropriate for the
16 meeting, allowing for citizen input.

17 The first meeting, as we all know, was pretty
18 pathetic.

19 So thank you for your foresight in doing that.

20 There's a couple of issues that I would like to
21 bring forth, some of which may have been brought up
22 previously, some of which may not have.

23 These are all concerns that I have perceived from
24 folks that I have spoken with throughout the entire city of
25 Phoenix.

1 One, it seems highly unusual that Mr. Bladine, the
2 executive director of the committee, was the one to sign the
3 contract with Strategic Telemetry without publishing the
4 scoring methods or anything used for that. That's pretty
5 unusual for that to occur.

6 And I'm not so sure in his capacity if he's an
7 actual member of the committee.

8 And it seems to me that the general perception is
9 the committee should have had control of that and not
10 someone outside of the committee that's beyond the scope of
11 what we're trying to do here.

12 That's number one.

13 Number two, it's my understanding on hearing
14 Mr. Strasma, from Strategic Telemetry, that it's not really
15 a mapping agency.

16 It's a political consultant, who is actively
17 engaged in Democratic activity on a national scale and on a
18 local scale throughout the United States.

19 And the perception on the part of the people is
20 that's a pretty heavy-handed way of dealing with something.
21 It doesn't show fair representation.

22 One of the other concerns is in regards to
23 Chairman Mathis having certain omissions we feel is
24 material in being able to judge whether she is truly an
25 independent voice, for those folks that may be independent

1 and not affiliated with either of the other two major
2 parties.

3 There's some difficulty in trying to digest that,
4 since her family is a pretty strong supporter in the
5 Democratic party.

6 And last thing is, unfortunately, the state's
7 attorney general may feel the same way, because it was
8 announced today that Tom Horne is going to take an
9 investigation under way to investigate those kinds of
10 improprieties.

11 So I suggest to you on behalf of the people that
12 are in the room and for the people who may not be here that
13 what we're essentially looking for is honesty and
14 transparency. At the very least we have a right to expect
15 that from you.

16 And we'd appreciate it if you could deliver that
17 for us.

18 Thank you very much.

19 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

20 Mel Hannah.

21 And then after Mel Hannah, we have Jesse Ary,
22 retired community advocate.

23 Randall Holmes, representing himself.

24 And then Michael Williams, adjunct instructor at
25 Gateway Community College.

1 Those are the next three after Mr. Hannah.

2 MEL HANNAH: Good evening, my name is Mel Hannah,
3 H-A-N-N-A-H.

4 I'm here to support two previous proposals.

5 Before that, just to share with the group, I had
6 the honor of serving as the co-chair of the city of Phoenix
7 Census Minority Coalition Committee, and it's refreshing --
8 and the objective obviously was to get folks counted in the
9 census, so it's refreshing to see that activity materialize
10 in what we're doing tonight in terms of some of the first
11 steps of how that's going to be conducted.

12 In terms of your boundaries, I want to support two
13 communities of interest comments that have been earlier
14 made.

15 I live in Ahwatukee. I serve on the Ahwatukee
16 planning committee, so I'm here supporting ironically
17 chairman comments and support for community of interest for
18 our area presented earlier by Senator John McComish, good
19 friend Senator John McComish.

20 And also ironically by the chairman of our
21 Democratic precinct out there, Mrs. CJ Briggles.

22 So I want to endorse their proposal in terms of
23 Ahwatukee being retained as a community of interest.

24 The second one is, as the chairman of the African
25 American legal Leadership and Legislative Council, I want to

1 strongly endorse the very first proposal we heard this
2 evening by Senator Leah Landrum Taylor, the proposal put
3 forth by the Minority Coalition as was also supported by my
4 good friend Mrs. Lopez, by former senator Ben Miranda, and
5 others.

6 As chairman of our group, we want to strongly
7 encourage the Commission to do the best that we can possibly
8 to retain the proposal that outlines.

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

10 JESSE ARY: My name is Jesse Ary, A-R-Y.

11 I would like to thank each of you for devoting
12 this time and this effort in this concern.

13 And you do have a tremendous task, I might
14 suggest.

15 I've lived in the Valley for over 40 years.

16 I live in Legislative District 11. And I'd like
17 to make a comment or two concerning community of interest.

18 I'm a former member of the Arizona State Board of
19 Education.

20 And I'm very, very pleased that we had so many
21 folks representing school boards and education to come and
22 speak, because, to tell you the truth, folks, the school
23 districts really have a tremendous magnetic appeal to
24 causing things to happen within a community.

25 And I can tell you that since I served at the

1 pleasure of the state school superintendent formerly as a
2 liaison to the State Senate for the Department of Education,
3 I too saw how splintered a community can become when the
4 Roosevelt School District had some issues.

5 Roosevelt is not the only school district that has
6 had issues. But when a school district unites, the
7 community also unites.

8 And it is really not a good idea to split up
9 people that make up communities like that.

10 I've seen a number of these redistricting projects
11 in my 40 years here.

12 Most of them have resulted in gerrymandering.

13 I urge you to cause that to not happen.

14 You have an opportunity to be a first. Please, I
15 challenge you, to be that first.

16 Another concern I have is when you do gerrymander,
17 you suppress the community's right to vote.

18 I support that proposal that Senator Leah Landrum
19 Taylor and Councilman Calvin Goode and current
20 Councilman Michael Johnson proposed to you.

21 And if you are wise, you will take note of that
22 proposal.

23 Because if you don't, a federal law will challenge
24 it, because you will be dealing with a majority minority
25 community, because those communities must have homogeneous

1 interests and homogeneous goals.

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, can you wrap up?

3 JESSE ARY: And my last comment to you is this.

4 Competitive districts are never competitive,
5 unless you begin with an even playing field.

6 Thank you.

7 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

8 Now we've got Randall Holmes.

9 If you could come up to the mic, please.

10 RANDALL HOLMES: Hi, folks. Randall Holmes of
11 Legislative District 17, Tempe. Member of the board of
12 Arizona Advocacy Network, and Democratic party, and tonight
13 I'm speaking only for myself.

14 I'm sorry that Commissioner Stertz and
15 Chairwoman Mathis aren't here tonight.

16 At the last meeting down at the tower of power, I
17 had a long conversation with Commissioner Stertz in the back
18 hallway.

19 And although he's a Republican and I am a
20 Democrat, I think that we came to a meeting of minds where
21 we agreed that we're Christians first.

22 And at the end of that conversation, Mr. Strasma
23 came up.

24 And it occurs to me that the mapping company or
25 consultants, or whoever they are, might be doing the

1 drawing, but you, the commissioners, will be telling them
2 where to draw the lines, that you will be making the final
3 determination of where the districts are.

4 I'm sorry Chairwoman Mathis isn't here.

5 I am disappointed that she didn't disclose her
6 partisan affiliations before taking the job on the
7 Commission.

8 She did say at the last meeting that her husband
9 had been a Republican for 40 years, and that she and he were
10 guests at the Bush -- George H.W. Bush's inauguration at the
11 White House.

12 That notwithstanding, I still have faith in her
13 independence politically.

14 My conversations with Commissioner Stertz ended
15 when we said that although Strategic Telemetry may draw the
16 lines, the Commission will make the determination where the
17 lines are.

18 As far as the independence of Strategic Telemetry
19 goes, by their fruits we shall know them.

20 I'd just like to conclude by saying that I
21 represent the largest community of interest, the people of
22 Arizona.

23 And as I said before, we want a legislature and a
24 congressional delegation that reflects the vast majority of
25 the people of Arizona, and those are the people that aren't

1 yelling at you.

2 In safe districts, which we have far too many of
3 them now, whatever party is safe in that district, they're
4 not accountable to the vast majority of the voters.

5 They're chosen in a primary election by the hard
6 core partisans who show up at primary elections, and they
7 represent that hard core.

8 And the vast majority of people in that district
9 have no opportunity or accountability or power over who
10 represents them, either in the legislature or in congress.

11 And that vast majority of people is
12 disenfranchised.

13 This is why it's so important to have competitive
14 districts.

15 Whatever communities of interest we all identify
16 with, and we all identify with several I'm sure, the
17 competitiveness of our districts should be our primary
18 interest for our community of interest.

19 Thanks for your time.

20 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

21 After Michael Williams, we'll have Tonya Norwood,
22 community member, Delta Sigma-Theta Sorority.

23 And also Nick Collins representing himself.

24 And John Gallagher representing himself.

25 Everybody has to get ready to speak after

1 Mr. Williams.

2 MICHAEL WILLIAMS: Hi, my name is Mike Williams.

3 I'm a resident of Ahwatukee and LD 20.

4 I serve on the -- as faculty member for Gateway
5 Community College and Chandler Mayors Advisory Board, PC
6 District 20, and former district chair.

7 I hate following that guy.

8 When I look at what's transpired tonight, if we go
9 on and knock out all of the people that seem to want to keep
10 the process from going, we find that there's a lot of people
11 that want things to stay the same.

12 And recognizing that that can't happen, I just
13 say, let's do it wisely.

14 I have to agree with my good Senator John
15 McComish, as well as my current district chair CJ, in the
16 fact that District 20 has become somewhat competitive.

17 But at the same time, in the 20 years I've been
18 there, we've had one Democratic senator.

19 Okay.

20 So, we have had one Democratic senator, and we're
21 starting to go growth. It's starting to get more
22 competitive.

23 At the same time, like I said, we know it's got to
24 change, so let's change it to be more competitive and think
25 wisely about it.

1 Thank you.

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

3 TONYA NORWOOD: Good evening. I interact as --
4 Chair Mathis, commissioners, community leaders, and
5 neighbors -- community leaders and neighbors.

6 I'd like to acknowledge the ladies of Delta
7 Sigma-Theta Sorority, my sorority sisters to my right.

8 Please stand.

9 We are advocates of community service and
10 self-reliance.

11 Right now you only see a few of us.

12 We represent well over 300 voters in this area
13 alone.

14 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Pull the mic up.

15 TONYA NORWOOD: Right now you only see a few of
16 us.

17 We represent over 300 voters in this area alone.

18 We stand today in support of the Senator Leah
19 Landrum Taylor coalition map --

20 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Pull the mic up.

21 TONYA NORWOOD: -- based on natural boundaries.

22 The coalition has worked effortlessly, tirelessly,
23 to put together a fair map that represents not only one set
24 of people, but all set of people in that area.

25 We have voluntarily removed 35,000 residents in

1 a very lucrative area for the purpose of fair redistricting.

2 And we just want to restate what we said earlier.

3 We are here in support of the senator's map and the
4 coalition's efforts, but in addition we stand behind you,
5 this process, and the job you have to do.

6 We thank you. And we ask that you continue to
7 think of us as a people of Arizona, and we will be following
8 this process as an entity.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

11 NICK COLLINS: Hi, my name is Nick Collins,
12 N-I-C-K, C-O-L-L-I-N-S.

13 I just had three things I wanted to reinforce that
14 some people have already said and maybe a couple of
15 suggestions.

16 One is for keeping Ahwatukee as a community of
17 interest, LD 20.

18 That's where I'm from.

19 And Guadalupe, keeping that as a community of
20 interest, for our Districts 4 and 16.

21 And just a couple of suggestions for -- I think
22 CD 5 is a good example of a badly drawn district, ten years
23 ago, and I hope we can improve on that CD 5.

24 One more thing about outside of this whole
25 districting, I know it seems -- it seemed like an impossible

1 sort of thing, it's great that you guys are doing this, but
2 maybe sometime in the future Arizona can consider not having
3 any lines for LDs or CDs and having some sort of
4 proportional representation.

5 I think that's especially important if we want to
6 have more than just two parties.

7 How can you be competitive with only two parties?
8 It's impossible.

9 We have Libertarians. We have Green Party. Other
10 parties that might come up.

11 And I think proportional representation is the way
12 to go and would eliminate the need for this huge task you're
13 undergoing.

14 Thanks a lot.

15 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

16 After John Gallagher, we have Cheryl Vachon
17 representing herself, Ron Counts representing himself, and
18 Joe Murphy representing himself.

19 Get ready to speak after Mr. Gallagher.

20 JOHN GALLAGHER: My name is John Gallagher.
21 That's G-A-L-L-A-G-H-E-R, J-O-H-N.

22 And I'm speaking on behalf of myself as an Arizona
23 voter today.

24 First of all, I'd like to thank the members of the
25 the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission to let you

1 know that I appreciate the commitment and the sacrifice
2 you're making by serving on this Commission.

3 I know it's a lot of work, and you don't get paid
4 for it.

5 I was surprised to learn that I agreed with Bob
6 Thomas and his comments earlier, because Bob's a Republican
7 and I am a Democrat, but we both agree that his district
8 LD 15 ought to be more competitive because a lot of people
9 like Bob are disenfranchised because they live in districts
10 where the winner of the election is determined in a partisan
11 primary. And the result of this is a polarized legislature
12 which is out of touch with most Arizonans.

13 I hope while balancing the other relevant criteria
14 required by law, you will remedy this situation by creating
15 as many competitive districts as possible.

16 I would argue that the legal requirement to
17 respect communities of interest does not preclude creation
18 of competitive districts if communities of interest are
19 properly understood.

20 And since legislative antenna is important in
21 determining what a law means, I'd like to quote from an
22 article that appeared earlier this week in the Arizona
23 Republic written by the co-chairs of the committee that
24 wrote the initiative that resulted in the Arizona
25 Independent Redistricting Commission on which you now serve.

1 Quoting from the article, our Arizona Constitution
2 now calls for political lines to respect communities of
3 interest. We were thinking this: A river or a highway
4 might make a very handy political boundary, but if a jog
5 this way or that way would keep a historic district or a
6 retirement community, a town, or a Native American Nation
7 intact, the line should move if possible.

8 This certainly does not mean an incumbent's most
9 reliable voters, in and of themselves, qualify as a
10 community of interest.

11 In fact, the new practice takes pains to exclude
12 data that might serve to protect incumbents.

13 They go on to state.

14 Our expectation was that if the self-interested
15 pressure of parties, candidates, and incumbents could be
16 lessened in the mapping process, the districts will be more
17 competitive.

18 Make no mistake, the whole reason for writing and
19 passing the reform was to allow a process that will result
20 both in fair representation for communities and more
21 naturally competitive races.

22 The authors of the independent redistricting
23 initiative never intended for a community of interest to be
24 an area where everyone is of a like mind politically. And
25 you are not forced to choose between respecting community of

1 interest and competitiveness, because it's possible to have
2 differences of opinion and even a competition within a
3 single community of interest.

4 There are those who will attempt to manipulate
5 this redistricting process for partisan purposes on both
6 sides, and they'll attempt to protect the incumbents in
7 their own party and attempt to stifle competition by
8 creating bulletproof districts they will attempt to justify
9 by claiming fake communities of interest.

10 You must not allow this.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 Cheryl.

14 CHERYL VACHON: Hello. My name is Cheryl Vachon,
15 C-H-E-R-Y-L, V-A-C-H-O-N.

16 First off, I'd like to thank all of you for your
17 service on this Commission.

18 I'm pleased to see that one of the provisions was
19 respect to communities of interest.

20 I live in the New River area.

21 And I moved there six years ago because we wanted
22 to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

23 It's a great rural middle class community, and
24 still has easy access to north Phoenix with the I-17
25 widening project.

1 So most of my neighbors and I use I-17 to get to
2 work in the north Phoenix area.

3 And when I think about the communities of
4 interest, I think of what my friends, coworkers, neighbors,
5 you know, all have in common.

6 And we share many common interests with the
7 communities that run along Carefree Highway, including
8 Cave Creek, Carefree, and Desert Hills, as well as the
9 communities that run along I-17 in north Phoenix.

10 So I just think that it's important that you
11 consider keeping us intact in our current districts.

12 Thank you.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

14 RON COUNTS: She's something else.

15 Hi, I'm Ronnie Counts, C-O-U-N-T-S.

16 First of all, I'd like to say to all of our active
17 duty veterans, on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for
18 serving our country.

19 To the Commission, I'd like to say to you that
20 thank you for taking the time to serve on this Commission
21 and to redistrict.

22 I live way far north, up in New River.

23 And we're pretty much -- our community of interest
24 is up north.

25 I work at home, so I don't get out very often.

1 But when I do, I pretty much stick to one central
2 area, which is, like, down the 17 corridor.

3 Rarely do I ever make it over to the Scottsdale
4 area.

5 But Cave Creek, we go there just about every other
6 weekend or so for, like, dinners and to hang out and see the
7 areas and stuff.

8 So I would ask that you would keep New River
9 intact and our congressional and legislative district
10 intact, for the purpose.

11 And, again, thank you for your time.

12 And God bless our troops, especially our snipers.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: After Joe, Joe Murphy, we'll
14 have Jeff Winkler representing himself, Kathryn June
15 representing herself, and Wendy Schops, president of Sons of
16 Liberty.

17 Those are the next three.

18 JOE MURPHY: I'm Joe Murphy, J-O-E, M-U-R-P-H-Y.

19 I live in LD 15, which you've heard isn't real
20 competitive. It's not 70 percent Democratic, but I guess if
21 you added Democrats and Independents together.

22 I think the problem with having so many
23 non-competitive districts is we don't have good
24 representation. We have what we've got, which is a laugh.

25 My Republican relatives back in Michigan wonder

1 why I moved out here 31 years ago and why I stay here,
2 because of it.

3 The Voting Rights Act was not meant to suppress
4 voters, voters coming out to vote. It was meant to increase
5 it.

6 And when you have so many non-competitive
7 districts, that's what you end up with, voter suppression.

8 So I hope you take that into consideration when
9 you draw the lines, because I know the commissioners draw
10 the lines, not some nebulous computer somewhere.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 JEFF WINKLER: Good evening, members of the
14 Commission. My name is Jeff Winkler. That's W-I-N-K-L-E-R.

15 What we've heard tonight is very interesting.

16 We've heard a lot of people talk about competitive
17 districts.

18 And so what I would like to just add kind of pile
19 on to the Republicans and the Democrats all want competitive
20 districts, is say the largest community of interest in our
21 state is the roughly 60 percent of voters who find
22 themselves somewhere in the middle. Whether they're a
23 little bit to the left or a little bit to the right, they're
24 somewhere in the middle.

25 It's these 60 percent of voters right now who are

1 completely disenfranchised in our state.

2 So if we can make a good goal to take our
3 competitive districts from our current three statewide to
4 nine or ten, that would be great.

5 Understanding that demographics and the
6 constraints placed upon you by the Voter Rights Act,
7 understandably there are going to be solidly blue districts,
8 there's going to be solidly red districts.

9 But if we can get the competitive districts up to
10 ten, what that will yield is a legislature that can come
11 together, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, and
12 they can work together on the massive challenges that face
13 our state.

14 I think one thing that we all agree on is we all
15 have a lot of challenges.

16 What we need is legislatures that will be able to
17 collaborate and work together to face those challenges.

18 Thank you.

19 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

20 KATHRYN JUNE: My name is Kathryn June. That's
21 K-A-T-H-R-Y-N, J-U-N-E.

22 And just want to thank you for being here.

23 I'm excited to be here to be a part of this
24 process.

25 As a citizen I appreciate that this is, of course,

1 a citizens' commission, and I am a proud Arizonan, almost a
2 native. Over 20 years I've been here.

3 And I'm at the point now where I'm beginning to
4 start a family and raise my family in Arizona. And in
5 Phoenix, I live along the central corridor.

6 I'm happy and proud to be raising my family here.

7 And, like I said, excited to be a part of this
8 process.

9 I hope at some point to teach my own child about
10 this process and hope that she can participate.

11 I think that it's most important to let our
12 younger people know that their vote actually matters and
13 that it counts, and I think that being here and speaking
14 illustrates that.

15 I've been paying some attention to this process,
16 not wildly close attention, but just what I've heard in the
17 news.

18 Of course this is a big deal.

19 And I just am here to make my voice heard to
20 ensure that the process is fair and genuinely representative
21 of all of the citizens of Arizona, not just the loud ones.

22 I think that there are a lot of people out there
23 who may not participate or choose not to participate, don't
24 want to for whatever reason, in this process, but they still
25 deserve to be represented here.

1 I see -- you know, we've heard some people talk
2 tonight about a lot of the hoopla that kind of has
3 surrounded this.

4 And I certainly hope that you'll continue to move
5 forward and make Arizona districts that are as fair as
6 possible and that you won't feel pressured or bullied to do
7 any less.

8 I know that one gentleman commented about a
9 particular district that you could run basically anyone in
10 and simply based on party and have a particular outcome.

11 And that, of course, you're speaking about
12 District 15.

13 But understanding some of the process, I know that
14 there are many, many, many districts in which that is the
15 case, whether it's Democratic, which are far fewer, or
16 Republican, which are far more.

17 And I, you know, think that it's just fair that,
18 again, everyone's voice should be able to be heard and
19 counted.

20 I also just want to note that in coming here
21 today, you know, I get e-mails forwarded from friends and
22 family and whoever.

23 And I saw an e-mail today that was quite
24 discouraging.

25 It encouraged one particular group of people to

1 wear their colors, which was primarily yellow, to, quote,
2 scare the heck out of them.

3 I don't know if the them that the e-mail referred
4 to was you, the Commission, or us, the group that are here,
5 but I certainly wasn't scared, and hope that this kind of an
6 e-mail doesn't discourage more people like me who just want
7 to have their voices heard, who just want to be a part of
8 this process.

9 I hope that everyone has a fair shot to be heard
10 and represented.

11 On that note, thank you for your time, and I
12 encourage you to keep up the good work.

13 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

14 After Wendy Schops we have -- after Wendy we have
15 Jayne or Jayne Friedman, Ann Heins, and Geri Ottoboni.

16 Now, in the interest of time, we still have plenty
17 of people, if you don't mind limiting your comments to
18 two minutes, because I want to maximize the number of people
19 that are speaking. I think two minutes will allow us to
20 finish, there's still a lot more, and we have a time limit
21 we can stay in this room. So hopefully two minutes is
22 adequate.

23 WENDY SCHOPS: I hope it is. I didn't time this
24 out.

25 My name is Wendy Schops, W-E-N-D-Y, spelled

1 S-C-H-O-P-S.

2 I'm Arizona president for Sons of Liberty Riders.
3 We're a nationwide political bikers group. And I am here to
4 hold feet to the fire.

5 Proposition 106 specifically states that voter
6 records are not to be used in mapping.

7 For the last week these have been downloaded by
8 Strategic Telemetry. They've been down in the GOP voter
9 vault data.

10 The last Commission held almost three times as
11 many meetings.

12 Since Arizona is almost twice the size of
13 Wisconsin, over twice the size of New York, and 1600 times
14 the size of Washington, D.C., we need more than 20 meetings
15 if this Commission truly wants public input in this process.

16 This Commission does not engender the trust of the
17 people.

18 The process will be fair, open, and honest.

19 People are frustrated. I think that's why you
20 have a large turnout tonight.

21 Proposition 106 was supposed to take the
22 redistricting process out of the back rooms and bring it to
23 the light of day.

24 Sadly, almost half the time the current Commission
25 has met in executive sessions behind closed doors.

1 The Commission recently selected Strategic
2 Telemetry as their mapping consultant.

3 What I want to know is why was this company
4 selected if they're not a mapping company, what was the
5 process of selecting this, and that's what I want out in the
6 open and transparent.

7 They advise progressive campaigns per their
8 website.

9 At the last meeting they said they would need time
10 to learn the mapping software package which is standard in
11 the industry.

12 I'm sorry that Colleen Mathis is not here tonight.
13 I would like to speak to her directly on her omissions on
14 her application, and I would like to know why she was
15 appointed.

16 And Ken Strasma, the president of Strategic
17 Telemetry, used to be the policy director for the National
18 Committee for Effective Congress.

19 On their website, they claim to be one of the most
20 influential political organizations, having helped elect
21 hundreds of progressive candidates to congress.

22 That's what they do.

23 They are not a mapping company.

24 I just want to know why these things have not been
25 exposed and the public has not been told, and this has not

1 been explained, and this does not sit well with me.

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

3 Now the next person is Ann Heins.

4 We will no longer be taking any speakers slips in
5 the interest of time.

6 So these are the last ones we have.

7 ANN HEINS: Ann Heins, H-E-I-N-S, A-N-N.

8 The gentleman before was talking about Tempe.

9 Tempe is darn near impossible to elect anybody but
10 a progressive. Our school board and our city council are
11 controlled by the unions, and that's impossible for any
12 other person of that persuasion -- other than that
13 persuasion to run.

14 And so I would like to see Tempe be more
15 competitive.

16 It's been gerrymandered around. South Tempe is
17 removed from us. We're part of the vote, so that we can be
18 sure to have progressives in.

19 And there's talk that maybe Mesa, part of west
20 Mesa comes into Tempe.

21 And I can tell you a college town is very
22 different than west Mesa.

23 I would like to talk also about the Prop 106
24 requires fair and transparent nonpartisanship.

25 I would like to know why the State Procurement

1 Office refused to deal with the contracts so you had to go
2 outside and get Mayor Gordon's manager to write and sign the
3 contract.

4 I would like to know who authorized him to do that
5 on the behalf of the citizens of Arizona.

6 When the chair decides that she is going to
7 honestly fill out the application, I would like her to
8 explain that she's been a donator to Mr. Obama,
9 President Obama, excuse me, why she suddenly got a job in
10 2009 after he was elected distributing the stimulus money in
11 a city of Tucson, and now she is a, quote, independent
12 chair.

13 Lastly I also protest about our voter information
14 going to the SEIU MoveOn.org.

15 That gentleman over there.

16 When Part 106 says specifically the candidate
17 info -- or voter information is not to be released.

18 I object to my personal information sitting in the
19 arms of a progressive organization whose goal is destroy the
20 United States.

21 (The audience interrupts responding loudly.)

22 And I --

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Keep your comments to
24 yourselves. Thank you.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: After Geri Ottoboni we

1 have -- excuse me -- after Geri Ottoboni we have three
2 additional people.

3 Margaret M. Knowles representing herself -- or
4 actually Saddlebrooke.

5 Gini Crawford representing herself.

6 And Maureen Bayardi, a citizen, representing
7 herself.

8 Again, let's be respectful of all the speakers. I
9 appreciate that.

10 GERI OTTOBONI: Hello. My name is Geri Ottoboni.
11 Can you hear me?

12 It's G-E-R-I, and the last name is
13 O-T-T-O-B-O-N-I.

14 I have worked to get fiscally responsible Democrat
15 and Republican candidates elected to the office.

16 According to an article by Ann Eschinger, Bart
17 Turner and Dennis Michael Burke, who were the co-chairs of
18 Proposition 106 drafting committee back in 2000, quote, our
19 Arizona Constitution now calls for political lines to be --
20 to respect communities of interest and our original intent
21 was to respect these communities of interest.

22 Certainly a retirement community, for example,
23 deserves representation without such manipulations like
24 gerrymandering so that if a jog this way or that would keep
25 a historic district, a retirement community, a town, or a

1 Native American Nation intact, the line should move if
2 possible.

3 This article further states that our faith, quote
4 unquote, in the system depends on our faith in the
5 commissioners to do the right thing for Arizona, end of
6 quote.

7 And this would result in both fair representation
8 for committees -- I'm sorry, communities, and more naturally
9 competitive races.

10 Arizona's historic redistricting reform opens up
11 what was once a back room process to daylight and to public
12 scrutiny.

13 Citizens have an opportunity to participate in
14 this effort and make a real improvement in Arizona politics.

15 Alas, this has not been the case.

16 The 2010 Redistricting Commission over half the
17 time spent by the commissioners, and I've been there, has
18 been in back room processes not open to the public.

19 And when the public has commented about the
20 outcome of this back room process, done. Not in light of
21 day, but behind closed doors inaccessible to public
22 scrutiny.

23 Commissioner Herra said -- I'm sorry, Herrera
24 said, you and 102 members of the public who showed up and
25 spoke out represent a sliver of the 6.3 million that we

1 represent.

2 This means that the commissioners don't really
3 care what the public says or thinks, and one back room
4 elected official paid by an accountant to the voters is
5 actually better than unelected, unaccountable commissioners
6 who are using over 300 times the amount of public money in
7 a horrible financial downturn and are unaccountable to
8 no one.

9 We the people of Arizona have jumped from the
10 frying pan into the fire.

11 We cannot trust the commissioners to do the right
12 thing since they have not done the right thing in the
13 selection of the lawyers or the campaign company or Barrack
14 Obama to do the mapping for Arizona.

15 Remember, I have worked for both Democrat and
16 Republican campaigns in the 2010 election cycle, and that is
17 an unbiased epitaph.

18 Thank you.

19 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I would appreciate it --
20 Marty has a tough job as it is, so don't speak while people
21 are speaking. Be quiet.

22 Marty, would you like a break?

23 So, again, I urge politeness.

24 You must be Margaret?

25 JAYNE FRIEDMAN: No, I'm Jayne.

1 I'm Jane Friedman. I know you called me.

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Did I skip you?

3 I apologize. I skipped you.

4 JAYNE FRIEDMAN: That's okay.

5 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Again, let's be polite.

6 Let's not speak while people are speaking, so Marty's job
7 can be a lot easier.

8 JAYNE FRIEDMAN: Jane, J-A-Y-N-E, Friedman,
9 F-R-I-E-D-M-A-N.

10 I just -- I have a process comment.

11 I'm waiting for lines to be drawn, so I could make
12 appropriate comments then, but right now it's a process
13 comment.

14 And I think that there's a bit of a kabuki theater
15 going on right here in Arizona.

16 Everything is a deception.

17 People enter the stage dressed up as one thing
18 while, in fact, they're something else.

19 We have an Independent chairman, chairwoman, who
20 if measured by her past behaviors seems like a fierce
21 progressive.

22 We have a mapping company, which is not really a
23 mapping company, but rather a data mining operation. It
24 harvests information that it receives and maps districts
25 according to a political ideology, a far left partisan

1 progressive ideology.

2 Kabuki on the political scene is malevolent.

3 It tells their followers that they're only trying
4 to right the scales of justice.

5 Well-meaning people accept their deception.
6 Well-meaning people suspend their common sense and entrust
7 such players in their game of deception.

8 Strategic Telemetry has never worked for a
9 Republican or a conservative.

10 No one on their team has either.

11 Mayor Bloomberg does not qualify for a Republican
12 and/or a conservative.

13 Mr. Strasma, who owns Strategic Telemetry,
14 performed microtargeting in his home state of Wisconsin
15 while advocating for the recall of Republican Governor Scott
16 Walker.

17 This is the nonpartisan company Colleen Mathis has
18 chosen to redraw our states district lines?

19 You are asking that we suspend our common sense
20 and believe that Strategic Telemetry has no ulterior
21 motives.

22 The American way is straightforward.

23 The American way does not micromanage.

24 The American way tabulates numbers and readjusts
25 district lines accordingly.

1 An American founder, Alexander Hamilton, told us a
2 long time ago that a feeble executive implies a feeble
3 execution of the government.

4 A feeble execution is but another phrase for a bad
5 execution.

6 And a government ill executed, whatever may be its
7 theory, must be in practice a bad government.

8 By the way, in Brooklyn --

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. Thank you.

10 JAYNE FRIEDMAN: -- you see roaches, you don't
11 see -- you don't understand Arizona.

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am. Ma'am.

13 Margaret Knowles.

14 Thank you.

15 MARGARET KNOWLES: Hello, I'm Margaret Knowles,
16 M-A-R-G-A-R-E-T, K-N-O-W-L-E-S.

17 Thank you for the opportunity --

18 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Be sure that -- there's
19 people in the audience, let's let the lady speak.

20 MARGARET KNOWLES: Thank you for the opportunity
21 to share my views and hear those of my fellow citizens this
22 evening. I dearly appreciate it.

23 I'm here to speak about communities of interest,
24 in particular Saddlebrooke and LD 26.

25 I am a retired -- disabled retired lady that moved

1 to Saddlebrooke in 2005 with my husband, who's a financial
2 consultant working out of our home.

3 And we chose Saddlebrooke because it's an
4 accessible community with the climate that works well for my
5 recovery from a massive stroke, as well as the fact that it
6 has proximity to the city of Tucson, where there's lots of
7 arts and culture that we enjoy.

8 And we are very major supporters of UA Presents;
9 ATC, Arizona Theater Company; CCP, the Center for Creative
10 Photography.

11 And when we enjoy all these activities, we support
12 heavily the restaurants and other establishments in our city
13 that is so close by. We feel very attached to it.

14 Also in addition to arts and culture, there's a
15 very strong volunteer connection between Saddlebrooke,
16 Catalina, our neighbors in Oro Valley, and the city of
17 Tucson.

18 This is a big example where I'm a member of the
19 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 132 in Oro Valley.

20 And working there, I'm able to go to the east side
21 of Tucson, to the therapeutic riding ranch, helping our
22 veterans. Go down to the Veterans Association for stand
23 down where we participate.

24 And it just links us very strongly and helps our
25 community.

1 Also in Oro Valley is our church, St. Mark,
2 the Evangelist Catholic Church, where we are also very
3 involved.

4 And Coronado K through 12 school where many of my
5 neighbors gather to perform in an orchestra that is an
6 intergenerational orchestra, side by side with the students
7 from the school.

8 This healthy interaction is what makes a strong
9 community and a strong state of Arizona.

10 Also we have services that support us in those
11 areas. For instance, our doctors and medical services all
12 mostly are in Oro Valley and downtown for the citizens of
13 Saddlebrooke.

14 And as I talk about this strong knit unity, I'd
15 like to also say something about LD 26.

16 It is a competitive district, and this is a very
17 valuable asset.

18 And our representatives currently, both our state
19 representatives and our state senator, are serving this
20 district very well.

21 And I would like you all to take under
22 consideration the importance of keeping this close community
23 tied together as part of LD 26.

24 It would be very unhealthy and effective for all,
25 so please consider that and maintain it.

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

2 MARGARET KNOWLES: Appreciate it. Good luck with
3 your job. I look forward to the outcome.

4 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Gini Crawford.

5 GINI CRAWFORD: Hi. I'm Gini Crawford, G-I-N-I,
6 C-R-A-W-F-O-R-D.

7 I have to admit, I wasn't going to say anything
8 tonight.

9 You all know my opinion of the partisan mapping
10 company you all picked.

11 But I'm really confused because I expected a grid
12 map to be here, because from what I get it says the first
13 round of public hearings. So you're going to go from city
14 to city to city and just talk about this stuff.

15 Is that what I understand?

16 Because I have a database of thousands of people
17 that want to know, who are lining up to come to these
18 meetings, and they expect to see a grid map, and there's no
19 grid map.

20 And they expect to have the mapping company here
21 to start, whether we agree with this mapping company or not,
22 to start us into the process.

23 So what's wrong? What's happened? Where's the
24 grid map?

25 This right here on your website says first round

1 of public hearings.

2 Can anyone answer that for me?

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: This is your time for public
4 comment. We don't respond.

5 GINI CRAWFORD: Well, I'm looking -- this is a
6 public comment.

7 We're all ready for your first round of public
8 hearings.

9 And whether we agree with your mapping company or
10 not, we're trying to get on the same page. And there's no
11 grid maps.

12 I got here. The first thing I said, is where's
13 the grid maps?

14 So we can get on the page you want us to get on.

15 And I've read Strategic Telemetry's 56 pages of
16 their plan, why you hired them. And they're supposed to be
17 here, a part of this meeting with the grid map.

18 And it says right here in your thing you gave us
19 tonight that we start these things with a grid map, and the
20 grid map is just population and compact.

21 So really just has to do with population, not
22 points of interest or anything like that.

23 So I guess you're not going to answer.

24 Can someone answer to me? Is every meeting around
25 the state going to be like this?

1 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: These are public comments.

2 GINI CRAWFORD: You know, you're just, you're
3 just, you're just causing trouble for yourself because
4 you're not clear with us.

5 If you would be clear with us, the majority of us
6 would get on your page and try to work with you.

7 So can someone tell me, where's the grid map?

8 Are you going --

9 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ms. Crawford, can I interrupt
10 you for one second?

11 Our attorney, Mary O'Grady, will be speaking
12 possibly to answer your questions. Okay?

13 GINI CRAWFORD: Okay.

14 MARY O'GRADY: Just briefly, I know the time is up
15 here, the grid is the first stage of the mapping process,
16 but this is to get public input to help with the
17 adjustments.

18 GINI CRAWFORD: Okay. So every --

19 MARY O'GRADY: And I guess the time is up.
20 That's, that's -- this is to get public input in terms of
21 the overall development of redistricting lines.

22 GINI CRAWFORD: Okay. So all -- because I have
23 thousands of people waiting --

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, your time is up. Your
25 time is up.

1 GINI CRAWFORD: That's the problem. We don't
2 know.

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Maureen Bayardi.

4 After Maureen, we will have Karen Garrett
5 representing herself, Lynne Stevens, and Fred Barlam.

6 If those three individuals can line up after
7 Maureen, that would be great, so we can keep the process
8 moving.

9 MAUREEN BAYARDI: My name is Maureen,
10 M-A-U-R-E-E-N, B-A-Y-A-R-D-I.

11 And I am very concerned, like many others, about
12 this mapping company.

13 And why there was not public input, why we didn't
14 have an opportunity to hear about the companies that applied
15 for this.

16 It's -- I am of the impression that Strategic
17 Technologies(sic), they're not really here to represent us
18 in a nonpartisan fashion.

19 Everything that I see about them is Democrat.

20 And I don't have anything wrong with the
21 Democrats, but it should be Democrat, Republican, and
22 Independent.

23 We all need to be heard.

24 And I think it was kind of a back room deal that
25 those people -- and I can't -- Mr. -- I can't think of his

1 name now, oh, well, got that contract.

2 And I think that was wrong.

3 And you did an injustice to the citizens of this
4 state.

5 And I'm very upset and frustrated.

6 And obviously, you can see tonight, I'm not alone.

7 You need to listen to us. And we need to be able
8 to give input. And that company needs to go.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Karen Garrett.

11 (No oral response.)

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Lynne Stevens?

13 LYNNE ST. ANGELO: I think I must be scribbled.

14 It's Lynn St. Angelo, S-T, period, A-N-G-E-L-O.

15 I was present at the Redistricting Commission's
16 meeting when Jean Clark, the State Procurement officer, went
17 over and over for an hour or more with the commissioners how
18 they must be very careful in what categories they use and
19 the weight they give to each criteria in evaluating the
20 mapping company.

21 There can be no perceived bias or favoritism with
22 the selection of the mapping consultant or the
23 State Procurement Office would have to pull out of the
24 selection process and the commissioners would have to write
25 and administer the contract with the mapping consultant

1 themselves.

2 The reason Jean Clark gave for this was that the
3 State could then be sued if there was bias and favoritism
4 used in the selection of the mapping company.

5 In the Tucson meeting, it became very obvious that
6 the State Procurement Office was no longer involved in the
7 mapping company selection or contract negotiations.

8 This all happened behind closed doors where the
9 public could not see what had gone on in the process.

10 Then the Arizona Capital Times investigation
11 revealed that all three commissioners gave Strategic
12 Telemetry exactly the same score.

13 A perfect score.

14 Very fishy.

15 Especially when Commissioner Herrera said, I had
16 to give them that score even though his first choice was
17 supposedly another one of the companies considered.

18 So he gave two companies a perfect score?

19 And the agency's procurement file appears to be
20 missing a majority of the evaluation records compiled for
21 Commission meetings, according to the Arizona Capital Times
22 investigation, even though the State Procurement Office
23 staff were present and should have taken the evaluation
24 records to place in the file according to open meeting laws.

25 This is actually reminiscent of the scoring

1 records on the hiring of lawyers.

2 It was reported that Commissioner Freeman faxed
3 his vote in, and so there should be a copy of that.

4 And Commissioner Herrera also said in an interview
5 that his vote was turned in.

6 But according to an article, other scoring sheet
7 records are missing.

8 Similarly, Arizona Capital Times reports that the
9 commissioners eliminated three mapping firms from
10 consideration without giving any scoring.

11 According to Proposition 106, No. 16, the
12 Independent Redistricting Commission shall advertise a draft
13 map of congressional districts and a draft map of
14 legislative districts to the public for comment, which
15 comments shall be taken for at least 30 days.

16 The Commission is taking comments, but where is
17 the map for the public to see a comment on?

18 What is going to happen is that when this happens
19 tonight, which is everyone is going to comment on their
20 area, want to keep their area together, I don't believe this
21 is the transparent system that voters approved.

22 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

23 After Fred Barlam, we have L. Laughlin.

24 Jim -- it is Vaaler or Vaaler?

25 And Amy Kalman, I apologize, representing herself.

1 And, again, let's not speak when people are
2 speaking.

3 I appreciate that.

4 Fred.

5 FRED BARLAM: My name is Fred Barlam, B-A-R-L-A-M.

6 I live in Ahwatukee, which is located in LD 20.

7 I'd like to thank the Commission for the hard work
8 you've already done and the hard work ahead of you and
9 commend you on your taking your civic responsibility so
10 seriously.

11 In passing Proposition 106 in 2000, voters made it
12 abundantly clear that they wanted an independent
13 redistricting process to be in place without control from
14 political interests, the legislature, or elected officials.

15 I find it very troubling that this Commission is
16 being attacked by elected officials and outside political
17 interests when the decisions it makes aren't what those
18 outside interests want.

19 By doing this, the outside political interests
20 threaten the independence of the redistricting process in
21 direct contradiction to the will of the voters of the state
22 of Arizona who mandated that politics be removed from the
23 process.

24 What the IARC is currently doing is following the
25 process that the voters endorsed.

1 I commend that, and that must continue.

2 I also want to state to the IRC that the
3 competitiveness and communities of interest are both of the
4 six criteria, and I urge the IRC not to prioritize one over
5 the other.

6 Both can and for the purpose of fairness must be
7 done.

8 Arizona has a very diverse population, and
9 protecting communities of interest is the only way that all
10 communities can be fairly represented.

11 The IRC must also remember that the goal of voters
12 was to make sure that the candidates and elected officials
13 speak to all their constituents, not just their own party.

14 The only way to accomplish this is with
15 competitiveness.

16 In conclusion, the voters of Arizona made it very
17 clear that the Commission ultimately makes the decision
18 about the final maps, not any consultant, not any staff, and
19 certainly not elected officials or outside political
20 interests.

21 I thank the Commission for allowing me to state my
22 opinion in this public forum.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

24 L. LAUGHLIN: Excuse me. It's L. Laughlin. And
25 you'll excuse me if I don't stand for this right now because

1 the room is a little bit warm, and I don't want my knees to
2 buckle, because I'm not a public speaker. So I'm trembling
3 over here, and I've seen a couple of people trembling, and
4 my heart goes out to them.

5 But, I wasn't going to speak tonight. And I am
6 listening to all of this stuff go on.

7 I am so not comfortable. My hands are just
8 trembling.

9 But, in listening to everything people are saying
10 here, and I am -- and thank you for letting me speak, by the
11 way.

12 Communities of interest, competitiveness,
13 gerrymandering, kabuki, terms I haven't heard until tonight,
14 so this is not my forum.

15 And I just want you to know that I wouldn't want
16 your commissioner's job for all the world, because the
17 threats I hear almost on both sides that are almost veiled
18 threats, like the Hispanic lady that said we'll be watching
19 you, and then other people -- I mean, I'm hearing both sides
20 say things that are almost scaring me that I wouldn't want
21 to go home if I were you guys.

22 I would be watching behind me.

23 But what I'm hearing over and over from people
24 saying if there are things going on behind closed doors and
25 if there's a commissioner or a company with a strong

1 political leaning, or if some of these accusations of
2 perfect score on the hired company or scoring sheets
3 missing, this is almost spooky to me to hear this kind of
4 stuff.

5 And for those reasons, I mean, I started writing
6 more notes as I'm listening of this is spooky stuff.

7 I think that as a citizen I would want to know
8 that we're not going to have a dark cloud hanging over
9 what's going to happen for the next ten years.

10 Whatever decisions you guys make should be
11 something that everybody feels good about. And to have the
12 public sit here with a cloud hanging over them because
13 people either don't step down that have something
14 questionable against them or a company that has something
15 questionable about it, we could scrap all this right now,
16 have the one person step down that's in question, have that
17 company just start from scratch, and not have this cloud
18 over us, because there's always going to be people griping
19 about it. And we have the chance yet to do that.

20 I hate that that sounds like what most of us --
21 there's such a dark cloud over this.

22 And I am not in favor of the Republicans or the
23 Democrats or whoever. I wish we would scrap the parties and
24 make people just think when they vote.

25 And know the issues.

1 But so this is not a left leaning or right leaning
2 comment. It's just a citizen that sees a really dark cloud
3 over this, and that shouldn't be what this is about.

4 We've got ten years to live with whatever the
5 decision is, and it should be fair without any anxiety on
6 either side.

7 Thank you for letting me talk.

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 You're Jim?

10 JIM VAALER: Yeah.

11 I bet I can do this in less than 30 seconds.

12 My name is Jim Vaaler, that's V, as in Victor,
13 A-A-L-E-R.

14 I would like to thank the Commission for doing a
15 fair, straightforward, and transparent process.

16 I think you will go forward and do an excellent
17 job, in a fair and bipartisan manner.

18 I've lived in the Arcadia School District for
19 about 40 years, and I think that's my community of interest.

20 And I think school districts probably are a good
21 way to go.

22 Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

24 You know, I'm hearing a lot of conversations on
25 this side of the room.

1 If you guys could actually not speak at all or go
2 outside, I'd appreciate that.

3 After Amy, we have John Chiazza representing
4 himself, Channel Powe representing the community activists,
5 and Randy Keating representing the LD 17 Democrats.

6 AMY KALMAN: Hello. My name is Amy Kalman. I'm a
7 resident of District 17, but just on the border to
8 District 20. I expect that I will become a member of
9 District 20.

10 I want to thank you for the job that you're doing,
11 under very difficult circumstances, under a great deal of
12 scrutiny.

13 And I'd just like to say that Mr. Jesse Ary spoke
14 extremely eloquently, well over an hour ago, about the
15 importance of the Voting Rights Act and the importance of
16 its consideration in communities of interest.

17 And in the job that three and the two who are not
18 present must do, communities of interest are why all of us
19 are here.

20 But taking them into account, they're not to be
21 feared. They're not inconsistent with the Voting Rights
22 Act.

23 The Voting Rights Act is our guiding light. It is
24 vital. It is important, to avoid the abuses that have
25 occurred in the past, to remind us of how important it is to

1 preserve the safety, the diversity, our ethnic and racial
2 communities.

3 And I would ask you to consider that the Voting
4 Rights Act need not be a burden, need not be inconsistent
5 with the state of Arizona, need not be inconsistent with
6 competitive districts.

7 But it is important, and it should be the priority
8 of this district.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

11 JOHN CHIAZZA: My name is John Chiazza,
12 C-H-I-A-Z-Z-A.

13 I've been a Gilbert resident for 23 years, a
14 former Democratic district chair.

15 And Gilbert is not a competitive district at all.

16 And for that matter, neither is all of the
17 East Valley pretty much east of Dobson Road.

18 And you really have to take a hard look at the
19 East Valley and what's happening out there.

20 There has been candidates out in the East Valley
21 from the Republican party, and I know for a fact because
22 I've worked in many of the campaigns for the Democrats out
23 there, candidates from the Republican party that don't even
24 show up at debates, or any kind of speaking engagements, and
25 somehow they win.

1 What is wrong with this picture? Something is
2 definitely wrong.

3 For that matter, all of the East Valley really has
4 to become competitive.

5 And I've there been for 23 years and seen it all.

6 And I know that we have many people in the East
7 Valley that speak just like I do.

8 And I want it to be really taken a hard look at
9 it.

10 Three districts that you supported in the
11 congressional district, in the south, should be just drawn
12 down to two, because it would go too far north.

13 I want to thank the Commission. You're doing an
14 excellent job. I support the Commission. And I highly
15 respect the hard work that you're doing.

16 Thank you very much.

17 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

18 CHANNEL POWE: Good evening. My name is Channel
19 Powe.

20 I am representing -- well, I'm actually here from
21 District 14, and I'm here to represent the people, the
22 community.

23 My goal of coming here is one, first of all, thank
24 you, the Commissioners, for giving us an opportunity for
25 coming with our opinions and coming for -- for some of us,

1 like myself, to find out a little bit more about the
2 redistricting process and how it works.

3 I can understand a lot of pressure that you guys
4 are under, but I want you to stand strong and just know that
5 this is a great opportunity for Arizona to stand out.

6 This is a great opportunity for us to help us turn
7 our reputation around and be a leader within the community
8 and around the United States.

9 Let's definitely follow the Voter Rights Act, and
10 definitely go along those lines and keep the community of
11 interest where they are.

12 And also to look forward to learning a little bit
13 more about this process.

14 And, like I said, once again, just stay positive.
15 We know that everyone was picked for a reason.

16 I am supporter of Prop 106, although I didn't get
17 a chance to vote on it, because we people do believe in you,
18 and this is America, and you'll do the right thing.

19 So thank you.

20 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

21 After Randy Keating will be Henry Wade
22 representing himself, Franklin Brodsky representing himself,
23 and Doug -- I think it's Minga representing himself.

24 Those will be the last speakers.

25 So, Randy.

1 (No oral response.)

2 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: No Randy.

3 How about Henry Wade?

4 HENRY WADE: Good evening. My name is Henry Wade,
5 W-A-D-E.

6 And I have never been in a room with so many sheep
7 in my life.

8 I am a 20-year veteran of the United States Air
9 Force, and I believe in the process that you guys are going
10 through.

11 And all I come to you to say is do not, do not
12 cave to any group, any organization, any idea that's out
13 there, that you might not be integral.

14 Obviously you are.

15 We selected you to be here. You selected your
16 chair to be there.

17 I just want you to do the things that are right
18 for us.

19 106 was put in place to make sure that it would be
20 non-biased.

21 This process was put in place so that it would be
22 non-biased.

23 We come to you, and we complain. Of course, we're
24 citizens. We will complain about the process. That's what
25 we do.

1 But what you have to do is be strong and do what
2 you know is right.

3 When you draw those lines, draw them because you
4 know it's right, regardless.

5 Look, if you need another company, I'll get my
6 three-year old grandson to come and help you with the lines.

7 But just do what you got to do.

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Franklin Brodsky --

9 (Applause.)

10 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's keep our clapping. . .

11 Franklin Brodsky: My name is Franklin Brodsky,
12 F-R-A-N-K-L-I-N, B-R-O-D-S-K-Y.

13 I believe a mathematical approach could be used
14 here.

15 I hope to make your job easier.

16 This could be handled using a simulated annealing
17 algorithm, providing locations of populations, precinct
18 results from the last ten years on all partisan elections to
19 determine approximate number of active party members in each
20 precinct and topographic maps to show where the natural
21 boundaries lie.

22 The algorithm should attempt to minimize the sum
23 of the perimeters of all the districts to avoid
24 gerrymandering. It should minimize the difference in
25 population of each district from the total population

1 divided by the number of districts. It should minimize the
2 difference between the number of members in each party in
3 the district to match -- number of members in each party to
4 maximize competitiveness.

5 The formula devised has an error term which is
6 defined as the sum of the squares of the perimeters of the
7 precincts, plus the sum of the squares of the population
8 minus the mean population, plus the sum of the squares of
9 the difference in the number of Republicans minus Democrats
10 in each district.

11 So start with your existing map, the current map.
12 Take the district with the largest population, just draw a
13 line through the middle, and let the computer score that
14 map.

15 Then let the computer randomly pick small segments
16 of all the interior boundaries and move them in random
17 directions.

18 Rescore the map.

19 If the score is better, use the new map as a new
20 baseline.

21 If the score is worse, use the existing map as the
22 baseline, and repeat until that error term appears to be at
23 a minimum.

24 If you like, I can give you this.

25 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Sure.

1 Thank you.

2 Now we have Doug Minga, representing himself.

3 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I'm sorry, I don't understand
4 your handwriting.

5 DOUG MINGS: It is a chronic problem. My name is
6 Doug Mings, M-I-N-G-S.

7 And that was my handwriting.

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 DOUG MINGS: Thank you for making me feel so tall.
10 I wanted to talk to you this evening about --
11 we've heard a lot about communities of interest. I've been
12 going to quite a few of these meetings, and there's been
13 everything from my district should be east of Campbell, it
14 should be west of Scottsdale Road, it should include this
15 area or that area.

16 And at the last Commission meeting, there was some
17 talk about creating three congressional districts on the
18 border.

19 And talking about the communities of interest, I
20 think it's a better idea to maintain the two districts that
21 are there, because we're going to have nine congressional
22 districts, and it would be physically possible to make all
23 nine of them line up against the border, but we have to go
24 all the way to Kingman and the Grand Canyon and Page, so
25 maintaining the communities of interest along the border and

1 making sure that the people there have a voice in congress
2 is a something that is important.

3 And I think the more congressional districts you
4 add, the more you water down the people whose voice that is
5 there and they don't get heard.

6 So I just wanted to bring that to your attention.

7 Thank you.

8 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I think that is the last
9 speaker form.

10 So thank you all for being patient. I think --
11 (Applause.)

12 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: I don't know if you're
13 clapping because it's over or. . .

14 Before we adjourn, I thank you again. And I think
15 we did a really good job of being considerate to speakers.
16 We have a presentation public forum tomorrow in Nogales, and
17 then one in Yuma on Saturday.

18 I think the rest of the information is on our
19 website.

20 Commissioner Freeman, if you want to say some
21 words.

22 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: No, thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER McNULTY: Thanks for coming.

24 VICE-CHAIR HERRERA: Let's adjourn the meeting at
25 8:50.

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Thank you, the staff, for putting this together.

And thank you, Marty.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

* * * * *

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.
3

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was
5 taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter,
6 CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 131
7 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all
8 proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to
9 the best of my skill and ability.

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 2nd day of
11 August, 2011.

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

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