Communities of Interest

A Review of Comments in the Arizona IRC Record

February 7, 2004
The IRC-Adopted Process

1. Adopt Definitions
2. Define Communities of Interest and their boundaries
3. Adopt Communities Interest based on definitions
4. Start mapping from Grid
5. Draw competitive map(s)
6. Adjust for Voting Rights Act compliance as defined by Court
7. Adjust to comply with other Prop 106 goals but favor competitiveness
IRC instructions to NDC

- Prepare list of Communities of Interest based on the IRC’s record
  - Identify boundaries to extent possible
  - Use discretion to map each one in stand-alone graphical depictions
- Start mapping from the Grid map
- Make competitive adjustments
  - Only restraints: contiguous, equal population to extent achievable within time available
Adopted Definition of Communities of Interest

“A Community of Interest is a group of people in a defined geographic area with concerns about common issues (such as religion, political ties, history, tradition, geography, demography, ethnicity, culture, social economic status, trade or other common interest) that would benefit from common representation.”
Communities of Interest

Introduction

- Hundreds of people commented throughout the process
  - At meetings
  - By mail, fax, email, and petition
- Representative quotes presented, but there were many more
  - EACO, Tri-Cities, Cochise, Hopi, Navajo, and many others had hundreds of comments each
- Presented as review of record
  - No determination of whether it meets definition made by NDC
  - 3 years of IRC work & public comments reviewed over the last 5 days
Presentation

Presented in two groups by roughly alphabetical order

- AUR’s
- Other Communities of Interest
  - Related or overlapping “other communities” presented together

Each presented with representative quote(s) on the community’s identity and its boundaries
Arizona Units of Representation (AUR’s)
Rural/Urban

Identity:
Rural areas have a common interest. Keep Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas out of a rural district. Richard Begay, 6/27/01 pg. 26

Boundaries:
All cities and census places contiguous one to another to the City of Phoenix and the City of Tucson.
Tribal Reservations

Identity:
Numerous tribes testified
- Representatives of the Hopi, Navajo, White Mountain, San Carlos, Pasqua Yaqui, Havasupai, Hualapai, Fort McDowell, Salt River, Gila River and Ak Chin all appeared or wrote to the Commission.

Boundaries:
Official reservations borders
Identity:
Presentations at South Mountain public hearing and Tucson hearings
- “I looked at three plan modifications, one to bring in the Garfield Community, a second, release Willow District, a third one being released the Guadalupe area. We feel these changes constitute better natural boundaries than being divided by a freeway or interstate system. It also preserves communities of interest, also makes compactness for the district that this would create.” Wink Wiess, 8/11/01 Public Session p. 6.

Boundaries:
Matched to South Mountain testimony, Coalition data and maps
South Phoenix

Identity:
“The main issue is the lack of likeness with the communities that may be considered for merging with South Phoenix. For example, I'll use our neighboring area of Ahwatukee. They have very little like concerns or issues with South Phoenix. Merging South Phoenix with a community without likeness, for any community, would be very harmful and wrong to us.” Norma Munoz, 6/12/01 p. 15

Boundaries:
Maps and descriptions in the record
Apache Junction

- **Identity:**
  “First of all, even though we have urban pockets, we consider ourselves rural. We'd like to still identify with a rural lifestyle. There are forest lands, scenic beauty we seek to protect. . . . “We'd like to be able to be with like parties.” Smith, 6/20/01 pg. 44.

- **Boundaries:**
  Incorporated City
Casa Grande / Pinal County

Identity:
- “Economic trading areas lie within the district and have been maintained within the proposal. Tourism has been highlighted in areas within the district.” Ken Taylor, 6/13/01 p.14.
- “As existing, with the small districts, tourism currently suffers in the area. It has a current impact on businesses that we all be playing by the same rules. There are important business issues, such as growth, water, government regulation, quality of life, employment, all are similar throughout Casa Grande and Pinal County.” Ken Taylor, 6/13/01 p. 14
  (Continued on next slides)

Boundaries:
- Casa Grande & adjacent cities, and County border
Pinal County united

“I can assure you, throughout Pinal County, school districts see themselves as a community of interest. . . . And we develop a common legislative agenda with all school districts across the county.” Frank Davidson, 6/13/01 p.15-16, Casa Grande Hearing.

“I’m President of the Arizona Cotton Growers Cooperation and would like talk to you about agriculture and its very -- its uniqueness in Pinal County and the fact we believe agriculture and the communities of Casa Grande, Coolidge, the surrounding communities will remain agricultural for many years even though transitioning to urban agriculture, livestock. And we think compactness of districts is very important to continue the concise development of agriculture in Pinal County and Casa Grande. And the fact we right now are the largest employer for the county -- for Pinal County, we believe Pinal County should continue to stay compact.” Roger Hooper, 6/13/01 p. 17.

“All of us in agriculture think of Pinal as a community. A big piece of evidence is some of the associations we formed, for instance the Casa Grande Cotton Wives, they come from all over the county. Another example, just outside of that, the Casa Grande Historical Society, we try to include the whole county as a community.” Brett Benedict, 6/13/01 p. 18.

“Water is an economic development driver. It is -- it is a public resource which is closely managed. And it is something which underlies most of Pinal County and is part of that.” David Snider, 6/13/01 p.25-26.

“I come here to ask you to make Pinal County as whole as possible. I’m from Kearny. In both the Legislative and Congressional maps, you basically isolated us. From Kearny, we have people, everybody from Superior, Kearny, to Winkelman, Dudleyville, are related, a lot from the great Sonora area, then went to Kearny, Dudleyville. You’re basically cutting a family right in half. If any kind of community, there is community there, believe me, all related.” Joe Rios 9/8/01 Florence Hearing, p. 34.
Or Pinal County divided?

“There are a lot of different varied interests in Pinal County. You cannot compare Eloy, Arizona, say they are alike in every way with Gold Canyon. You cannot compare Coolidge, Arizona, and say they are alike with Saddlebrooke in the southern part of County north of Tucson, because they are as different as night and day.” Senator Rios, 6/20/01 p. 28-29.

“I see a county that is almost split in half. Like Senator Rios was saying, communities of interest, Gold Canyon, I too have much of the same interests as Eloy. Quite a few people in Eloy have similar interests as mine. But you have Gold Canyon, Apache Junction, in a contiguous area which has very like interests to East Mesa, Gilbert, whatever, that area.” Sharon Gill, 6/20/01, p.38.

“It's very difficult, as the Mayor said. We have a county split up in numerous representations. The east -- western part of our county has, you know -- we don't even -- those people don’t even come to the county and they represent part of Pinal County. The county is just chopped to smithereens with, again, as the Mayor said, people representing us that have no idea what is going on half the time. I would like to see some more contiguous areas be made and communities that are like-minded.” –Sharon Gill, 6/20/01 pg. 39. Apache Junction Hearing.
Cochise County

Identity:

"[W]e want to maintain our rural identity. We do not want to be combined with urban centers. People tell me that rural issues are different. One size does not suit all, and they want to have people representing them who understand and they want their district to be mostly rural. Secondly, I hear that there are many things that they have in common. The border communities currently are included in one district, and they have common problems, so those borders communities they would like to keep those together. I also hear from Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and part of Santa Cruz County. What I hear that they have common economic levels, that they trade together. There is a Southeast Arizona Government Association that handles many of the distribution of programs through this area, and they have a lot of commonality. . . . But the common industries in this area are agriculture, mining, border trade, and tourism." Marsha Arzberger, 6/13/01 Sierra Vista p.32-34.

"If we were to say that we weren't going to Gerrymander anymore and we were going to have Cochise County to stay as one county, then let's keep this rural. Let's not go into Pima County. Pima -- when these counties were formed, Pima was then separated from Cochise County and Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz and Cochise County have more in common than we do have into Pima County. Maricopa and Pima County are your heavily populated areas. We need representation in Santa Cruz, Cochise County, Greenlee, and Graham. And those four counties, if you could get some other area that is in the rural area of the state, then I think we would have more in common, and we could get representation like we should get as the face of Arizona." Bobby Lugo, 6/13/01 Sierra Vista, p. 42-43.

Boundary:

- County border
Colorado River

**Identity:**
- Many comments in the record regarding River-focused issues, primarily tourism but also septic and other issues.

**Boundaries:**
- AUR includes populated areas along the river
Identity:

- These counties are counties included in the communities of interest, similar interests that are very important to us here and issues that are paramount to us as far as the future of our county, rural health care, endangered species, public lands issues, forest health, grazing, and a myriad of other things we share in common with these other counties that would really serve us well in this district. I'd like to also point out that this is the only Legislative District proposed that has unanimity among all Boards of Supervisors. We've all passed resolutions in favor of this. Also, we have support of the cities and towns within the boundaries of this district in the various counties.“ Supervisor Mark Herrington 9/13/2001

Boundary:

- Gila, Graham and Greenlee Counties plus the non-Navajo Reservation portions of Navajo and Apache Counties
Green Valley with Tucson and the I-19 Corridor

- **Identity:**
  - See Citizen Input Forms

- **Boundary:**
  - City and Census Place borders
Hopi AUR

Identity:
- The Hopi Tribe is a distinct culture with a history in Northern Arizona dating back more than 1,000 years. Chairman Wayne Taylor, August 30, 2001.

Boundaries:
- Hopi and Moenkopi Reservation boundaries
- Havasuapai and Hualapai Reservation boundaries
Isaac Elementary

Identity:
- “Our children have a lot of problems. They are mostly -- 90 percent of them are Hispanic. Some of the things this young gentleman was just speaking about, our community needs to be together, Hispanic families believe in working together, pulling together. We need to have right now -- well, part is in District 20, part is in District 22. We’d like bond issues, and different issues like that, to be all in the same district, 22, because the majority of us are there.” Evelyn Shapiro, 6/26/01 p. 60.
- “Parents can’t talk to legislators in different places and have to -- it’s just not feasible.” Rosie Lopez, 6/26/01 p. 62-63.
- “I’m really very proud of that district. It really pains me to see the northern part of district being cut off into another neighboring district. We are a community, the Isaac family there. We collaborate a lot with the community, work with the community, incorporate the community with our academics. To separate would be really unjust to the community.” Nancy Doris, 6/26/01 p. 66.

Boundaries:
- School District Boundaries
MOHAVE COUNTY DEALS WITH LA PAZ COUNTY ON A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT ISSUES. WHEN WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH ROOM IN OUR JAIL, WE SENT OUR PRISONERS TO THE LA PAZ COUNTY JAIL WHO--THEY JUST BUILT ONE. YOU KNOW, WE HOUSED THEM THERE. WE DEAL WITH RIVER ISSUES. FOR GOODNESS SAKE, PARKER HAS A CASINO NOW. I MEAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU CAN GET ANY MORE ALIKE FROM WHAT YOU HAVE DRAWN HERE.”

Martin Rogers, June 12, 2001.

Identity:

- County borders
La Paz Yuma

Identity:
- The justification for doing this: Easily 5 identified communities interest. The following reasons: Three reservations in the counties share many common interests; share agricultural interests, farming, it's an agricultural community; many, certainly, rural issues tie La Paz and Yuma County; share common concerns regarding health care system; we have Arizona Western College in both counties; support both counties through the general fund; and Arizona Western College is active part of both families; we contract with Yuma County Juvenile Detention; utilize Yuma County's mental health facility; we have ongoing common law issues and have always supported Yuma County; we have a protected partnership, are close with law enforcement; up until a few months ago we shared a portion of our emergency services communication with Yuma County.” JAY HOWE, La Paz County Supervisor, Sept. 12, 2001

Boundaries:
- County borders
Identity:
- “The area I’m concerned about that has a common interest with the rest of District 15 is that, and it concerns Luke Air Force Base and a lot of other things that go with this, is the area from Camelback Road to Thomas Road, between 91st Avenue and the Agua Fria River. This area has much more in common than any other area that has been excluded. We want to keep them with us.” Priscilla Gibson 6/26/01 Avondale, p.31.
- “One of the common interests is Luke Air Force Base. In that area, there are a lot of military retireds. They’ve been in that area. They have that common interest and are represented by that common interest. Also their interest is in the areas west of them that are the new home development in there. They are somewhat in that area. So I would say that that area should be included in 15.” Representative Gleason 6/26/01 Avondale, p. 40.

Boundaries:
- Air Force base and vicinity
Identity:

"As you have heard from Navajo officials and other tribes, in this day and age, we as Native Americans...must unite to preserve and protect the interests of Native Americans, the interests of rural Arizona, and the interests of Northern Arizona. When Navajos, or Hopis, go to Phoenix or Washington, DC., we speak of preserving and enhancing our health, education, roads, transportation, business and government interests. We speak the same language on these issues. This has to continue." Chief of Staff, Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation. Sept. 15, 2001

Boundaries:

- Reservation border
Scottsdale

Identity:
- “With the way you have drawn now where it looks on the grid now, you said not to use the map, it looks like you're going straight up Pima Road and looks like you're going to split part of North Scottsdale, split Carefree, split Cave Creek. It doesn't make sense to me. It's my own community, maybe speaking of a community of interest. It looks like you're cutting us off at the knees. I just wanted to make that comment. If you had any input of that? It doesn't make any sense going straight up Pima and split it into three communities.” Heidi Stine, 6/14/01 Scottsdale, p. 19.

Boundaries:
- City border
SE Border

Identity:
- "We interviewed a lot of citizens, our businesses, major business. We talked to people all over Cochise County and feel like we belong with them, a part of them. Much of our area migrated up from Bisbee, or Douglas, into Clifton, all into mining. Mining is important to us. It's our lifeline. And it needs all the help we can get. We feel like agriculture is supported by Cochise, Nogales, and the CaniMex plan. We would like to stay with Cochise, stay this way, keep things we have in common. We're a primarily Hispanic community population. We'd like to stay a Hispanic population." Tonya Williams, Sept. 13, 2001

Boundaries:
- County and reservation boundaries with SC County area east of I-19 corridor towns
Sedona

Identity:

- “Please respect city and town boundaries and also please note that the City of Sedona in crossing these county lines, please consider the entire city.” Judith Cooper, June 19, 2001
- “I would like to say we are in two counties. We would like to remain in one district. We would not like to be split.” Anita McFarlane, June 19, 2001

Boundaries:

- City border
Sierra Vista

Identity:
- “We do not want to be combined with urban centers. People tell me that rural issues are different. One size does not suit all, and they want to have people representing them who understand and they want their district to be mostly rural.” Marsha Arzberger, 6/13/01 p. 33.
- “Your western and eastern boundary is the State of New Mexico. Your southern boundary is that of the country of Mexico on the other side. We of course want Cochise County to stay one county. We've been proud of Cochise county. We wouldn't want any of our municipalities, to wit, St. David, Benson, or Sierra Vista, to be split off or Gerrymandered to some other district. So if you follow a line straight down from Graham County all the way down to the border where it intersects right through to the Cochise County, that is good.” Ben Anderson, Jr. 6/13/01 p.40-41.

Boundaries:
- City border
Sun Cities United / Divided

Identity:
- “I think the Sun Cities are a, based on just CC & R’s, are a community of interest from the standpoint of the types of issues that are important to them. And I think what we need to do is look on a state level, too. Many issues raised have been kind of local issues. At the state level, things we look at, say like prescription drug coverage, things like this, are issues I think that go to certain types of communities and are certainly of great concern to retirement communities where prescription drug use is higher than perhaps the normal population.” Representative Bill Brotherton, June 26, 2001
- We are two completely different developments, although both share similar names.” Tom Voros, September 12, 2001

Boundaries:
- Census Places and Development border in Surprise
Tempe

Identity:
- "Tempe has -- is, as has been alluded to, very diverse. Student population, another area that generally residents have lived there a long time, Mesa, usually a lot of Mesa residents, and they're drastically different." Paul Petersen, June 25, 2001.
- "[T]he people of Tempe has worked together over the years, has come together over the years. I'd like to mention a few of those: Arizona State University Center; Arizona Merchants Association; Tempe Town Lake; Rio Salado; Tempe Historical Society; Tempe Pile Society; Hackett House and one of the other things is the Tempe Sister City Octoberfest, 1,200 Tempeians, people that like Tempe, make Octoberfest such success. Although a lot of people that work in the valley would like to choose Tempe, I would urge the Commission to consider establishing Tempe as a unit itself." Joe Milner, June 25, 2001

Boundaries:
- Incorporated City
Verde Valley

Identity:
- “Wants to keep Verde Valley and communities together in a single district while giving rural areas a voice, little in common with metropolitan areas.” Chip Davis, 6/19/01 pg. 27

Boundaries:
- Borders of Cities and Census Places
West Valley
West Valley, cont.

Identity:
- “I did draw a map that showed my city joining in with many of the other Southwest valley mayors or other cities. And that's probably because of the commonalty of our interests. We're in the growing edge of Maricopa County. We have school children that attend the same districts. We have a Mayors' Breakfast of five mayors of the southwest valley, Tolleson, Litchfield Park, Buckeye, Avondale, even Gila Bend has commonality, common interest in changing. The Southwest Chamber of Commerce incorporates four areas.” Mayor Woody Thomas: P. 51

Boundaries:
- City and Census Place borders west of Phoenix
Yavapai County

**Identity:**
- Water is the main issue in what to do with Flagstaff, Verde Valley, and the Prescott Tri-Cities areas. Mike Beisch, 9/5/01 pg. 145-149
- Verde Valley is more aligned with western Yavapai than with Northern Arizona and Flagstaff. Michael Bluff, 6/19/01 pg. 22

**Boundaries:**
- County border
Yuma County

Identities:
- “As far as community of interest is concerned, you have already heard -- and I am happy to repeat -- our interests lie along the border. There is the social economic interests of the employment, the agriculture, the maquiladoras, the border crossing and those problems you've already heard about.” - Jones Osborn, 6/11/01 p. 31.

Boundaries:
- County border
Other Communities of Interest
Arcadia

Identity:

- “What I'd like to ask is that you consider the community of interest in that particular district. Arcadia people really belong with Arcadia north, north central Phoenix, Scottsdale, as opposed to throwing to west central Phoenix, where many never go.” –Steve May, 6/25/01 pg. 63.

- “One of the things we have kind of unique in ours has to do with a big SRP canal that runs down Indian School Road.” John Mills, June 14, 2001.

Borders:

- “Roughly 32nd Street, 64th Street, Thomas Road, and the Camelback ridge line. . . I hope you don't just take that Indian School Road with the canal as a dividing line. You would be dividing my community.” John Mills, June 14, 2001.
Avondale and Tolleson together

Identity:
- We are very similar to the communities of Central and South Phoenix and Tolleson in that we share human services, such as the justice court and the primary care center, not to mention the county social services funds. We have a crisis in education among our Hispanic youth in this country. And these areas of Central and South Phoenix, Tolleson and Avondale, also need attention. Marie Lopez Rogers June 26, 2001

Boundaries:
- City borders
El Mirage and Old Town Surprise not with Sun Cities

**Identity:**
- "I think in looking at a portion of District 20 I have now, the El Mirage, 1 Surprise area, that's a very different community of interest from the area surrounding it, basically Sun City. I think the Sun Cities are a, based on just CC and Rs, are a community of interest from the standpoint of the types of issues that are important to them. And I think what we need to do is look on a state level, too. Many issues raised have been kind of local issues. At the state level, things we look at, say like prescription drug coverage, things like this, are issues I think that go to certain types of communities and are certainly of great concern to retirement communities where prescription drug use is higher than perhaps the normal population. I ask when looking at drawing these maps you take into account that the area I now represent, Surprise and El Mirage, really has different, a much younger community, growing family community in comparison to the Sun Cities that surround it.”
  
Representative Bill Brotherton, June 26, 2001

**Boundaries:**
- El Mirage City and “Square Mile” portion of Surprise
Border towns including Douglas and Nogales grouped together

- **Identity:**
  - “After closely reviewing the information regarding the issue of redistricting, I firmly oppose the Commission’s position to break border communities into areas that do not and for that matter will not understand the diverse issues that border communities face.” Marco Lopez, Jr. 8/28/01 Nogales, p.11
  
  - “Our hesitancy of being connected with the City to Tucson simply I believe that having joint representation across the border cities with being tied with border counties and border communities that understand the dynamic that is lived, that is felt, that is dealt with everyday along the border would outweigh the dynamic that our representatives in Tucson might encounter on a day-to-day basis.” Marco Lopez, Jr. 8/28/01 Nogales, p.14.

- **Boundaries:**
  - City borders
Nogales, Rio Rico, and Tubac with Pima County

Identity:
- "The reason I say that is the simple thought of people, they say they're going to go to town, and that may include buying groceries, a set of tires, and maybe doing something else. The people in the Patagonia and Sonoita area will generally go to Sierra Vista, sometimes to Tucson, but the folks in the Rio Rico and Tubac area as well as Nogales won't go to Sierra Vista. They will go to Tucson. And so there seems to be more of a connectivity, if there's such a word that I can use, between those communities."
- "I feel that if the communities of Rio Rico, Tubac, and Sonoita were associated with Pima County district and the communities of Nogales, and I believe you've drawn a portion of Patagonia included with the Cochise County district, that that would serve us very well."
  Supervisor John Maynard, Aug. 28, 2001

Boundaries:
- City and Census Place borders
Patagonia and Sonoita with Cochise County

Identity:
- “From my understanding of the economics of that area is that Elgin and Sonoita consider themselves one economic entity. Patagonia has realized that they are not Nogales, and they jointly publish community breakfasts and things like that. So in their mind, they are one entity from Patagonia all the way to Sierra Vista, in their mind. They shop here and we do like that.” Tony Zimmerman, August 27, 2001
- “I mean, they’ve been associated for that long. Santa Cruz County and Sierra Vista area have been associated as long as the cattlemen somewhat, so I’m not opposed the fact that Patagonia, Canelo, Elgin, and Sonoita might be included in that if you need more population. They do fit the area a lot more than some of the other areas. Maybe even take out Ben Anderson’s Pinal ejection. But at any rate, that may be how you can change it to make it fit, and I don’t think there would be any argument as far as that’s concerned.” Gary Frasier, August 27, 2001

Boundaries:
- City and Census Place borders
Broadway-Broadmoor

Identity:
- In this case the baby is my neighborhood, Broadmoor/Broadway Village, and equally the neighborhood’s position as a long-time participant in the Broadway corridor in the Central City Leadership Network. . . . Further, we're in the process of seeking historic status. The Broadway Village is already a prominent historic landmark and it's not labeled to divide an area with historic designation. Okay. We're a small, self-enclosed neighborhood with a unique identity. We're a strong community of interest. We're equally a part of the cohesive group of midtown neighborhood which have central city concerns and have been very active working together over a long period of time. . . . And incidently, at this time we're all meeting about current transportation needs and options along Broadway. Anne Murray, Vice President of the Broadmoor/Broadway Village Neighborhood Association. Aug. 29, 2001

Boundaries:
- “Broadway Boulevard, Country Club, Tucson Boulevard, and on the south, Winsett, which dead ends halfway across the Citation Wash and then the rest of the neighborhood follows the outlined Citation Wash.” Anne Murray, Vice President of the Broadmoor/Broadway Village Neighborhood Association. Aug. 29, 2001
Flagstaff Metropolitan Area

Identity:
- The City of Flagstaff identifies closely to the Verde Valley area with respect to the criteria set forth by communities of interest (incorporated cities). Council wants to keep the City of Flagstaff as a whole. Flagstaff wants to remain whole whether it goes with Verde Valley/Sedona or Navajo Nation. Joseph Donaldson, Mayor of Flagstaff, 9/24/01 pg. 24-30
- Flagstaff should not be spit into two different legislative districts. Community of interest is northern Arizona and can’t see the Congressional map going all the way into Phoenix. Bruce Green, 9/6/01 pg. 28-30

Boundaries:
- Map submitted by City
Flagstaff with Reservations

- **Identity:**
  - Interaction and commerce exchange between the Navajo Nation and Flagstaff. Wants those interests to stay together. Derrick Watchman, 6/25/01 pg. 90
  - The “northern part” has a lot in common. Commerce trade between Flagstaff and Navajos. Wants representation explicitly for Northern Navajo and Northern Arizona. Larry Foster, 6/27/01 pg. 29-30
  - Flagstaff and the Navajo’s should be placed within the same district. Sedona and the Verde Valley align better with the Tri-Cities of Prescott than with Flagstaff. Flagstaff is ecologically linked with Navajo- high desert. Flagstaff is the trading center for the Navajo Nation. Ecology, integration, economics and history link Flagstaff and the Navajo Nation. Bill Cherry, 9/6/01 pg. 34-36

- **Boundaries:**
  - City and Reservation official borders
Flagstaff and the Navajo Nation should be in one district. They share economic, educational, cultural, and environmental concerns. Rita Johnson, pg. 36-37

Flagstaff is a community of interest and shouldn’t be split apart. Closely tied to the Reservations and Mogollon Rim by national parks, forest, and national lands. Flagstaff and the Verde Valley do not form a community of interest. They have different growth patterns, different water issues, and different interests. Jack Doggett, 9/6/01 pg. 37-39

Flagstaff has close economic ties to the Grand Canyon. Flagstaff is historically, culturally, and commercially tied to the Native American reservations of the North. Shares water interest with lands north and northeast. Flagstaff is the center of economic activity in the north and should be linked to the reservations not to Verde Valley and Prescott. Carlos Taylor, 9/6/01 pg. 46-50

The Grand Canyon and Native Americans of the north are crucial for the economy and county. They should be apart of the same district as Flagstaff. Peggy Toomey, 9/6/01 pg. 50-51

Flagstaff shares close ties, economically, culturally, and environmentally, with the north and east. The Grand Canyon is also economically important to the Flagstaff community. The communities of northern Arizona should be placed in the same political district. Linda Stratton, 9/6/01 pg. 52-54

Place the Havasupai in the same district as Flagstaff. Don’t break apart the City of Flagstaff into two legislative districts. Would like the Congressional district to be a rural district and more compact and not include any part of the Phoenix metropolitan area. Liz Archuleta and Kris Waite, 9/6/01 pg. 54-63

The Hopi Nation should be placed in District C with Flagstaff, because they have more in common with the City of Flagstaff than with the Navajo Nation. They have more economic ties with Flagstaff- a shopping mall. C.H. Johnson, 9/6/01 pg. 64-68

Havasupai want to be aligned with Coconino County (Williams and Flagstaff). Retain Flagstaff in District C intact. If in District A split (but doesn’t want to see that). Liz Archuleta, 10/13/01 pg. 21-
Navajo with San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Tribes

- Identity:
  - Extensive testimony both for and against
- Boundaries:
  - Tribal Reservation boundaries
In northern Arizona, I'm speaking mainly about Williams, Flagstaff, and Winslow, and the surrounding area, those are the mountain cities. We are concerned with what is going to impact our vicinity, our area. We have the beautiful mountains. We have -- it's the forest being burned down. My sister's house almost got burned down last week in the Larue fire. More importantly, sweet and to the point, I don't think that somebody that lives in our area north of Phoenix has any concerns of, pardon me, for them, northern Arizona, especially central or northern Arizona.” Klorinda Quiros Lorizno, 6/21/01

Boundaries:
- City Borders
Grand Canyon tourist corridor

Identity:
- Sedona, Verde Valley, and Flagstaff are associated as a community of interest. Verde Valley tied closely to Flagstaff from a commerce standpoint, medical facilities, NAU, athletic and cultural events. Alan Everett, Mayor of Sedona, 9/6/01 pg. 25-27
- Highway 89A is an economic link between the Verde Valley and Flagstaff. Tourism is an economic link. Doree Christensen, 6/19/01 pg. 28-29
- Flagstaff, Prescott, and Sedona are Alpine communities and tourist driven. Matthew Capably, 6/12/01 pg. 43

Boundaries:
- City and Census Place borders
Verde Valley and Sedona

Identity:
- Keep the Verde Valley and Sedona in District C. Rural compact district would be best. LaVelle McCoy, 9/6/01 pg. 68-71
- “I actually live in Verde Valley. I would like to say we feel it is important to maintain the integrity of the entire Verde Valley, which includes Sedona and a piece of Oak Creek Canyon below the switchbacks. We’ve done a lot of work throughout the Verde Valley land to use open spaces, water, transportation, and we have a very strong sense of integrity. I live in an unincorporated area known as Big Park, actually I’m the President of the Big Park Regional Council formed with volunteer activity. There’s a tremendous level of involvement throughout both the unincorporated areas and incorporated cities within Verde Valley. I’d not like to see us split up, I can appreciate what is being said this evening about the Tri-Cities area. We’d rather see us split into two rather than to be split up in the Verde Valley,” Ms. Fisher 9/5/01
- “I’m here tonight to thank the Members of the Commission for actually listening to the concerns Verde Valley in keeping us whole. One of our main concerns, we urge you to keep us whole. We urge you to keep us in a district with Flagstaff and Sedona. I won’t go into what was said before in support of this, just in interests of time, but we appreciate it. This is something members of our community, I’ve polled informally members of the counsel and they strongly agreed upon be included in the district which includes Flagstaff, Sedona, and understand you are up against an awesome job of tweaking things here.” Ruben Jauregui, 9/6/01

Boundaries:
- City and Census Place borders
Identity:
- “The Glendale communities, far west Glendale are far more rural. Old Town has strong ties with the Hispanic community, and central and north Glendale have strong ties to the metropolitan area. . . . Glendale now lies in 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14. These six districts continue to divide Glendale’s communities of interest, particularly the Old Town Glendale community of interest is encompassed in approximately three districts.” Dana Tranberg 6/25/02 Public Session, p. 23-25.

- “The current plan C has District 14 jutting into Old Town Glendale with the high Hispanic area of Glendale which we contend probably doesn’t have a lot in common with the rest of District 14.” Dana Tranberg, 8/13/02 Public Session, p. 121-122.

- “43rd Avenue is the boundary of City of Glendale. This is part of 14 that juts in. This is part of Glendale, a highly Hispanic area we’d like to see unified.” Dana Tranberg, 8/13/03 Public Session, p. 123.

Boundaries:
- City border.
Pasqua Yaqui lands all together

Identity:
- “Members of the Tribe live in four areas of the metropolitan Tucson area: in Pasqua Pueblo, in south Tucson, in Marana, and in the area which now has become known as Old Pasqua. The proposed map placed each of these communities in distinct districts. Those placements only serve to leave the members of the Tribe with a diminished ability to participate in the political process and to elect a representative of their choice.” Robert Valencia, Chairman of the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe, Aug. 29, 2001

Boundaries:
- Reservation plus neighborhoods in Marana and northern Tucson. (Shown at left.)
Peoria with Surprise, Litchfield Park, and Glendale

Identity:
- “My comments, I don’t know how much is incorporated, my needs were met with your redistricting. That does seem to keep us within the Southwest areas of Maricopa County, which we are much more aligned with. Any adjustments that may occur from this hearing I also appreciate in keeping that flavor of the southwest valley, more of cities, less county areas, especially county areas unincorporated yet filled with a large populous. ... Areas are yet to be developed, areas known as Sun City and Sun City West. Those areas don’t reflect the majority of Litchfield Park as it’s brought up. The current Representatives, two, a Representative and a Senator, are currently in Sun City. I do wish to be cautious with that. As well, we’ve met with some citizens in Litchfield Park that felt strength in having Sun City residents in the district. I’m not of that opinion and believe most members of Litchfield Park are more in tune toward families, school needs, growing community needs, and these types issues. We’ve had an issue before the Council, some fair housing rights and discussions. The past history Sun City, their view toward housing would not necessarily be consistent with ours.” Litchfield Park Mayor Woody Thomas, September 4, 2001

Boundaries:
- City borders
Phoenix Historic Districts

Identity:
- "Currently live in the historic communities and grew up in West Valley. It’s important both communities get represented well in the Legislature. Both communities are working hard to preserve their communities, working on common projects relevant to common communities of interest, putting together disputability of areas of history, work projects, develop common goals." Peter Moraga, June 18, 2002.
- "There is a significant historic value to the neighborhood. . . . we’re considering it as part of the Central Phoenix community. We’re very excited, have been excited about what is going on in the downtown central areas.” Glenn Holmgren, Aug. 25, 2001.
- "I’d point to the current grid structure and say what you have in terms of downtown Phoenix is the right way to go, keeps the historic neighborhood together undivided, historic neighborhood, both downtown Phoenix, downtown, south of downtown, geographically similar in terms -- in terms of similar, south of Camelback, east of 19th Avenue -- well, taking most of downtown Phoenix as you have here, and west of 30th, a distinctly different area, growing, has its own mentality and should be taken into account.” Ed Clark, 6/12/01, p. 39-40.

Boundaries:
- "19th Avenue and Roosevelt, go east to Central Avenue, go north, following the blue line, turn north to McDowell, then east on McDowell to Squaw Peak, which is basically the red line, north on the red line to Thomas, and then back to 19th Avenue.” Peter Moraga, June 18, 2002.
Quartzsite not split

Identity:
- “We have worked very, very well with the county of Yuma and the Town of Yuma. Marilyn Young, the Mayor here, she and I have worked very well together, and we wish to continue that... we work very closely with ...Bob Stump. He helped the town of Quartzsite in numerous times. The Western Power Administration, a federal power company that had a big line going through the middle of town, they decided to go in, move into the residential area. . . . Now they’ve moved over into a proposed light industrial area. Quartzsite is on the grow. We have the opportunity to even outclass Phoenix as far as population, industry, and everything else by having a dual highway system right through the middle of us. Even at the present time, we have, very shortly, a population in increase of snow birds. Last 25 year, 1.8 million came people in our town. We wish to stay with Yuma County. We worked very well with them. We worked very well with their elected officials. . . . We are very limited in the number of people we do have.” Verlyn Michel, Mayor of Quartzsite, Sept. 10, 2001

Boundaries:
- City border
Rita Ranch separate from South Tucson

- **Identity:**
- **Boundaries:**
  - Identified development border
Scottsdale with Cave Creek and Carefree

Identity:
- “And if you take Carefree, Cave Creek, and the North Scottsdale area, you have 19,000 people with the three communities. With the way you have drawn now where it looks on the grid now, you said not to use the map, it looks like you’re going straight up Pima Road and looks like you’re going to split part of North Scottsdale, split Carefree, split Cave Creek. It doesn’t make sense to me. It’s my own community, maybe speaking of a community of interest. It looks like you’re cutting us off at the knees.” Heidi Stine, June 14, 2001.

- “The concern we're expressing today when you went to Legislative test map G, what you have done is created a Legislative D. Now that basically encompasses Wickenburg, Yarnell, Mayer, as well as the Scottsdale, Carefree, Cave Creek area. It's tough to define the community of interest in the Scottsdale area, communities of interest of Buckeye, North Yarnell, reveal U and A, north B. As we looked at it before, the August 21st map, August 21st, the F August map, we felt that a much better job was done representing the community before us, Cave Creek, Carefree with Scottsdale. We recognized the problems, Cave Creek, Carefree, being with Scottsdale. Not problems you had.” Steve Olson, October 9, 2001

Boundaries:
- City Borders
Tri-Cities united

Identity:

“One, we want to respect Mohave County's view not to be joined with Yavapai. Mohave and Yavapai both agree they should be separated because of the difference of the community of interest, mainly surrounding around water. In that regard, let me note that the community of interest, when we talk about water, which you heard about, there's another factor. I'll avoid repetition. The Prescott AMA is the only AMA that is not in a safe yield as required by law. As a result, efforts are being made to correct that. We also have to work not only together in the Tri-City area, we have to work with contiguous properties surround us in the county. It's critical, I think, you leave us together. That leads me to the important factor. Most people believe it's critical that you leave Yavapai as intact as possible recognizing there may be some variations. We have approximately 160,000 population in Yavapai. Take away some, the question is where will you go? I think it's clear most people do not like, from Yavapai, to be incorporated into Maricopa County. Perhaps in Wickenburg, perhaps rural burges, certainly not Maricopa proper. The reason is simple. We'd be overshadowed by population there. That's something important. One other thing to note, as to community of interest, and that's the fact that the three cities work very close together and interact with their people. A example, a good many people that live in Prescott Valley or Chino Valley work in Prescott. The net effect is that interaction is very important to the community, and the roads being built today, we have a good combination of roads, much of which are bringing the three communities together, as I'm sure you've heard.” Representative Harry Camarot, Sept. 5, 2001

Boundaries:

- City borders
Tohono O’odham with Gila River and Ak-Chin Tribe

Identity:
- “The current Legislative District W does include the four metro tribes: Salt River, Gila River, Ak-Chin and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. ... But southwest, in that, the goal would be, at least from the communities of interest perspective, would be to keep not only the four metro tribes together, and many parts of Pinal County, which would include a large number of Hispanic groups in Pinal County, the Hispanic population, perhaps look at picking up the Tohono O’odham Nation as well. That’s a significant community of interest in terms of the cultural ties that we share with the Tohono O’odham Nation, as well as other communities I just mentioned. I guess the other side, the Congressional proposal you have, I think the community is in support of the way the district is drawn. We appreciate the effort to again keep those communities of interest. In this case you would have the -- you would have Gila River, Ak-Chin, the Tohono Nation, Pascua Yaqui, Cocopah, Quechan, and we appreciate the efforts in that regard. I believe it’s a strong step in creating a district with significant Native American influence and, I believe, a majority-minority district as well.”


Boundaries:
- Reservations borders
Urban Maricopa tribal reservations United (Gila, Salt, Fort McDowell, Ak-Chin)

- **Identity:**
  - The community interest for Indian communities that needs to be addressed are the unique division with a strong voting base. The four Hispanic communities in the basis, the Indian Community elected a strong basis River Gila Indian Community, Fort McDowell, and Ak-Chin, the unique Indian River community today, and continue with a proposed district of a minority coalition, unique for communities governing reservations, to address needs through self-determination; Second, the Salt River Gila, Akimel O'otham, Pima and Pee Posh, only exist within two reservations, they are, in fact, two dialects of cultures only found within the two Indian tribes described based back to the Hohokom area found within the Hohokom.” Jose Solarez, October 13, 2001.

- **Boundaries:**
  - Reservation boundaries
Tucson foothills

Identity:
- “I would further suggest that Rillito River and if not River Road, at least the river is a very significant geographical barrier in northern Tucson. There’s a substantial difference between the people, the communities, their interests north of the river than from the people south of the river. Again, that cuts across some political boundaries, but again, I think that's very fairly significant.” Mike Hellon, June 20, 2001.

Boundaries:
- Census Place borders and River location
North Tucson retirement communities

Identity:
- "Down here we have a situation in northwestern Pima County where Saddle Brooke is in Pinal County and Rancho Vistosa is in Pima County. I would suggest to you it would make sense to ignore the county line, that Saddle Brooke has much more community of interest with Rancho Vistosa than it does with any of the rest of southern rural Pinal County." Mike Hellon, June 20, 2001.

Boundaries:
- City and Census Place borders, and census tract in Pima County.
Western Phoenix HOA’s

Identity:
- We are an area that is revitalizing. We are near the northwest part of town, used to be a suburb. We are now part of the central city. And we feel that District 12 would be the most difficult to communicate with, because our interests would be very diverse from probably the predominant population in that district in that their concerns is the far West Valley. ... We have a regional identity. We work very hard to create relationships with adjacent neighbors working together on issues that impact us. So it does concern us if we are going to be split off into 12, because I think we would be -- a significant part of our neighborhood would be too far removed from the more city, central city oriented districts, 14 and 15. ... [W]e were very strong supporters of Proposition 106. We were kind of astounded to find that we were not benefiting at all from what was going on because of the fact that our neighborhoods do tend to work together as a unified front on issues that impact us, and there are many that do.” BEV HARVEY

Boundaries:
- “Our square mile, which represents between Northern Avenue and Glendale Avenue and 35th Avenue and 43rd Avenue.” Blaine Brimley, August 13, 2002.
Communities of Interest

A Review of Comments in the Arizona IRC Record

February 7, 2004