



**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES – December 13, 2021
9:03am**

In Attendance:

Location: Kimpton Palomar Phoenix Hotel
2 E. Jefferson St., Phoenix, AZ 85004

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg
Vice-Chair Derrick Watchman
Commissioner Shereen Lerner
Commissioner David Mehl
Commissioner Douglas York

Executive Director, Brian Schmitt
Deputy Director Lori Van Haren

Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Danielle Arellano, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Brett Johnson, Esq., Snell & Wilmer
Eric Spencer, Esq., Snell & Wilmer
Debbie Wilks, Transcriptionist (AM)

Mark Flahan, Timmons
Brian Kingery, Timmons
Parker Bradshaw, Timmons
Doug Johnson, NDC Research
Ivy Bellar-Sakansky, NDC Research

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (*.01 YouTube*)
 - A. Call for Quorum
 - B. Call for Notice

Present:

Chairwoman Neuberg
Vice-Chair Watchman
Commissioner Lerner
Commissioner Mehl
Commissioner York

A quorum is present.

Executive Assistant Valerie Neumann confirmed that the meeting agenda was properly posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from Dec. 9, 2021 *(1:33 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session

Commissioner Mehl motioned to approve the General Session and Executive Session Minutes from Dec. 9, 2021; Vice-Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(2:30 YouTube)*

At 8:42am Chairwoman Neuberg opened public comments and indicated that public comments would be open for a minimum of 30 minutes and would remain open until the adjournment of the meeting.

IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to today's (Dec. 13, 2021) meeting. *(3:15 YouTube)*

The Commissioners appreciated hearing from the public and would like the public to remove any personal attacks from the comments. The Commissioners stated they have the State's best interest in mind when redrawing the maps, and there is still a lot of work to be done. They ask the public to please respect the process and the Commission. They are proud of the ethical, transparent and collegial process so far.

V. Summary and discussion of Unites States v. Texas (case 3:21-cv-00299). *(7:00 YouTube)*

The legal team provided an overview the new lawsuit that the DOJ has brought upon Texas. Texas has received two new districts due to the population increase, mostly due to the Latinos. The new maps that Texas drew do not keep up with the Latino population, and the suit claims this is an intentional dilution claim. Texas has not yet responded to the complaint.

Vice-Chair Watchman motioned to move into Executive Session for legal advice on how the lawsuit will impact Arizona; Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

Upon returning to the public session, Chair Neuberg advised that the Commission received legal advice on the application of the Texas lawsuit, the Commission and the State of Arizona.

VI. Potential update, discussion, and potential action concerning polarization data and report presentation from mapping consultants regarding U.S. and Arizona Constitutional Requirements. [\(40:22 YouTube\)](#)

Doug Johnson from Timmons/NDC advised that there were no updates at this time for this item.

VII. Draft Map decision discussion [\(40:45 YouTube\)](#)

- Legislative Map Drawing
- Congressional Map Drawing

The Commissioners directed the mapping team to make specific changes to the Congressional maps and Legislative maps.

Commissioner Lerner motioned to move into Executive Session regarding administrative issues that relate to VRA Compliance; Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Mehl left the meeting at 1:58pm.

Upon returning to the public session Chair Neuberg advised that the Commission received legal advice on VRA compliance.

The legal team provided a draft timeline of what will transpire after the final maps are approved; The county elections will have 7 days to request minute changes, the mapping team will have 7 days to make those small changes requested by the counties, then the maps will be finalized, then certified and then transmitted to the Secretary of State's office.

VIII. Next Meeting Date. [\(5:21:19 YouTube\)](#)

The next deliberation meeting will be held at 9:00am on Thursday, December 16, 2021, at the Palomar Hotel in Phoenix.

IX. Closing of Public Comments [\(5:21:36 YouTube\)](#)

Public Comments closed at 2:01pm.

X. Adjournment. [\(N/A YouTube\)](#) *The YouTube streaming stopped prior to this agenda item.*

Commissioner Lerner motioned to adjourn the meeting; Vice-Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 2:02pm.