



Web Comments 10.20.21

Submitted Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
10/20/2021 - 07:54	Ann Gardner	Stop the gerrymandering	Make fair and equitable maps statewide
10/20/2021 - 08:47	Emily Duwel	Keep redistricting fair and independent	In 2000, voters approved proposition 106, which established an independent redistricting commission. This mechanism should be a role model for the rest of the nation. Instead state legislators and a governor with few scruples have set out to undermine the authority of the voters and to rig the redistricting system to ensure unfair advantage to one side—a number of whose cohorts have been shown to be directly involved in the orchestrating the Jan. 6 attempted coup. We must be vigilant against those who seek by any and all means to undo our democracy. Arizona’s people-driven propositions, once approved, become law. Our lawmakers today tragically and erroneously believe they are laws unto themselves. Every effort should be taken to ensure the independence of our redistricting process is maintained.
10/20/2021 - 08:50	Nelson Morgan	error from Dr. Johnson	Dr. Johnson said that there are 6 competitive districts in 5.1 . According to the Timmons table and the IRC criteria, there are only 5. This is the same as with 5.0 . Please correct this, since there is a debate about these two.
10/20/2021 - 09:00	Myron	Keeping Paradise Valley in one legislative district	I think Paradise Valley should be kept as one single legislative district. Splitting an town of 13000 residents into 2 districts does not make sense.

10/20/2021 - 09:15	Nick Loper	Gila River Indian Reservation Comments	<p>October 20, 2021</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>The Commission holds a constitutional responsibility to the Voter Rights Act. As such, it must consider a series of 6 factors when looking at each of these districts and at each change made to our boundaries. We request that the GRIC continue to be with neighboring communities like the city of Coolidge and Casa Grande. The cities of Coolidge and Casa Grande and the GRIC sit on the I-10 corridor into Phoenix, and many of our community members have historically resided in these communities. our neighboring communities have faced similar issues and would be best represented together. We do not want our challenges to potentially overshadow or be overshadowed by communities that face vastly different challenges than our voters. The most recent map showing LD 16, 4.0/4.1map, regroups the GRIC with these communities, and we would like to express our support of these maps. As it relates to the 4.2 congressional map most recently discussed the morning of October 19th, it does not consider the Community of interest described above. We would ask that you consider moving the GRIC into CD 2 outlined in the 4.2 version. This request would ensure our community voice is not potentially marginalized or has reduced focused representation proposed in recent maps. we are willing to discuss this further as your process moves forward. As Governor of the Gila River Indian community, it is of extreme importance that I express our community's support and concern related to the most recent maps to preserve our Community's balance and constitutional criteria needed in this process. we ask you to consider this proposal and allow the Gila River Indian Community to offer solutions in laying the foundation for Arizona voters over the next decade.</p> <p>I want to thank you for your time and work on the independent Redistricting Commission for Arizona voters. The work and decisions you make this year will indeed be a bedrock for Arizona voters over the next decade. The amount of dialogue and meetings to solicit feedback from the public only help to strengthen that bedrock. As the Governor of the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC), I would like to offer our perspective on our Community as you continue the important work you are all doing. We know there will be many changes to the Congressional and Legislative Districts and would request to keep the balance we have had over the past decade in any maps approved by the Commission and encourage the Commission to continue to listen to our native voice.</p> <p>Sincerely, Stephen Roe Lewis Governor</p>
10/20/2021 - 10:31	Janice Allen	Redistricting	Please give us districts that accurately reflect the population and result in fair, nonbiased voting. Thank you AhrrWK
10/20/2021 - 11:33	Elinor Brecher	redistricting	My husband, a veteran, and I, live in LD, Pct. 214. It's the Foothills, where NOT everyone is rich, white, Republican and Christian. We have nothing in common with the racist Republicans who think that they own the Foothills, Oro Valley and other areas. We want a FAIR map that makes every district competitive. Please, do not abet racist gerrymandering. Pima County is remarkably diverse, and districts should reflect that. What you produce will determine the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of people - rich, poor, white, brown, black, indigenous - for a decade. Please be FAIR.
10/20/2021 - 11:34	Elinor Brecher	redistricting	My husband, a veteran, and I, live in LD, Pct. 214. It's the Foothills, where NOT everyone is rich, white, Republican and Christian. We have nothing in common with the racist Republicans who think that they own the Foothills, Oro Valley and other areas. We want a FAIR map that makes every district competitive. Please, do not abet racist gerrymandering. Pima County is remarkably diverse, and districts should reflect that. What you produce will determine the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of people - rich, poor, white, brown, black, indigenous - for a decade. Please be FAIR.

10/20/2021 - 12:01	Crystal Bazarnic	LD Test Maps - north Maricopa in LD test maps 5.0 and 5.1	<p>What is going on with D1, D3, and D28 in north Maricopa is MUCH better in the 5.0 map than the 5.1 map. Please do not split our I-17 corridor in that way. I would still love to see a map where our entire community of interest from New River down the 17 is kept together in one district. If you could make D1 narrower lengthwise, you could accommodate that request by adding Anthem/New River to D1, and shaving the east side of D1 to add the difference to D3.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
10/20/2021 - 12:01	Bob Jackson	The need for competitive maps	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Let me begin by thanking you for your service to our state. The role of the Independent Redistricting Commission is one of the most important in the state, and I know it can be an often thankless and demanding job, so please know that many of us appreciate your commitment to Arizona.</p> <p>As the Mayor of Casa Grande during the time of the last redistricting, I paid close attention to the process and worked with other leaders in Pinal County to make sure our concerns were heard and considered. I was very pleased with the last commission's willingness to listen and work with us, and to this point I have been very pleased with your work to engage people across the state.</p> <p>A lot has changed in Pinal county since the last redistricting. Our population growth has exploded and we have new industry coming into the area. But one thing hasn't changed - we are not Maricopa or Pima county. We are still a very different region than either of the two big urban areas of the state, and I hope you won't forget this fact while making the new congressional and legislative maps.</p> <p>Overall, I was happy with the outcome of the last redistricting process for two reasons.</p> <p>First, the commission did a good job of recognizing the above fact and not allowing our political power to be wrapped into Maricopa or Pima counties. At both the congressional and legislative level, Pinal county was allowed to have elected officials who weren't coming from the two big metro areas. This is still immensely important to us.</p> <p>Second, the overall maps did a fairly good job of reflecting the population of the state. It fairly balanced out partisan interests, protected many communities of interest, and made sure rural Arizona had adequate representation. I hope you will pursue these same goals once again.</p> <p>The only suggestion I would add is directed at the legislative maps, and that would be to encourage you to create more districts with competitive general elections. Right now, too many legislative races are decided in the primary election. It is giving partisan extremists way too much power over who serves in the legislature and what policy agendas are going to be pursued. That is not good for the future of our state.</p> <p>Whether it's water, job creation, or education, the big issues facing our state shouldn't be partisan. We need elected officials who are willing to work together to tackle the problems. Creating more competitive maps will be a huge step in the right direction.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bob Jackson</p>

10/20/2021 - 12:26	Sheri L Schlozman	Important request regarding LD6	Hi, First thank you for doing this important work. I am writing regarding LD6 and in particular Sedona. First Sedona is an unusual city in that it spans two counties, Yavapai and Coconino. It is critical to keep the city of Sedona in a single legislative district, so that we can vote together on issues that concern our city. It is my opinion that the entire Verde Valley should also be kept in Legislative District 6, not split between 1 and 6. We are a rural area and we all depend on each other. People in Cottonwood and Camp Verde come to Sedona for entertainment and for work and it's very difficult to find affordable housing in Sedona. There are no big box stores in Sedona, where I live so I head to Cottonwood for those needs or to Flagstaff. We share a medical system between Flagstaff, Sedona, Cottonwood and Camp Verde, Northern Arizona Health Care. We share a shuttle service and the city Managers of our towns meet regularly to discuss issues that affect our region. I believe it is important for the Verde Valley including all of Sedona remain together in one Legislative district for many reasons, and I hope you will honor that request. None of us just live in Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde or Clarkdale. We live in the region and we visit individual towns regularly as part of our routines, enjoying dining, shopping, festivals, farmers markets, artist events, concerts. Please put us in 1 district, it is important. Thank you.
10/20/2021 - 13:38	Debbie Christianson	Redistricting of Yavapai County	Please Do Not divide Yavapai County and align us with Flagstaff. Yavapai County should be kept together. It makes no sense and would only dilute the ability to accomplish the needs of our county and people.
10/20/2021 - 13:46	Janice Suderman	Comment on Mapping Consultant NDC	A congressional district for all of NORTHAN Arizona , which would dilute the Democate voters from Flagstaff and all the northern NATIONS AMERICAN TRIBES.
10/20/2021 - 14:37	Janice Suderman	Comment on Mapping Consultant NDC	The Commision should seperate Verde Valley and Sedona from from the rest of Yavapai County. The Mingus Mountain seperate the two atreas, Social, economically, and recreation. The people of Verde Vallet mostle work, shop, and play in ther area. They have there own newspaper, radio. The two ares are seperated by the mountains. Thar is why we are two differen ares.
10/20/2021 - 14:45	Alison Hastert	Keeping Yavapai County Together	I am writing to encourage you to keep all of Yavapai County in one district. The interests of the Verde Valley are more aligned with Prescott than Flagstaff. Flagstaff is not part of the Verde watershed. It is not part of the same college district. Our tax dollars should be controlled in county and not voted on by people of another county. Plus, the average age of the citizens in Sedona is more closely aligned with Prescott than Flagstaff. Our rural western values are different than those of Flagstaff and should be kept together, not divided.
10/20/2021 - 14:47	Lynne Hudson	Addressing Competitiveness	<p>Arizona is quite evenly divided among Republicans, Democrats and Independents, so partisanship is inevitable. But gridlock is not inevitable-- provided both parties support candidates who (1) are more interested in solutions than power, and (2) are committed to working across party lines to find common ground and enact legislation that benefits all Arizonans.</p> <p>There are legislators from both parties in the Arizona Legislature who exhibit these qualities, but we need many more. Unfortunately, candidates with these qualities are less likely to run, let alone get elected, in districts that are overwhelmingly Democrat or Republican, what are referred to as uncompetitive districts or "safe seats." In such districts, the winning strategy is to say as little as possible, keep it simple, and avoid alienating the most extreme members of your party. This discourages civic engagement and limits opportunities to better inform and educate voters.</p> <p>THE DILEMMA: What it takes to get elected is not what it takes to be an effective legislator.  THE SOLUTION: Competitiveness must be addressed WITHIN districts so that tolerance for differing perspectives and disposition to compromise are reinforced within parties. The best way to do that is to draw as many competitive districts "as is practicable." If we can elect more legislators committed to working together, then maybe other legislators will become more inclined to do so as well.</p> <p>A POSSIBLE STRATEGY: Since we know many areas of Arizona are so red or so blue that drawing competitive districts is impossible, the IRC might use voting history data to pinpoint geographical areas where it is at least possible, draw those districts, and then draw the rest focusing on the other criteria--COIs, compact and contiguous, etc.</p>

10/20/2021 - 17:16	Allan Rose	District 6 input	<p>I have been listening each day to your hearings &amp; have reviewed each map submitted as best I could. I live in east Tucson. My neighborhood is not affiliated with rural counties: Graham or Greenlee &amp; Pinal. Yet Commissioner Mehl is pushing forward with iterations of District 6 which do not reflect the true nature of Tucson. We are not a community of segregated white and brown voters as divided in district 6 vs district 7. Mehl was against putting U of A into District 6. He wants Casa Grande lumped in with my east-side Tucson neighborhood in district 6! Saddlebrooke too!</p> <p>I am very concerned that the CHAIR is letting Mehl run the show. She has backed every motion he makes. It's very disappointing.</p> <p>Now an entity affiliated w/Mehl has submitted a Tucson redistricting map which was moved to the front of the agenda this afternoon for discussion! No conflict of interest noted at all!</p> <p>Please get control of his hearing and not let one man run the show! He is not representative of all Tucson. I would like to ask why is there continued resistance to keeping Yavapai in with District 2? It's just so obvious it's a better fit with 9. West Valley cities should stay together.</p> <p>Thank your for your hard work and for allowing my feedback.</p>
10/20/2021 - 18:18	Jacob Brown	Mesa - Districts 9 and 10	<p>Thank you for your efforts in creating districts. I understand that there are many requirements pulling you in various directions as you create these maps. I will leave to your sound judgment the creation of the various districts, but I did want to share my thoughts in regards to some of the discussions around the Mesa districts that I live in.</p> <p>I have watched with interest as the commission has considered various maps related to central Mesa over the last few weeks. I currently live in legislative district 26 or the districts 9 and 10 being considered now. During the past ten years I have been represented by individuals almost exclusively from Tempe and focused on Tempe interests. I do not want to see that again.</p> <p>West and central Mesa has its own concerns and interests. While I am a proud alumni of ASU, since graduating I almost never find myself in the Tempe area. My family, friends, and even coworkers are dispersed primarily throughout Mesa with a sprinkling of Gilbert addresses as well. Church congregations, food, and entertainment are primarily found in different areas of Mesa. We simply are not Tempe, and our interests don't align with those of Tempe whether you look at religious, educational, socioeconomic, racial, work, or any other way of comparing them. None of my neighbors work in Tempe, have family in Tempe, go to church in Tempe, rarely eat in Tempe, or visit Tempe.</p> <p>There just isn't much that my neighbors have in common with Tempe; which is why I was surprised to see consideration of connecting my neighborhood in Mesa with a Tempe district again. It was even more surprising to see very gerrymandered districts with boundaries shaped more like the famous salamander than any tight circle or square I have ever seen, spread across Mesa, Chandler, Tempe, Gilbert, and Phoenix. This seems to be in clear violation of the Constitutional requirements for compact districts, respecting city boundaries and communities of interest.</p> <p>Again, I understand the process is complicated, but I just want someone representing me who cares about my community. Who is considering the interests and needs of central Mesa. Please include us with a district from Mesa.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
10/20/2021 - 18:52	Cindy Wagner	Fair Maps	<p>Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino, Dewey should not be included with Verde Valley and Sedona. They are separated geographically, economically, agriculturally, and socially by the virtue of the Mingus Mountains. There is even a separate county administration building in Cottonwood where the County Supervisor from that area, District 3, has her office. They also have their own newspaper, radio station, etc.</p>

10/20/2021 - 19:48	Rhonda Licata	Redistricting	Anthem is part of a community of interest with the Norterra and north Phoenix shopping and dining along I17 down to 101. We don't belong with rural areas or Fountsin Hills. Thank you for your efforts.
10/20/2021 - 19:54	Shelly Gordon-Gray	Make the voting districts equal	Registered voters in Arizona are equal parts Democrats, Republicans and Independents. The maps should be drawn evenly to reflect 1/3 Democrats, 1/3 Republicans and 1/3 Independents -- they should not favor one party over another.
10/20/2021 - 20:30	LAOloff	neutrality in district maps	The neutrality and independence of Chairwoman Erika Neuberger is absolutely critical to this process. To date, she has shown excessive deference to Commissioner Mehl, to the detriment of the process and other commissioners. This includes facilitating his requests to return to previous versions of the maps while denying those made by Commissioner Lerner, and deferring to his unjustified insistence that Oro Valley and Marana are an inseparable "community of interest" while compromising the more justifiable "community of interest" of the Navajo Nation.
10/20/2021 - 20:36	Eileen Hollowell	Maps	Putting Oro Valley and Marana in the same legislative district as Casa Grande and Maricopa is a mistake. Oro Valley is a suburb of Tucson. Its communities of interest, economy and residents are tied to Tucson and Pima County. Please do not make the mistake again of creating a district with such wide disparities of interest. The only possible reason for doing so is to create a "safe" Republican district. All districts should be competitive and as diverse as possible. Thank you for the work you and your staff are doing.
10/20/2021 - 20:51	Susan Anderson	Opaque Process	I have more interest in the redistricting process than 99% of Arizona citizens. I have tried to keep up with the maps. This is a near impossible task for someone who has a life. It shouldn't be THIS difficult.
10/20/2021 - 20:53	Mark William Anderson	Native Tribes	Adopt a map that keeps the Native Tribes together in a voting block.
10/20/2021 - 20:56	Jennifer Dawson	Redistricting maps	It appears that excessive deference is being shown to Commissioner Mehl, to the detriment of the process and other commissioners. This includes facilitating HIS requests to return to previous versions of the maps, while denying those made by Commissioner Lerner, and deferring to his unjustified insistence that Oro Valley and Marana are an inseparable "community of interest" while compromising the more justifiable "community of interest" of the Navajo Nation, and giving little or no attention at all to maps submitted by Latino communities. This is unacceptable. Redistricting must represent all groups as fairly as possible, not cater to the interests of any one group or individual. The process must be fair and accessible to all, not just the well-connected: a map submitted by Commissioner Mehl's colleagues at the Southern AZ Leadership Council (not a recognized "community of interest") via personal message at the very end of today's meeting was prioritized for consideration at the Oct. 21 meeting. Meanwhile, the map submitted by the Navajo Nation has not been made available on the website, nor given the deference shown to the last-minute SALC map. Districts are supposed to be "fair and competitive". There are specific criteria for this, from national experts. Please make sure those criteria are applied. Thank you.
10/20/2021 - 20:57	Elizabeth Packard	IRC maps of Pima and Pinal counties	As a new resident of the northern end of Oro Valley, formerly a 40 year resident of midtown Tucson, I am very unhappy with the most recent maps I have seen as they divide Oro Valley and also appear to link us with Pinal County when most of us in OV spend our time and travel from OV south to Casas Adobes and Catalina foothills to midtown or downtown Tucson. Unless we travel to Phoenix, I rarely go north of the OV city boundaries for shopping, appointments or visits with friends and family. Similarly, I rarely travel to Marana. Why are Oro Valley and Marana linked? Please seriously consider the concerns those of us in Oro Valley have with linkages in your mapping that are implausible and artificial.

10/20/2021 - 21:55	Crystal Bazarnic	LD test maps 6.X - north I-17	I am reviewing the LD 6.0, 6.1, and 6.2 LD maps that were published tonight. Anthem and New River do not belong with Wickenburg and Wittman. Two very different communities with different priorities. Anthem is a suburb of Phoenix and belongs with Phoenix. I liked what you had going on prior to these maps, with the area south of Carefree Hwy included with the current District 2, going down I-17. We only needed New River and Anthem included in our district and it would have been perfect. Another note on these maps - that little area that juts east south of Carefree Hwy and west of N. 27th Drive has been changed in the latest Maricopa County reprecincting maps and no longer looks like that. Now the precincts there are horizontal all the way to I-17. Thank you for listening.
10/20/2021 - 22:25	Maria A Lynam	Re Test Map 6.3, Agenda Item IV and V.	The So. AZ Leadership Council got their personal map handpicked by Commissioner Mehl within minutes of submission! The Navajo Nation Map has not been published, nor analyzed, even though it was submitted 24 hours before this action. This is not a fair and equitable process. The Navajo Nation submission should have been published by Tuesday night and given a thorough look using the mapping software on Wed., but no demographic comparison was made. What happened to the consideration of the differences in communities of interest between the pending test map and the Navajo National alternative? This is highly concerning and I wonder what the attorneys have to say about fair hearings and the the VRA.
10/20/2021 - 22:44	Clair Hinckley	No to gerrymandering	We had a very clean election in 2020 and the GOP needs to stop lying and trying to deprive people of the right to vote.
10/20/2021 - 22:49	Pamela Waters	redistricting	Dear Redistricting Commission: The neutrality and independence of Chairwoman Erika Neuberg is absolutely critical to this process. To date, she has shown excessive deference to Commissioner Mehl, to the detriment of the process and other commissioners. This includes facilitating his requests to return to previous versions of the maps while denying those made by Commissioner Lerner, and deferring to his unjustified insistence that Oro Valley and Marana are an inseparable "community of interest" while compromising the more justifiable "community of interest" of the Navajo Nation. Remember that Chairwoman Neuberg is a critical ally in this process so BE RESPECTFUL.  V/R, Pam Waters Tucson, AZ
10/20/2021 - 22:54	Cerecedes Isabel	Do not discriminate and play favorites	The Latino population accounts for about 61% of Arizona's population increase over the last 10 years. Because of this influential Latino districts should not be limited! What happened to the Navajo Nation Map? Where is it and why hasn't it been published, analyzed...did it just get rejected?? Demographic comparisons should have been made. No consideration was given to the differences in communities of interest between the pending test map and the Navajo Nation alternative or the ability of Native Americans to elect candidates of their choice. Yet the business leaders of southern AZ got their personal map hand selected almost immediately out of the 112-plus maps submitted so far to become an official test map. This is unacceptable and upsetting! Do not disenfranchise Native Americans and Latinos. It is a discriminatory practice when the business leaders of southern AZ get their personal map hand selected almost immediately out of the 112-plus maps submitted so far to become an official test map. It's blatant favoritism! The process must be fair and equitable!! Correct course and manage in accordance with guidelines!