

Submitted Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
12/02/2021 - 03:08	Gordon Ray	redistricting map	I am completely opposed to the new redistricting map! Gilbert does not need to be split up and put with people who are not like minded. We have certain values and interest in Gilbert that need to be upheld and can only be done if we stay united.
12/02/2021 - 06:27	Sherry Yeaman	Redistricting	We are a very family orientated community, with strong religious roots. Portions of my church, community will be separated from one another. The commission need to follow constitution. I can't stress it enough how important it is that you adhere to all six of the criteria laid out in the constitution. Please don't make any changes.
12/02/2021 - 06:34	Maria Hase	Draft of the Redistricting Map	Thank you for your hard work in creating the drafts of the redistricting maps. According to the newest draft, I would be a constituent of the new LD11. I see this proposed district is solidly defined as Democrat. Arizona is a very purple state. I feel that every district possible should be a competitive district, because it encourages competition and better representation, while protecting against extremism. Because our state and country are very divided, I believe what is most needed is moderate representation from all parties. We need moderates to start to bridge those gaps. I feel the new LD11 is packed with minority voters. Their voices should be heard from various districts, and not packed into a few. Thank you for reconsidering LD11 and looking into making it a competitive district.
12/02/2021 - 06:43	CYNTHIA SAID	Redistricting, Gila County	I support redistricting map 10.2. Our small rural district's voters voices would be virtually silenced if Flagstaff (an urban community with dissimilar interests) were to be joined with us. The Navajo Nation's voice would be better served with Flagstaff which has historical links to their community rather than our small rural community.
12/02/2021 - 06:57	Kathleen Shaheen	redistricting	The redistricting map you have created for Oro Valley, Downtown Tucson, the University of Arizona, Foothills area and further is a blatant plan of GERRYMANDERING. This redrawn map intentionally dilutes Democratic electoral power while concentrating a diminishing Republican footprint. The electoral map was not broken and SHOULD STAY AS IT IS!
12/02/2021 - 07:27	Cynthia J Markey	Barnes precinct	I am currently a precinct person in Barnes, We are a cohesive precinct and request our precinct stay intact.
12/02/2021 - 07:56	Ron Bellus	Gilbert	The IRC's draft map totally destroys the Town of Gilbert as a community of interest. Cutting up Gilbert into five legislative districts and three congressional districts does a complete disservice to Gilbert and to the criteria for map drawing as outlined in the Arizona Constitution. The IRC needs to rethink the legislative map, certainly, but there is too much there for me to comment on in this message. One sure-fire change in the congressional district map is much simpler. Take the northern strip of Gilbert that the IRC has put with Tempe and west Mesa back into the Gilbert CD; then take an equal number of east Mesa residents to compensate for that move. This protects Gilbert by keeping that portion with the rest of the Town, and also protects Mesa by keeping more of their residents together as well.
12/02/2021 - 08:16	Rebecca Bickham	Redistricting	To Members of the IRC, As a citizen of Gilbert since 2016 I've come to know this community has very tight-knit with similar values of family, freedom, independence, hard-working, compassionate and many other wonderful traits I've come to love about my community. We moved from Colorado and specifically looked for the values that we found here in Gilbert. I am concerned that if we redistrict and put some of the east valley residents with residence of other towns in the valley we will water down their voices and their values. Because this is only for congressional and voting purposes, it won't draw people together but it seems intent on changing voices specifically for political purposes. This feels like a specifically divisive move. Please let these communities be able to speak out and have their political voice, based on the values that these people CHOSE to live in and around. I am therefore in strong opposition to any proposal to redistrict. Thank you for your consideration, Rebecca Bickham [REDACTED] Gilbert, AZ 85297
12/02/2021 - 08:21	David Lichtsinn	Competitive Districts	I too agree with those who state that "Communities of interest are important; but Competitive Districts are more important..." Districts should be drawn as close to 50/50 as possible....should not heavily favor one party over another. There should not be a guaranteed Republican nor Democrat nor whatever district. Competition is good for all of us to get our voices heard. The decision on who represents us at a Federal level should not be determined by the elite few in a so-called "competitive" district as on the current plans.
12/02/2021 - 08:52	Ester Golladay	Opposition to draft maps	This new district boundaries proposed will affect some candidates running for offices, election fairness and pushes the tendency to prioritize one party than the other party. Government is supposed to work for the people interest and not to make people accept what they decide to impose. Our country is living a time of not respecting the Constitution of the United States and I expect our State of Arizona to be an example to show our country where principles are based.

12/02/2021 - 09:31	Susan P Brzezinski	Redistricting maps	I live in Sun City and am very concerned about the new map for CD 9 because it does not adhere to several redistricting criteria. Spreading from the senior cities all the way to the River Cities like Yuma and Lake Havasu, it is certainly not a geographically compact and contiguous area. The new map also does not respect communities of interest. We are a suburban population, and we go to places like Peoria, Glendale, Surprise, and Phoenix to shop, eat, and see our doctors and dentists. As city dwellers and seniors, we do not share interests with those at the western part of the state. A representative from either the Sun Cities or the River Cities would only serve the interests of one of those areas. I realize that one of your criteria is to have equal populations in each CD, but I implore you to also address the other criteria. Please put Sun City with other suburban areas and put Prescott with the northwestern lake cities. I attended the meeting in Sun City and heard testimonials from Prescott and Wickenburg residents who want to be in the same district as those areas with a more western, rural culture, and not with us. Thank you for your consideration. Susan Brzezinski
12/02/2021 - 09:34	Patricia Nau	Redistricting of Green Valley, AZ	Please allow us to be part of a district with our neighbors, not part of the LD 19.
12/02/2021 - 09:42	Joy Mendez	Redistricting map	For an "independent" commission, you certainly are following in the footsteps of the Republican party that would rather all elections be determined by how they draw up district lines in their favor. Your proposed map is not acceptable and aligns much of Cochise County with Greenlee and Graham counties which are so very different in population, economics, and culture. As it now stands, the district is a competitive one for either side. Your redistricting assures only one party will succeed. And that's not fair. Please reconsider.
12/02/2021 - 09:44	Robin Low	Redistricting in Northern Arizona	Please create maps that support the Community of Interest (COI) comprised of the Verde Valley, Sedona, and the Flagstaff area. This COI shares transportation, educational, healthcare, and tourism issues and has a history of working together to meet these challenges. Please also create maps that create Competitive legislative and congressional districts and enhance the voting power of Native Americans as enumerated in the Voting Rights Act.
12/02/2021 - 09:46	Jana Lynn Granillo	Draft map comments	In addition to compliance with the Voting Rights Act (VRA) our democracy must have competitive districts; competitive districts that offer everyone a voice. The draft maps are way shy of competitive legislative districts. With the exception of a few geographic areas that by population lean Democrat or Republican, there is still opportunity to improve in competitiveness. As a commission, your discretion regarding the 6 criteria would benefit us all if your ultimate goal is towards democracy where everyone has a voice. The key to this is in competitive districts. Closing up the population deviations in legislative districts may offer opportunity to increasing competitiveness. Reduce extremes in political leanings. Having a "balance" of Democratic to Republican districts is not the answer; this will only maintain the status quo. We must reduce the extremes and work towards competitiveness. At this time, in the state legislature, the majority party has an extreme ideology; with actions that are stymied in unwavering polarization; we could change that with more competitive districts. The best maps may not be those campaigned by the those who show up the most. Earlier advice by your consultants suggested that the most popular maps may not be the best maps. Arizona needs the best maps that bring voice to all. Communities of interest (COI) are the priority of the chair. COI defined by where people shop and gather should not outweighed by geographical governance - such as city, county, school districts. Given the way we live today, especially with technology, how we gather and shop is bridged in new ways. Issues, however, that impact how we govern, vote, allocate funding resources and pick priorities (such as education and caring for our most vulnerable) are bigger than where we shop. I hope the misunderstood COI are not used to manipulate maps to wash out other criteria. Thank you for your work and consideration of comments submitted.
12/02/2021 - 09:46	Raymond A. Mendez	Redistricting in Cochise county	For an "independent" commission, you are favoring the Republican party. Is it that you would rather all elections be determined by how Republicans would draw up district lines in their favor? The is wrong and you should vote no. Your proposed map is not acceptable and aligns much of Cochise County with Greenlee and Graham counties which are very different in population, economics, and culture. As it now stands, the district is a competitive one for either side. Your redistricting assures only one party will succeed. And that's not fair. Are you afraid of a fair vote? Leave it the way it is. Please reconsider.
12/02/2021 - 09:50	SUSAN SMITH	REDISTRICTING OF DISTRICT 6 AND 7	I LIVE IN STAR VALLEY. I SUPPORT THE 10 2 MAPE THAT YOU ALL HAVE WORKED SO HARD ON. I DO NOT WANT FLAGSTAFF INSERTED INTO OUR DISTRICT AS THERE IN NO COMMUNITY OF INTEREST FOR THAT MOVE. I ALSO DO NOT SUPPORT PUSHING DISTRICT 7 ONTO THE NAVAJO RESERVATION. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.
12/02/2021 - 09:54	June R Woodman	Az LD 16	I live in the Tucson Mountains. I have little in common with those who live in Phoenix so my needs are different, and will be swamped by the more dense community in Phoenix Suburb. We will not receive attention from a legislator who has to cover a wide area. This is Gerrymandering and unworthy of our state. Please vote against this plan.

12/02/2021 - 09:59	Lorin Hatch	Redistricting	<p>I am Lorin Hatch and live in Maricopa County. I would like to share information about my community of interest.</p> <p>We have lived in Gilbert of over 40 years. We have a Gilbert address, our children attend Gilbert schools, we attend a Gilbert church, we shop mostly in Gilbert, our healthcare providers and clinics are in Gilbert, we vote for Gilbert town council, we vote for Gilbert school board, we bank in Gilbert (and anything else pertinent to you).</p> <p>The proposed legislative district map has Gilbert dissected into 5 pieces. This does not represent my community of interest! We do not associate with Chandler, Tempe, or Mesa schools, churches, town council, school board, shopping, medical needs, bank, etc. Our community of interest is split 5 ways! We want our legislative district to include all of Gilbert to keep our city whole!</p> <p>Our congressional district should also be whole with Gilbert in a single CD. The proposed congressional district map divides Gilbert into both CD4 and CD5. Please keep Gilbert and Mesa together in CD5 within Maricopa County. That will represent our community of interest.</p> <p>We choose Gilbert as our home because of the great schools, churches, government... We want Gilbert to reflect our community of interest. We want our legislative district and our congressional district to reflect our community of interest here in Gilbert. We want to keep our city whole.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:10	Jennifer Dawson	Redistricting maps and Senator Leach	<p>Arizonans wisely took the power of drawing their own districts away from self-interested politicians, and for 20 years Arizona has been a national model for independent redistricting. Senator Leach's behind-the-scenes efforts to masquerade this blatant attempt to protect his own incumbency in a non-competitive, Republican-dominant district are shameful. His actions have subverted the will of the voters and the spirit of independent redistricting. The IRC must ignore the machinations of Senator Leach, and do everything possible to provide fair and balanced maps. This egregious political interference is absolutely unacceptable.</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:11	Barbara Yates	Draft Maps	<p>My name is Barbara Yates. Both my husband and I are Arizona natives. We met in High School and were married two years later now for almost 41 years. In 1985 my husband was commissioned in the Air Force and we spent 22 years living all over the world. Our two sons were born in Germany shortly before the Berlin Wall fell. My husband retired from the Air Force in 2007 as a Lt. Col and we returned home to Gilbert, Arizona. We built a home in Gilbert and lived there happily for 12 years. Our two sons received scholarships to ASU and both earned Engineering Degrees. Our oldest lives in Gilbert, works for APS and is married with 4 beautiful children that are the joy of our lives. Our youngest son is third generation Air Force and is stationed in Japan. We are very proud of our family and the history of service and sacrifice to the State and County we love.</p> <p>A year and a half ago my husband and I built a beautiful new home and moved to Queen Creek. We love our new home, neighborhood and town. Queen Creek has a refreshing rural feeling. I love the openness, the trucks that fly American flags, the Friday night food trucks but also the nearby convenient shopping. Mostly I love the kind and friendly people with shared values and ideals.</p> <p>I am very concerned with the current draft maps. Having Gilbert torn into 5 Districts is a significant detriment to the constitutional goal of keeping communities of interest intact. South and Central Gilbert and Queen Creek share similar community needs in transportation, infrastructure, housing and demographics. We live the same and we work the same. The current draft maps do not consider our communities.</p> <p>Thank you, Barbara Yates</p>

12/02/2021 - 10:16	Dennis Beals	Legislative Districts Maps	<p>My name is Dennis Beals and I have lived in the NW corner of Gilbert (McQueen and Elliot) for 28 years. This area of Gilbert includes the revitalized downtown area and is a testament to the structure and people of Gilbert.</p> <p>When I look at your draft Legislative maps I see Gilbert is divided into at least five different Districts and the NW portion at least four different Districts. This is far from your goal of keeping boundaries that respect Communities of Interest</p> <p>A much better approach would be to make the northern boundary along Baseline Rd., the Western boundary along Arizona Avenue south to at least Ray Rd or follow the town boundaries further south. This would put this NW portion of Gilbert in a District which encompasses most of the Town of Gilbert in a single District</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:16	Joanne Sevrain	Paradise Valley	<p>My family lives in Paradise Valley, my elderly mother who I tend to lives 1.5 miles away in Scottsdale/PV line, my children attend school by Camelback and 44th and my husband's company is on Doubletree Ranch Road and Pima. ALL our activities including kids youth athletics, music activities, shopping, our church and education are within the same PV/middle Scottsdale community.</p> <p>====> I can tell you 100% that our community's interests do NOT align with central Phoenix. They have completely different priorities (business zoning, community development, education concerns, safety, traffic/road management, and many other factors) that what we have here. The CD1 'community interests' are NOT even close!</p> <p>As far as the latest LD3 map - this area of PV/middle Scottsdale do NOT have the same community concerns as I-17 and Hwy 101 area!! It is completely a different part of the state as in terms of residential and commercial priorities (crime management/building and zoning concerns/traffic/industrial vs. commercial interests).</p> <p>Please take all this into consideration! Thank you so much</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:20	Stephen Robinson	IRC	<p>Commissioners, thank you for the work you are doing. My name is Steve Robinson, and I live in Oro Valley. As a fairly new resident of Arizona, I was heartened to learn about the state's unique position--based on a voter-approved constitutional amendment--to take redistricting out of the hands of partisan elected officials and entrust it to an independent commission that would listen to the voters, not the politicians. It was disheartening to learn that one of those elected officials had quite recently forwarded a letter to a Republican member of your commission to be considered as an expression of "a community of interest," when, in fact the purpose of the letter was to protect his own seat in a Republican district. This letter is clearly a slap in the face to the commission's mandate, and the manner in which was done was clearly designed to deceive. The commission's charge is to draw maps that are competitive, contiguous as much as possible, and protective of the rights of all of Arizona's citizens to be effectively represented. I strongly urge you to reject the map proposed by this self-interested elected official and subsequently introduced by a Republican member of the commission. Maps drawn to ensure the electoral success of one party are an invitation to extremism, and are a repudiation of the mandate under which you serve.</p> <p>Thank you for the work you do, and for considering my remarks.</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:21	Nancy Ordowski	Redistricting Comments	<p>Committeemen,</p> <p>You have received many comments about the LD boundaries and these are very important issues for your consideration.</p> <p>It is also important that you hear my concerns for the CD boundaries. The proposed CD1 includes too many diverse neighborhoods. This becomes a problem for our Congressman to be an effective representative for their constituents.</p> <p>I encourage you to remove the urban central Phoenix areas of Encanto, Alhambra and Camelback east from CD1. The rest of the proposed district is suburban as the Phoenix area is urban.</p> <p>Thank you for your commitment and time you have given to serve on this 2021 Redistricting Committee.</p> <p>Nancy Ordowski</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:22	Sister Karen Berry	redistricting	<p>Because your criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering, I request that the contiguous communities of interest in downtown Tucson, UA, and Fourth Avenue remain in CD7. Please also include areas south of Broadway in CD7 so that Latinos maintain voting strength in their communities of interest. Legislative District 17 needs protection from gerrymandering. Please include the compact, contiguous and competitive area from Marana to the Poo hills, including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes in District 17, leaving Vail, the Houghton Corridor and Tanque Verde in the eastern legislative districts. Please protect a fair democracy! Thank you.</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:23	William Nelson Jones	Change District Map	<p>I have lived in Arizona for 63 years. For the past 42 years, I have lived in what is now LD 10 and CD 2. I have reviewed the proposed map for redistricting. The proposed map 10 needs revision. The proposal for District 17 is not geographically sound, is not contiguous, is not compact, and reduces competitiveness. The proposed map 9 is geographically sound, competitive, contiguous, and compact. I support a revision to map 9 in the new redistricting. Changes must be made to constitutionally uphold Prop. 106 by delivering fair and representative districts.</p> <p>The proposed legislative draft map 10 must be revised. This map, in creating a nonsensical District 17, also leaves most other districts with configurations that are not geographically sound, competitive, contiguous, and compact. I support revisions closer to test map 9, which has created a compact district 17 that is competitive and unites naturally connected communities.</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:31	Jeanne McGill	redistricting	<p>Thanks you for all the work you are doing. I live in North Scottsdale. I ask that you keep suburban, family neighborhoods in the same voting group. Central Phoenix does not fit with us. Thanks Jeannie McGill</p>
12/02/2021 - 10:33	Susan J DeHart	Republican legislator	<p>It has come to my attention that Republican elected officials are involved in submitting maps to the IRC to be approved that would guarantee Republican safe districts by removing Democratic areas. The IRC was voted in by the people of Arizona 20 years ago to remove political influence from politicians from the process of redrawing districts. I strongly oppose any maps which are not fairly representing the voters of Arizona. Districts should be competitive as possible within communities of closest proximity. Redrawing lines to exclude specific communities based on political preference should be avoided at all costs</p>

12/02/2021 - 10:34	Susan J DeHart	Republican legislator	It has come to my attention that Republican elected officials are involved in submitting maps to the IRC to be approved that would guarantee Republican safe districts by removing Democratic areas. The IRC was voted in by the people of Arizona 20 years ago to remove political influence from politicians from the process of redrawing districts. I strongly oppose any maps which are not fairly representing the voters of Arizona. Districts should be competitive as possible within communities of closest proximity. Redrawing lines to exclude specific communities based on political preference should be avoided at all costs
12/02/2021 - 10:42	Debra Jones	Picture Rocks	The draft plan pulling Picture Rocks out of Pima County is a great concern to many. That Picture Rocks should be included with towns in Pinal and Maricopa counties (creating a new legislative district, LD16) would leave the community disconnected from its important ties. LD16 would be a huge district and not compact or contiguous, mandates that are constitutionally required. The proposal would leave Picture Rocks not even connected with Marana, a neighbor with whom there are strong geographic and economic ties. Picture Rocks shares a school district with Marana and that's a further separation from an important community of interest. The proposal would destroy important community ties and support. Thank you for your consideration.
12/02/2021 - 10:44	Dlyn Fairfax Parra	Corruption or Redistricting process	It is my understanding that one senator in Arizona Senator Leach, has guaranteed his own stay in power by misusing the redistricting process. This redistricting process from 2000 it's supposed to support fairness for all Arizonans, not just those who currently hold a position of service. I am offering this complaint with the hopes that this power grab will be stopped. There must be a means to prevent this because that is what the commission was designed to do. I would like to see you do that. Thank you
12/02/2021 - 11:24	Elizabeth Packard	Concerns about proposed LD17 map10.0	As a new resident of Oro Valley and concerned about the lack of adherence to the SALC map to constitutional criteria, I would like to point out that the mapping consultants apparently did not compare the VRA LDs in map 4.0 to the SALC maps and ignored the input of Latino communities. This oversight will increase the likelihood of litigation for the AIRC. Another constitutional concern that must be followed is Equal Population. The v10 SALC map fails to meet this as LD17 is under population by 6839. Additionally, district 17 does not fulfill the constitutional criteria for Communities of Interest. I have lived in the Tanque Verde community and can assure the commission that residents of Tanque Verde consider their area to be rural, residents of Oro Valley/Marana live in an urban/suburban area. The areas are widely separated in distance and have different school districts. And finally district 17 is not competitive. This district creates a partisan split in favor of Republicans. Given these four constitutional criteria inadequacies, it would appear that LD17 must be reworked. The voter spread in district 17 is almost 10 percentage points. This leads to a partisan imbalance in the state. Thank you for your difficult and demanding work in creating boundaries that conform to the VRA and constitutional criteria. Elizabeth Packard
12/02/2021 - 11:25	Marilyn Bernhardt	Proposed maps for NAZ	Dear Commissioners, Your work encompasses many difficult issues, but fortunately one of them - the gross lack of competitiveness in certain LDs and CD proposed for Northern Arizona - has a solution that is not at all difficult. By adopting maps 0050 and 0051 proposed by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors and the CD map proposed by the Navaho Nation you can easily restore reasonable competitiveness to our area. This will bring FAIRNESS to the process and cure what amounts to the disenfranchisement of thousands of voters under the current proposed maps.
12/02/2021 - 11:25	HELEN BOYD	Redistricting meeting and gerrymandering	My name is Helen Boyd from Green Valley. I spend most of my time there in all of my activities. I feel that the District 19 on the map you seem to favor has brushed aside the goals of the Redistricting Commission as required by the Constitution and has more in mind to create a safe Republican district in a predominately Democratic county. I'd like to remind you that Republicans are not a community of interest that needs protection under the Voting Rights Act. District 19 is not compact and contiguous but rather has cobbled together Republican-leaning suburbs from opposite ends of the Tucson area that are separated by a mountain range and a long drive. Democratic Commissioner Lerner proposed an alternative version of District 17 that was highly competitive but it was rejected because it failed to create a safe Republican district. Again, Republicans are not a community of interest that needs protection under the voting rights act.
12/02/2021 - 11:27	Margo Newhouse	Gerrymandered proposed maps	More and more information is coming to light showing how the current "Independent Redistricting Commission" is not at all independent and is being influenced in an illegal manner in many ways. The current proposed maps must not be adopted!!!
12/02/2021 - 11:28	elizabeth leach	New CD 9	As a resident of Sun City, there are two areas of concern with this new map. First it is not compact. We become an outpouching of an area that extends from southern Arizona to the Grand Canyon. This area includes the river cities, is mostly rural and multigenerational. 6RdQY Sun City, on the other hand, is a suburban community composed of citizens over 55. As such, we are a community of interest. Our needs and wants are not the same as the other parts of the new district. I urge you to reconsider the new CD9 map and include Sun City in the urban/suburban areas to the East.
12/02/2021 - 11:34	Andrea Stefanov	Redistricting (specifically CD 9)	I see from the redistricting map that Sun City (where I live) will be moved to join the West Side of Arizona. That part of the state does not reflect my community of interest. I am more a part of the metro Phoenix area than I am Yuma and Kingman. I don't know why we have to be separated from metro Phoenix. Please reconsider including Sun City with a district in metro Phoenix. Thank you
12/02/2021 - 11:37	Matthew Boyd	District 19 in the Legislative Map	My Name is Matthew Boyd and I live in Green Valley, where my wife and I shop, dine and socialize in Sahuarita. I believe District 19 in the Legislative Map is mistaken in its design because it serves the goal of creating a safe Republican district which is not a community of interest and splits up a genuine community of interest, i.e., Green Valley/Sahuarita and the I-19 corridor. District 19 is not "compact and contiguous to the extent practicable." It is made up of selected Republican leaning suburbs from opposite ends of the Tucson area that are separated by a mountain range and a long drive. Designing District 19 to create a safe Republican district violates the constitutional requirement that "to the extent practicable, competitive districts should be favored where to do so would create no significant detriment to the other goals." Democratic Commissioner Lerner proposed an alternative version of District 17 that was highly competitive, but it was rejected on the grounds that it failed to create a Republican district. Many of the constitutional points about the proposed LD17 can be said of the Green Valley position in LD19 in the map version you support. I am encouraging you to adapt map LD0055 placing Green Valley in District 21. Thank you again for your time and service, Matthew Boyd

12/02/2021 - 11:40	Susan Rodriguez	Unfair maps	I live in district 23. I'm so sick of the gerrymandering of these maps to fit whatever Democratic or Republican outcome, whoever happens to be in charge, wants. Draw simple lines, not curvy waterways around each persons property that fits your affiliation. I'm so tired of one or the other. Let the people have their say. I'm a Democrat, but if each vote says whatever the majority wants, then so be it. Stop manipulating the system. One person, one vote no matter where they live. Let the public decide, not some map making, party siding, unfair group. Reading the layout of what you want to do, is insanity. Just stop it. B
12/02/2021 - 11:41	HELEN BOYD	Compact, contiguous, and competitive area	While I wish to thank you for your service, I want to express my disappointment at how this redistricting is shaping up in my area. My name is Helen Boyd and I'm from Green Valley. Your adherence to the current map 10.0 shows a tortured try at making the Republicans appear as a community of interest that needs protection. But in the setting up of this Commission in 2000 by the voters when it became part of the Arizona Constitution, we voters wanted to keep this activity non-partisan. So far the previous commissions have succeeded and made Arizona a shining example for the nation. However, with the current activity, I fear we're falling back into obvious partisanship. For example, you have split Green Valley, Quail Creek, and Sahuarita in half for no good reason, only to add them to Globe and Sierra Vista which we have nothing in common with. In fact, most of us don't visit there at all for any reason. Clearly partisanship is afoot here, not the tasks you've been given: With the current District 19 design, you have ignored one of the guidelines, compact and contiguous to the extent practicable, competitive, and keeping communities of interest. But when you put these three places into a far-flung area it seemed there was more interest in keeping a safe Republican district. I cry foul! Your job is not to be partisan. You have a map creating District 17, but better yet here is a map, LD0055, which would be a much better starting point and would serve my area far better. I appreciate the hard work ahead of you, and it has to be good enough to stand the test of time of 10 years. Please put the interests of Arizona ahead of any other interests you may have. Thank you.
12/02/2021 - 11:50	Loralee DeShazor	Redistricting	I live in Sun City West. I do not want to be incorporated into a district that spans from Kingman to Yuma. I do not want Paul Gosar as my representative.
12/02/2021 - 11:52	Richard Wiebe	LD 17 and LD 21	Commissioners, I write in protest of the Commission's proposed LD 17 and LD21. The proposed LD17 does not meet the constitutional requirement that districts be "compact and contiguous to the extent practical." Divided by a mountain range and an hour's drive, the proposed district is a transparent attempt to gerrymander Pima County to the benefit of Republicans. LD 21 has been gerrymandered to create a safe Democratic district by dividing core Tucson neighborhoods. I respectfully urge you to consider options that pass the fairness test and serve the constitutional mandate that districts be competitive. When districts are "safe," elected officials often ignore voters who are not in their base. Truly competitive districts give voters of all parties the opportunity to be heard. Thank you for your service to Arizona.
12/02/2021 - 11:53	orlando d. bowman	Input on proposed redistricting.	IRC Members: Recommend IRC consider the submission proposal by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission for redistricting. Ahe'hee' (thank you).
12/02/2021 - 12:00	Peggie Jo Vincent	Illegal formation of the proposed LD17	I currently reside in LD11 and Senator Leach is my legislator. I do not like the actions of Senator Leach that disregard the Safeguards created for the Independent Redistricting Commission. LD 17 should be redrawn with consideration for "communities of interest" rather than interference of the current incumbent in LD11. I understand there was a proposed map that was rejected that was better at considering "communities of interest". It could also be reviewed. Please follow the rules that can create districts that serve everyone and not the legislators.
12/02/2021 - 12:01	Eloise Gore	Redistricting -- Maps	Good morning Commissioners. It has just come to my attention that you have received comments that purport to be from a legitimate Community of Interest but are in fact authored by a State Senator who is running for reelection. He is using the IRC process to influence your choice of Map so that he will be assured of reelection. As I understand the Arizona Constitutional criteria for Independent Redistricting, you properly consider "communities of interest" while drawing legislative boundaries, but are prohibited from considering the residency of incumbents. Apparently a letter to the IRC written on Town of Marana letterhead was actually authored by incumbent State Senator Vince Leach for the express purpose of retaining his seat. I respectfully request that the IRC disregard the Town of Marana letter in their deliberations. Thank you. Eloise Gore, register voter in Pima County
12/02/2021 - 12:03	Sallie M Kladnik	IRC Map Contractor	Please consider the maps submitted by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors for Legislative districts and the maps submitted by the Navajo Nation for Congressional districts. They are fairer and more competitive than your draft maps.
12/02/2021 - 12:04	Ronald L. Ancell	Public comment on IRC map	I am a resident of Tucson/Oro Valley for 36 years. I firmly support Prop. 106 establishing the IRC to assure us voters of fair voting districts by limiting partisan gerrymandering. The Prop. clearly instructs the commission not to consider the preferences of any given legislators. Version 9.2 now the officially Approved Legislative Draft Map 10.0 blatantly violates this requirement and reduces the number of competitive districts to 5 and that is far too few. I urge the commission to adopt Map Version 9.0 which increases the number of competitive districts for the benefit of us all.
12/02/2021 - 12:11	Ford Farrell D	Gosart	We don't want this bigot representing us in Sun City. Lesko is bad enough. Do not make it worse.
12/02/2021 - 12:20	Paul Liska	PLEASE do not gerrymander me	IRC Committee, I cannot make the IRC meeting on December 4, but my message is: Do not gerrymander part of LD3 into LD16. We are part of Tucson, now apparently to be numbered LD20. This is not Buckeye, not large swaths of Maricopa County. I prefer to have my vote counted within my area of interest, Tucson. PLEASE. As I understand it, the IRC's criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering. This is blatantly gerrymandering, open for all to see. Voting is too important for this partisan move. My address is TUCSON, not "Buckeye", not "Maricopa".

12/02/2021 - 12:31	heather zeller	redistricting of Gilbert	<p>Good Afternoon, I understand that future Gilbert redistricting maps show Gilbert being divided into 5 separate areas, or clumping Gilbert into other districts that do not have the same common interests, such as education or religious, age demographics, etc. Common things that make a community a community. Please keep Gilbert as is.....do not separate into 5 areas. Keep Gilbert close to as whole as possible. Please do not divide our Gilbert community up.</p> <p>Thank you, Heather Zeller</p>
12/02/2021 - 12:34	Susan Hersherberger	Redistricting	<p>CD9. Is not representative of our area. Our special interest is not being served but watered down by lumping us with rural. The map does not reflect our special interest Not is geographically compact or contiguous</p>
12/02/2021 - 12:35	John L Babicz	Redistricting	<p>Do not allow LD or CD Districts to be favored for one party or the other. Continuity in the district's is important. Areas of the county should be kept in place. West side and Eastside do not have anything in common. Keep districts competitive. Gerrymandering should not be allowed. Downtown Tucson and adjacent areas should be kept together. Gerrymandering weakens democracy.</p>
12/02/2021 - 12:43	BARBARA S BICKHAM	Redistricting Gilbert	<p>Please note that I am opposed to the redistricting of Gilbert which would in effect district us in with Tempe and Ahwatukee. I believe that commonalities in communities make them work better. Tempe and Ahwatukee are populated much differently and would have interests and voting directions much different from much of Gilbert. In addition, dividing Gilbert into five districts would divide the aforementioned commonality. Gilbert, as a whole, should be in the same CD. Gilbert, Chandler, Mesa and Queen Creek share so much in regards to family structure, school districts, and even religious participation among the different religions. Please do not pass this ill-devised legislation.</p> <p>Respectfully, Barbara Bickham [REDACTED] Gilbert, AZ 85298</p>
12/02/2021 - 12:49	Stephanie Forrest	IRC Proposed Maps	<p>To the Commission:</p> <p>I live in Scottsdale and very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in the redistricting process. I currently Chair the Government Affairs Committee for my professional organization, which requires us to monitor legislative developments in DC and work closely with rule-making processes in the various agencies. Our work is entirely non-partisan, involving technical issues related to computing, but it does bring me in close contact with our federal legislative and rule-making processes.</p> <p>Looking at the proposed maps, I would be assigned to CD-1 and LD-7. For me, the single most important criterion is maximizing competitiveness in as many districts as possible, because forcing people to run in competitive races is the surest route to avoiding the extremism that is pulling apart our communities. Competitive districts also encourage more people to vote. My new district will include many of the areas and parks that I visit to hike and walk my dog and the metro areas that I visit frequently to shop and eat out, so it will embrace most of my community of interest.</p> <p>Although I am not an expert, it looks as if the proposed CD-1 will be significantly be more competitive than my current district, so I urge you to keep these new boundaries in the final maps.</p> <p>A hearty thank you to everybody on the Commission for the many long months of work you have put in to generating these maps!</p>
12/02/2021 - 12:49	Joann Philbin	Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting Congressional map 11/30/21	<p>Hello, I urge you to give full consideration to the November 30, 2021 Latino Coalition for Fair Redistricting Congressional map (CD0073). This map respects communities of interest, creates competitive districts and empowers communities of color.</p> <p>Respectfully, Joann Philbin Central Phoenix</p>
12/02/2021 - 12:51	Mary V. Price	CD6, LD17	<p>I have long been proud of Arizonans for supporting an Independent Redistricting Commission and redistricting process that in principle avoids partisan political gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts. The guidelines the IRC is supposed to follow avoids partisan gerrymandering by producing: geographically compact and contiguous districts, of approximately equal population, that group communities with common interests and concerns in single districts. In looking at the current draft maps, I fear that partisanship has distorted them. CD6, for example, even looks like an elephant! I live in the long trunk that connects Casa Grande with far SE Arizona but divides downtown Tucson at 6th Ave and Broadway. Surely the communities on either side of 6th Ave, or of Broadway, have more common interests than they do with communities in Casa Grande or Willcox! LD17 has a similar trunk with a lumpy profile along its south and west border that has a partisan effect. Please rethink these districts in particular and follow more closely the redistricting guidelines when you do: I fear for the health of our democracy if you do not do so.</p>
12/02/2021 - 12:51	Ginny Dickey	Please more balanced representation in the Legislature for Fountain Hills	<p>As Mayor, former Councilwoman and School Board Member in Fountain Hills, elected officials who appeal to a wide variety of their community serve it well, without agendas or pressure to conform to predetermined outcomes. The non-partisan nature of these positions is being affected in a negative way which tends to divide rather than unite. I believe our potential CD will give fair opportunity for a good balance, but the LD will diminish the voices of many of my constituents as it stands. Thank you for keeping FH with Ft. McDowell, and for considering my request to create a more competitive. LD.</p>

12/02/2021 - 12 52	Sue Thorne	Gerrymandering in Southern AZ	<p>Chairwoman Neuberg: As a 40 year resident of the Catalina Foothills, I am very aware of what fair districts have looked like over the years as constructed by "Independent" Redistricting Committees" with non-partisan, experienced mapmakers. I am also aware of some AIRCs that have been taken to court and lost due to their maps that don't conform to law. Your preliminary maps belie your tendency as chairwoman not to be the "Independent" you say you are, but a right wing extremist like Commissioner Mehl who has insisted on gerrymandering my district for minority gains in Southern AZ. You are complicit in ignoring the Voters' Rights Act laws of Competitive, Compact and Contiguous in creation of LD17. By not standing up to Mehl, you destroy your credibility as an honest arbitrator of both the AZ Constitution and The Voters' Rights Act. Do the right thing: Restore LD17 to the competitive, compact contiguous district it was including Marana, Oro Valley, Casas Adobes and part of the Catalina Foothills. The gerrymandered monster Mehl insists upon is well contested in our comments and will be further contested in the courts. Right Wing Extremism was well on show with anti-voters' rights and anti-public education bills this year. in our State Government. Arizonans want fairness and majority rule. Your maps are showing that you are interested in tipping the scales to extremist minority rule. How very disingenuous of you as an "Independent" chairwoman who should be following VRA law to be complicit in blatant gerrymandering of LD17.</p>
12/02/2021 - 12 58	Ella K. Suagee	CD6 Redistricting	<p>DATE:December 2, 2021</p> <p>TO:Arizona Redistricting Committee</p> <p>FROM:Ella K. Suagee</p> <p>I am writing to add my support to the alternate CD6 redistricting map which includes Cochise County. I am a 33-year resident of Benson in Cochise County, a former teacher at both Benson Schools and Cochise College, and a retired book store manager of Singing Wind Bookshop, a former icon business outside Benson. My husband, Mark Suagee, was Cochise County Public Defender for over 20 years.</p> <p>I held elected office in Benson. For six years I was on the Benson School Board, and for six years I was on Benson City Council. I also have a former affiliation with the San Pedro NRCD and Coronado RC&D. Mark has served on board of directors for mental health advocate agencies. We are both active members of St. Raphael in the Valley Church in Benson.</p> <p>I consider the Competitive Congressional District—Southern Arizona (CDF001) map preferable and superior to the IRC's draft map. The CDF001 map keeps Cochise County whole, contiguous and competitive, while following the guidelines of redistricting to include communities of interest and to follow geographic boundaries. CDF001 includes the San Pedro River Valley, the most important geologic feature in Southeastern Arizona. The concerns of communities along this river include conservation of natural resources, including water resources, that are unique.</p> <p>The interests of For Huachuca and Davis-Monthan Air Base are also mutual, and would benefit by being in the same Congressional District. Our educational institutions are linked by strong matriculation bonds; the University of Arizona has a campus in Sierra Vista.</p> <p>People in Cochise County look to Tucson for their cultural and retail needs. Never does anyone say, "I have to go to Safford for a doctor's appointment," or "I can pick that item up on my weekly trip to Clifton." The eastern side of Tucson is where we shop.</p> <p>The CDF001 map is more compact than the draft CD6. It would keep important COIs together and would minimize splitting Pinal and Santa Cruz Counties. Finally, candidates of both parties would have a much more manageable area to cover. (This is a very real concern for those representing us, both logistically and financially.)</p> <p>Finally, the proposed map is a classic example of a gerrymandered district. Arizona deserves better; we deserve better.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>ELLA K. SUAGEE Aka/ Kathy Suagee</p>
12/02/2021 - 13 07	Billie Weaver	Cochise County Tucson Connection	<p>My name is Billie Weaver, I am a native of Arizona and a resident of Cochise County in Sierra Vista. I moved to Sierra Vista, Az after retiring from the USDA Forest Service where I worked for well over twenty years serving on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest until 2005 when I was transferred to Albuquerque, NM due to my department being centralized. I am very blessed to be living in Arizona and considering what all has happened this year, very pleased to have an Independent Redistricting Commission committed to compact Congressional Districts that can recognize the communities of interest and competitiveness, which is the lifeblood of Arizona.</p> <p>I value the connections with Tucson's medical communities, which I rely on as do many of my friends that are retirees in this area. I frequently travel to Tucson for entertainment, shopping or to dine out, and to visit with family members. I very much value and appreciate the connections with the Native American Communities and with the friends from the border communities.</p> <p>I would like to request that the Commission draw a more compact Congressional District 6 map than the current draft map and consider CDF001 which will more fairly represent Cochise County. Most of the residents in Cochise County have very few interests in Graham and Greenlee Counties and especially as far north as Casa Grande in Pinal County. This kind of geographical spread will make it very difficult to get candidates running for Congress to travel such diverse expanses and will weaken the identification they need with the complete Congressional District 6. This draft proposal will also weaken the candidate pool and give an unfair advantage to only one party.</p> <p>I thank you for all the hard work you are doing on this, for your dedication and commitment to Arizona's Congressional Districts.</p>
12/02/2021 - 13 08	John C Sikeman	Proposed redistricting version 10.2	<p>I want to say how supportive I am with respect to the recent IRC proposed version 10.2. It keeps the precincts intact as opposed to splitting them up across different legislative districts, which also keeps communities of interest together. It is a fair and balanced map. Any changes from this proposal would be deemed purely political, which is completely inappropriate in a democratic society.</p>

12/02/2021 - 13:09	Carol Ekstrom	LD 7 and 17	<p>The creation of competitive districts is in the interest of all Arizonans, whatever their party affiliation. Toward that goal, I urge you to leave intact District 17. Proposed changes create a district in violation of the commission's own guidelines, creating a district that is not contiguous, not competitive and which is, by its proponent's admission, gerrymandered to create a safe Republican district.</p> <p>In the interest of maintaining competitive districts I also urge you to include the University of Arizona/Fourth Avenue area, downtown Tucson, and areas south of Broadway Blvd. in one single contiguous congressional district, a district of common interest that maintains Latino voting strength.</p>
12/02/2021 - 13:16	Sue Thorne	More monkey business in mapping CD2/6 & CD3/7	<p>Chairwoman Neuberg: I have been living in CD2/6 for 40 years. I know that this is a very competitive, district with wide, contiguous but compact expansion the way it is. Our district is about one-third Republican, one-third Democrat and one-third Independents with Independents deciding most elections. Keep this CD2/6 district as intact as is without polluting it with partisan mapmaking. Show us that you can be a real Independent in charge of a real Independent IRC. Your backing of Mehl's LD17 illegal gerrymander has made us distrust your motives for map making approval.</p> <p>For CD 3/7, please keep the contiguous communities of interest in downtown Tucson, U of A and Fourth Avenue in CD3/7. CD 3/7 should also include areas that are South of Broadway to give the Latinos in that area voting strength for their communities of interest. Thank you.</p>
12/02/2021 - 13:18	Sue Thorne	More monkey business in mapping CD2/6 & CD3/7	<p>Chairwoman Neuberg: I have been living in CD2/6 for 40 years. I know that this is a very competitive, district with wide, contiguous but compact expansion the way it is. Our district is about one-third Republican, one-third Democrat and one-third Independents with Independents deciding most elections. Keep this CD2/6 district as intact as is without polluting it with partisan mapmaking. Show us that you can be a real Independent in charge of a real Independent IRC. Your backing of Mehl's LD17 illegal gerrymander has made us distrust your motives for map making approval.</p> <p>For CD 3/7, please keep the contiguous communities of interest in downtown Tucson, U of A and Fourth Avenue in CD3/7. CD 3/7 should also include areas that are South of Broadway to give the Latinos in that area voting strength for their communities of interest. Thank you.</p>
12/02/2021 - 13:19	Jon Benda	Redistricting maps	Please stop the Gerrymandering. No place safe for either party.
12/02/2021 - 13:23	Kathleen Dubbs	competitive districts	<p>Respected Commissioners:</p> <p>I would like to encourage you to create as many competitive districts as possible.</p> <p>As a member of the League of Women Voters, one comment I get frequently is "My vote does not count, so why should I register?" Although I try to convince them otherwise, if they live in a 'safe' district—whether Republican or Democrat—I am afraid I might have to agree with them. In safe districts the winner is usually decided in the primary, and because Arizona has closed primaries, this means that members of the opposite party have no say in who their elected legislator will be. This is nothing less than disenfranchisement.</p> <p>Since one of the criteria for creating districts is competitiveness, I implore you to give this great weight in drawing your lines. The people voted to create your commission so that districts would be fairly drawn. Do not disappoint us.</p> <p>Respectfully Submitted, Kathleen Dubbs</p>
12/02/2021 - 13:51	Judith Gogolin	redistricting	The proposed CD1 includes too many diverse neighborhoods for a Congressman to effectively and fairly represent all constituents. Since the congressional district is largely suburban, we can easily fix his problem by removing the urban central Phoenix areas of Encanto, Alhambra, and Camelback east from CD1. Those neighborhoods are very different from suburban north Scottsdale, where I live. Please remove those neighborhoods from CD1.
12/02/2021 - 14:01	Nancy Abrams	Pima County redistricting	The whole point of the IRC was to have competitive districts, be compact, contiguous and respect communities of interest. District 17: makes no sense to connect NW communities to far east ones and have two mountain ranges in between. CD 7 makes much more sense to have downtown, the U of A and 4th Ave. connected. The light rail connects them for heaven's sake! Areas south of Broadway should be included so the Latino voice stays connected.
12/02/2021 - 14:03	Nancy Smith	IRC	<p>I am writing to ask reconsideration of the Tucson redistricting proposal, especially the proposal for the new district 17.</p> <p>The proposal for District 17 violates the mandate of the commission: it would not be competitive; it is not contiguous, and it is gerrymandering. It would join together areas around Tucson that are far apart geographically, requiring a state legislator to travel up to 40 miles through the city to visit the disparate areas in that district. Having a "safe" Republican district in Pima County also does not represent the voters, who are over 40% Democrat, with the Independents and Republicans pretty evenly split. If people in a district want something represented to the Legislature, they can bring it to their representatives regardless of party, and in a competitive district, get the person voted out if they felt he/she wasn't doing the job they desired. This proposal caters to David Mehl, and the IRC is supposed to be free from undue influence and avoid gerrymandering. It is unfortunate that more districts are not competitive, which would force better candidates to be nominated.</p>
12/02/2021 - 14:17	Marcianne Johnson	Splitting Gilbert!!!! NO	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>I live in Gilbert and consider it to be both unfair and partisan to divide Gilbert, our community, into five different pieces. Please leave us as one united, strong, local legislative district!!!!</p> <p>Please listen to those who are in the trenches instead of top-down governance!!!!</p>
12/02/2021 - 14:20	Barbara Miller	Redistricting	<p>My name is Barbara Miller. I live on the eastern side of the Chiricahua mountains Cochise County. My small community is Portal AZ with the same zip code as the larger rural town of San Simon tho it is one hour drive away. I am a former elementary school teacher from Tempe, AZ but have lived and voted in Portal for 29 years.</p> <p>I am in favor of the CDF001 map. I approve of our connection with Douglas, Bisbee and Sierra Vista. I have no connections with Greenlee or Graham counties. Those two counties do not have the same recreational areas or military communities that are present in our present district. We are tied to Tucson with travel there for business, some medical and thru educational connections such as UA South and with Cochise College. I am in favor of the CDF001 map.</p>

12/02/2021 - 14:29	Jeannine Reno	Sedona/Flagstaff/Verde Valley	<p>Sedona/Flagstaff/Verde Valley are a community of interest, because we have common needs and problems that can be addressed by government action. Needs: healthcare, schools, water, and the economic interest of tourism. The Arizona Dept. of Tourism conducts an annual study based on legislative districts. As the second highest tourism economy in the state (2.1billion), we have distinct governmental needs. 1) Affordable housing for our tourism workers which has been affected by State Law SB1350. 2) The need of cities and towns to regain local control of short term rentals, which are destroying our neighborhoods. If Sedona/Verde Valley/Flagstaff is separated into sections, we then deal with multiple legislators with multiple priorities. The Verde Valley Tourism Bureau only suggests the towns that are currently in our district of LD6. In fact, only 1.3% of tourists visiting LD6 stay in Prescott as a home base. We have very little community of interest in common with Prescott. I would also say that 1.3% is also good guess of the same percentage of people who travel from the current LD6 to Prescott. I ask that you consider the maps created by Coconino Board of Supervisors 50/51 and CDF 10. You have proposed a change to the competitive LD6 competitive to a cracked district. This is unacceptable and not what the majority of our residents have repeatedly asked for in live testimony!</p>
12/02/2021 - 14:33	Kathleen Lalley	Map 10.0 Gerrymander	<p>The IRC has a nearly impossible job of creating new maps balancing six sometimes contradictory criteria under intense time pressure and public scrutiny. However, there is no excuse for the approval of Map 10.0. It is a blatant partisan move, executed at the last minute and without anything resembling thoughtful consideration. I expect that with more time and consideration—and a re-reading of the constitution would be helpful—the Commission will adopt a fair map that does not create a district that cannot be justified by ANY of the 6 criteria.</p> <p>Kathleen Lalley</p>
12/02/2021 - 14:45	Laurie Lisak	New District Maps	<p>Greetings! This message is to urge you to support map 10.0 for our district which includes Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrook, Saddlebrook Ranch, Tanque Verde Valley and Houghton Corridor, Eagle Crest, Catalina, and Red Rock. I support this district for map 10.0 and LD 17 as the draft map. We want fair representation in Pima County and believe our voices will be heard with this new district. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.</p> <p>Sincerely, Laurie Lisak [REDACTED] Oro Valley, AZ 85755</p>

12/02/2021 - 14:46	Eloise Gore	Redistricting	<p>Commissioners - I planned to attend the Tucson hearing in person, but with the surge in Covid infections, I am fearful of lengthy indoor exposure to unvaccinated and unmasked attendees.</p> <p>I live and vote in Pima County. I shop, eat, exercise, take classes, and volunteer in the City of Tucson, Oro Valley, Tanque Verde and throughout greater Tucson. I hope you will read and consider my written comments.</p> <p>The Approved Legislative Draft map (Test Map Version 10.0) fails to satisfy the Independent Districting Criteria for Compactness, Competitiveness, compliance with the VRA, and respect for Communities of Interest. Previous draft maps would have better satisfied these criteria but were rejected by the Commission in favor of a map openly submitted and favored by Republican lobbyists and the Republican Commissioners.</p> <p>Here are a few of the myriad failings of the Approved Map:</p> <p>1. Compactness: A cursory glance at the Tucson area maps (LD 17, 18, 20 and 21) depicts snakes, dragons, and covid-like spikes contrary to the most basic notion of "compactness and contiguousness." LD 17 in particular collects specific suburbs from far ends of the area, divided by mountain ranges and long drives, and strings them together with the sole theme of guaranteeing one-party rule.</p> <p>2. Competitiveness: One-third of us in the greater Tucson area are Independents. We are all best served with competitive districts. The Approved Map effectively disenfranchises a broad range of voters by creating heavily partisan districts. Creating three safe Democratic legislative districts and one safe Republican district in Pima County isn't balance. The best way to represent right-leaning voters in left-leaning areas or left-leaning voters in right-leaning areas, is to give them a competitive district where their voices might actually be heard. When voters of one party are packed into a few districts so that their voices are minimized in others, this promotes representation where extreme ideology (left or right) is all that matters. Competitiveness encourages more people to be involved and discourages these dangerous extremes. Candidates must appeal to a broad range of voters and anyone can win. Draft Map 10 was drawn by a partisan group (SALC) in order to gerrymander a Tucson-based district for the Republican party. District 17 went from a partisan split slightly in favor of Democrats to a partisan split strongly in favor of Republicans. Moreover, the change dramatically impacted the partisan balance in the rest of the state. Solid Democratic districts were reduced from 13 to ten; solid Republican districts were increased from 13 to 15. Previous draft maps maintained a competitive balance.</p> <p>3. Compliance with the Voting Rights Act: Review of the Approved Map, in comparison to earlier drafts (e.g., Map 4.0), indicate that consultation with and respect for the Latino and Native American communities were lacking or ignored. For example, the Tohono O'odham Nation would be four hours from Tucson, near Yuma, contrary to their testimony to the IRC. The wishes of the Yaqui Tribe and Old Yaqui were similarly disregarded.</p> <p>4. Communities of Interest: Perhaps most striking is the Approved Map's disrespect for Communities of Interest. In the Approved District 17, the east Tucson/Tanque Verde region is yoked with Marana and Oro Valley. They do not share the same schools or houses of worship. Residents of Oro Valley/Marana do not share the same economy or employers with east Tucson. Residents of east Tucson do not shop in Oro Valley or Marana; residents in Oro Valley and Marana do not shop in east Tucson/Tanque Verde.</p> <p>LD17 would split the City of Tucson into five different districts, including placing a significant part of the historic Sam Hughes neighborhood in the dragon-headed LD21 that stretches from Oro Blanco, south of Arivaca, to Speedway and Wilmot in the City of Tucson. LD21 is one of the consequences of manipulating LD17 into a safe Republican district: LD21 would separate core Tucson neighborhoods from the rest of Tucson. For example, on the north side of 6th street, Sam Hughes is part of the Tucson LD 20, but across 6th street, Sam Hughes is in LD 21 along with Mud Tank, Buddy Tank, Canyon Tank and Wino Tank. The Tohono O'odham Nation is no longer connected to their historic village of Tukson. All of their business (including two casinos) is conducted in Metro Tucson and many of the tribe's members live in Metro Tucson. They have virtually no connection with Yuma where the Approved Map would place them, 4-hours away.</p> <p>The list of COIs ruined goes on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Green Valley and the Continental and Sahuarita School Districts (Separated from the I-19 Corridor and Sahuarita) •Tucson Mountains (separated from Tucson Metro Area) •Marana and Picture Rocks (separated into 2 districts) •Saddlebrooke East and West and the Oracle School District (separated into 2 districts) •Tanque Verde and Catalina Foothills (separated into 2 districts) <p>After all of your hard work, it would be tragic to wind up with maps that violate the Independent Redistricting criteria. I implore you to reconsider and revise. Endless litigation over the Maps you adopt with benefit no one.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my comments.</p> <p>Eloise Gore</p>
12/02/2021 - 14:47	Wendy Cohen	Canals and Mountains: Unity from South Scottsdale to Madison Heights	<p>Economic or Environmental Interests:</p> <p>Small businesses prevail in this area, taking advantage of the already-established infrastructure and quaint older structures that are often re-purposed. We have restaurants in old post offices and event venues in renovated buildings.</p> <p>Community Activities and Services:</p> <p>Walking to dinner, bike riding along the canal, visiting locally-owned small shops.</p> <p>Community Needs and Concerns:</p> <p>While parts of this area have a Scottsdale address, there are no similarities to the new gated developments, new strip malls, and large development of North Scottsdale. Each has its charm, but representing both types of communities at the same time would be a difficult-to-impossible task.</p>
12/02/2021 - 14:58	Marsha K Sandoval	Opposition to draft maps	<p>I live in Gilbert and have had an opportunity to review the draft redistricting maps and do understand the rationale behind the boundaries! I have lived in the either Chandler or Gilbert for the past 40 years and see no sense in blending our communities with ASU students, Mesa residents, and/or other communities that are completely different from our own!</p> <p>Please consider making different choices to better blend like communities with like communities.</p> <p>Thank you, Marsha Sandoval</p>

12/02/2021 - 15:05	Jean C Nemer	Keep Greater Scottsdale Together	<p>Dear Committee Members,</p> <p>I am an interested, voting citizen in the current D3 legislative district that you are considering. I personally believe a more fair balanced approach would be the LDF049 approach for our district. It would be compact and more fairly represent the communities of interest in the area. Hayden Rd. Should not be the boundary line!</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts in drawing new district lines, and thank you for consideration of my request that the greater Scottsdale area be kept together.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:06	claude and mary janus	redistricting	<p>We have been following the redistricting process over the last few months and actually thought Arizona would rise above the all too common political spectacles that have plagued the state. The latest proposal by Commission member David Mehl to create another safe Republican district convinces us the state is not ready to leave the political spectacle headlines in the past.</p> <p>We would like the commission to keep District 17 within the area from Marana to the Foothills, including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes. District 7 should contain the communities of interest in downtown Tucson, UA, Fourth Ave and areas south of Broadway.</p> <p>We hope this Commission can find a way out of this obvious political gerrymandering situation and give the state something to be proud of and not another day in court.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:11	Wendy Anderson	Competitive redistricting and an Independent Commission	<p>I have been an Arizona resident since 2017. I was glad to learn that Arizona has an Independent Redistricting Commission so I would not need to be concerned about political gerrymandering. I have been intrigued to learn how the maps are actually determined and how much public input is involved. So I was disturbed to learn that the final approved map for several districts in Southern Arizona was not the result of public comment but rather the result of a map proposal submitted by a likely political business group! This proposal turns my competitive district into a strongly partisan district. This concerns me because it is MY district and I have historically been nonpartisan in my political thinking. Representation in LDs should be dependent on the choice of voters and should not be a safe district for one political party. Additionally, LD 17, also drawn as a "safe" district, does not appear to be geographically compact and bounded as required by the Arizona constitution. In reviewing public comments, I am concerned that so many of them address the lack of competitive LDs. This should be a major focus of the Commission. Competitive districts engage voters and allow their voices to be heard. The attention and weight being given to the partisanship of proposed LDs constitutes gerrymandering and is abhorrent. The INDEPENDENT Redistricting Commission was established by voters to prevent such results.</p> <p>I thank the Commission for accepting public comment and I trust that the citizens' concerns about a lack of competitive districts will be taken to heart and will be addressed. The current maps need considerable changes.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:12	Antonio Silva	Redistricting Map	<p>My family is a 5th generation Arizonan and I have been extremely bothered by the way my home has been torn apart over the past few decades. I understand we are in different times compared to 20 years ago but the east valley I knew and loved is no longer here. The current draft of congressional lines would make things far worse for our community because they draw much of Gilbert, Chandler, and Mesa into the same districts as Tempe and Ahwatukee. These communities, although in the same valley, have almost nothing in common with one another. For example, it would place college aged students and those who are retired in the same districts which makes zero sense since neither have the same concerns, appreciations, and desires. The worst of it all is that Gilbert, a family oriented community and where my family has called home for multiple generations, would be completely and unnecessarily ripped apart into 5 legislative districts. This would be the equivalent to a figurative laryngectomy to our school and religious communities located in the east valley that share the same core values. I plead with you to reconsider tearing our home apart.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:27	Jane H McNamara	Compromise! Urban interests within Phoenix Mountain Preserve	<p>Phoenix is home. My neighbors and I walk the canals, hike the mountains and frequent many small businesses and restaurants within our community. From south Scottsdale to Madison Heights, we represent a unique part of the city, separate from the large developments, strip malls and street traffic to our north. Please adjust the lines for LD4 to include south Scottsdale!</p> <p>I also urge you to create a congressional district in our part of the city that respects our urban interests: housing, mass transit, water and infrastructure needs are very different here from the suburban areas that surround Phoenix - the 5th largest city in the nation. Adjusting CD1 boundaries to the 101 on the north and west, the I-10 on the south and the I-17 on the west creates a competitive urban district with similar interests and issues. Thank you!</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:30	Scott Morgan	Oppose the draft of congressional and legislative maps	<p>The draft that has been proposed unfairly splits the East Valley into districts that would not have many of the common values that are needed in Districts. Please do not approve this redistricting as proposed.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:35	Sherry Gavin	CD1	<p>My family and I live in north Scottsdale. Our neighborhood is suburban, made up of families like ours. We do not go into the central Phoenix area - it's far from us and its very urban and busy, filled with young people. As such, central Phoenix should not be in CD1, which is made up of suburban families. Since the congressional district is largely suburban, we can easily fix this problem by removing the urban central Phoenix areas of Encanto, Alhambra, and Camelback east from CD1.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:35	Delia Athey	Queen Creek needs to be with like communities of interest.	<p>I have lived in my owned home in Queen Creek after renting for a year in Gilbert while my house was being built. Aside from trips to specific events and stores in Scottsdale and Phoenix, I spend most of my time in Queen Creek and Gilbert. Apache Junction is not like these two communities and neither is Tempe. For both LD and CD, Queen Creek and Gilbert should be kept whole and together as much as possible.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:38	Susan Elaine Brafford	Boundries	<p>Please leave the current boundaries in place. It's asinine to think that the new boundaries that have been proposed would be a good idea.</p>

12/02/2021 - 15:40	Marie Jones	LD7 and LD2	<p>I strongly oppose the proposed LD7 map which creates non-competitive districts. I strongly endorse both the Coconino County Board of Supervisors plan for LD7 (which is similar to the previous LD6) and the Navajo Nations recommendation for LD2.</p> <p>The purpose of the independent redistricting commission is to allow competitive voting and avoid "safe" districts. Non-competitive districts create polarization and political extremism, which is exactly what we need to avoid at this critical time for our nation.</p> <p>Flagstaff, Sedona and the Verde Valley are all connected communities of interest along the I-17 corridor that are defined by natural geographic boundaries. Rather than honoring these connections and boundaries, as the commission is obliged to do, the draft LD7 map divides them and diminishes their citizens' possibility for fair representation. The Coconino County Board of Supervisors recommendation for LD7, in contrast, unites these communities of interest.</p> <p>Likewise, the Navajo Nation certainly represents a geographically connected area of interest which the proposed LD2 district does not honor, depriving Native American Arizonans of a strong voice in Congress. The Navajo Nation's recommendations for LD2 are a far more thoughtful and fair approach.</p> <p>Prescott should certainly remain in the Colorado River district with Mohave County, a more natural and compact association. The redistricting commission is obliged to honor compactness—the avoidance of weirdly-shaped districts that are confusing to voters. There is only one reason for gerrymandered districts, and that is to create non-competitive ones.</p> <p>Arizona has one of the first independent redistricting commissions. It should not devolve its process into one that increasingly looks like partisan gerrymandering, but should remain a model to other states by sticking to its mission to create compact districts that honor natural boundaries and unite areas of interest.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:43	Peter F. Garcia	IRC vs Redistricting	<p>I am a retired military officer, a registered independent, and a resident of Marana AZ. In the military I swore an oath to defend this great nation and I continue to do so to the best of my ability in my retired status. I am not an eloquent speaker as many folks in the past redistricting meetings/webinars nor as well a writer as those who have penned articles in newspapers, several OpEds of which have appeared in our local Tucson newspaper. One of them appeared in our Tucson Arizona Daily Start on 1 Dec 2021, titled "Speak your mind about redistricting before the meeting" written very eloquently by Ms Wolfe and Mr Eisenber. I am strongly in agreement with the points they raised in their article. The IRC must remain impartial and adhere to the goals set forth in the wording of AZ Proposition 106. Creating districts to favor one or the other political party is not in accordance with the Prop 106 goals nor in the spirit of a truly independent commission.</p> <p>As I said, I am a resident of Marana, and though I respect Mr Hornea, I strongly disagree with his and Commissioner Mehl's attempt to secure a politically oriented legislative district (LD-17). Gerrymandering only serves to further divide us in a time when we need to honor our national motto of "E Pluribus Unum" (Out of many, one). While I have focused on LD-17, my comments apply relative to the entire redistricting process. The IRC was a beacon of light for the rest of the country in demonstrating a better process to ensure all voices were heard in our political processes.</p> <p>Though my comments may appear naive, I have served overseas in several countries with various forms of governance and know first hand how precious our civil liberties are. Please do not let the IRC and its processes become just another example of politics as usual and further contribute to the cynicism and distrust in our institutions, institutions that have served as a beacon for democracy across the world.</p> <p>I also know this is a thankless task, but I appeal to all the IRC members to their sense of justice and fairness, and commitment to the ideals of our great nation. Thank you for allowing me to voice my very strong concerns on this matter.</p>
12/02/2021 - 15:49	Evelyn Varady	Redistricting	<p>My name is Evelyn Varady. I live in Coronado Foothills, Pima County where I've lived for 33 years and before that for 15 years within the city of Tucson. I am a retired educator and active in local politics.</p> <p>I cannot attend the meeting on Saturday. I am addressing you, the Independent Redistricting Commission because I have been very concerned and dismayed as I've followed the proposed maps for redistricting. The criteria for redistricting is supposed to prohibit partisan gerrymandering. These maps do not.</p> <p>Please do your job free of partisan influence to ensure fairness and make sure that the districts are competitive. According to political leaders I have discussed this with, Gerrymandering District 17 has produced lopsided results by using David Mehl's proposed new map. He said that his reconfiguration creates another safe Republican district, even though partisan purpose is not a valid criterion.</p> <p>I would like to see District 17 include the compact, contiguous area from Marana to the Foothills including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes leaving Vail, the Houghton Corridor and Tanque Verde in the eastern legislative districts.</p> <p>I am also requesting that downtown Tucson, UA and Fourth Ave remain in CD7. It is important that CD7 include areas south of Broadway so that communities of interest maintain their voting strength.</p> <p>Since Republicans represent only 29% of Pima County voters, I am counting on you to do the right thing to make sure that the maps are not rigged to create a Republican majority.</p> <p>Sincerely, Evelyn Varady</p>

12/02/2021 - 15 53	Steven H. Slaton	Future district 7	<p>My Name is Steven Slaton; I live in Show Low Az. Like to thank Chairman Neuberg, and Commissioners, My wife and I represent the White Mountain Conservatives. We represent thousands of folks who live throughout the White Mountains of Northern Arizona Mountain communities. As for the future of Legislative District 7, By including the Northern Communities with a Southern district of Pinal County as shown in your approved Draft Map Legislative District 7, is not communities of interests or competitiveness. With the size of these districts half of our population is bound to feel unrepresented. And they are already! Districts should accurately represent communities of interest who live and work together. Being loop in with the Pinal County which main community of interest is mining, were we have nothing in common with mining. A new Legislative District 7 should accurately represent communities of interest which is required by State and Federal law. We the people of Northern Az. request you reinstate your Az. Draft Map 10 Legislative District 7. HOWEVER the communities of Snowflake, Taylor, Holbrook, Joseph city, and Winslow, are not part of these communities of interest of the White Mountains. These communities are made up primarily of rock and high desert plateau, with a vast valley of ranchland, and agriculture, With 2 of the largest Marijuana growing facilities in the state, as well as large wind Farms, and Helium development from Holbrook Basin through the Navajo Reservation these differences separates the two regions, and they should be included in Legislative District 6 not Legislative District 7. The culture and way of life is different than those communities of interest of the White Mountain Communities. The White Mountain Community which is outlined on the Az Draft Map 10 with their community of interest is commitment to bringing tourism to the region, along with common interest within other White Mountain communities, which share rivers and lakes, National Forest, winter sport activities, Hunting, Fishing with ongoing Economic Development of the White Mountain. The White Mountain communities for Legislative District 7 need to be with other White Mountain communities of the same Interests. These interests are non-partisan and are for the common good in our locales and region. These cities include Lakeside/Pinetop, Show low, Heber/Overgaard, Forest Lakes, Payson, Pine, Strawberry, Cornville, Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Williams, Parks, Sedona, Suburban and Rural Flagstaff only as in Doney Park, and West Flagstaff. All of These Communities would meet communities of Interests as well population requirements for Legislative District 7 according to Federal and State Laws.</p> <p>Thank you for your time Sincerely Steven Slaton</p>
12/02/2021 - 16 06	Robert G Varady	Redistricting comment	<p>My name is Robert Varady and I am a professor at the University of Arizona. I have lived in Coronado Foothills, in Pima County, since 1988, and prior to that within the city of Tucson since 1973.</p> <p>I am writing because I am extremely concerned about the proposed maps for redistricting, which appear clearly gerrymandered so as to provide a political advantage to Republicans.</p> <p>I expect the Independent Redistricting Commission to be what its name suggest, independent—which is to say, unbiased and free of partisan influence.</p> <p>I would like to see District 17 include the compact, contiguous area from Marana to the Foothills including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes, omitting Vail, the Houghton Corridor and Tanque Verde, which should be in the eastern legislative districts.</p> <p>I also ask that downtown Tucson, the University, and Fourth Ave remain within CD7.</p> <p>Democrats make up more than 70 percent of voters in Pima County and are entitled to representation that reflects that majority.</p> <p>I urge you to adjust the current map to conform to these requests.</p> <p>Dr. Robert G. Varady</p>
12/02/2021 - 16 07	Sheila Clanin	Redistricting Map	<p>I want to see maps that reflect equal representation in the districts. The current maps are rigged to create a Republican majority, contrary to the IRC mandate and being a Democrat I think that is quite unfair.</p>
12/02/2021 - 16 09	Andrea Sahl	Redistricting	<p>The Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering. I want/insist that the IRC do their jobs free of partisan influence. The maps should be competitive. The current maps are rigged to create a Republican majority, contrary to the IRC mandate. I want to see maps that reflect equal representation in the districts.</p>
12/02/2021 - 16 09	Linda Martin	Redistricting map	<p>Please follow the guidelines already in place when you decide to change the map! This gerrymandering has put us in with Green Valley, AZ. last time, and we used to be in Amado, where we actually live! It doesn't make sense to change the district again! Fair is fair. Eric and Linda Martin. 1941 W. Eagle Way. Amado, AZ</p>
12/02/2021 - 16:11	Millicent Gray	AZ Redistricting	<p>Democracy is fragile both in Arizona and the United States. Let us not lose it. Once it is gone, it will be very hard to get it back. Will OUR generation be the one to lose it, after all this time? Please be sure our districts are competitive and fair. I am trusting the Commission to "make it right" for Democracy. Thank you for caring. Millicent Gray.</p>

12/02/2021 - 16:21	Claire sgolia i	Redistricting maps	The IRC criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering. I Insist that IRC do their jobs free of partisan influence. Maps should be compe itive and not rigged
12/02/2021 - 16:22	Sharon Cotter	Fairness in Redistricting	The Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering. The criteria assures that each person's vote counts equally and requires that the politician pay heed to each and every one of his/her constituents. If areas are divided so that some people are disenfranchised, they are not actually represented. The current maps are rigged to create a Republican majority, contrary to the IRC mandate. As a democrat, this means that in my district, my vote does not count equally to other people in the district. You must set he standards for fair representation!
12/02/2021 - 16:26	Dr Douglas Trenkle	Abholding IRC criteria	I insist hat IRC do their job free of partisan influence. I want to see maps reflecting equal representation in the districts
12/02/2021 - 16:27	James Nicholas Digate	Competitiveness - LD5 and LD7	I am a resident of he City of Sedona (Coconino County) and very concerned about competitiveness in draft legislative maps affecting Yavapai and Coconino Counties (LD5 and LD7). "Fair and compe itive" is what Arizona voters approved in Proposition 106. It is what Arizona deserves. It is what I voted for. Competi iveness must be evaluated wi hin each legislative and Congressional district, not confused with partisan bias or the lack thereof. While the most obvious measure of departure from fairness is significant deviation of district wins for each party with statewide voter share, compe itiveness really must be measured for each district and reflects whe her either a Republican or Democrat candidate potentially can win in that district. The current legislative map proposed for Sedona - Yavapai County (LD5) is not competi ive. When proposed legisla ive maps exceed variances stipulated by Proposition106, competitiveness is sacrificed. This is precisely the case with proposed maps LD5 and LD7. The variance is nearly 30 points. A difference of 30 points between parties is significant. In this situation, voters in primaries determine the outcome of elections. Candidates in the party with he distinct advantage may express extreme views, increasingly depend on their base for support and consequently, likely will talk exclusively to heir voters. Competi ive districts encourage bipartisan coopera ion. When elections are determined in a bipartisan way, we can expect elected officials to govern as near to the middle and as near to the electorate as possible. These elected officials tend to be more responsive to a diverse constituency. What is more, competitive districts result in higher quality candidates because the quality of candidates will matter more in races where the outcome is not predetermined. Finally, competitive districts bring about higher levels of civic involvement and voter participation because the outcome of races is not a foregone conclusion. For these reasons, I support LD50 and LD51.
12/02/2021 - 16:29	Byron Cotter	Fair Redistricting	I am very angry that the current redistrict ing maps remove my area from Tom O'Halleran, and that fur her the maps have been twisted such that it gives the Republicans and advantage even though it the maps were created to be fair and representative of the popula ions, the state would be a toss up. Only when politicians feel they have to represent all of their cons ituents do we as Arizonans get equal consideration. "The IRC maps must follow specific guidelines to ensure fairness, comply with the Arizona State Cons itution, he U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. Districts should be relatively equal in population, be geographically compact and contiguous, and respect communities of interest, enabling residents with common concerns to elect legislators who'll represent those interests." "Per he IRC maps, Pima County voters will reside in six districts: hree safe for Republicans – even though they represent only 29% of registered Pima voters – and three safe for Democrats, who represent 40%. There are no competi ive districts, even though 31% of Pima County voters are independent or registered with other parties." This is patently unfair, and does not reflect the charter of the Independent Redistricting Commission!
12/02/2021 - 16:31	Ka herine M Gertz	Comments on draft redistricting maps	I live in a 55+ ac ive community called Sunland Village East. This is in the Gilbert School District. You must follow the six criteria laid out by the constitution. Please be sure to follow those criteria. The current draft maps do not follow that criteria.We cannot lump people together that have no common interests. The area that I live in has many elderly communi ies wi h certain needs and desires. We need to be a district wi h common goals and needs. You should not change districts due to competitiveness or especially gerrymandering. There is so many leftist/ socialist policies being forced down our throats and Americans do not want this for our country. Previous district maps did have equal population and that needs to be avoided his ime. People choose where to live in our state based on their interests. The commission should respect that. Thank you.
12/02/2021 - 16:34	S. S. Cotter	Redistricting as specified by he Charter	In our elections, every voice should be heard and every vote should count equally. The current redistricting maps clearly do not allow that to happen. Follow your charter. Make all districts as balanced as possible!
12/02/2021 - 16:37	Laurel Lynn Pollard	Redistricting	My name is Laurel Pollard. I am an interna ional teacher trainer who has lived in Tucson since 1971. I vote an mobilize others to vote. I am outraged by what I've been reading about the proposed maps for restricting. I am addressing you, he Independent Redistricting Commission because the criteria for redistricting is supposed to prohibit partisan gerrymandering. These maps do not not. Gerrymandering District 17 has produced lopsided results by using David Mehl's proposed new map. He said that his reconfiguration creates ano her safe Republican district. How dare he? Partisan purpose is not a valid criterion. I would like to see District 17 include the compact, contiguous area from Marana to he Foo hills including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes, and leaving Vail, the Houghton Corridor and Tanque Verde in the eastern legislative districts. I am also reques ing that downtown Tucson, UA and Fourth Ave remain in CD7. It is important that CD7 include areas sou h of Broadway so hat communi ies of interest maintain their vo ing strength. Since Republicans represent only 29% of Pima County voters, I am coun ing on you to do he right thing to make sure that the maps are not rigged to create a Republican majority. Sincerely, Laurel Pollard

12/02/2021 - 16:45	Marcia McChrystal	stop gerrymandering	Hello, Your criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering. In light of that, please insure that District 17 includes the compact, contiguous and competitive area from Marana to the Foo hills, including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes, leaving Vail, the Houghton Corridor, and Tanque Verde in the eastern legislative districts.
12/02/2021 - 16:48	Gail A. Digate	Communities of Interest - Sedona (Yavapai and Coconino Counties)	I am a resident of the City of Sedona (Coconino portion). I want to underscore that the City of Sedona must be kept whole. Do not split Sedona between Yavapai and Coconino Counties. This is unacceptable. Secondly, keep the communities of the Verde Valley together and in alignment with Flagstaff, not combined with Prescott and Prescott Valley. My community of interest (COI) is Flagstaff, not Prescott nor Prescott Valley. What defines a COI for redistricting purposes are the common needs and problems residents share that can be addressed by government actions (e.g., healthcare, education facilities, public safety, water shortages, access to broadband and economic interests -- mining, agriculture, and tourism). The Verde Valley and Flagstaff share far more commonalities than does the Verde Valley in a legislative district with Prescott and Prescott Valley. Placing citizens with common concerns, such as agriculture -- wine growing and tourism (as in the case in the Verde Valley and Flagstaff) within the same legislative district serves multiple purposes. Such configuration helps elected officials and community leaders focus their collective attention on solving problems and creating solutions that result in broad support and positive action. Moreover, when there are sensible COIs in our state, it increases the chances that needed resources will be directed to legislative districts in efficient and effective ways. Sedona and the other communities of the Verde Valley do not belong in a legislative district with Prescott and Prescott Valley. The resulting legislative map does not need to be configured to create one legislative district for Yavapai County. In such a configuration, competitiveness is sacrificed. LD 50 and LD 51 address his concern. MY COI is Flagstaff and I wholeheartedly support LD50 and LD51.
12/02/2021 - 16:49	Christine Accurso	Redistricting - Gilbert	Our family is deeply concerned about the current maps that are being proposed. We moved to Gilbert, AZ specifically for the type of community this town is and the people here. We have a lot in common. The way the maps are currently proposed we will not be in the same LD as anyone we work with or worship with. Gilbert is a community of interest in and of itself. It is known for being a place where many people of faith move & young families. To chop it up into five different districts seems really out of balance. I understand we have grown a lot, so may be two districts or three if really needed, but not five. Respectfully, this needs to be reconsidered.
12/02/2021 - 16:52	Claire Cordon	IRC Redistricting	I am an Arizona resident in Pinal County. The people of Arizona voted to create an independent commission so that the redistricting process could be conducted in a non-partisan manner. The current set up of the maps does not meet the IRC's mandate, which prohibits partisan gerrymandering. The maps should be competitive and not rigged to create a Republican majority. I insist that you do your jobs partisan influence.
12/02/2021 - 16:55	Josephine L Heyl	AZ Redistricting Maps	The current maps are rigged to create a Republican majority, contrary to the IRC mandate. I want to see maps that reflect equal representation in the districts.
12/02/2021 - 16:56	Dana Offerman	Vince Leach	Even though Arizonans took partisan redistricting away from legislators twenty years ago, they're still trying to put their sticky fingers on the scale. Disturbing evidence has become public that State Senator Vince Leach drafted a letter for the Independent Redistricting Commission arguing that Saddlebrooke (where he resides) should be crammed into a gerrymandered new district that excludes Democrats in order to assure Southern Arizona Republicans get one winner at the ballot box. Had Leach signed and sent the letter himself, it would have been a blatant abuse of the IRC safeguards intended to prevent incumbent politicians from influencing the redistricting process. Instead, Leach surreptitiously arranged for the letter to go out under the name of the Mayor of Marana. If you want to read all the tawdry details, go to https://azdem.org/caught-emails-reveal-covert-efforts/ or do an internet search for "Emails Reveal Covert Efforts By Republican State Senator To Promote GOP Gerrymander." Vince Leach is not morally fit to represent any Southern Arizonans.
12/02/2021 - 17:02	Frank Pabian	Congressional Redistricting	I'm a retired Certified Mapping Scientist and former United Nations Chief Nuclear Inspector, and I am here to address the current Congressional District Map (7.1), particularly the division of Districts 4 and 5. I highly recommend the map produced by Ayden Young with the Submitted Plan Name of AFY – CD5 Proposal 2. I live in the far northeast part of the county in Mesa. Our community is made up of diverse mix of singles, young families, empty nesters, and retirees along the 202 Red Mountain corridor. We also have many people who commute to work to other parts of Mesa, Phoenix, Tempe, Gilbert and Scottsdale. The housing mix varies from single family homes (including those in planned communities), apartment complexes, and manufactured homes. The area affords many lifestyle amenities close at hand like the Salt River Valley and County and State recreational areas and hence we have similar interests with regard to environment and governance and we want a unified voice and undivided representation. While we are diverse community, the people have a cohesive sense of place with shared interests that is consistent across the east valley that from east mesa to Gilbert and Queen Creek. Among the shared goals is maintaining a nice place to live without having to worry about disenfranchisement through potentially unfair and divisive redistricting that does not consider those shared and common interests. In an earlier time and place, I lived in another state, in a county of about 20,000 people, in what was for the most part a one company town, not unlike the Globe/Superior mining community, but our community was cut into three pieces in an unabashed gerrymandering effort that ensured the complete disenfranchisement of the people living in that county by dilution when combined with other communities having differing political priorities. Please keep our community whole within a single voting district. We are a suburban, and to some degree a rural community, and would prefer to not be combined with more urban and potentially transient communities that do not accurately represent our common community interests or concern for our longer-term priorities. Furthermore, the districts the previous commission drew were not compact, did not have equal population, and were too focused on competitiveness. The current redistricting effort should put a priority on community because any effort to place competitiveness over community is a violation of the intent of the Constitutional guidance. Please adhere to the Arizona Constitution in drawing voting districts this time. Thank you for your consideration
12/02/2021 - 17:14	Rick Hamilton	Redistricting	Gerrymandering is an affront to Democracy no matter which side is doing it. If that is the only way a political party can remain in power...perhaps that party does not deserve to survive. Let us pray that you will draw lines that will encourage robust and healthy debate of the issues confronting the citizens of a particular community and that the candidate who wins will do so on merit and not because the district was "packed" with voters of one party or the other.

12/02/2021 - 17:14	Michael Caryl	"Independent redistricting process"	<p>I am an Arizona resident of Pinal County. A while back, the people of Arizona voted to create an independent commission so that the redistricting process could be conducted in a nonpartisan manner. The current set up of the maps that have been prepared does not meet the IRC's mandate, which prohibits partisan gerrymandering. The maps should be competitive and not read to create a Republican majority. I insist that you do your jobs and cease efforts at partisan influence.</p> <p>You ought to be ashamed for attempting to make this into a partisan exercise when the voters intended an independent commission.</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:15	Katrine Anna Kaufmanis	Keep AZ Neighborhoods Together	The current draft maps split existing precincts and dilute the communities that exist within these locations. That's why I support the LDF049 map because the 9 precincts in the existing LD 23 are kept together.
12/02/2021 - 17:18	Khyl E Powell	Redistricting Map	<p>REDISTRICTING COMMISSION</p> <p>My name is Khyl Powell. I moved from Chandler over 25 years ago and chose to live in the Town of Gilbert because of its outstanding focus on family and community. I also serve as a precinct committeeman in the GILBERT LD district. I own and manage a real estate development and property management company with industrial properties developed specifically in Gilbert. I am a Constitutional Conservative and fundamentally believe in and sustain the words penned by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence which state, "...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness (in other words the right to control property). That to secure these rights Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..." I recognize that you have been organized by law as a commission to redefine congressional and district boundaries. However, I do not consent to your proposed boundaries. I chose where I live for many personal reasons and I have dedicated the last 25 years to maintaining the integrity and the unity of the Gilbert community in which I live. In redefining congressional and legislative districts the primary focus should be on strengthening communities, not dividing them. In the present district maps as proposed, you have separated my neighborhood from Gilbert and placed us into Congressional District 4 with Mesa and Tempe. You have also selected a small sliver of upper west Gilbert and placed us in the LD with Tempe and Ahwatukee; communities with which we have nothing in common. I strongly recommend you alter the proposed congressional map and use the natural landmarks of the US 60 and the highway 101 assigning all neighborhoods east of those landmarks to remain with Gilbert. I also highly recommend that you revise the proposed legislative map and use the natural landmark of highway 87 and allow the communities east of highway 87 to remain with the Gilbert LD district 14.</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:21	Katrine Anna Kaufmanis	I want to live in a competitive district	I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed congressional district maps. I want to live in a district where the candidate who is successful is elected because the race is competitive. I currently reside in Schweikert's CD and I am alarmed that this district could be redrawn to ensure that he is easily re-elected. I have real concerns about Rep. Schweikert (which I have shared with him), among them being that he is a member of the Sedition Caucus, voting to overturn fair and free elections on January 6, 2021. I want to be sure that a candidate who is not an opponent of free and fair elections represents me in Congress.
12/02/2021 - 17:26	Louise A. Liggett	5+Eastern Counties, RURAL & undivided.	<p>Honorable Commissioners,</p> <p>Thank you for your hundreds and hundreds of exhausting hours listening, hearing and figuring. Thank you for giving so much to this process which will soon affect all Arizonians.</p> <p>RURAL Voice has not been heard for 10 long years in our Arizona Legislature, and yet we continue to pay taxes while not reaping the benefits.</p> <p>Who is speaking for the ranchers, farmers, homesteaders, wineries, miners, hunters, forestry & the Tourism industries?</p> <p>Who represents the retirees & Veterans who have paid their fair share, raised their children, & expect to enjoy their "Golden Years" in the countryside?</p> <p>3,650 days of being ignored is DISGUSTING & SHAMEFUL! But that's basically what happened with the previous IRC Commission.</p> <p>Thank you for listening and drawing maps with Communities of Interest.</p> <p>We support the IRC draft map LD7 with changes that will establish a truly RURAL Voice. 5+Eastern Counties, RURAL & undivided.</p> <p>We also support the IRC draft map LD6 Native American District combined with Flagstaff, which are communities of interest.</p> <p>Thank you and God Bless you and your families.</p> <p>Best always,</p> <p>Louise Liggett. Snowflake, AZ</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:26	Katrine Anna Kaufmanis	Keep Scottsdale and the Salt River Indian Community Together	One of the criteria for establishing new congressional districts is to ensure that communities of interest are kept together. That's why I support the LDF049 map because it keeps Scottsdale and the Salt River Indian Community together. These two entities are focused on desert sustainability and mountain land preservation, which are issues that are very important to me. Keep Scottsdale and the neighboring Salt River Indian Community as one.
12/02/2021 - 17:28	Katrine Anna Kaufmanis	I support Map LDF049	LDF049 meets the six criteria for drawing a fair and competitive legislative district. The current draft map is not competitive and splits communities of interest.

12/02/2021 - 17:28	Amy Feldman	Redistricting in AZ	<p>My name is Amy Feldman and I am a retired teacher. I have lived in Tucson since 1979.</p> <p>I am writing because I am extremely concerned about the proposed maps for redistricting, which appear clearly gerrymandered so as to provide a political advantage to Republicans.</p> <p>I expect the Independent Redistricting Commission to be what its name suggest, independent—which is to say, unbiased and free of partisan influence.</p> <p>I would like to see District 17 include the compact, contiguous area from Marana to the Foothills including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes, omitting Vail, the Houghton Corridor and Tanque Verde, which should be in the eastern legislative districts.</p> <p>I also ask that downtown Tucson, the University, and Fourth Ave remain within CD7.</p> <p>Democrats make up more than 70 percent of voters in Pima County and are entitled to representation that reflects that majority.</p> <p>I urge you to adjust the current map to conform to these requests.</p> <p>Thank you, Amy Feldman</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:34	Katrine Anna Kaufmanis	Love the idea of the IRC, just concerned with the proposed maps	<p>I recently moved to Scottsdale from Colorado to retire. I loved the idea of an independent redistricting committee because facts and science would guide the redrawing of the districts, just like the commission in Colorado (my former state of residence) does. I was shocked that the proposed map does not fulfill the criteria a. through f. in the law. The existing maps rip apart Scottsdale - not just geographically but culturally as well, are not equitably balanced in terms of population, and finally are not competitive. I support the LDF049 proposed district, which comes closer to meeting the established criteria for the IRC.</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:36	Claudia W Host	Redistricting	<p>I want to see maps that reflect EQUAL representation in districts. These maps should reflect a freedom from partisan influence. I understand that the IRC criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering.</p> <p>Thank you.EM7XA</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:36	Carolyn S Collins	Redistricting	<p>My husband and I have lived in Leisure World for 6 years. We are a retirement community that works well with other retirement communities including Sun Lakes and older Winter visitors in the Mesa area. Coupling us with the college town of Tempe would indeed be an unusual alliance. I fail to see the likeness in community interests. Carolyn S Collins</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:41	DIANE LINGS	REDISTRICTING	<p>As a Sun City senior, I am alarmed by the redistricting of CD9. I looked at the maps and it doesn't appear to be compact nor contiguous = two required points. We are a "community of interest" with more in common with suburban Phoenix than the rural communities.</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:45	Lowell Taylor	I oppose the drafted redistricting lines	<p>I oppose the draft legislative lines that would split Gilbert into 5 legislative districts.</p>
12/02/2021 - 17:46	Christine Cater	CALL TO ACTION: REDISTRICTING 2022	<p>The Competitive Congressional District—Southern Arizona (CDF001.) keeps Cochise County whole, and the district is compact, contiguous and competitive. Non- Partisan, non- extremism, more competitiveness, stop the gerrymandering, and show the nation how to do fair and non-partisan redistricting! This will stop "special interest groups" as well.</p> <p>Talking Points from: Jo Ann Caruthers—One community of interest is represented by Fort Huachuca in Cochise County and Davis Monthan Air Force Base on the east side of Tucson. Numbers fluctuate but here are approximately 8400 active duty military and 4400 Department of Defense civilians (Civil Service) between the two installations. Both installations are also supported by numerous large and small contracting companies who employ numerous technical and non technical employees directly supporting the various entities operating on the post and AFB. A large number of military retirees live in the surrounding communities and avail themselves of the services on the base and post. They have common concerns such as military budgets, employee and retiree benefits, and foreign policy to name a few. The draft CD6 boundaries minimize this COI. The map we're recommending includes both installations as well as a larger area in Tucson likely to house or have businesses that rely on them for their livelihood. The voices of this COI should not be minimized any more than is necessary. Sierra Vista is suburban in nature—not rural—and has more in common with Tucson than with Casa Grande, Eloy, Florence or other Pinal County residents. It's likely few in those communities even know where Hereford, or Naco, or McNeal, or Portal are located. Some residents of Cochise County rarely go to Pinal or Graham or Greenlee County unless in route to somewhere else. Jo Ann Caruthers LIVES IN THIS DISTRICT, MOST OF THE POWER ELITE DON'T.</p>

12/02/2021 - 17:46	Janet Reynolds	Redistricting	<p>My name is Janet Reynolds. I worked in Education as a teacher before retiring to AZ in 2016. I live in Bisbee. Bisbee is strongly connected with the surrounding communities of Douglas, Sierra Vista and Tucson.</p> <p>Here, we work, attend Cochise Community College and U of A. There is well established conduit laid between the educational system for teachers, administrators and students, in service of education. This takes place within Cochise County and Tucson.</p> <p>Many people who hold jobs in Cochise County or Tucson, commute to and from their homes in Bisbee, Douglas and Sierra Vista. They do not commute to Graham, Greenlee or Pinal Counties for work.</p> <p>My husband & I travel to Tucson to shop and receive more specialized medical treatment. Locally, I shop in Bisbee, Sierra Vista, Douglas and Tucson. I do not travel to Graham, Greenlee or Pinal counties for goods and services.</p> <p>I am a Certified Naturalist and moved to SE Arizona for its abundance of wilderness, birds and other wildlife. In Cochise County we have the Chiricahua National Monument, Coronado National Monument, Ft Bowie, Miller Peak, Peloncillo, Ramsey Canyon, Whitewater Draw and the San Pedro River National Conservation Area. Within them are world renowned birding and wildlife destinations. Tucson has Saguaro National Park. These places are drawn together through their shared ecotourism and management by the National Park Service. Tourism is important to Cochise County for its employment and economic support.</p> <p>We need a map more reflective of the aforementioned Community of Interest than the currently drafted map. We need a map that will keep Cochise County whole, competitive and compact. A strong Congressional District can be formed by using a map more like the Competitive Congressional District Southern AZ (CDF001).</p> <p>I appreciate your listening and efforts to support Independent Redistricting.</p> <p>Thank you, Janet Reynolds</p>
12/02/2021 - 18:02	Danny W Collins	East Valley IRC Redistricting	<p>"I have lived in Leisure World for over 6 years. We are a retirement community that works well with other retirement communities including Sun Lakes and older Winter visitors in the Mesa area. Coupling us with the college town of Tempe would indeed be an unusual alliance. I fail to see the likeness in community interests. Danny W Collins</p>
12/02/2021 - 18:07	Linda Horowitz	Redistricting in Catalina Foothills	<p>My name is Linda Horowitz. My husband and I moved to Catalina Foothills over 25 years ago because he got a job working for a large company here in Tucson that develops missiles for our country's defense. I love Arizona and I love my country.</p> <p>Soon after I moved here, proposition 106 was passed. My friends – some of whom are Independents – and I were proud to live in a state that believed in independent redistricting. It meant that neither political party could dominate and gerrymander the district lines.</p> <p>That is why I am writing today. Unfortunately, the maps that are currently being proposed for Southern Arizona do not appear to fit the description of independent and competitive. In the proposed maps, I am currently in CD 6 which is drawn to create a finger to grab us away from metropolitan Tucson and into rural districts that have nothing to do with our area. These lines are not compact or respecting communities of interest and appear to have no logical reason for that structure except for the purpose of favoring one political party over another. The lines do not give the people of Arizona including Independents the freedom to make a choice based on issues rather than party. My friends, who are Independents, who are also more than a third of the electorate in Arizona, are not happy. They chose to belong to neither party so that they could make a choice. Now, these maps will take that choice away. They will speak with their votes in the statewide elections.</p> <p>I am also placed in LD18. This district and district 17 are snaking around to grab different constituencies without regard to community of interest or geographic location. They unfortunately have the appearance of being gerrymandered. That is not independent redistricting.</p> <p>I am very disappointed. My current CD and LD are competitive with both Democrats and Republicans representing us at different times in the last 10 years. Martha McSally was my Representative. I hope that this commission will review these maps and change the lines so that compact and competitive is back in the districts. Please make Arizona proud.</p>
12/02/2021 - 18:23	Laurie Soloff	Oppose proposed LD 17 it's non-constititional and non-competitive	<p>The AZ IRC must follow the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act ("VRA").</p> <p>It has been proposed that the SALC LD maps (v.10 LD17) strengthened the proposed VRA LDs in southern Arizona. The opposite is true. The mapping consultants should be requested to compare the VRA LDs in map 4 0 to the SALC LDs. When that comparison is made it will be evident that the SALC map weakened the VRA districts. Evidently these maps were drawn without any input from the Latino community so perhaps this is no surprise. Nevertheless, adopting the SALC proposal creates significant litigation risk for the AIRC because it weakens the southern Arizona VRA districts.</p>

12/02/2021 - 18:26	A Senti	Proposed LD 17 is not acceptable- it violates equal population criteria.	<p>The second constitutional criteria which must be followed by the AIRC is Equal Population.</p> <p>Commissioner Mehl failed to follow his specific constitutional criterion. The v.10 LD17 SALC maps fail to meet it. Ironically, Commissioner Mehl said in passing on the record that a population deviation might be justified in order to sustain SALC's partisan maps. Legislative District 16 is under population by 11,029 or 4.6%; LD 17 is under population by 6839 or 2.87%; LD 18 is over population by 4668 or 1.96% and LD 19 is over population by 4935 or 2.07%.</p>
12/02/2021 - 18:37	Susan Cooley	Redistricting.	<p>I have listened to the public meeting held on 11/30/21 and am concerned about diluting the voting power of our Native Americans. Their votes would be diluted in the proposed redistricting and this should be considered as a form of gerrymandering. Please don't include Prescott in their district or their voice will not be heard.</p> <p>Also from reading the public comments it appears to be a problem with LD17 regarding gerrymandering, creating a safe Republican safe district in an area populated with Democrats. This draft should not be finalized.</p> <p>I would recommend that the site show a comparison for each district of the old and new maps so it is more transparent of the proposed changes and so they are easily visible to the general public. kptg5</p>
12/02/2021 - 18:42	Sherry H. Kaplan	IRDC Partisan Redistricting	<p>The IRDC criteria prohibits partisan gerrymandering. The maps being drawn should be free of partisan influence. Please have maps that reflect equal representation in districts.</p> <p>Thank you in advance, Sherry H. Kaplan</p>
12/02/2021 - 18:59	Lane von Weese	Do Not Redistrict	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Lane and I have lived in Gilbert for 20 years now and I moved here specifically for the community and its structure. I do not agree with the redistricting. Gilbert being divided into 5 legislative districts does not represent my community of interest and its boundaries should stay as they are now. And I feel the same about the congressional district. Gilbert should not be divided congressionally either.</p> <p>My life is here. I work here, I do my medical appointments here as well as shop and go to church here. I have also participated in board meetings. This is my town and I like the way it is. I have nothing to do with Chandler, Mesa or Tempe. I am in Gilbert and I want to keep the boundaries the same-keep Gilbert whole and not be divided by new legislative or congressional boundaries.</p> <p>Gilbert is my hometown and as I stated before, I moved here 20 years ago for the structure and great community of Gilbert including the shopping, churches, parks and recreation, schools and more. Changing the boundaries congressionally and/or legislatively would break up my beautiful community and would NOT represent our needs and/or our community of interest.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lane von Weese</p>
12/02/2021 - 19:00	Maureen Borland	Comments on proposed maps	<p>The redistricting commission is charged with drawing COMPETITIVE districts of common communities. The Republican submitted plan does not do that. It creates a non-competitive district out of disparate communities surrounding Tucson. It is counter to the charge to the commission. The original map submitted by the Commission was superior to his gerrymandered map and should be reinstated.</p>
12/02/2021 - 19:07	Marsha Foresman	Gerrymandered redistricting	<p>As an informed voter in Arizona, I am demanding that this Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering. In order to preserve the concept of fair elections, I am insisting that the IRC do their jobs free of partisan influence. The maps should be competitive. The current maps are rigged to create a Republican majority, contrary to the IRC mandate. I want to see maps that reflect equal representation in the districts. The IRC has a sworn duty to behave in a non-partisan manner. Please uphold your sworn duty.</p>
12/02/2021 - 19:29	Nancee VanderPluym	Redistricting Scottsdale/Fountain Hills	<p>I have lived in the Scottsdale area since 1956, attending elementary, high school and ASU for undergraduate and graduate degrees. My current LD has been reflective of residents residing within the boundaries. Moving the district map west to I-17 should not be the city line of Scottsdale. The district should not be split into three districts with three different representatives. How is one person expected to have an in-depth knowledge of their constituents and district priorities, travel east to west in the Valley. I respectfully request to leave the district's primary boundaries as exist currently.</p>
12/02/2021 - 19:55	Amina Donna E Kruck	Comments and suggestions for the redistricting maps as drafted	<p>My name is Donna Kruck, I go by Amina and have lived in Arizona since 1977 and in Tempe since 1980. I am retired and I am proud of our state for having an Independent Redistricting Commission to assure our voting districts are fair, equitable and competitive as prescribed by Arizona's proposition 106 in 2000. I appreciate the very difficult work of the commission to meet the goal of Prop. 106. I do have several comments about the current accepted draft maps. I am concerned his current draft map doesn't truly represent the intent of the federal Voting Rights Act to protect and enhance the voting rights of people of color in our state, especially Latina and Native Americans. I would recommend the proposed LD0061 and CD0073 maps that better address my concerns expressed here. The current voting district maps could better more accurately reflect the demographic and political party preference changes that have occurred in Arizona over the last 10 years. The voter registration currently reflects that 1/3 of the state's voters registered as independents, so the redistricting maps need to have 1/3 of the districts more competitive than the draft maps. The maps could better represent the more equal division of republican vs democratic leaning districts to be more reflective of 2020 voting. Also, I think the current map splits up the East Valley cities in Maricopa County into too many different AZ Legislative districts. It makes more sense to me to keep city communities together as much as possible like the ones suggested in LD0061. Lastly, I am surprised and concerned that it has come to light that a legislator may have influenced the AZ legislative district boundaries in the current draft map undermining Prop. 106's clear non-partisan guidelines. I hope this will be addressed.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify and make suggestions how the new redistricting maps can be improved to better reflect the diversity of our growing state and meet the goals of Prop. 106 and the Voting Rights Act.</p> <p>Amina Donna Kruck, Tempe</p>

12/02/2021 - 19 57	Sandi Bartlett	IRC Maps	<p>My name is Sandi Bartlett and I live in Gilbert.</p> <p>I live NW Gilbert and have lived here 15 years. Our area is the heart and soul of Gilbert. Our downtown area is filled with new shops and restaurants that we often visit. This is where the Gilbert Farmers Market is and where the Town Council makes our laws.</p> <p>Your maps removed 2 blocks in Gilbert and put them into downtown Mesa LD9. You removed 3 more blocks and put them into an area all the way to Ahwatukee LD12. These are NOT COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST. There is no good reason that the northern border of Gilbert is not at Baseline. The western border of Gilbert is Arizona Ave. Please follow the natural city lines.</p> <p>As for the Congressional District I ask that you keep all of Gilbert together with Queen Creek and Mesa. District 5 should follow the county line and should not go into Pinal County.</p> <p>Your current maps make absolutely no sense when considering the communities of interest or fairness and I implore you to keep Gilbert whole.</p> <p>Sandi Bartlett Gilbert Resident</p>
12/02/2021 - 19 57	Timothy G Lohman	redistricting IRC commissioners	<p>To the IRS commissioners: I am asking all IRC maps to follow specific guidelines to insure fairness. I object to the draft maps put forward. All districts should be competitive. The criteria prohibits partisan gerrymandering. I request specifically that in CD 7 areas south of Broadway, downtown Tucson, UA and Fourth Avenue remain in CD7. Furthermore with D17 there needs to be revisions to include Marana, Oro Valley, Casas Adobes and Catalina Foothills in D17 to make it competitive as it has been for the last 10 years. Please revise the maps to reflect the above concerns.</p>
12/02/2021 - 20:13	Maurice Dunn	Proposed District 17 Map	<p>I am concerned that the proposed District 17 map is not geographically compact and contiguous. The map disproportionately favors Republicans by creating an additional safe district and avoiding the contested district that would result from an un-gerrymandered map.</p> <p>District 17 should include the competitive area from Marana to the Foothills, including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes, leaving Vail, the Houghton Corridor, and Tanque Verde in the eastern legislative districts.</p> <p>Contiguous communities of interest in downtown Tucson, U of A, and Fourth Avenue should remain in CD 7. CD 7 should include areas south of Broadway to adequately represent the strength of voters in that area.</p>
12/02/2021 - 20:15	Karl Flessa	LD maps for Southern Arizona – Map 9.0 much better than Map 9.2 and Map 10.0	<p>Dear IRC Commissioners,</p> <p>RE: LD maps for Southern Arizona – I prefer Map 9.0 rather than Map 9.2 or Map 10.0</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts to ensure fair and impartial redistricting. You have a tough job.</p> <p>I'm a Tucson voter. Draft Map 9.0 is better at satisfying the constitutional requirements in terms of population, compactness and contiguous boundaries and respect for communities of interest, geographic features and political boundaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Map 9.0 keeps Tucson's suburbs of Marana, Catalina, Rillito, Oro Valley, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina Foothills together in District 17. This is a real community of interest. •Map 9.0 also keeps the urban areas of the University of Arizona, 4th Avenue Corridor and downtown Tucson together in LD 20. •Map 9.0 also keeps all of Santa Cruz County within LD 21. <p>Draft Maps 9.2 and 10.0 do not do as good a job as Map 9.0 in terms of the constitutional criteria of compact and contiguous boundaries and of incorporating political boundaries. On both 9.2 and 10.0, LD 17 is not as compact as in Map 9.0. In addition, 9.2 and 10.0 split Santa Cruz County into two different legislative districts.</p> <p>The maps should create legislative districts that are as competitive as possible. Maps 9.2 and 10.0 fail on this criterion too. LD 17 on those maps is much less competitive than LD 17 is on Map 9.0.</p> <p>As proposed on Maps 9.2 and 10.0, LD 17 is not an appropriate district. As revealed in media coverage, LD 17 was designed for partisan purposes. That is unconstitutional. Political parties do not constitute "communities of interest".</p> <p>Fair redistricting will strengthen our democracy. Thank you.</p> <p>Karl Flessa Arizona voter</p>

12/02/2021 - 20:15	Diane W Davidson	Competitive Congressional District—Southern Arizona	<p>I am Diane W. Davidson, a retiree living in Portal, AZ, for the past 12.5 years. As a professional ecologist and university level educator, I have visited SE AZ since the early 70s, attracted by the unique biodiversity of our Sky Islands, and (eventually) by the community of naturalists, scholars and conservationists who have retired here. We are proudly also a border community, where my proficiency in Spanish has proven useful during my years as a Portal Rescue EMT. For 6 yrs, I have moderated a Google Group that connects community members or all backgrounds to local (mostly natural history) forums, unusual animal sightings, and even dangers (rabid animals, drug smugglers, etc).</p> <p>I advocate for a different CD6 map than the IRC is proposing. The newly submitted Competitive Congressional District Southern Arizona (CDF001) map recognizes the important ties we naturalists and conservationists have to communities of natural historians across the Sky Islands (incl. Bisbee, Sierra Vista, Tucson) and also the common interests (mostly pleasant, sometimes concerning) of border communities such as ours. We are tied to Douglas, Sierra Vista and Tucson by grocery trips, medical appointments, religious services (Catholic, not Mormon) and recreation, and most of us have not even visited the mining communities of Morenci, Clifton, Duncan and even Safford. Not infrequently, our interests might even be antagonistic to those of residents in Greenlee and Graham counties. The current draft IRC map is oddly (not compactly) shaped, making it difficult for candidates of either party to stay in contact with constituents. Most importantly, however, it would also be hard for any candidate to represent COIs with such divergent interests and values.</p> <p>I thank you for your service and urge you to adopt the CDF001 map that more accurately captures COIs in SE AZ.</p>
12/02/2021 - 20:15	Mari Jensen	LD Maps -- 9.0 better than 9.2 and 10.0	<p>Dear IRC Commissioners,</p> <p>RE: LD maps for Southern Arizona – Map 9.0 much better than Map 9.2 and Map 10.0</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>I have followed some of the proceedings of the earlier meetings and reviewed many of the documents – and I do not envy you your task. However, I do want you to create LD maps that follow the six constitutional requirements for drawing districts.</p> <p>I live in Tucson. Draft Map 9.0 seems to me to satisfy the constitutional requirements in terms of population, compact and contiguous boundaries (which can be hard in a big state such as Arizona), respect for communities of interest and incorporation of geographic features and political boundaries. It keeps Tucson's suburbs of Marana, Catalina, Rillito, Oro Valley, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina Foothills together in District 17. Many of the people who live in those areas work in Tucson, travel into Tucson for business, and otherwise are connected to Tucson. It keeps the more urban areas of the University of Arizona, 4th Avenue Corridor and downtown Tucson together in LD 20. It also keeps all of Santa Cruz County within LD 21.</p> <p>Draft Maps 9.2 and 10.0 are much worse than Map 9.0 in terms of the constitutional criteria of compact and contiguous boundaries and of incorporating political boundaries. On both of those maps, LD 17 is not as compact as in Map 9.0. In addition, 9.2 and 10.0 split Santa Cruz County between two different legislative districts.</p> <p>The maps are also supposed to create legislative districts that are as competitive as possible. Maps 9.2 and 10.0 fail on this criterion too. LD 17 on those maps is much less competitive than LD 17 is on Map 9.0.</p> <p>As proposed on maps 9.2 and 10.0, LD 17 is not an appropriate district. As revealed in news articles in several different papers, it was designed for partisan purposes and is therefore unconstitutional. Making a map specifically to make a safe district for Republican candidates is unconstitutional. The political parties are not "communities of interest" as intended by the State of Arizona Constitution.</p> <p>I'm proud that our country aspires to be one in which every person has equal representation: one person, one vote. I'm proud that Arizona is one of the few states that has an independent redistricting commission rather than redistricting by the legislature. Fair redistricting will bolster our democracy because competitive districts encourage voter engagement.</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Mari Jensen Arizona voter</p>
12/02/2021 - 20:22	Thomas Best	Support LD0061 map submission	<p>My name is Thomas Best a 26 year resident of Tempe. I live in current legislative district 26, which is legislative district 8 in the Commission's latest map. We will all have to compromise to satisfactorily meet the six constitutional redistricting criteria. I think LD0061 maintains equal populations relative to other districts; maintains a compact and contiguous district by minimizing the amount of splitting of the cities of Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Scottsdale, and Mesa; reasonably maintains communities of interest including ASU, north Tempe (where I live), and south Scottsdale, especially the Old Town Tempe and Old Town Scottsdale small city commonalities; maintains logical geographic boundaries; and represents a competitive district while maintaining all the other guidelines. A competitive district is important as a means to keep our elected officials representative of our whole community, attentive to the community's needs, and empowering voters with the ability to bring consequences for the good and bad actions of our representatives. A competitive district also supports the criteria which must be complied with, the United States Constitution and the United States voting rights act. Yes, I do think LD0061 does this.</p> <p>Commissioners thank you for doing this next to impossible, thankless job.</p>
12/02/2021 - 20:31	Carolyn Ancell	Comment on Pending IRC Map regarding LD 17	<p>I have lived in Tucson and Oro Valley for over 53 years. Proposition 106 clearly rules that the IRC must not permit partisan gerrymandering. The Legislative Draft Map 10.0 blatantly violates Proposition 106. 10.0 has been forced by a partisan legislator and a partisan business coalition, and takes away fairness in voting. Map Version 9.0 is the one version benefits all voters equally.</p>

12/02/2021 - 20:46	Barbara S Roberts	Proposed redistricting maps	<p>Thank you for the time and work you are doing on behalf of the voters of Arizona. As I understand it, the maps you propose artificially break up cities and communities of interest, so they dilute the impact of changes in Maricopa County's population distribution. You are bound by the state constitution to do certain things such as protect communities of interest, make districts geographically compact, and protect the competitiveness of each district (among others). I don't see that you have designed these maps to achieve these mandates. What, for example, do the residents of the West Phoenix communities have in common with those who live along the western state borderlands? Why is this huge area attributed to District 9 on the Congressional Map? On the Legislative District Map, how is my part of suburban District 17 in Chandler congruent if it reaches into rural Pinal County?</p> <p>I think and hope you will do better. I was excited and proud when we voted to create this commission in 2000.. Arizona was an early adopter of this method to keep our elections fair and competitive. But the state's population and demographics are changing now, and some people don't like that. The maps you have proposed do not fairly reflect those changes, and they must, because the changes will continue. Keeping our elections competitive is critical to guaranteeing Arizonans have the best possible leaders, who are responsive to and work for all of their constituents.</p> <p>Please return to the drawing board and make us proud that, even in these difficult and contentious times, Arizonans can work together to keep our state strong and balanced. Thank you.</p> <p>Barbara</p>
12/02/2021 - 21:00	Trish Witherspoon	AZ Redistricting Process	Partisan gerrymandering is prohibited. District 17 should only include the compact contiguous competitive area from Marana to the Foothills.
12/02/2021 - 21:11	Martha G. Ortiz	Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission	AZ IRC Commissioners, Please remember that your job criteria prohibit partisan gerrymandering. I request that District 17 includes the compact, contiguous and competitive area from Marana to the Foothills, including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes, and leaving Vail, the Houghton Corridor, and Tanque Verde in the eastern legislative districts. Please see that the contiguous communities of interest in downtown Tucson, the UA, and Fourth Avenue remain in CD7 and require that CD7 includes areas South of Broadway so that Latinos maintain voting strength in their communities of interest.
12/02/2021 - 21:47	Stephen G Gomez	voting districts in Pima County	<p>I am writing because I am extremely concerned about the proposed maps for redistricting, which appear clearly gerrymandered so as to provide a political advantage to Republicans.</p> <p>I expect the Independent Redistricting Commission to be what its name suggests, independent—which is to say, unbiased and free of partisan influence.</p> <p>I would like to see District 17 include the compact, contiguous area from Marana to the Foothills including Oro Valley and Casas Adobes, omitting Vail, the Houghton Corridor and Tanque Verde, which should be in the eastern legislative districts.</p> <p>I also ask that downtown Tucson, the University, and Fourth Ave remain within CD7.</p> <p>Democrats make up more than 70 percent of voters in Pima County and are entitled to representation that reflects that majority.</p> <p>I urge you to adjust the current map to conform to these requests.</p>
12/02/2021 - 22:18	Karen Greene	concerns about maps for Tucson	Putting together a district that runs from Marana all the way to Tanque Verde valley is ridiculous. Please keep the districts on the west side on the west side and the east side on the east side. This is for District 17. For Congressional District 7, it is also ridiculous to separate downtown Tucson from the 4th Ave/U of A area. They are part and parcel connected in so many ways. Do not fall prey to partisan gerrymandering from powerful interests that are their own, and not for the good of the general public.
12/02/2021 - 22:18	Franklyn J. Bergen (Frank)	LD 17	<p>Madam Chairwoman and Members, I'm Frank Bergen, resident of the present CD 2 and LD 10. I think I speak for all who look forward to a decade ahead in which we can go to the polls confident of having a reasonable chance of electing representatives of our choosing. I speak as one who wants nothing more than districts which are compact, contiguous and competitive, in accord with constitutional and statutory requirements.</p> <p>Today we comment one final time on the draft maps you have approved, which contain very few competitive legislative districts. Most of us are aware of the convoluted map of Pima County's districts, produced by a Republican party official and introduced by a Republican Commissioner as the preference of a lobbying group of which he is a founder. And this map was approved by your deciding vote, Madam Chairwoman, with the rationale that it will allow Pima Republicans to elect candidates who will represent them in our legislature. Pima Republicans do not need that impermissible assistance. During the decade just ending they have elected one Republican to the House from districts 2, 9 and 10 and only Republicans to House and Senate from district 11.</p> <p>Draft LD 17 is unacceptable. It is clearly neither contiguous nor compact and, worst of all, it is deliberately and admittedly not competitive. I respectfully request that, in the work ahead to finalize legislative maps, it be replaced by the draft proposed by Commissioner Lerner, in which LD 17 is compact, contiguous and clearly quite competitive.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

12/02/2021 - 23:13	Mark Lawler	Verde Valley and Flagstaff area constitute a community of interest	<p>The Verde Valley includes many small towns that are tightly woven together through many common interests. Many workers in the hospitality industry, medical specialists, and tradespeople live in Cottonwood and Camp Verde but serve residents and tourists in Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek (VOC). Cottonwood residents take advantage of the many amenities and scenic destinations in the Sedona area. And Cottonwood offers many amenities to residents of Sedona and the VOC, including shopping, musical events, live theater, restaurants, and a local branch of the county court and county offices. Driving to Cottonwood takes only 25 minutes from Sedona and 35 minutes from the VOC.</p> <p>In contrast, because 7800-foot Mingus Mountain creates such a barrier between the Verde Valley and Prescott, it takes 70 to 80 minutes to drive to Prescott from most places in the Verde Valley. Driving to northern Phoenix takes just a few minutes longer. As a consequence, I visit Prescott perhaps a couple times a year.</p> <p>Verde Valley residents also share many community interests with the greater Flagstaff area. For example, nearly all medical services I use are in Flagstaff, and I often shop there. I'm making the 50-minute drive here tomorrow to get a booster vaccine. I also do consulting work there. Another crucial connection between our communities is that the watershed that nourishes the aquifers and streams of the Verde Valley begins near Flagstaff.</p> <p>The law requires that "District boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable." This means that voters in a district should have a set of common interests: social, cultural, racial, ethnic, economic, or environmental. I submit that the Verde Valley and the Flagstaff area constitute a community of interest, and the IRC should strive to keep this community whole in one Legislative District and Congressional District, with the Prescott area in a separate Legislative District. I fully support the proposed maps, LDF050 and LDF051, as submitted by the Coconino County Supervisors, which respect this community of interest while also fostering very competitive districts.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your important work.</p>
12/02/2021 - 23:24	Aaron Jared Essif	Leg District 17	<p>Good Day,</p> <p>I strongly support LD Map 9.0. It is much more Compact, Competitive and Contiguous than Map 10.0 Which NONE of these, and in fact, violates these rules. Thank you for your work, but PLEASE adhere to the RULES. Respectfully, Aaron Essif</p>