

Submitted Time	Completed Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
07/30/2021 - 06:47	07/30/2021 - 06:47	Russell Payne	Redistricting Southern Tier of Western NY	<p>Dear New York State IRC: The Southern Tier is a distinct community of interest that is different from Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse, with much different issues and concerns.</p> <p>The counties along the Southern Tier are connected by the I-86 corridor and have their own regional economy and way of life. The I-86 corridor also impacts the Southern Tier in a manner which is also unique. This corridor is the preferred route of travel in an easterly and westerly direction between major commerce centers such as New York City and Chicago and points west. As such, this commerce impacts the Souther Tier in many ways such as interstate commerce, law enforcement issues and tourism. We need proper representation in local, State and Federal government to assure that these issues in our jurisdiction are properly addressed.</p> <p>From the special challenges facing rural healthcare providers and school districts to a lack of broadband access and the financial challenges facing our small cities, the Southern Tier needs its own voice in Washington to ensure we are heard.</p> <p>Historically, the differences between the Southern Tier and both Western and Central New York have been reflected in the drawing of congressional and state legislative district boundaries.</p> <p>That's helped ensure that government in Washington and Albany pays attention to our area and is focused on the unique challenges we currently face in our area.</p> <p>Unlike Central and Western New York, Southern Tier counties share a common border with Pennsylvania. When dealing with interstate issues, it's criticality important that our region has its own representative in Congress. We are a unique geographical and geopolitical entity within New York State because of our agricultural influences upon the State of New York as a whole.</p> <p>Unlike the regions centered around the larger metropolitan areas of Buffalo, Syracuse and Rochester, the structure of our economy and the delivery of social and community services is drastically different in a rural area like the Southern Tier of Western NY State. As a result, the role of state and federal government and the way it engages the people who live here is different. The same approach and solutions that work in other parts of Upstate are ill suited to the Southern Tier.</p> <p>For generations, the Southern Tier has had a dedicated member of Congress, even as the state has lost congressional districts to other states. It's critically important that the Southern Tier continues to have a seat in the House of Representatives.</p> <p>New York's Independent Redistricting Commission was designed to take politics out of the redistricting process and ensure that each region of the state was treated fairly. The Southern Tier is unquestionably a community of interest and I ask the commission to ensure the Southern Tier keeps its voice in the House of Representatives.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Russell L. Payne Town of Carroll Supervisor [REDACTED]</p>
07/30/2021 - 11:11	07/30/2021 - 11:11	Linda Chiles	Public input	<p>What outreach is/can the IRC do to promote public input? Outreach is the key to getting response. The survey that exists is fine as far as it goes but that is not what I would consider "outreach". It's where the commission is contacting or the mapping company is contacting county supervisors, school districts, etc. to personally contact the public.</p>

07/31/2021 - 08:20	07/31/2021 - 08:20	Tim Straw	Redistricting LD7	<p>Good morning, my name is Tim Straw and they call me "the unofficial mayor of wagon wheel". It's a hard title to live up too (no politics involved) but I'll tell a little story of why they call me that.</p> <p>In July 3rd 2020 I was a vendor at show low main streets farmers market. They emailed us that morning saying the market was canceled on July 4th. Upwards of 70 small businesses just told they can't sell on the biggest day of the year for us vendors. I emailed them all and invited them to the truck stop for our "freedom over fear protest farmers market". It was a huge success and we helped these vendors sell their perishable goods they would have lost.</p> <p>A few weeks after that the liquor board started coming after Kelly and Mike for allowing the market to happen. For the rest of the season the liquor board continued to harass us even though every weekend Kelly suspended her liquor license through the liquor board. We were forced to move the market next door to their other property eventually.</p> <p>We reached out to our local representatives in July for help. We were supporting 70 small businesses and the owners of the truck stop couldn't make a penny because of the #6 liquor license rules implemented. Mr Tsosie immediately blocked me on Facebook. Mr teller talked to me the week after that and PROMISED help. He PROMISED to get ducey up here to hear our voices as he told all Arizona's he'd do. Promise after promise Mr. Teller made us was untrue. He refused to come to our venue and talk to these small businesses struggling. He did get us a few phone calls that got us nowhere. You know who did come to our venue to try and support us? David Peelman, Jim Parks, Walt Blackman, and other republicans. Not one democrat.</p> <p>LD7 is just flat out too big. That's what it comes down to. It's ran by Democrats when most of OUR area is republican and conservative. I've worked hard to keep this venue going strong for over 50 vendors EVERY WEEKEND May-October. On behalf of my 58 vendors today, I ask you to please give the inner white mountains a second district. We would have voted David and Jim in and had true representation of our direct area.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Tim Straw [REDACTED]</p>
07/31/2021 - 09:24	07/31/2021 - 09:24	Bruce M Piepho	community survey	Only displayed leaving the we bsite. no survey presented.
07/31/2021 - 12:39	07/31/2021 - 12:39	Maria A Lynam	Community of Interest/Listening Tour Survey Form	<p>Please consider allowing the Community of Interest/Listening Tour Survey Form to be submitted without a map! Not everyone is comfortable using the mapping tool, nor is it always possible to map a Col coherently. Thank you for considering this request.</p> <p>The Listening Tours have been most enlightening. Thank you to you all for giving us the opportunity to participate.</p>
07/31/2021 - 14:43	07/31/2021 - 14:43	Vivian Perry	Community of Interest	<p>My community of interest is the Western half of Yavapai County north of Black Canyon City. It does not include Sedona and the Verde Valley which are "over the mountain," a prominent geological feature which divides one area from the other.</p> <p>I live in Mayer/Cordes Junction which is an area accessing the same educational opportunities, hospital, shopping, and tourism as the Quad Cities area of Prescott/Prescott Valley/ Dewey-Humboldt/Chino Valley. We are a functioning unit.</p>

08/01/2021 - 18:23	08/01/2021 - 18:23	Emmelin Cardella	Fair Maps Arizona - problematic org pushing public testimony	<p>I am concerned about the organization Fair Maps Arizona and the information on their website titled "How to Write Effective Testimony". It gives explicit talking points (which contain some misinformation) and instructs supporters to email their comments to the Fair Maps State Director, who will then "finish them up." This seems counter to the purpose of public testimony. The founder and president of this organization is Steve Gaynor, a current Republican candidate for Governor, and vocal supporter of the AZ Senates problematic "audit" of the 2020 election in Maricopa County. He clearly has a partisan purpose in providing these instructions. Some of the Fair Maps recommended talking points include:</p> <p>"Explain that the previous commission was too focused on competitiveness. When districts are too competitive, nearly half of the population is bound to feel unrepresented."</p> <p>And</p> <p>"Inform the commission that the previous maps that were drawn did not have equal population. Some districts had 12% more population than others."</p> <p>The "12%" statistic is false. In 2011, the difference between the lowest populated district and the highest was less than 9%. More importantly, these population variations were challenged in court, and ultimately upheld by the US Supreme Court in a rare unanimous decision.</p> <p>Here is the full text from the Fair Maps Arizona website https://fairmapsarizona.org/how-to-write-effective-testimony/, as it appeared on 8/1/2021: How to Write Effective Testimony by Fair Maps Arizona in News. Posted July 13, 2021 The Arizona State Constitution requires the Independent Redistricting Commission to "respect communities of interest" when they draw congressional and legislative district boundaries. To learn about potential communities of interest, the Commission has announced that they will conduct a round of Public Hearings. Click here for the schedule.</p> <p>The commission will be listening to public testimony at these hearings. Individuals will be limited to three minutes. We recommend preparing your testimony in advance, and reading it to the commission at the hearing in your area.</p> <p>When writing your testimony focus on these points:</p> <p>Introduction Tell the commission who you are, where you live, where you work, where your children go to school, where you spend your free time, etc.</p> <p>Body Inform the commission of your communities of interest. Examples include your local school district, your zip code, your children's sports teams, your local church, where you work, and where you live. Your neighborhood, your area, and your town are all communities of interest and they should remain whole. Tell the commission to follow the constitution. Stress the importance of adhering to all six of the criteria laid out in the Constitution. Explain that the previous commission was too focused on competitiveness. When districts are too competitive, nearly half of the population is bound to feel unrepresented. If there was a problem, explain what went wrong 10 years ago with your current legislative and congressional district. Inform the commission that the previous maps that were drawn did not have equal population. Some districts had 12% more population than others. Districts should be compact to accurately represent communities of interest who live and work together.</p> <p>Conclusion Convincing the commission you belong to a community of interest is the goal of your testimony. Combine arguments about the other points with arguments about communities of interest. The commission has specifically called these hearings on communities of interest. That is what they are most interested in hearing about. Try to write no more than 300 words. You will be limited to three minutes and it is important to be to the point. Once you have a draft, send it to our Statewide Director Jay Wilson at jay@fairmapsarizona.org and he will help you finish it up. If you need more help writing your draft, review the below example of community of interest testimony:</p> <p>Hello, my name is [insert your name here], I live in Cochise County, and I am here today to give you information about my communities of interest.</p> <p>My community works in agriculture, tourism, mining and small businesses across the southern border. Many people work at government border agencies and others in produce and shipping at ports with Mexico. We are a proud lower income community that supports each other through family, churches and other local resources. We have a mining industry in Patagonia which is partnered with local Provisional colleges to train mining jobs.</p> <p>My community gathers in Nogales, and socializes at churches and schools in that community. We also gather with others in churches and schools in Sonoita. We shop in Nogales and Sierra Vista and access healthcare at clinics and</p>
--------------------	--------------------	------------------	--	---

08/01/2021 - 22:07	08/01/2021 - 22:07	Rita Day	Link for socioeconomic map on irc-az.gov doesn't work	<p>The irc.az.gov website has a link for the socioeconomic report, but it does not work. I have repeatedly gotten an error message. Please tell me how I can view this.</p> <p>I previously sent a request about where I could view the listening group in Prescott on Tuesday July27, 2020. I attended that session, but had to leave early, so wanted to view the video for the portion I missed after 7pm. Where is that video posted??</p> <p>I highly suggest that you allow more time for the public comments. Also, please allow public comments even if a draft map is not created. That is a huge ask for many people. We should not be prevented from submitting our input just because we don't feel knowledgeable with map drawing app.</p>
08/02/2021 - 11:40	08/02/2021 - 11:40	Dino J. DeConcini	AIRC's next job	Make all districts as competitive as possible which is in the best interest of everyone except a few partisan politicians. rhmfk
08/02/2021 - 11:54	08/02/2021 - 11:54	George Fisher	Redistricting!	Keep the districts just as they are as they have been working just fine for minority communities!
08/02/2021 - 20:06	08/02/2021 - 20:06	Dwayne F Rosemore	IRC meeting	<p>I was wondering where the meetings in Tucson will be held ?</p> <p>Thank you</p>
08/03/2021 - 10:39	08/03/2021 - 10:39	Lynne Hudson	Participation	I am concerned about the dearth of input from tribal residents. I realize the covid restrictions have contributed to the problem. It is unfortunate that we did not have outreach coordinators in place earlier because clearly outreach was needed. I urge you to do whatever you can to reach out to these residents. Does Commissioner Watchman have any suggestions?
08/03/2021 - 11:20	08/03/2021 - 11:20	Lynne Hudson	grid map	Many people who live outside Maricopa County already feel they are ignored far too often. Is it possible that starting in the largest population center might reinforce this perception? Seems to me that starting in a corner and using coin flips would avoid such criticism--and headaches for Commissioners.
08/03/2021 - 16:21	08/03/2021 - 16:21	William Bowlus-Root	Where to start the Grid Map	<p>As an Arizonan who lives in Yuma, I'm flattered by Commissioner York's proposal to start the drawing of the Grid Map here in Yuma (although I would point out that Yuma is not really in the farthest southwest corner of the state and also that water and immigration are just two of the significant issues facing us today - although you have heard many others that communities around the state are sharing with you during your public hearings in the past weeks.)</p> <p>One of the disadvantages of starting the process at a corner (or side) of the state is that such a method results in more erratic results the as you move farther from the chosen starting point. And it's a long, long, way from any corner of this state to the opposite corner.</p> <p>But there may be another approach that will work as well.</p> <p>Proposal: Once the census data is available, it will be possible to determine the exact center of population in the state. Start in the township or census block that is there.</p> <p>Of course, you'll still have the same additional choices to make that you would have with whatever starting point you decide on. How you move around the map to assemble the districts after choosing the starting point will have to be decided.</p> <p>Starting somewhere in the middle of the state would have the added benefit of being less erratic the farther you get from the starting point than if you start in one of the corners or sides of the state.</p> <p>Just a suggestion,</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
08/03/2021 - 19:07	08/03/2021 - 19:07	Jane Atkins	Planscore	The presentation on Planscore was very informative and surprisingly accurate in predicting race outcomes. We are almost evenly split between Republicans, Democrats and Others. In order to ensure maps that reflect Arizona's diverse voting population competitive maps are essential. I believe some predictive program like this is needed before the final maps are submitted. Thank you for your service.

08/04/2021 - 11:51	08/04/2021 - 11:51	Deborah Howard	PRA Request - Meeting Transcripts	<p>Please provide copies of the expense reports - for the period of July 1 - July 31 2021 - submitted by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Chairwoman Erika Neuberg 2) Vice Chairman Derrick Watchman 3) Commissioner Shereen Lerner 4) Commissioner David Mehl 5) Commissioner Douglas York <p>My preference is to receive copies of these records via email. If there are fees associated with searching for or copying the records, please inform me if the cost will exceed twenty dollars. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes. I affirm this to be a true statement.</p> <p>I am submitting this request through public comment portal because the PRA request form portal failed - twice - in submitting this request.</p> <p>Please respond to this request by September 1, 2021. If access to the requested records will take longer, please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]</p>
08/04/2021 - 11:51	08/04/2021 - 11:51	Deborah Howard	PRA Request - Meeting Transcripts	<p>Please provide copies of the expense reports - for the period of July 1 - July 31 2021 - submitted by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Chairwoman Erika Neuberg 2) Vice Chairman Derrick Watchman 3) Commissioner Shereen Lerner 4) Commissioner David Mehl 5) Commissioner Douglas York <p>My preference is to receive copies of these records via email. If there are fees associated with searching for or copying the records, please inform me if the cost will exceed twenty dollars. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes. I affirm this to be a true statement.</p> <p>I am submitting this request through public comment portal because the PRA request form portal failed - twice - in submitting this request.</p> <p>Please respond to this request by September 1, 2021. If access to the requested records will take longer, please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]</p>
08/04/2021 - 11:58	08/04/2021 - 11:58	Deborah Howard	PRA Request - Meeting Transcripts	<p>I request meeting transcripts for IRC Business Meetings for the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 22, 2021 June 29, 2021 July 6, 2021 July 13, 2021 July 19, 2021 July 20, 2021 July 27, 2021 August 3, 2021 <p>My preference is to receive copies of these records via email. If there are fees associated with searching for or copying the records, please inform me if the cost will exceed twenty dollars. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes. I affirm this to be a true statement.</p> <p>Please respond to this request by September 1, 2021. If access to the requested records will take longer, please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]</p> <p>I am submitting an identical request via the web "Contact Us" form as the proposed PRA request procedure is not functioning. I appreciate your attention to this request.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

08/04/2021 - 12:46	08/04/2021 - 12:46	Deborah Howard	Public Record Request	<p>Dear Commissioners and legal counsel of Ballard Spahr and Snell and Wilmer -</p> <p>IN seven months of meetings only two outside have been overtly referenced during public business meetings. The first meeting was reported by Chairwoman Neuberg who stated that she had met with Bo Dul with the AZ Secretary of State's office and had learned that January 2, 2022 was the "ideal date" to have the new congressional and state legislative district maps approved. The second meeting is taking place this Friday (I believe) with the Intertribal Council and attended by Chairwoman Neuberg and Vice Chairman Watchman. Since both of these meetings were revealed in passing it is apparent the IRC does not believe it appropriate to disclose meetings with interested third parties on the business of redistricting as a matter of public disclosure and transparency.</p> <p>Therefore, I am seeking copies the calendars reflecting all meetings and discussions with third parties related to the business of redistricting for the following Commissioners and staff for the following period: January 21, 2021 to July 31, 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Chairwoman Erika Neuberg 2) Vice Chairman Derrick Watchman 3) Commissioner Shereen Lerner 4) Commissioner David Mehl 5) Commissioner Douglas York 6) Executive Director Brian Schmitt <p>"interested third parties" would include but are not limited to elected members of Congress and the Arizona state legislature; elected officials and staff members of state government, cities and counties; representatives of good government groups such as Common Cause, League of Women Voters, Arizona Clean Elections Commission, Arizona Center for Empowerment, etc.; local and state elections officers; educational entities and organizations; advocacy organizations such as the NAACP, MALDEF, Intertribal Council of Arizona, Asian Americans Advancing Justice; and local and state chambers of commerce and other business interests.</p> <p>This is not a comprehensive list but presented to illustrate the breadth of organizations that have a legitimate interest in redistricting generally and the work of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission specifically. I hope that many, many conversations have taken place as the stakes are so high. The public has a right to know which organizations have been contributing to the framework by which individual members of the IRC have towards the work of the IRC in general – in addition to the public comments received and posted.</p> <p>In a perfect world the IRC would choose to agendize a summary discussion of these meetings during your business meetings to inform the public and each other. Since the commitment to transparency does not include this practice, I seek the records noted above.</p> <p>My preference is to receive copies of these records via email. If there are fees associated with searching for or copying the records, please inform me if the cost will exceed twenty dollars. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes. I affirm this is a true statement.</p> <p>Please respond to this request by September 1, 2021. If access to the requested records will take longer, please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]</p> <p>I am using the "Contact Us" form as the PRA request procedure is not functioning. I appreciate your attention to this request.</p>
--------------------	--------------------	----------------	-----------------------	---

08/04/2021 - 12:47	08/04/2021 - 12:47	Deborah Howard	Public Record Request	<p>Dear Commissioners and legal counsel of Ballard Spahr and Snell and Wilmer -</p> <p>IN seven months of meetings only two outside have been overtly referenced during public business meetings. The first meeting was reported by Chairwoman Neuberg who stated that she had met with Bo Dul with the AZ Secretary of State's office and had learned that January 2, 2022 was the "ideal date" to have the new congressional and state legislative district maps approved. The second meeting is taking place this Friday (I believe) with the Intertribal Council and attended by Chairwoman Neuberg and Vice Chairman Watchman. Since both of these meetings were revealed in passing it is apparent the IRC does not believe it appropriate to disclose meetings with interested third parties on the business of redistricting as a matter of public disclosure and transparency.</p> <p>Therefore, I am seeking copies the calendars reflecting all meetings and discussions with third parties related to the business of redistricting for the following Commissioners and staff for the following period: January 21, 2021 to July 31, 2021:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Chairwoman Erika Neuberg 2) Vice Chairman Derrick Watchman 3) Commissioner Shereen Lerner 4) Commissioner David Mehl 5) Commissioner Douglas York 6) Executive Director Brian Schmitt <p>"interested third parties" would include but are not limited to elected members of Congress and the Arizona state legislature; elected officials and staff members of state government, cities and counties; representatives of good government groups such as Common Cause, League of Women Voters, Arizona Clean Elections Commission, Arizona Center for Empowerment, etc.; local and state elections officers; educational entities and organizations; advocacy organizations such as the NAACP, MALDEF, Intertribal Council of Arizona, Asian Americans Advancing Justice; and local and state chambers of commerce and other business interests.</p> <p>This is not a comprehensive list but presented to illustrate the breadth of organizations that have a legitimate interest in redistricting generally and the work of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission specifically. I hope that many, many conversations have taken place as the stakes are so high. The public has a right to know which organizations have been contributing to the framework by which individual members of the IRC have towards the work of the IRC in general – in addition to the public comments received and posted.</p> <p>In a perfect world the IRC would choose to agendize a summary discussion of these meetings during your business meetings to inform the public and each other. Since the commitment to transparency does not include this practice, I seek the records noted above.</p> <p>My preference is to receive copies of these records via email. If there are fees associated with searching for or copying the records, please inform me if the cost will exceed twenty dollars. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes. I affirm this is a true statement.</p> <p>Please respond to this request by September 1, 2021. If access to the requested records will take longer, please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]</p> <p>I am using the "Contact Us" form as the PRA request procedure is not functioning. I appreciate your attention to this request.</p>
--------------------	--------------------	----------------	-----------------------	---

08/04/2021 - 22:43	08/04/2021 - 22:43	William Bowlus-Root	My testimony before the IRC at the Public Hearing in Yuma 8/4/21	<p>For the record, here is the text of the Public Hearing testimony I delivered at Yuma this evening: -----</p> <p>My name is William Bowlus-Root. I'm a retired software engineer in Yuma, 85365, CD4 and LD13.</p> <p>Chair Neuberger and Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to present my views to the Commission tonight. It's a pleasure to finally see you in person! I greatly appreciate the personal sacrifices each of you has made to help us with this consequential civic work. We all need to help you do that work conscientiously, so you can draw maps that result in fair and good representation and promote good governance.</p> <p>And so my comments tonight are intended in the spirit of constructive criticism – a reminder that I hope will help you do your work well.</p> <p>I'm here tonight as a concerned citizen and an Independent, like roughly a third of Arizonans (about the same as for each of the major political parties). We cast our ballots based not on a candidate's political party, but if the person has a good grasp of the challenges facing our communities as well as their connection to the people who struggle every day to live, work, and play in them. We ask how a candidate will tap into the rich set of talents and skills and ideas that Arizonans have for solving those challenges, for making life better for us – ALL of us, not just Democrats or Republicans, but ALL Arizonans.</p> <p>But we can't make those kinds of evaluations between candidates if the best candidates each party has to offer are not on the ballot.</p> <p>At the end of the last century, Arizonans became sick of the political parties vying for power rather than effectively governing. We became apathetic about voting, and candidates with new ideas were reluctant to enter a race that was stacked against them from the start.</p> <p>And, as our Framers fully anticipated in The Federalist Papers, The People took the steps necessary to take back the power they had entrusted to their representatives. They passed Proposition 106.</p> <p>It pays to remember what those voters read at the top of their ballots that day:</p> <p>"...RELATING TO ENDING THE PRACTICE OF GERRYMANDERING AND IMPROVING VOTER AND CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS BY CREATING AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF BALANCED APPOINTMENTS TO OVERSEE THE MAPPING OF FAIR AND COMPETITIVE CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS."</p> <p>Fair and competitive districts – districts that are responsive to the voters, to the will of The People. That's the vision the voters had and that you're tasked with making a reality.</p> <p>To do your duty, it's necessary for each of you to set aside your political bias and work together, not as competitors but as collaborators to draw districts that are fair and competitive. Doing so will bring out the best in both of the major parties, encourage new candidates with fresh ideas to come forward, and give ALL Arizonans meaningful choices at the polls.</p> <p>Once again, I thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of ALL The People of Arizona. I hope my comments will serve to assist you in your mission to make that vision a reality.</p>
--------------------	--------------------	---------------------	--	---

08/04/2021 - 23:06	08/04/2021 - 23:06	William Bowlus-Root	A Side-Benefit of the Listening Tour Sessions	<p>Thank you for conducting your Public Hearing in Yuma this evening. I felt it was a successful meeting. Of course it's a good opportunity for the public to get to know the members of the commission and to familiarize them with the process you're going through to arrive at the new district maps.</p> <p>But thinking a bit more about it, there's another benefit that you may not have been aware.</p> <p>As a participant, I learned a great deal about the wide range of perceptions my neighbors have of the efficacy of the current boundaries - what they find beneficial and/or dysfunctional about them as they relate to the ability of their representatives to effect good governance or not. I heard more satisfaction with the situation than I expected and was encouraged that members of my own community had thoughtful and potentially useful ideas for how to make small, or occasionally large, improvements. Granted we were seeing a somewhat select and probably not very representative cross-section of residents (it was pointed out to me that it was virtually impossible for most workers who live in San Luis to have knocked off work at 3:00 in order to have made it in time for the 5:00pm start), but even among the group that was in the room there were similar sentiments.</p> <p>I was also struck but the number of people who were surprised to have to admit that having Yuma split into three legislative districts had turned out to be favorable to the region because we have more representatives working to resolve our resource and funding issues. But then to have many of those very same people contradict their own argument and advocate for the creation of a single 'river counties' or full-western-AZ district that would have just one Congressman to represent us instead of the three that (should be) working in our combined interests under the current situation. It was surprising to see that people seemed to be taking up talking points they'd received instead of applying the same logic to both situations.</p> <p>In any case, the additional benefit I mention in the subject line refers to the fact that the participants are provided a unique window on the thinking of their neighbors, something they may have been unaware of before, and hopefully one that will provide avenues of civic collaboration for the future.</p> <p>Thanks again for stopping in Yuma,</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
08/05/2021 - 09:04	08/05/2021 - 09:04	John Mallory	IRC listening tour meetings	<p>The IRC listening tour needs to be expanded to reach more locations to include San Luis, Yuma County and Native communities in Navajo (Kayenta, Kykotsmovi Village), Gila (San Carlos), Pinal (Sacaton) and Pima (Sells) Counties. Thanks.</p>
08/05/2021 - 12:06	08/05/2021 - 12:06	Sharon R Edgar	Bad link for August 3, 2021 video	<p>Hello -</p> <p>On the webpage that lists meetings and agendas (https://irc.az.gov/public-meetings), the link for the August 3, 2021 "Meeting Minutes (Audio)" takes you to "public comments". It should take you to the video recording of the meeting. Thank you in advance for fixing this.</p> <p>Best, Sharon Edgar</p>

08/05/2021 - 15:44	08/05/2021 - 15:44	James Fox	Redistricting and Gerrymandering	<p>Thank you for the critical work you are doing on redistricting. Please make sure your maps stop gerrymandering. Gerrymanderers are deflecting from the importance of this fundamental goal. Redistricting criteria are very important. Gerrymanderers focus on some of these criteria and build maps that stress particular criteria AND the map is STILL GERRYMANDERED. Beware of this ploy. Do not allow gerrymanderers to implement other redistricting criteria in a way that hinders the eradication of gerrymandering. Please, keep your eye on the fundamental goal of stopping gerrymandering. Advocates of particular redistricting criteria should be aware that maps can be drawn that stop gerrymandering and achieve other redistricting criteria. But, in addition to advocating for particular criteria, make sure that gerrymandering is defeated and representative democracy prevails. The Guide to Fair Redistricting provides, for a wide range of states, examples of maps that advance specific redistricting criteria and prevent gerrymandering. https://preprints.apsanet.org/engage/api-gateway/apsa/assets/orp/resource/item/60e46f7ea4e06bf9217014db/original/fair-and-square-redistricting.pdf (more than 1500 views and 750 downloads)</p> <p>Best Wishes in the Pursuit of Fair Maps, Jim Fox</p>
08/05/2021 - 15:58	08/05/2021 - 15:58	Patricia Fleming	Communities of Interest, Southern Arizona	<p>My name is Pat Fleming. I live just south of Sierra Vista in Cochise County. I write this as a 12-year advocate for good government, congressional and legislative representation, and specifically for communities of interest, like ours here on Arizona's southern border.</p> <p>As a bi- or non-partisan Commission, each of you are mandated to be clear of partisanship as you take comments and move on to developing new congressional and legislative district lines. As such, and as you deliberate on new maps, you are set to be an exemplary Commission to, and for, all Arizonans, and possibly the entire USA. In compliance with mandates in the Arizona Constitution, please pay particular attention to the "compactness and contiguousness" pertaining to our specific "communities of interest."</p> <p>The current CDs, 1 and 2, meet these representation criteria in sharing Arizona/Mexico border that includes Cochise, Santa Cruz and Pima Counties. The distinct demographics and geographical boundaries of border communities, i.e., the Latino communities, as well as military communities, are classic and distinctive communities of interest. Latino communities are historically a competitive voting electorate.</p> <p>Thank you for being citizen volunteers. And...</p> <p>Thank you for your attention and consideration of all of our comments.</p>

08/05/2021 - 16:13	08/05/2021 - 16:13	Lynne Hudson	Participation	<p>While I thank all of you for your service, I want to thank Commissioner Watchman in particular for two things. First, for being sure that fellow Commissioners, staff and the listening public become more familiar with the history of voting rights and abuses experienced by residents of Arizona's 23 tribal communities. And second, for requesting that the Executive Director provide all Commissioners and the public with at least monthly budget reports. Transparency is always important, but especially in our current political environment, where suspicion abounds.</p> <p>An example: I am wondering why both Tucson sites are being held in private hotel/resort locations rather than at one of the Pima Community College campuses or other public venues. If these commercial businesses offered their facilities gratis as a service to the community, we all owe them our thanks and this should be acknowledged publicly. If public facilities were unavailable and/or more expensive, that should be acknowledged as well. But even if the choices were made for sound business reasons, I urge the Commissioners and staff to be sensitive going forward to the message we may be sending unwittingly, i.e., the locations chosen might be considered by some voters to be an indicator of who is expected to come, whose opinions are being solicited, and/or even worse, who is welcome to come. Commissioners are guests in these communities, and it is important that the meetings be held where all voters feel comfortable.</p> <p>Another example: Why did we not nail down the locations of the Tucson listening tour stops until just a few days before the events? One explanation I've heard is to depress the turnout because Tucson is a Democratic stronghold. I'm not saying this explanation is accurate, but I am saying that in the absence of an explanation for the Commission's decisions, Arizonans will supply their own. So while I recognize and appreciate that Commissioners have been sensitive to the emotionally charged and partisan environment in which they are doing their work, I request that they go the extra mile necessary to share with the public not only their decisions but the reasons underlying their decisions. I also request that they direct their staff to do the same.</p> <p>And lastly, why was an outreach coordinator not hired months ago--rather than halfway into the current listening tour? Given how remote and sparsely populated several areas in AZ are and given the long history of discrimination against our tribal communities, we could and should have anticipated that community outreach would be especially important to elicit input from residents of these areas--input that the Commissioners want and need to do their job effectively. It is clear from participation data reported on 8.3.21 that outreach efforts are sorely needed before the next round of listening tours.</p> <p>My goal in sharing my thoughts is not to criticize, but rather to provide information and ideas that may help you in the months ahead. Those of us who have attended your public meetings value and admire your efforts and commitment, and we are grateful.</p>
08/05/2021 - 16:17	08/05/2021 - 16:17	Elaine Downing	IRC hearings and process	<p>Dear Commission:</p> <p>I am writing today to warn you about the bias that is happening within this State. Based on the website of Fair Maps Arizona https://fairmapsarizona.org/how-to-write-effective-testimony/ they are encouraging people to write DRAFT testimony and to send them to the Director of this organization who will ..."finish them up" !! They are continuing with their disinformation by stating that in some districts the population was more than 12% than others. The population variations were challenged in court, and upheld by the US Supreme Court that they were fair. Its bad enough that the public is fooled by these people. I hope this Commission will follow the Constitution and follow the process. I'm sure you have a difficult job ahead of you, but I can only hope you will be fair and not be fooled by these jokers.</p> <p>Also, I hope you will consider more than one set of draft maps. It is hard to consider things that are not clearly in front of you. Like selecting a color of paint, it is always easier when you have them laid out in front of you. There is usually more than one way to meet a goal. Those that provide only one way are providing the road map they want you to take. A contractor who is truly non-biased will provide you several choices and let the COMMISSIONERS DECIDE.</p>