

ARIZONA		Web Comments 7.9.21 - 7.15.21			
Submitted Time	Completed Time	Modified Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
07/09/2021 - 05:43	07/09/2021 - 05:43	07/09/2021 - 05:43	Kate Donovan	submitting maps?	Hello - I see that you have a google form to accept comments during public meetings; is there also way to submit a map to the commission, either a community of interest map and/or a district plan? Thank you in advance,
07/09/2021 - 17:44	07/09/2021 - 17:44	07/09/2021 - 17:44	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	communities of interest form	I just received an email from the IRC saying "There are forms available at the public hearings, and or on the IRC website that can be used to define an area that you feel should be considered a community of interest." I cannot find these forms on your website. Can you help?
07/11/2021 - 15:11	07/11/2021 - 15:11	07/11/2021 - 15:11	Mark Hergott	Proposed Congressional Map	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I am submitting to you a proposed draft map for our state's congressional districts: <a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/3795a98e-b6c3-4693-b612-16a8f5c582d6">https://davesredistricting.org/join/3795a98e-b6c3-4693-b612-16a8f5c582d6</a>. Given the demographic changes in the state since 2010, this map creates three predominantly Hispanic/Latino districts rather than two as we have now. Additionally, District 1 retains a substantial Native American population. Furthermore, his map consolidates a number of currently split municipalities including Tucson, Yuma, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Peoria, and Goodyear. Furthermore, 5 of the 9 districts would likely be competitive, having voted for Trump or Biden by 8 points or less: District 9 (Biden +8), District 1 (Biden +3), District 3 (Biden +2), District 6 (Trump +2), and District 5 (Trump +7). Two of the other districts would have voted solidly for Biden: District 7 (Biden +50) and District 2 (Biden +27). The remaining two would have voted solidly for Trump: District 4 (Trump +36) and District 8 (Trump +14). This map meets multiple goals of the commission including VRA compliance, consolidating communities of interest, ensuring compactness, respecting municipal and county boundaries, and creating competitive districts. I encourage the commission to consider this map for adoption.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mark Hergott</p>
07/12/2021 - 15:00	07/12/2021 - 15:00	07/12/2021 - 15:00	Nancy Meister	1st Round of Public Hearings	I live in Yuma County and want to urge the Commission to revisit the August 4 Yuma meeting to include a satellite location in San Luis. San Luis is one of the fastest growing towns in Arizona with a population (largely Hispanic) of 36,000. It is important economically to the area and state with a commercial port of entry bringing goods distributed across the Southwest. San Luis is 25 miles south of Yuma and there is very limited public transportation in Yuma County so many citizens will only be able to participate if there is a meeting (satellite) there. I suggest the Caesar Chavez Cultural Center or the AWC Classroom. Thank you for the work you are doing.
07/12/2021 - 15:01	07/12/2021 - 15:01	07/12/2021 - 15:01	Virginia Dotson	Discrepancy in time of July 30 Listening Tour Apache County	Hello, I have just seen a press release for your listening tour meetings. It lists 2:00 pm MST/3 00 pm MDT for the Apache County meeting on Friday, July 30 h. Your website tab "public meetings" lists 5 00 pm for this meeting. Which one is correct? Thank you.
07/12/2021 - 16:57	07/12/2021 - 16:57	07/12/2021 - 16:57	Glenn Gimbut	Location of Redistricting Public Meetings	The City of San Luis is now a city of 35,000 and the City of Somerton, which is close to San Luis, is almost 20,000 population. This means more people in this area than all of La Paz County. As the retired City Attorney for San Luis and the first Town Attorney for Quartzsite, I know both counties. The sheer size of Southern Yuma County and its permanent population dwarfs Parker and Quartzsite. Quartzsite is easy to reach for all of La Paz. Please hold one hearing in La Paz and two in Yuma with one location in San Luis.
07/12/2021 - 21:51	07/12/2021 - 21:51	07/12/2021 - 21:51	Nancy Meister	Listening Tours	I assume there will be more information 7/13 on the format for the public meetings: how speakers sign up, length for each speaker, the format for maps that will be acceptable, and how you will deal with disruptive behavior as well as weapons in the public spaces. The two schedule options do not clearly describe the 2nd round of public meetings. Are these to be done during the public comment period (23 or 30 days)? Are the locations the same for the 2nd round or do you hope to reach more people by using different venues? Looking forward to more information. Thank you.

07/12/2021 - 23:14	07/12/2021 - 23:14	07/12/2021 - 23:14	Julie Pindzola	upcoming public listening tour hearings	<p>Hello</p> <p>I'd like to emphasize again the need for strong organization for these upcoming public meetings. Please have ADA accessibility, and Spanish and local tribal translators - as needed throughout the state. Have adequate seating. We look forward to seeing your stock presentation - to educate folks and to solicit helpful info. Please have a plan for how to handle any disruptive elements. I hope that rowdy attendees will be asked to leave. No intimidation permitted. Have adequate security.</p> <p>Will the mappers be ready to give some insight into the mapping input process? People are ready to try their hands at mapping their Communities of Interest!</p> <p>Lastly, I do not see the specific buildings identified for the YAVAPAI COLLEGE VENUES on 7/27. Please advise exactly where people should muster. There may be long lines to get in. Will seating be socially distant as COVID cases creep up again? Will there be overflow areas with speakers and microphones?</p> <p>Thank you for all your efforts to make this a success.</p>
07/13/2021 - 08:03	07/13/2021 - 08:03	07/13/2021 - 08:03	Xanthe Bullard	Public Hearings In Yuma/La Paz	<p>As a resident of Yuma County, I urge the commission to reconsider having only one location for the upcoming August 4th public hearing in Yuma, and 2 in La Paz. The population of Quartzite is 3,600 people, whereas Yuma County is the 4th largest metro district of Arizona, and has a community of color in San Luis, that has a population of 36,000, that will not be heard from if there isn't a satellite location here. San Luis is the fastest growing city in Arizona. Placing a satellite location in San Luis would also provide access to the communities of Somerton, and the Cocopah Tribal Nation which would otherwise be excluded due to the lack of proximity to the Yuma city location and the time of day for these working class communities. It is in the best interest of the commission to relocate the Quartzite satellite location to San Luis, because this would better serve the commission's requirement of inclusivity to communities of interest. Quartzite and Parker are similar in composition and interest, but San Luis and the surrounding communities have a far different make up and concerns than even Yuma city. Please reexamine this decision.</p>
07/13/2021 - 08:45	07/13/2021 - 08:45	07/13/2021 - 08:45	Dani McLeod	Voting - Redistricting	<p>I am glad to hear that the IRC has released its listening tour schedule in advance. However, the Commission must include a clear format for these hearings on how the public can deliver their testimonies. Arizonians will need to be informed via multiple channels in ways that are accessible to them. Furthermore, Arizonians should be informed on how to participate so they can be prepared to properly and advocate for their communities. On a final note, the IRC should provide translation/interpretation services.</p>
07/13/2021 - 09:00	07/13/2021 - 09:00	07/13/2021 - 09:00	Charlene Fernandez	Community Public Hearings	<p>Thank you for the extremely difficult work you are currently involved with. This is very important work and I want you to know that I appreciate your participation, involvement and ability to guide that work to benefit all communities in Arizona. I am currently concerned that a Public Hearing has not been scheduled for a thriving, growing, diverse community in Yuma County. San Luis Arizona as well as Somerton Arizona are both examples of cities in the Southwest corner of Arizona that represent a large growing population. Unfortunately a Public Meeting for the IRC was not scheduled in either area. San Luis with a population of over 36,000 was overlooked and Somerton noted for its growing population was not even considered for a Public Hearing. Both cities have venues that can accommodate a public meeting and have easy access for all populations. I urge you to consider either of these two cities for an IRC Public Hearing.</p>
07/13/2021 - 11:29	07/13/2021 - 11:29	07/13/2021 - 11:29	Nancy Meister	Meeting of 7/13/21	<p>The meeting video stopped at about 2 hours and 29 minutes. The agenda had not been completed. We did not hear from the Executive Director or any items after the 2 guest presentations and the Commission took a break and went into executive session. Is there a part 2 to today's session and is it a legal meeting if the public could not view/listen? I don't believe the issue was on my end as my internet is working fine. Thank you for the guest presentations this morning as they were very interesting.</p>
07/13/2021 - 13:45	07/13/2021 - 13:45	07/13/2021 - 13:45	Gail Griffin	Meeting location	<p>Please hold a meeting in Cochise County. Sierra Vista is the population base with 50,000+-. Ten years ago the redistricting commission held the meeting in Sierra Vista.</p> <p>I respectfully request a meeting in Sierra Vista, Cochise County. Thank you</p> <p>Gail Griffin  </p>
07/13/2021 - 20:19	07/13/2021 - 20:19	07/13/2021 - 20:19	Africa Carrasco	Hold Public Meeting in San Luis	<p>San Luis is one of the fastest growing cities in the state. It is a port of entry and plays a significant role in the state. Having a satellite location in San Luis is an opportunity to enable more communities of color to participate. Leaving them out for an additional location in a similar rural area of La Paz is detrimental to hearing from all the public interests of the region. San Luis has two locations that could easily serve as satellites and fulfill capacity and technology requirements of the public hearings.</p>

07/14/2021 - 10:29	07/14/2021 - 10:29	07/14/2021 - 10:29	Marco (Tony) Reyes	Public hearing locations	I am Marco A Tony Reyes, Chairman of the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, I am very surprised to find out you have actually scheduled two (2) public hearing in LA PAZ County A relatively small county and only one in Yuma County, one of the largest counties in the state of Arizona. While in do not have a problem with having more hearing, scheduled throughout the State I really hope you will consider San Luis, Az a population center probably larger than the whole of LA Paz County as an additional site as it is relatively a sizable distance from the city of Yuma and at the center of South Yuma County. Thank you
07/14/2021 - 17:27	07/14/2021 - 17:27	07/14/2021 - 17:27	Lynne Hudson	IRC Process going forward	<p>DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY PRESENTATIONS: I appreciated the IRC scheduling presentations by experts with alternative perspectives on differential privacy. Both were interesting and informative, but I am having some difficulty reconciling their differences. My takeaways include: (1) Mr. Bryan did not dismiss the value of privacy, but he focused much more on accuracy. Dr. Moon pointed out that the Census Bureau is mandated by law to use methods that address both concerns. (2) Mr. Bryan provided examples of data he found especially alarming, e.g., households with children but no adults and households with 15 or more persons, but it was not clear to me from his remarks if and/or how such data would be used to draw maps. If I understand correctly, Dr. Moon addressed that concern by acknowledging that such anomalies would be present initially when noise was introduced to protect privacy, but these anomalies would disappear through the process of fine tuning required by the differential privacy method. This conclusion seemed to be supported strongly by her research findings. (3) If anomalous data such as households with no adults are the basis for drawing maps, then I am concerned. But if maps are drawn using the finely tuned data discussed by Dr. Moon, then I am persuaded that the Census Bureau has made a sound choice in changing its procedures. (4) This choice was further reinforced by Dr. Moon's brief description of how individual data could be used for potentially damaging purposes, should they get in the hands unauthorized users. I question how effectively our privacy can be protected in today's world, but I support the Census Bureau's efforts to do so.</p> <p>LISTENING TOUR: Like other commenters, I am concerned that the IRC has not yet adopted, let alone publicized, a stock presentation and operating procedures. The IRC procedures (1) should be publicized in advance of the first tour stop AND (2) state in writing that at each stop on the tour, all citizens from that area will be allowed to speak before any citizens from outside the area will be allowed to speak. To do otherwise would give commissioners a false impression of the needs and wishes of citizens from different parts of the State. That is, after all, the goal of the listening tour. In the interest of transparency, might I suggest that speakers begin by stating their names and their residences. And might I suggest further that the Commission collect and retain the request to speak cards as a record. (Such procedures may have been used in the past, but I doubt I am the only interested person who was not a resident of AZ at the time of the two previous commissions.)</p> <p>On a different topic entirely, I note that technology issues continue to be a problem. What I thought was going to be a 5-minute recess turned out to be the end of today's meeting, at least at my end of the connection. There were several other important items on the agenda, so I'm hoping followers will be able to watch the rest of today's meeting on a recording.</p>
07/14/2021 - 17:45	07/14/2021 - 17:45	07/14/2021 - 17:45	Rita Day	YouTube video of July 13th meeting	I am really disappointed that I was unable to view the entire meeting. The YouTube video is only approximately 2.5 hours in length. Everything after the break that was taken after the 2 presentations, was not on the YouTube video. This is definitely not providing transparency to the public. I was anxious to hear the report from the executive director Schmitt, as there are still several unfilled positions, which we have been anxiously waiting to hear his progress on filling these badly needed positions. If this failure in having the entire meeting videotaped a technical issue, these issues needed to be dealt with so the public is not left out from viewing these proceedings. There have been persistent tech issues throughout this process. These issues should be resolved by now. What is being done so that the public can view the 2nd half of the July 13th meeting. Doesn't someone take written notes that could be published??? I would appreciate the written notes of the meeting being posted, in addition to the YouTube video.
07/15/2021 - 17:22	07/15/2021 - 17:22	07/15/2021 - 17:22	Nancy Meister	Public Hearings Schedule	I am concerned that POC will be excluded from testifying about their community of interest by not having a satellite location in San Luis, Arizona, a community of 36,000. It is a 25 mile drive to the Yuma Civic Center and public transportation is very limited for those without a car. Having only 1 site in Yuma County, with a population of about 200,000 vs 2 sites in La Paz County with about 21,000 population, does not seem to provide equal access. Today's need for more inclusive of POC does suggest revising your schedule to include San Luis, Arizona. Thank you for your consideration.

07/15/2021 - 19:53	07/15/2021 - 19:53	07/15/2021 - 19:53	Sterling Fluharty	Testing the claims about differential privacy	<p>I appreciate you lining up the two speakers on differential privacy at the last commission meeting. I thought they offered valuable perspectives. I would encourage you to build on the insights and recommendations they offered.</p> <p>One line of inquiry that I think would be worth pursuing is an estimation of the Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) by Race and Ethnicity for Arizona in 2020. In 2016, the U.S. Census Bureau reported the CVAP for Arizona was 65.6% non-Hispanic white and 33.4% minority. The American Community Survey (ACS) average for 2017-2019 indicated that the state's CVAP was 37.0% minority and 63.0% non-Hispanic white (+/-0.2%). Nailing down these numbers for 2020 might prove important for your redistricting work.</p> <p>The state demographer's recent presentation to the commission showed that only two of the current congressional districts for Arizona are minority-majority. The commission might want to explore whether the distribution of the minority CVAP population would support a total of three minority-majority districts. The ACS data could support an exploration of this hypothesis for Arizona. Once an initial feasibility study is conducted, the results could then be profitably compared to the decennial census redistricting data that will be released in mid-August.</p> <p>At your recent commission meeting, one of the speakers warned that minority-majority districts could drop below 50% minority because of differential privacy. The other speaker was confident that minority enumerations would be largely unaffected once tabulation blocks were aggregated up to the district level. The experiment I suggested above could give the commission a way to 1) test the competing claims of the speakers and 2) validate the 2020 census data with recent ACS data. That way the commission could be in a better position to demonstrate whether or not it was possible to draw minority-majority CVAP districts as well as how many of these districts the data could support.</p>
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