



**Web Comments 8.20.21 - 8.26.21**

<b>Submitted Time</b>	<b>Completed Time</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Message</b>
08/20/2021 - 14:48	08/20/2021 - 14:48	Nancy Meister	Opportunities to speak to the Commission	Thank you for conducting the first round of public hearings. I am wondering if it would be possible for individuals to directly speak to the Commission during your regular business meetings. The ACC and the state legislature both have set up ways that one can sign up and remotely speak at their meetings/hearings. Perhaps the IRC Executive Director could look into that option. I believe the intent of Prop 106 was to allow as much public input as possible whether it be from individuals or groups. However if groups are to be invited it should not be a selected and limited list. That opportunity should be open to all. Thank you for your work. I look forward to seeing the grid maps.
08/21/2021 - 16:30	08/21/2021 - 16:30	Julie Pindzola	Mapping Training	<p>Dear IRC Chair and Commissioners *****</p> <p>I want to pass along some of the recent experiences I've had trying out the several mapping tutorials on public sites, including Representable, Dave's Redistrict App, Districtr, and ESRI. (Today I'm trying District Builder and the AZ Mirror's mapping tool.) It would be super helpful to know which, if any beyond ESRI, might be compatible with Timmons' upcoming set up - even if only to practice for what we are expected to use soon.</p> <p>Those mapping tutorials on YouTube are particularly hard to see and therefore to follow. There are many steps and clicks, and the buttons to click are impossible to read - this includes the ESRI site. I hope your training will be much better than what we have available currently on YouTube. The public needs to have at least as good an orientation on the mapping software as the Commissioners get since we will be the primary users. The public needs to be able to submit accurate and well understood comment maps responding to the GRID and DRAFT maps. Anything less is extremely unfair and legally problematic.</p> <p>We see in the public comments that many had trouble with the COI survey mapping function. I took several practice runs before submitting mine. It was still a bit rough because there were no Census block or precincts to follow. Of course, any added accuracy comes with more complexity and challenge for the mapper. I hope you are working to make the update and training as accurate and intuitive as possible.</p> <p>Thank you so much for considering the needs of your engaged citizens. Sincerely, Julie Pindzola</p>
08/21/2021 - 18:39	08/21/2021 - 18:39	Thomas McConnell	Direct Data Download	It would be helpful if anyone using GIS software could download data – CD, LD, Tract or Precinct – in a standard format such as shapefile. This could simply be added to the list on your webpage MAPS tab that already offers downloads in PDF or JPG formats. It would also save time for your mapping consultant if proposed map changes or alternatives could be uploaded in the same format,

08/23/2021 - 16:18	08/23/2021 - 16:18	Lynne Hudson	Competitiveness	<p>Thank you for being accessible to voters wishing to share their views about redistricting. I consider myself a Tucsonan, although I live north of the city limits and adjacent to the Catalina Foothills. I attended both Tucson sessions via Zoom. On Saturday, several speakers who reside in exurban communities like Oro Valley and Marana spoke passionately that they wanted to be in districts with "like-minded" voters. Addressing their communities of interest, they described what they valued about their geographical areas --good schools, safe neighborhoods, access to quality health care, air and water, recreational venues, and more. Interestingly, these are things Tucsonans value as well, though the similarities were overlooked by the Oro Valley and Marana speakers I cited above. Their common theme was "We don't want to be in the same district as them because we have absolutely nothing in common." Their focus was not on what unites us. They seemed to want to build silos, not bridges.</p> <p>So let's state the obvious here. Tucson is more diverse, racially, ethnically, culturally and economically. These attributes are why many people choose to live in Tucson, but they are also why many others choose to live elsewhere. But living in different towns does not mean we have nothing in common. We are all Americans, living in a nation founded on a commitment to unite people from many different places as one nation, E Pluribus Unum. And as Americans, we are bound by the same Constitution, which requires us to promote not only liberty, but justice, peace, prosperity and the general welfare as well.</p> <p>Promoting the general welfare is expensive. The cost must be shared by all, but it cannot be shared equally because Americans do not have equal economic resources. The gap between the rich and the poor has been growing steadily for more than fifty years, and it is most pronounced in cities. Tucson is no different. It has its share of wealthy people, but it has a far larger percentage of poor folks, many of whom are unable to provide for their basic needs. Such poverty leads to a host of social problems--substandard housing, food insecurity, poor schools, inadequate social services and infrastructure, as well crime, depression and other psychological problems, and substance abuse. I believe the majority of Arizonans understand these linkages. I believe citizens of good will from different socioeconomic backgrounds can sit down together to discuss the problems faced by poor folks in urban, rural and tribal areas and find solutions that benefit everyone. Two detailed examples are provided below. The details matter because this is no time for unfunded mandates.</p> <p><b>Criminal Justice Reform:</b> All Arizonans are concerned about safety. A strong case can be made that all Arizonans would be safer if a larger share of the AZ corrections budget (reportedly \$1.3 billion last year) was spent in local communities on education, diversion and drug treatment programs, and hiring more probation officers to reduce caseloads, thereby providing more support to help clients avoid violations that send them back to prison. Research indicates that such innovations could be funded without budget increases (and possibly budget savings) by reducing the prison population using strategies such as shortening mandatory minimum sentences and allowing deserving inmates to apply for probation before serving 85% of their terms.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> All Arizona residents want good schools, but schools in poorer areas are not as well funded as those in affluent areas because poorer communities lack the means to supplement State school funding with local tax dollars. As a result, children with the greatest needs have the fewest resources. In most states, lawmakers acknowledge this and allocate additional funding for low-income students. Arizona does not. Arizona also has trouble attracting and retaining good teachers because our teacher salaries are not competitive. The governor talks often about the progress we have made in this area, but the fact is that recent hikes in teacher salaries have barely moved the needle. Studies document that Arizona now ranks 48th rather than 49th place among the 50 states.</p> <p>The most troubling thing to say about Arizona education funding is that the disparities are by design, planned and enacted on a party line vote by our Arizona Legislature. The most encouraging thing to say about these inequities in education is that they are not endorsed by the majority of Arizona voters. The majority know good schools benefit all of us by producing employable graduates who pay taxes, raise families, and stay out of trouble. The majority know good schools and a reliable workforce grow the economy by attracting new businesses to Arizona.</p> <p>The most hopeful thing to say regarding educational inequities in Arizona is that the majority of voters were so fed up with the Legislature's failure to draft and pass educational reform that they took matters into their own hands. They drafted their own bill, Prop 208, that addressed the problems and passed the measure on a bipartisan basis in 2020. This is reminiscent, of course, of Prop 106, the citizen's ballot initiative that created the Independent Redistricting Commission in 2000. The success of both initiatives demonstrates the majority of Arizonans want fairness and can and will work together to pass legislation that benefits all of us.</p> <p>The success of these citizen initiatives begs the question: Why was the Arizona Legislature not responsive to this voting majority? Why, in fact, did they attempt to ignore the will of the majority by going to court to overturn parts of Prop 106 and by enacting legislation to offset parts of Prop 208? One possible answer is that our legislators are not hearing the voices of the majority of Arizonans when they visit their districts. The task before us is to be sure they hear all our voices going forward so we don't have to do their work for them.</p> <p>Our experiences with Propositions 106 and 208 demonstrate that the collaboration necessary to pass legislation that benefits all Arizonans does not occur in silos inhabited only by "like-minded" folks. It happens when people with different ideas and perspectives meet, when their paths cross, when they must explain and justify their positions to each other. One way to make paths cross is to create voting districts that have somewhat equal representation. An added benefit of drawing more competitive (i.e., inclusive voting districts) is that potential candidates will be more aware of where constituents of every political persuasion can agree and find consensus. (Arizonans who want to see this kind of collaboration at work need only watch public meetings</p>
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08/23/2021 - 17:47	08/23/2021 - 17:47	Rita Day	mapping consultant training for commissioners and public	<p>Back in April or May, when the Commission was debating which mapping team to select (Timmons group or Haystaq) I recall Commissioner Neuberg being concerned that Haystaq mapping team had made some prior commitments and was concerned that they would not have sufficient time to devote to this mapping project. Haystaq mapping team was the choice of commissioners Lerner and Watchman because they had a better record of having their maps approved by the courts.</p> <p>However, Commissioners Neuberg, Mele &amp; York voted for Timmons group, regardless of their poorer track record in having their maps approved by the courts.</p> <p>Now, 17 weeks later, Timmons Group schedule doesn't allow for them to prepare a mapping Training session for the Commissioners and the public. Instead they have opted for Training by ERSI. This is unacceptable. They should've been prepared to offer training to Commissioners and the Public. It seems like Commissioner Neuberg's concern about Haystaq, having too many assignments on their plate, was just an excuse to select the Mapping team that was preferred by the Republicans, regardless of their poor record in getting their maps approved by the courts.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rita Day</p>
08/23/2021 - 22:33	08/23/2021 - 22:33	Maria A Lynam	Comment for August 24 IRC Meeting	<p>Thanks for the Listening Tour outreach. Now your highest priority must given to a process so the public can provide realtime feedback on the grid maps. The same process should be available when the draft maps are released and also when the final proposed maps are available.</p>
08/24/2021 - 08:00	08/24/2021 - 08:00	Julie Pindzola	Mapping Criteria and Procedures	<p>Dear IRC</p> <p>I have tried out several mapping software tools that are free and publicly available. It is a big, ongoing leaning opportunity but one that takes quite a bit of personal time. ESRI's was not necessarily the most intuitive and their YouTube training video was a challenge. I ask again that you make the AZ IRC mapping training and tools effective to use and easy to read and understand. A live session with Timmons for the public's training would be invaluable and honor the stated goal of transparency and public inclusion in this process. Pushing us all to YouTube for self training is not very welcoming or accommodating. There will be much frustration, I'm afraid.</p> <p>Regarding the goal to honor county boundaries as much as possible: In Prop 106 Criteria E, the recognition of Natural Features comes before city limits or county limits, or Census Tract boundaries. I understand that county splits are not ideal but they are necessary at times to achieve true COI recognition and to meet population requirements of the subject districts. Please recognize that Central Yavapai County is quite different from Eastern Yavapai County (i.e. the Verde Valley). The residents of the Verde Valley have articulated this very well as they orient much more to Flagstaff than they do Prescott. MIngus Mountain and the Verde River/ I-17 Corridors all work to influence this situation.</p> <p>I appreciated Doug Johnson explaining a bit of the methodology of evaluating the +910 maps received as Communities of Interest (COI). We would appreciate even more insight into how this work will be done. We've been told by Timmons that written comments are also being assembled and digitized. Will this compiled digitized info be posted for the public to see?</p> <p>Thank you. I appreciate your all your work and look forward to Fair and Competitive Maps for Arizona, even if not in each and every district.</p>
08/24/2021 - 08:39	08/24/2021 - 08:39	William Bowlus-Root	Move vs. Motion	<p>Would someone please inform Commissioner York that the correct way to introduce a motion is to say "I move..." or "I make a motion...". He says "I motion...", which is incorrect. It's a nit, I know, but every time he says it, it grates on anyone who has run meetings or who is familiar with Robert's Rules of Order. It diminishes the impression of competence I'm sure he wants to project.</p>
08/24/2021 - 09:44	08/24/2021 - 09:44	William Bowlus-Root	Proposal for expert presentation on minority groups within the state	<p>Commissioner Lerner suggested including a future agenda item to have an expert on minorities in the state present an overview of those groups -- who are they and where are they concentrated, but also the history of voting challenges these minority groups have faced over their history -- similar to what was presented regarding native tribes a few weeks ago.</p> <p>The state's demographer who spoke before the commission at one of its first meetings earlier this year might be a good choice for such a presentation, but you might find information about the history of cases related to these groups under the Voting Rights Act and other litigation (as in the earlier presentation) to be useful as well.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>

08/24/2021 - 15:09	08/24/2021 - 15:09	Rita Day	Choice of Mapping Team	<p>Back in April or May, when the Commission was debating which mapping team to select (Timmons group or Haystaq) I recall Commissioner Neuberg being concerned that Haystaq mapping team had made some prior commitments and was concerned that they would not have sufficient time to devote to this mapping project. Haystaq mapping team was the choice of commissioners Lerner and Watchman because they had a better record of having their maps approved by the courts.</p> <p>However, Commissioners Neuberg, Mele &amp; York voted for Timmons group, regardless of their poorer track record in having their maps approved by the courts.</p> <p>Now, 17 weeks later, Timmons Group schedule doesn't allow for them to prepare a mapping Training session for the Commissioners and the public. Instead they have opted for Training by ERSI. This is unacceptable. They should've been prepared to offer training to Commissioners and the Public. It seems like Commissioner Neuberg's concern about Haystaq, having too many assignments on their plate, was just an excuse to select the Mapping team that was preferred by the Republicans, regardless of their poor record of getting their maps approved by the courts.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rita Day</p>
08/24/2021 - 22:16	08/24/2021 - 22:16	Eric Main	Prison Gerrymandering	<p>Can I get more information on what the position of this commission on the effects of prison inmates on the maps? What AZ state laws do you have to follow and as an independent commission what are you guys doing to make it fair? I can't imagine an independent commission just ignoring something so egregious</p>
08/26/2021 - 15:38	08/26/2021 - 15:38	Jana Lynn Granillo	Regarding training and submitting maps for consideration.	<p>Regarding training and submitting maps for consideration, the following comments are submitted. The ultimate goal is that the public will be provided training, tools and alternative to draw maps to ultimately influence decisions given the constitutional criteria and discretion of commission.</p> <p>I would like to see: technical support and or hotline and or chat to assist while using online mapping software; prompts related to criteria for narrative comments; alternatives to mapping software to submit maps; outreach at public libraries to serve as an education and opportunity to submit maps; and language alternatives to include ADA accommodation.</p> <p>I would like to see info graphics produced by IRC to help organizations get the word out.</p> <p>Thank you for your work.</p>
08/26/2021 - 16:38	08/26/2021 - 16:38	Jana Lynn Granillo	Kudos for requesting presenter - academic on hx of demography in AZ	<p>A heartfelt thank you for consideration of an academic demographic speaker on AZ history of population.</p> <p>As a Latina, lifetime resident of AZ and from pioneer family, it is important to understand where people live and why to include "redlining", discrimination, impact of building the freeway through older communities and community affiliation. The intersection of the history with the latest Census data- people moving into AZ is important in understanding communities of interest and perhaps voting polarization.</p> <p>Thanks again for your work.</p>