



**Web Contact Us Comments 6.11.21 - 6.17.21**

<b>Submitted Time</b>	<b>Completed Time</b>	<b>Modified Time</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Message</b>
06/11/2021 - 14:12	06/11/2021 - 14:12	06/11/2021 - 14:12	Nicole Dunger	Redistricting Information	<p>Hi, my name is Nicole with Catalist and we were interested to know if you have a date.deadline by which you are to produce the redistricting information? Understanding the delays in the census data, we just want to be prepared for when the information will come out.</p> <p>All the best, Nicole</p>
06/11/2021 - 19:54	06/11/2021 - 19:54	06/11/2021 - 19:54	Ed Fredenburg	proposed redistricting approach	<p>My organization, Project to End Partisan Gerrymandering, has submitted a proposal on redistricting to 49 members of the US Congress - leaders from both parties, and members of committees with responsibility for federal elections, in both houses of Congress. For the essence of that proposal, visit our website at <a href="http://endgerrymandering.us">endgerrymandering.us</a></p>
06/11/2021 - 20:43	06/11/2021 - 20:43	06/11/2021 - 20:43	Gary E Robbins	Northern Arizona	<p>Please create a Northern Arizona Congressional District consisting solely of the 5 northern Arizona counties of Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache counties. Northern Arizona has nothing in common with Maricopa or Pima Counties. Arizona has 9 members of Congress. Is it too much to ask that rural Arizona be represented by a member of Congress, who does not answer to Maricopa, Pima or Pinal counties?</p>

06/12/2021 - 11:05	06/12/2021 - 11:05	06/12/2021 - 11:05	Lynne Hudson	IRC Process going forward	<p>Thank you all for reaffirming the AZ law passed in 2020 that specifies the times when input from State legislators is to be provided. At last week's meeting Commissioner Learner raised the issue of putting procedures in place to ensure that local/area voters at each stop along your statewide tour are given speaking priority. I believe this is an issue worthy of discussion at a public meeting, and I hope you will put it on your agenda.</p> <p>The purpose of your tour is to get a sense of what matters to voters in different parts of the state. For this reason, it would be inappropriate if the representative views of voters in any region are overpowered by bands of partisans of either political party who might follow you around the state and make sure that their views are heard over and over at each stop.</p> <p>I was not a resident of Arizona until 2015, so I am unaware of what procedures were in place to address this concern in prior cycles. One possible strategy that occurred to me is requiring persons who want to speak to write the town where they vote at the top of the request to speak card that I'm imagining you will ask them to fill out. It would be easy, then, for staff to grant speaking privileges first to locals. In addition, all persons who speak should state their hometown before beginning their remarks. The cards of all speakers could be preserved and serve as a record of who participated. I think this level of documentation and transparency would be useful given the current partisan political climate.</p> <p>Thank you again for your willingness to serve and support representative democracy.</p>
06/12/2021 - 12:00	06/12/2021 - 12:00	06/12/2021 - 12:00	Linda Rodrick	Redistricting Hearings	<p>I am writing with concern that the redistricting hearings lack transparency and sufficient public notification. I encourage the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) to: host hearings for Pinal County so our voices can be heard regarding redistricting; the IRC should engage in public outreach to encourage citizens to attend meetings; and the IRC should provide recordings of live stream hearings that can be viewed on your website.</p>
06/13/2021 - 11:18	06/13/2021 - 11:18	06/13/2021 - 11:18	Debbie Logan	Public hearings	<p>In planning the public hearings, the Commission must prioritize accessibility, giving every Arizonan who wants to make their voices heard in the process the opportunity to do so.</p> <p>I would like to see the Commission have a hearing in the Green Valley/Sahuarita area. This is approximately in the center of state legislative district 2. The venue I would recommend would be the the Community Performing Arts Center in Green Valley. This venue will seat 500 people and is not far off of Hwy. 19</p> <p>These hearings should be scheduled outside normal work hours so all could attend.</p>

06/13/2021 - 14:08	06/13/2021 - 14:08	06/13/2021 - 14:08	Valerie Bridges	Make meetings more available to the public	I'd like to take this opportunity to urge commissioners to make meetings more accessible to Arizonans by selecting venues across the state and conducting meetings outside of business hours.
06/13/2021 - 14:58	06/13/2021 - 14:58	06/13/2021 - 14:58	Valerie E. Green	Public Meetings by the Redistricting Commission	I am urging the Commission to have several public meetings to allow for all of our voices to be heard. This would include on tribal lands, as well as large, and small communities, such as mine: Green Valley/Sahuarita. Meeting should be held outside of normal working hours, be easily accessible, be ADA compliant and have interpreters for the deaf, as well as for relevant languages in each community.
06/13/2021 - 17:46	06/13/2021 - 17:46	06/13/2021 - 17:46	Peggy Chaikin	Commissioners' visits	Hello, I am wiring on behalf of a neighbor who does not use an internet communication device due to poor connectivity and would like to be able to plan her attendance at your visit here in the Verde Valley/Sedona region. We in this rural area want to be included in your list of venues to visit. Those of us with reliable internet connections will help our neighbors attend so that we can better understand the processes you are engaged in. Thank you for alerting me to your field meeting schedule. Peggy Chaikin
06/14/2021 - 10:24	06/14/2021 - 10:24	06/14/2021 - 10:24	Brian Templet	Public Accessibility	It is important that the commission visit all areas of the state to allow public meeting accessibility. Everyone's voice should be heard.
06/14/2021 - 10:48	06/14/2021 - 10:48	06/14/2021 - 10:48	Cindy Wagner	Public Meetings	Dear Commissioners: 1) Public meetings must be very well publicized using local media, social media, mail, phone banks; and via entities in each community that are broad based, e.g., public schools, libraries, churches, social organizations, non profits & of course Tribal entities. 2) In order to ensure that ALL people can participate, public hearings must be held at various times -not just during normal working hours - to include evenings, weekends etc. 3) There must be plenty of advance notice (see 1 above) so those wishing to attend can arrange for child care, elder care & transportation; and the IRC should reach out to non profits to see if some of those will assist in providing child/elder care and transportation at no or reduced cost. 4) Public hearing locations must be ADA compliant, and to include closed captioning translation service and interpretation services offered, wherever possible 5) And where such exists, locations should be convenient to public transportation. 6) Public hearings should be geographically diverse to ensure that ALL Arizonans, wherever they live, can participate. 7) Hearing locations should be selected with input from local organizations/non profits (that work with often marginalized communities) to ensure they are as convenient as possible - and as 'welcoming' as possible for everyone.

06/14/2021 - 10:50	06/14/2021 - 10:50	06/14/2021 - 10:50	Cindy Wagner	Timmons Group Software program	what provision will the Commission make to provide training on ESRI so the public can provide input as suggested above. This process must start before the upcoming public meetings so citizens can provide adequate feedback
06/14/2021 - 12:34	06/14/2021 - 12:34	06/14/2021 - 12:34	Lynn Peters	Community Meeting Schedule	I always review the meetings after the fact so that can fast forward of pause as needed. At the June 8th meeting the seemed to be a discussion of a Community meeting draft schedule that Executive Director Schmidt prepared. It would have been very helpful if that document was displayed for the viewing public. We could then pause the recording and review the schedule being discussed. Please keep in mind any discussion of documents the public has not seem. If it was published and I missed it I apologize.
06/14/2021 - 14:55	06/14/2021 - 14:55	06/14/2021 - 14:55	James Heiman	Redistricting hearings	<p>During the last redistricting efforts in 2011, 23 public hearings were held prior to grid maps being drawn with multiple meetings being held in remote parts of the state. This allowed for critical early input from often underrepresented Arizona communities. However, this cycle, the tentative schedule only has 9 in-person meetings scheduled. This is unacceptable and the standard set by the previous commission should at the least be met, if not exceeded.</p> <p>The proposed public hearing schedule currently does not have dedicated dates for Pinal County, the third largest county in our state, and adding dates in counties that have no hearings scheduled was not discussed during today's IRC meeting. All the communities of Arizona should be able to weigh in on redistricting plans.</p> <p>Pinal County is the third largest county in the state with over half a million people yet we're being left out of the conversation and ignored. I am from, raised, and work in Pinal county as well as the rest of my family. so please put an emphasis on the fact that we should be included in the redistricting process just like it was in the previous commission and should be able to have access to provide early public input. Pinal County had one early public hearing last cycle which should easily be met if not exceeded due to our high population in the state.</p> <p>If the current schedule is adopted, it would not give enough time for community outreach before the first hearing to insure the public can have their voices heard. Why is it necessary to complete the hearings by August? The Commission should first engage in significant public outreach to encourage community members to attend and at the very least inform them of the opportunity to attend.</p>
06/14/2021 - 16:42	06/14/2021 - 16:42	06/14/2021 - 16:42	Devin Festa	Pinal County Public Hearings	I am a lifetime resident of Pinal County and was told that there would be no public hearings for early input given to us by the Independent Redistricting Commission. It is unfair to our county since we have a half million residents that deserve to have their concerns heard about redrawing political district lines. We deserve to be included in this phase of input so the commission can create fair and equitable maps for Arizona. Please include Pinal County in this process.

06/14/2021 - 16:51	06/14/2021 - 16:51	06/14/2021 - 16:51	Kate Boettcher	Please expand public hearings for redistricting!	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Kate Boettcher and I am writing to you today to please urge you to increase the amount of public hearings with our communities for redistricting. I live in Maricopa county but have several close friends and family members who live in counties where there are no public hearings scheduled for this cycle. It is unacceptable that only 9 in-person public hearings are scheduled for this cycle, when in 2011 we had 23 public hearings. We should be exceeding this amount by directly talking to our community members.</p> <p>I am very passionate about building sustainable and resilient communities, especially in the face of protecting our voting rights and in the presence of anthropogenic climate change. Empowerment among communities starts with their ability to be heard. This process cannot happen without public hearings that are inclusive and equitable across the state, for decisions that will directly impact these communities.</p> <p>I deeply care about the future of Arizona and I know that the decisions you make for redistricting are not taken lightly. Please expand the amount of public hearings by listening to the counties and communities that are often left out from the decision-making process. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Kate Boettcher</p>
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06/14/2021 - 17:53	06/14/2021 - 17:53	06/14/2021 - 17:53	Regina Romero	Public engagement process	<p>Submitted on behalf of Tucson Mayor Romero:</p> <p>Congratulations on your appointment to the Independent Redistricting Commission and for reaching the early stages of drafting new maps for Arizona.</p> <p>As your work transitions to public engagement, it is important that processes for providing input are inclusive and accessible. Arizonans have appreciated past efforts to adopt a rigorous hearing schedule. The summer ahead offers the opportunity to expand access, reach more communities, and engage more voters as you seek early input.</p> <p>As the second largest city, and second most populous county in Arizona, Tucson and Pima County include three Congressional districts and seven Legislative districts. It is important that Tucsonans are able to access hearings and participate in every step of your work – from the initial listening tour to finalization of the maps. I strongly recommend a robust schedule of regional hearings throughout the greater Tucson region, as different areas of our city have different needs and demographics, and these areas will be distributed across several different electoral districts.</p> <p>I am happy to assist in any way that I can with local outreach efforts, including the utilization of city facilities that could be used for public engagement. Please contact Nathaniel Sigal at nathaniel.sigal@tucsonaz.gov in my office for any assistance you might need as you seek input from Tucsonans.</p> <p>Public input is essential to having maps that accurately reflect our state, and conducting meaningful outreach to the Tucson region will be of great value to your efforts. Thank you for your service on the Commission, and for providing Tucsonans the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue that will impact every resident of our state for the next decade.</p>
06/14/2021 - 20:05	06/14/2021 - 20:05	06/14/2021 - 20:05	Linda J Piurek	Redistricting	<p>Please, as you continue to put the trust of the public first, make your public hearings available to all Arizonans. We are interested and we care.</p>
06/14/2021 - 22:07	06/14/2021 - 22:07	06/14/2021 - 22:07	Tara Fierros Brunson	Pinal County IRC hearing	<p>This email is in direct result of the IRC purposed schedule of only 9 public hearings planned throughout Arizona. I urge the IRC to show up for the rural communities of Arizona, especially Pinal County which is the fastest growing county in Arizona. Often, these communities are left out and forgotten. Let's show rural Arizonans that they matter and let their voices be heard by adding more public hearings.</p>

06/14/2021 - 22:09	06/14/2021 - 22:09	06/14/2021 - 22:09	Tara Fierros Brunson	Pinal County IRC hearing	This email is in direct result of the IRC purposed schedule of only 9 public hearings planned throughout Arizona. I urge the IRC to show up for the rural communities of Arizona, especially Pinal County which is the fastest growing county in Arizona. Often, these communities are left out and forgotten. Let's show rural Arizonans that they matter and let their voices be heard by adding more public hearings.
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06/14/2021 - 22:53	06/14/2021 - 22:53	06/14/2021 - 22:53	Rita Day	Partisan Decisions of Redistricting Commission	<p>Commissioners,</p> <p>There continues to be numerous indications of partisan behavior in decisions of the commission. Two of the most important decisions were made on a partisan basis, with the 2 Republican commissioners and the “supposed” Independent Chairwoman joining against the 2 Democrat commissioners. These two decisions were selection of the Mapping Team and selection of the Executive Director.</p> <p>Regarding the mapping team, the team that had a long history of maps that were rejected by the courts was the team selected. While the other team had a long history of maps that were successful against court challenges. So not only was the selection partisan, the least qualified team was chosen.</p> <p>Regarding the vote for Brian Schmitt as Executive Director, he was the least qualified candidate and had almost no previous experience. The majority of public comments regarding this selection expressed disappointment in the least qualified candidate being chosen. Also, since his selection, he has not followed through with accomplishing the duties he is responsible for. He has not presented clear information as to why outstanding hiring has been stalled. Why is hiring stalled for budget authorization, when there is a generous budget thru the end of Arizona’s fiscal year? These staffing positions are crucial and should have been filled before now. Also, Executive Director Schmitt continues to present reporting that is unclear and lacks detail. When pressed for specifics, he provides vague explanations with little detail. This is the result of selecting the least qualified candidate with little or no previous relevant experience.</p> <p>Also, one of the law firms continues to do partisan political consulting in Arizona, along with working with the Redistricting Commission. How can they do partisan political consulting, while they are also consulting with the Redistricting Commission, which is supposed to be Non-partisan? Does this give an appearance of a conflict of interest? Will this result in the likelihood of litigation???</p> <p>In conclusion, there continues to be strong indications that the Commission is not operating in a Non Partisan fashion.</p> <p>Respectfully, Rita Day, Prescott, AZ</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
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06/15/2021 - 07:17	06/15/2021 - 07:17	06/15/2021 - 07:17	Nancy Meister	Public Hearings	<p>Due to transportation and language issues, I believe that San Luis, Arizona, should be on the schedule for a public hearing. With a population of about 38,000, it is one of the fastest, if not the fastest, growing cities in Arizona. Spanish is the dominate language so translation is a must. The population is young and working so the meeting(s) need to be scheduled in the evening or Saturdays. It is important that the public hearings be advertised in Spanish as well as English and that notice should be well in advance so that childcare and transportation can be arranged. Notices should be not only in the local newspapers but also on TV, radio, and social media. The Caesar Chavez Community Center would be a good location to reserve. The city of Yuma with its diverse population of about 100,000 also requires Spanish translation. Again meetings should be in the evening or Saturday to accommodate working individuals. Notices should be in English and Spanish and use a variety of methods well in advance of the meetings. The main library, city convention center or Arizona Western College could be reserved for the meetings. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
06/15/2021 - 08:40	06/15/2021 - 08:40	06/15/2021 - 08:40	Pablo Correa	Pinal County Public Hearings	<p>My name is Pablo Correa and I am one of the Co-Executive Directors for Rural Arizona Engagement (RAZE). We are a community based civic engagement group based in Pinal County. being a resident of Pinal County for my entire life I've seen the cost of neglect in resources and attention given to rural issues.</p> <p>Pinal County is the third largest county in the state with over half a million people yet we're being left out. Pinal County had one early public hearing last cycle, we should meet or exceed this. Anything less is unacceptable. All the communities of Arizona should be able to weigh in on redistricting plans.</p> <p>In 2011, 23 public hearings were held prior to grid maps being drawn with targeted meetings held in remote parts of the state. This allowed for critical early input from Arizona communities. However, this cycle the tentative schedule only has 9 in-person meetings scheduled. This is not acceptable and the standard set by the last Commission should be met or exceeded by this Commission. We urge you to do the right thing and schedule public hearings in Pinal County. Thank you for your understanding.</p>

06/15/2021 - 10:23	06/15/2021 - 10:23	06/15/2021 - 10:23	Paul Weich	public comments - past and future	<p>Good morning! I am happy to see that you are now receiving and posting public comments made through your website's "contact us" option. However, I am inquiring about the public comments made through that channel *prior to* May 28: what happened to those? For example, in April, the Commission extended the public comment period to accept more reaction to the mapping consultant finalists. However, the "contact us" page was confusing to many people, and they were not sure whether their comments were received and considered. WERE THEY? If so, shouldn't they also be posted?</p> <p>Along those lines, I would hope that you continue to make the website more comment-friendly. Please make it explicit that the "contact us" comments will be reviewed/compiled/posted/considered. Perhaps a telephone number? (Even if you don't accept public comments by voicemail, a recorded message could point to and describe the online process. And, when people click on the "Public Meetings" tab and then the "Public Comments" button, shouldn't something on that page also point them to the "Contact Us" form?</p> <p>Thanks, and I look forward to a successful and smooth redistricting process with a fair and good non-partisan outcome. --Paul</p>
06/15/2021 - 12:35	06/15/2021 - 12:35	06/15/2021 - 12:35	Linda Dugan	Public meetings	<p>I am in support of giving people statewide access to your meetings. Some people live in rural areas do they need a meeting avail for them to attend. The meeting places need to be announced do that people have time to make pls s to attend the meetings. A week in advance would be helpful.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
06/15/2021 - 14:21	06/15/2021 - 14:21	06/15/2021 - 14:21	Dieter A Knecht	Public hearings	<p>We live in a rural part of Arizona, and it's important the a hearing will be easily accessible for us. In planning future public meetings, please schedule the meetings to be held in geographically diverse locations in Arizona with broad input from the diverse population, especially providing opportunity for Arizonans living outside of the major metropolitan areas, including Native American, Hispanic, African American as well as caucasian residents. Please allow for a schedule outside of standard working hours, and schedule the meetings with enough advance notice to allow for child care, transportation, work shift coverage, etc.</p>
06/15/2021 - 20:08	06/15/2021 - 20:08	06/15/2021 - 20:08	Ralph Atchue	Public hearings	<p>The IRC should hold at least as many public hearings as was held in 2011. The IRC should not rush the process.</p>

06/16/2021 - 10:07	06/16/2021 - 10:07	06/16/2021 - 10:07	Wendy Underhill	NCSL connecting with the AZ IRC	<p>Hello! I'm the director of elections at the National Conference of State Legislatures. We provide a number of redistricting-related services and this decade we're making those available to commissioners as well as legislators. For instance, we publish Redistricting Law 2020 <a href="https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/redistrictinglaw2020.aspx">https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/redistrictinglaw2020.aspx</a> and can send you complementary copies (it is \$95 otherwise).</p> <p>Also, we have a 3-day seminar in Salt Lake City, July 14 - 16. <a href="https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/ncsl-redistricting-seminar-salt-lake-city-utah-july-14-16-2021.aspx">https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/ncsl-redistricting-seminar-salt-lake-city-utah-july-14-16-2021.aspx</a> It's appropriate for commissioners as well as legislators (and staff). We are hoping/planning to have an opportunity for commissioners from the various states meet each other.</p> <p>So, if you'd like to connect, that would be great!</p> <p>Thanks.</p> <p>Wendy</p>
06/16/2021 - 15:16	06/16/2021 - 15:16	06/16/2021 - 15:16	Jacqueline Moran	redistricting hearings	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'd like to attend a public hearing about re-districting in Arizona, however, Cochise County is not on the list of places to get public comment. I would have to drive an hour and a half one-way and take a full day off of work to attend in Tucson. Please add Sierra Vista to the list. I believe the districts in Cochise County unfairly represent the populous. A neighbor who lives one block away from me votes for a different representative along with the people who live in a different town that is 25 minutes north of me. The districts within this county are grossly gerrymandered to support a certain population.</p>