



Web Contact Us Comments 6.25.21 - 7.1.21

Submitted Time	Completed Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
06/25/2021 - 14:49	06/25/2021 - 14:49	Barbara Burstein	Public hearing safety and order	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>I am writing because I am concerned about the public hearings that the Independent Redistricting Commission will be holding and what measures the Commission will take to ensure the the hearings are conducted in an orderly fashion and safely.</p> <p>One vital step for safety is prohibiting firearms and other weapons from the public hearings.</p> <p>Further, as Commissioner Lerner expressed, I share concerns about the recent takeovers of local school board meetings around the State. While the public should have the opportunity to communicate with the Commission, the hearings should not be overtaken by political extremists, and those whose goals are the taking control of or shutting down the public hearing. Instead, the public should be able to participate, as long as it is done with respect, established norms, and a decorum of civility.</p> <p>Before the meeting it would be beneficial to adopt and follow are the commission's rules of procedure, including Robert's Rules of Order. When ground rules are understood going in, it can certainly aid in maintaining order and civility. Consider the option of remote meeting attendance for individuals who cannot attend the meeting in person. Also, for those who may not be comfortable commenting at the meeting in person, by allowing comments by email or handwritten letters that can be made part of the record. Further, utilizing a sign-up sheet for those who wish to address the Commission that includes the person's name, address, phone number would help understand who and how many intend to speak, and may facilitate determining the order in which speakers may be called.</p> <p>Determining ground rules for how the meeting will be run and letting the public know those in advance may also assist the meeting to be orderly. These would include having a reasonable time limit for comments, for example, 3 to 5 minutes, and enforcing that consistently. Also, stating the values and behavior that the public will be expected to demonstrate during the hearing, such as treating others and their opinions respectfully, refraining from personal attacks, not interrupting, and other norms of decorum.</p> <p>Also, it would be beneficial to put the public on notice before the hearing of certain ground rules. For instance, letting the public know in advance, say in the notice of the hearing or agenda, that the Chair reserves the right to ensure that all comments are appropriate and abide by rules of civility, which applies to the audience as well as to the speakers. Individuals who refuse to abide by these ground rules may not be permitted to continue speaking. Certain individuals who are disruptive and uncivil should not be allowed to intimidate or silence Arizonans who want to make their voices heard at the public hearings.</p> <p>I urge the Commissioners to consider adopting these measures to aid in conducting safe and orderly public hearings.</p>

06/25/2021 - 14:50	06/25/2021 - 14:50	Barbara Burstein	Public hearing safety and order	<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>I am writing because I am concerned about the public hearings that the Independent Redistricting Commission will be holding and what measures the Commission will take to ensure the the hearings are conducted in an orderly fashion and safely.</p> <p>One vital step for safety is prohibiting firearms and other weapons from the public hearings.</p> <p>Further, as Commissioner Lerner expressed, I share concerns about the recent takeovers of local school board meetings around the State. While the public should have the opportunity to communicate with the Commission, the hearings should not be overtaken by political extremists, and those whose goals are the taking control of or shutting down the public hearing. Instead, the public should be able to participate, as long as it is done with respect, established norms, and a decorum of civility.</p> <p>Before the meeting it would be beneficial to adopt and follow are the commission's rules of procedure, including Robert's Rules of Order. When ground rules are understood going in, it can certainly aid in maintaining order and civility. Consider the option of remote meeting attendance for individuals who cannot attend the meeting in person. Also, for those who may not be comfortable commenting at the meeting in person, by allowing comments by email or handwritten letters that can be made part of the record. Further, utilizing a sign-up sheet for those who wish to address the Commission that includes the person's name, address, phone number would help understand who and how many intend to speak, and may facilitate determining the order in which speakers may be called.</p> <p>Determining ground rules for how the meeting will be run and letting the public know those in advance may also assist the meeting to be orderly. These would include having a reasonable time limit for comments, for example, 3 to 5 minutes, and enforcing that consistently. Also, stating the values and behavior that the public will be expected to demonstrate during the hearing, such as treating others and their opinions respectfully, refraining from personal attacks, not interrupting, and other norms of decorum.</p> <p>Also, it would be beneficial to put the public on notice before the hearing of certain ground rules. For instance, letting the public know in advance, say in the notice of the hearing or agenda, that the Chair reserves the right to ensure that all comments are appropriate and abide by rules of civility, which applies to the audience as well as to the speakers. Individuals who refuse to abide by these ground rules may not be permitted to continue speaking. Certain individuals who are disruptive and uncivil should not be allowed to intimidate or silence Arizonans who want to make their voices heard at the public hearings.</p> <p>I urge the Commissioners to consider adopting these measures to aid in conducting safe and orderly public hearings.</p>
06/27/2021 - 20:53	06/27/2021 - 20:53	Cindy Wagner	Snell & Wilmer	<p>1. I am concerned that there appears to be a conflict of interest in that Snell &amp; Wilmer continue to do political and candidate consulting. What policies, practices and procedures are in place to intentionally affirm that they are not in violation of real conflicts of interest? Does the IRC have any intention of establishing such policies? If not, why not? Given the often stated goal of acting with "an abundance of caution" to both mitigate risk of litigation and engender public trust this seems inconsistent at best. Just because it is legal, does not make it right. And it does potentially undermine the integrity of the work of the IRC.</p> <p>2. Also IRC technology problems need to be resolved. One solution would be to hire an IT Tech. This is provided for in the budget. It does not appear that the Executive Director has a good handle on this hire and two others that are pending—now he is waiting for the "new" budget to be approved.</p> <p>3. The IRC has been meeting since January and operations still seem clunky from the outside. Public comments are received in three streams and are treated and publicly released differently. There are ongoing technology issues. How does it feel from the inside? Are you satisfied in the general operations and mechanics at this point?</p> <p>Thank you</p>
06/28/2021 - 16:31	06/28/2021 - 16:31	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	stock presentation	<p>It seems to be taking an excessive amount of time for the staff and consultants to put together a stock presentation on the redistricting process. When will it be available to the public to review and comment?</p>
06/28/2021 - 16:35	06/28/2021 - 16:35	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	meeting schedule	<p>I was shocked that the Commission is taking July 6 off. The holiday is Monday, July 5 and it should be back to business on Tuesday, or at least it is in the world of timelines, demands and deliverables. The Commission seems to be taking a very relaxed approach, and I fear that once the census data is received, it will suddenly be a five-alarm fire.</p>

06/28/2021 - 17:43	06/28/2021 - 17:43	Rita Day	Public hearings	<p>Commissioners, We, the public, need to know the format of the public hearings beforehand: sign-in, testimony, time limits of testimony, etc. So please publish this information beforehand. Also, safety precautions are extremely important, so there should be NO fire-arms allowed inside the meetings and this should be clearly published beforehand.</p> <p>Videotaping these hearings and posting online would be of extreme help to those interested but unable to attend the live meeting. I hope the Commission is planning to do this.</p> <p>Respectfully, Rita Day, Prescott 86301</p>
06/28/2021 - 18:07	06/28/2021 - 18:07	Rita Day	IRC law firm	<p>Commissioners, One law firm continues to do political consulting while they are also working for the Commission. Chair Nerberg has repeatedly said the Commission must act with an "abundance of caution and adhering to the highest levels of integrity and transparency". It seems dangerous to have this law firm doing partisan work outside the Commission during the same time they are tasked to do Non-Partisan work for the Commission. This can easily be seen by the public as a conflict of interest. Even if there is no conflict, the appearance of a conflict will increase the likelihood of litigation. This will result in delays and extra litigation costs. Saying the Commission must act with an abundance of caution means nothing if it doesn't actually ACT WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION!</p>
06/28/2021 - 18:08	06/28/2021 - 18:08	Rita Day	IRC law firm	<p>Commissioners, One law firm continues to do political consulting while they are also working for the Commission. Chair Nerberg has repeatedly said the Commission must act with an "abundance of caution and adhering to the highest levels of integrity and transparency". It seems dangerous to have this law firm doing partisan work outside the Commission during the same time they are tasked to do Non-Partisan work for the Commission. This can easily be seen by the public as a conflict of interest. Even if there is no conflict, the appearance of a conflict will increase the likelihood of litigation. This will result in delays and extra litigation costs. Saying the Commission must act with an abundance of caution means nothing if it doesn't actually ACT WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION!</p>
06/29/2021 - 12:53	06/29/2021 - 12:53	Sterling Fluharty	Legal status of maps produced by the public	<p>I enjoyed the legal presentations to the IRC on June 29. I was glad to hear about the laws the commission must follow when drafting maps for redistricting. But this got me wondering about maps that will be drafted by members of the public. What will the commission do with a draft map submitted by a member of the public if there is no proof that the individual started with a grid map, since the law requires the commission to generate its draft map through adjustments to its grid map? How will the commission handle draft map submissions by members of the public that might have taken incumbent addresses into consideration, if the law forbids the commission from considering those addresses? What should the commission do with draft legislative maps submitted by the public that do not assign Prescott to district 1, given that the law requires the commission to give Prescott that district number? There are, for instance, several dozen maps for Arizona that members of the public have recently drafted at <a href="https://davesredistricting.org">https://davesredistricting.org</a> that are apparently being created without adherence to the three constraints cited above. How can the commission best meet its legal obligations as it considers maps drafted by the public that might not completely follow the laws that regulate what the commission can and cannot do when drafting maps?</p>
06/29/2021 - 14:30	06/29/2021 - 14:30	Lynn Peters	Timmons Group / NDC "working in private"	<p>I was greatly concerned by the Timmons Group comments that they are "working in private" with the Executive Director. The Commissioners are the ones that should be setting the direction NOT the Executive Director. Timmons Group seems to be dragging there feet with giving firm date commitments. This is most concerning. Many of us are not happy with the selection of Timmons Group / NDC. Their performance so far does not make me feel any better. This process is to be a PUBLIC process. Let's keep this transparent. The Census data will be here before we know it. The time to prepare is NOW. Regards, Lynn Peters</p>

06/29/2021 - 18:45	06/29/2021 - 18:45	Beth Bremer	Public Hearings	Please ensure that full attention is given to public input throughout the state during the meetings and while traveling the state for public hearings. This is meant to be a fair and transparent process to facilitate democracy.
06/30/2021 - 09:59	06/30/2021 - 09:59	Diane Boman	Commission Meeting June 29, 2021	The presentation was very informative last week but I would request that any presentations that are on the agenda be posted to the documents or newsroom prior to the start of the meeting. On my screen they are unreadable so printing these out ahead of time would be helpful for viewers.
06/30/2021 - 10:04	06/30/2021 - 10:04	Diane Boman	Executive Session Meeting 6/29/21	I would like to ask that after the commission comes out of executive session that a summary of what was discussed would be given to the audience. A "great and robust" discussion is not an explanation. The past ES concerned the Voting Rights Bill. This bill is public knowledge and nothing about this bill should have to be discussed in private. This sets up a red flag for those of us that are looking for transparency.