

Submitted Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
10/21/2021 - 00:02	Stephanie Voss	Legislative Districts 6 & 7	<p>It's difficult to submit a map online, as has been pointed out. More importantly, it's mysterious as to how maps that people actually manage to submit are treated. I can't find it online, but I have been given to understand that a map from a business association has been elevated to test status before that submitted by the Navajo Nation was made available for public comment.</p> <p>What?</p> <p>One of the things Arizona has done right for democracy is to create this INDEPENDENT redistricting commission. Clear preference for certain submissions makes the whole "independent" label moot.</p> <p>Someone who has actually seen the Navajo Nation's map says it accounts for the practical use of transportation corridors of Northern Arizona - I-17 and highway 89A.</p> <p>If we don't account for the connections of communities of interest throughout the state, what is the point of the commission?</p> <p>Your mandate is to create districts that are competitive and fairly distribute representation of all Arizonans. I'm sure you, as commissioners, are aware of which organizations and informal groups back which district lines. Your job is to rise above the noise and create districts that can give groups a chance to elect legislators who can support the needs of their district. To unfairly throw groups of rural or Native Arizonans into conservative districts purposely to dilute their votes – specifically and deliberately to disenfranchise them – is flat-out gerry-mandering. Please don't do this.</p>
10/21/2021 - 04:28	Shauna Mclsaac	Insure the redistricting process fair and access ble to all	<p>The redistricting process is an extremely important process and it is essential that it is accomplished by IRC members who are willing and able to suspend personal agendas. The process must be fair and accessible to all, not just the well-connected. A reported example of not holding to this standard is when a map submitted by Commissioner Mehl's colleagues at the Southern AZ Leadership Council (not a recognized "community of interest") via personal message at the very end of one days' meeting was prioritized for consideration at the following day's meeting. Meanwhile, the map submitted by the Navajo Nation had not been made available on the website, and not given the deference shown to last-minute SALC map. Please respect this extremely important process and insure it is fair and accessible to all.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
10/21/2021 - 05:17	Dorothy T. Chao	Redistricting	<p>Although I have not followed this closely, I am concerned that our State redistricting process be fair and without the taint of gerrymandering. It is the only way forward; the only way to preserve our democracy.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
10/21/2021 - 05:18	Rosemary Bolza	redistricting	<p>Maps need to be available and understandable by the public. Public comments need to be accessible to be made by the public</p>

10/21/2021 - 05:39	Esteban Hidalgo	Public Comment - IRC Meeting/Oct 21, 2021	The neutrality and independence of the IRC Chairwoman Erika is absolutely critical to this process. To date, the Chairwoman has demonstrated excessive deference to Commissioner Mehl. This deference is detriment of the process and other commissioners. Commissioner Mehl, represent a limited portion of the affluent/white suburbs of Tucson, and not the remaining large and diverse populations of Tucson. This deference is demonstrated by the Chairwoman's facilitating his requests to return to previous versions of the maps while denying those made by Commissioner Lerner, and deferring to his unjustified insistence that Oro Valley and Marana are an inseparable "community of interest" while compromising the more justifiable "community of interest" of the Navajo Nation. I implore the Chairwoman to remain fair, independent and objective, for the sake of ALL the voters of Arizona's diverse populations.
10/21/2021 - 06:05	Brian Templet	Redistricting Process.	The considerations of what is "Community Interest" in this process advocated by Commissioner Mehl and apparently supported by Chair Nueberg are suspect. Commissioner Mehl appears to have more self interest than voter interest in drawing maps.
10/21/2021 - 06:20	Julianne Hurst	New map	Despite Commissioner Mehl's insistence to the contrary, Oro Valley and Marana are NOT a "community of interest" with respect to the redistricting process. Oro Valley shares many more economic and social ties to Tucson, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina foothills than with Marana. This process must be fair and acceptable to all not just the well connected. The map submitted by the Navajo nation has not been made available on the website and has not been given the deference shown to last minute SALC map. Thank you
10/21/2021 - 06:23	Dianne Coscarelli	Maps Submitted Directly to IRC Members	At the end of the meeting on Wednesday, October 20, a map was submitted by colleagues of Commissioner Mehl, Southern Arizona Leadership Council (SALC). I am not sure this is even a community of interest. The map was submitted by personal message to him. That map was prioritized for today's (October 21) discussion. This is disturbing as it gives priority to those personally connected with a Commissioner who by-pass normal channels and communicate directly with a Commissioner. This is contrary to an independent commission. Further, why give the SALC priority over the map submitted by the Navajo Nation which is a special community of interest?
10/21/2021 - 06:26	Barbara Lee Bloom	redistricting	How can the Navajo Nation not be considered a "community of interest"? Each CD and LD needs to be drawn as "competitively" as possible. But what does the committee mean by that? Please clarify that.
10/21/2021 - 06:31	Tanner Keaton Guske	Draft Map Comments	Dear Members, For the new map, I ask you place competitiveness as a priority to ensure elections will be high in turnout. I understand that population and voter registration may restrict some districts from being competitive, as per IRC standards discussed during the 9/21 meeting. However, each CD and LD needs to be drawn as competitively as possible on its own merit. The criteria for what is considered a "competitive" district should be consistent. The commission received testimony from national experts on what qualifies as competitive, and ostensibly adopted these guidelines, but have failed to incorporate these standards consistently. Please clarify this criteria and stick to it. Please do not join Oro Valley and Marana, nor compromise the "community of interest" of the Navajo Nation. I say so because Oro Valley shares many more economic and social ties to Tucson, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina foothills than with Marana. The process must be fair and accessible to all. The map submitted by the Navajo Nation has not been made available on the website, and not given the deference shown to a last-minute SALC map. Will the general public also be given access to IRC members' personal phone number and emails in order to make direct pleas for prioritization? Since members are working in a public capacity, I do not think this is a difficult ask.

10/21/2021 - 06:55	Neal G Williams	Unequal treatment in proposed district maps	The process must be fair and accessible to all, not just the well-connected: a map submitted by Commissioner Mehl's colleagues at the Southern AZ Leadership Council (not a recognized "community of interest") via personal message at the very end of yesterday's meeting was prioritized for consideration at today's meeting. Meanwhile, the map submitted by the Navajo Nation has not been made available on the website, and not given the deference shown to the last-minute SALC map. Will the general public also be given access to IRC members' personal phone number and emails in order to make direct pleas for prioritization?
10/21/2021 - 06:56	Robin Zenger	Redistricting Map	The criteria for what is considered a "competitive" district should be consistent. The commission received testimony from national experts on what qualifies as competitive, and ostensibly adopted these guidelines, but have failed to incorporate these standards consistently. Please clarify this criteria and stick to it.
10/21/2021 - 07:07	Nelson Morgan	Odd last minute addition of a map for special consideration	Briefly: at the end of yesterday's meeting, a map was submitted via Commissioner Mehl, seemingly, by a business organization. I think it's fine that proposed boundaries come in from any source, but I don't think ones submitted through individuals on the Commission should be put at the head of the line. There have been many submissions, most of which are not discussed; and in the case of the Navajo one, it seems to have gotten short shrift. Giving the latest submission the designation of 6.3, as in the draft map series 6, seems particularly bad. The other maps in that series are in that group on the basis of the Commission's agreement to have those sets of changes considered for the official draft map. Please correct this. Even if there has been no impropriety, it is important for public confidence that there be no appearance of impropriety. Thank you.
10/21/2021 - 07:17	JJ Kohlson	Fair district maps	FAIR redistricting maps PLEASE / representing ALLcitizens
10/21/2021 - 07:17	Ricky R Sage	Fair redistricting process	<p>Fair and balanced legislative districts are vital to ensure that all Arizona citizens are adequately represented when legislation is enacted. Legitimate communities of interest such as Hispanic, Native American, rural farmers and ranchers, should not see their votes diluted in such a way as to prevent them from being represented.</p> <p>The process must be fair and accessible to all, not just the well-connected.</p> <p>On the surface it would appear that the commission is not treating all parties the same. A map submitted by Commissioner Mehl's colleagues at the Southern AZ Leadership Council (not a recognized "community of interest") via personal message at the very end of the 1020 meeting was prioritized for consideration at the 1021 meeting. Meanwhile, the map submitted by the Navajo Nation has not been made available on the website, and not given the deference shown to last-minute SALC map.</p> <p>Furthermore, the city of Tucson is the key part of the Tucson metropolitan area. Diverse and central, it contains the military base, the military manufacturers, the hospitals and universities, the retail that provide the economic engine for the region. Any attempt to carve out a special niche district is gerrymandering by any name and will be rejected by the courts. I shudder to think of the effect of attempting to create a district where many of the most vocal and active were waving confederate flags only a few years ago. Please resist the white supremacy dog whistles of the loud few and respect the rights of the larger majority of "Be Kind" Arizonans.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
10/21/2021 - 07:21	Patricia Wiedhopf	Draft Maps	The criteria for what is considered a "competitive" district should be consistent. The commission received testimony from national experts on what qualifies as competitive, and ostensibly adopted these guidelines, but have failed to incorporate these standards consistently. Please clarify this criteria and stick to it.

10/21/2021 - 07:38	Priscilla Weaver	Unfair IRC Process From a Navajo Nation Citizen	This is not a fair and equitable process and I'm outraged. The Navajo Nation submission should have been published by Tuesday night and given a thorough look using the mapping software on Wednesday. Instead, no demographic comparison was made. Where is the "Community of Interest" and my "Voting Rights"? No consideration was given to the differences in communities of interest between the pending test map and the Navajo National alternative or to the ability of Native Americans to elect candidates of their choice. Where are the Commission lawyers? The treatment of the Navajo Nation's map submission in contrast with the treatment of the submission by a business group (SALC) is wrong and probably illegal. Commissioner Mehl is showing his true nature by bulldozing his white-wash onto this redistricting process in a way that will disenfranchise Native Americans.
10/21/2021 - 07:39	Julie M Pindzola	Treatment of Northern Arizona	Commissioners, After reading through all 20 pages of comments submitted during Wednesday's mapping meeting, I have to share a few thoughts. Far and away, citizens are crying out for Competitive Districts and a fair and balanced state. I recognize several of the commenters' names as those who worked hard to create and submit maps. How have you been able to take in the best ideas from the slew of map submittals received into the system? There has been no description of how this is being done, or even if this is being done. So please do tell the public how their map submittals are being digested and utilized? For the Commission to disregard the justification for another Latino VRA district was shocking. Even worse was to learn that you rushed right past the Navajo Nation's map submittal giving it no credence. CD District 2 needs to be rethought. The Navajo and Hopi People deserve respect and some accommodation. District 2 needs to be made much more competitive than the current iteration of 46.30 v 53.70 Dem/Rep. This seems to be another VRA slight. Commissioner Lerner asked for a study of some adjustments from Yavapai County via CD5.3, but as drawn the numbers were not enough to make a real difference. I believe I heard it said that the Verde Valley (and therefore District 2) was not worth the ripple changes to the south. That sounds like the work needed to make this right is not worth the commission's time. Please look again.
10/21/2021 - 07:48	Perilee Sharp	CD Map and LD Map	Please do not change this Map - Congressional District - The Navajo and Apache Counties would have a diluted representation as their own nation if this map is adopted. Please do not change the Legislative District map Counties should be kept together wherever possible to provide each of their needs accordingly. We struggle enough without splitting our efforts and diluting quick and reasonable solutions to each of the counties problems.
10/21/2021 - 07:58	Rita Day	Navajo Nation Map	Transportation corridors are critical considerations when drawing district lines, especially in Rural Arizona. I-17 and Hwy 89A connect Flagstaff & the Verde Valley. There are no similar connections in the East- West alignment between Apache County & the Verde Valley & Eastern Navajo county. Transportation access reflects the social & economic connections running North-South and the LACK of similar connections (or communities of interest) running East-West. It seems to me that the screenshots of the Map submitted by the Navajo Nation provides well for these differences. While the current test maps for LD6 and LD7 DO NOT! I strongly recommend that the Navajo Nation map be given serious consideration.
10/21/2021 - 08:13	Linda Guarino	Unfair procedures	This process is no longer fair. There is a standard procedure for submitting maps. If the commissioners are going to accept maps and communication from close associates by private email, then all commissioners must provide their private email addresses publicly so that everyone has the same access.

10/21/2021 - 08:14	Rita Day	Maps	<p>There are stark differences in how the maps being submitted by various groups are being considered by the IRC Commission. These differences are so stark it seems blatantly discriminatory. For instance, Commissioner Mele submitted a version of a map from the Southern Az Leadership Council, a business group he helped form in the 1990's. shortly before the end of Wednesday's IRC meeting, he asked that the map be put on the screen and he asked that the map be Test Map 6.3 for discussion the next day. Everyone agreed!!!</p> <p>Now compare this to the Navajo Nation's map which was previously submitted a few days prior. Their map has yet to be published! So the public has no way to view it, analyze or comment on it. This map hasn't even been considered by the commissioners! Seems like blatant discrimination to me. This is not a fair process, especially when SALC's map has been cherry picked from various submitted maps and is immediately elevated to Test Map Status. Furthermore, Commissioner Mele, who introduced the map from SALC is one of the founders of SALC in the late 1990's. so IRC Commissioners are giving preferential treatment to maps submitted from organizations they are affiliated with. Blatant impartiality.</p>
10/21/2021 - 08:17	Dianne Coscarelli	Public meeting not audible	I am watching the meeting online this morning with my volume on high but I cannot hear anything from the meeting. Do you need to adjust something at the meeting site?
10/21/2021 - 08:30	Margo Newhouse	Independent Redistricting Commission Maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •I don't think the IRC has given enough consideration to the district submitted by the Navajo Nation. It has rejected the eight Voting Rights Act districts proposed by the Latino Coalition. I understand that Wednesday the IRC agreed to Republican Commissioner Mehl's motion to consider a legislative district map submitted by the Southern Arizona Leadership Council as "citizen submitted." The Southern Arizona Leadership Council was founded by Commissioner Mehl. This seems like a conflict of interest to me. •Despite Commissioner Mehl's insistence to the contrary, Oro Valley and Marana are not a "community of interest" with respect to the redistricting process. Oro Valley shares many more economic and social ties to Tucson, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina Foothills than with Marana.
10/21/2021 - 08:31	Hyatt Simpson	Competitiveness	<p>The law that created this commission and process mandated that the maps be competitive and FAIR. Honoring the VRA is part of what makes them fair. That is what voters are looking to you to accomplish. More competitiveness means better representation, and hopefully less extremism. Arizona is a purple state; we are tired of one-party rule by legislators who refuse to listen to the voters. Competitive districts are our only hope for stopping the spread of extremism that has infected our legislature.</p> <p>Thank you for your service in such a difficult by monumentally important task!</p>
10/21/2021 - 08:51	James Stein	Navajo Nation Map	When considering district lines in rural Arizona, transportation corridors are important. I-17 and Highway 89A connect Flagstaff and the Verde Valley. There are no similar easy connections in the east-west alignment between the Verde Valley and Apache County and eastern Navajo county. Furthermore, transportation access is reflective of the economic and social connections running north-south and the LACK of such connections (or communities of interest) running east-west. From what I've seen in screenshots of the map submitted by the Navajo Nation, the Navajo Nation map accounts well for these differences and the current test maps for LD6 and LD7 do not.
10/21/2021 - 08:56	Diane Boman	Choice of maps for discussion	I am very concerned that Mehl is handpicking maps to be discussed when other maps have been in the cue for discussion prior to the submission of the SALC map. In particular the Navajo Nation map. This process is all about fairness and equal treatment. I hope that the other members of the commission will stop this cherry picking and stand up for what is right.
10/21/2021 - 08:56	Toni Beetham	IRC mapping	The business leaders of southern AZ got their personal map handpicked -- within minutes of submission -- out of the 112-plus maps submitted so far to become an official Test Map. But the Navajo Nation Map hadn't even - more than 24 hours after submission - been published, doesn't get analyzed, yet does get rejected in less than 10 minutes of Commission hearing time. This is not a fair and equitable process and I'm outraged. Beyond outraged. And disgusted at the rampant partisanship .

10/21/2021 - 09:22	Thea L Chalow	redistricting	Oro Valley is a suburb of Tucson. During the past decade in LD11 our interests have not been represented because we share little or no common ground with the rural residents of Pinal County. Oro Valley does share common interests with northern Pima County and Casas Adobes. I deserve to cast my vote in a district that is fair, representative and competitive. Don't throw Oro Valley under the bus! We deserve representation in state elections! - Thea Chalow
10/21/2021 - 09:22	Lynne Hudson	Competitiveness	Arizona is quite evenly divided among Republicans, Democrats and Independents, so partisanship is inevitable. But gridlock is not inevitable-- provided both parties support candidates who (1) are more interested in solutions than power, and (2) are committed to working across party lines to find common ground and enact legislation that benefits all Arizonans. There are legislators from both parties in the Arizona Legislature who exhibit these qualities, but we need many more. Unfortunately, candidates with these qualities are less likely to run, let alone get elected, in districts that are overwhelmingly Democrat or Republican, what are referred to as uncompetitive districts or "safe seats." In such districts, the winning strategy is to say as little as possible, keep it simple, and avoid alienating the most extreme members of your party. This discourages civic engagement and limits opportunities to better inform and educate voters. THE DILEMMA: What it takes to get elected is not what it takes to be an effective legislator. THE SOLUTION: Competitiveness must be addressed WITHIN districts so that tolerance for differing perspectives and disposition to compromise are reinforced within parties. The best way to do that is to draw as many competitive district "as is practicable." If we can elect more legislators committed to working together, then maybe other legislators will become more inclined to do so as well. A POSSIBLE STRATEGY: Since we know many areas of Arizona are so red or so blue that drawing competitive districts is impossible, the IRC might use voting history data to pinpoint geographical areas where it is at least possible, draw those districts, and then draw the rest focusing on the other criteria--COIs, compact and contiguous, etc.
10/21/2021 - 09:38	Susan Anderson	Oro Valley not part of Pinal County	Oro Valley and rural Pinal County do not belong in the same Legislative District. Oro Valley is suburban/urban. Pinal County is mostly rural. Oro Valley residents work and shop in Tucson. Rural Pinal residents rarely do this. You do a disservice to both communities by combining them.
10/21/2021 - 09:45	Lynne Hudson	Contact US	Two recently submitted public comments of mine did not appear on the website. I resubmitted the one from yesterday this morning. I did not have a problem with this until recently. Could you advise me,, please. Lynne Hudson
10/21/2021 - 09:55	Mark William Anderson	Opaque and Unfair	The draft maps have changed every day this week making it hard for the public to follow. The process should be fair to everyone not just those who are wealthy or well connected. A map submitted by Commissioner Mehl's colleagues at the Southern AZ Leadership Council via personal message was prioritized over a map submitted earlier by the Navajo Nation. Are members of the general public expected to sleuth personal phone numbers of IRC members in order to beg for prioritization?
10/21/2021 - 09:57	Karyn Riedell	Maps	The Navajo Nation map submission should have been published by Tuesday night. This dismissive treatment is in sharp contrast to the SALC submission. It may also be illegal.
10/21/2021 - 10:00	ARLENE EVANS	districting	No more districting-1 person=1 vote. No handicaps. The peoples votes should count.

10/21/2021 - 10:01	Suzanne Maisner	Redistricting Process	<p>Really now? In following the redistricting process, I'm amazed at some of the manoueverings to ignore legitimate public input. Rather than incorporating the Navajo Nation as a district and the Latino Coalition's Voting Rights Act as districts, instead you are brazenly agreeing to consider Commissioner Mehl's motion for the Southern Arizona Leadership Council's map. This is NOT a citizen group. Mehl founded the group and you know as well as I do that it does not represent broad community input. Furthermore, Oro Valley and Marana belong with Tucson, Casas Adobes and the Catalina foothills. We are all a part of the greater Tucson area sharing many common ties.</p> <p>If you want to know why the public is so disgusted with politicians and our elected representatives, this group is a good example. You are gaming the system to get what you want. You are blatantly, brazenly putting your partisanship ahead of representative democracy. It's not too late to step up and do your job for all the people of Arizona.</p>
10/21/2021 - 10:03	Susan Whittemore	Redistricting Mapping	<p>PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE PIMA COUNTY WITH MARICOPA. We would be swallowed up and not independant, as is the goal of the new mapping.</p> <p>Thank you for your work to insure fairness is our voting process.</p>
10/21/2021 - 10:18	Devon Sloan	Redistricting	<p>Neither Democrats nor Republicans should be packed into districts which dilute their overall voting power.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Oro Valley is in Pima County and should be in a Pima County LD. * The Town of Oro Valley shouldn't be split in different LDs. * Oro Valley's larger community of interest includes northern Pima County and Casas Adobes. * Oro Valley and rural Pinal County places do not belong in the same district. Oro Valley is diverse by every measure. It has a balanced population by age, one quarter of its population is minority, a mixture of housing options, a varied economy, investments in schools and multi-use parks, and urban development. * LD maps should be competitive and representative. *The criteria for what is considered a "competitive" district should be consistent. The commission received testimony from national experts on what qualifies as competitive, and ostensibly adopted these guidelines, but have failed to incorporate these standards consistently. Please clarify this criteria and stick to it. *The process must be fair and accessible to all, not just the well-connected: a map submitted by Commissioner Mehl's colleagues at the Southern AZ Leadership Council (not a recognized "community of interest") via personal message was prioritized for consideration at a later meeting. Meanwhile, the map submitted by the Navajo Nation has not been made available on the website, and not given the deference shown to last-minute SALC map. Will the general public also be given access to IRC members' personal phone number and emails in order to make direct pleas for prioritization? *Congressional districts need to be competitive and fair.
10/21/2021 - 10:36	Frances Riemer	redistricting	<p>I'm writing to voice my concern about redistricting. We in Sedona have been consistent in our belief that Sedona and Flagstaff should be linked in ANY districting map. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
10/21/2021 - 10:45	Cheryl (self) Smith	Redistricting	<p>Those redistricting maps should be fair and competitive. They should not be packed with either DEMs or GOP voters. This is America....the greatest democracy in the world!</p>
10/21/2021 - 10:58	Christina La Motte	SALC and Navajo Nation, Latino Coalition map concerns	<p>The IRC has not given sufficient weight to a district proposed by the Navajo Nation, and has rejected the eight Voting Rights Act districts proposed by the Latino Coalition. But in an unusual move Wednesday the IRC has agreed to Republican Commissioner Mehl's motion to consider a legislative district map just submitted by the Southern Arizona Leadership Council as "citizen submitted" LD version 6.3. The Southern Arizona Leadership Council was founded by Commissioner Mehl.</p> <p>Despite Commissioner Mehl's insistence to the contrary, Oro Valley and Marana are not a "community of interest" with respect to the redistricting process. Oro Valley shares many more economic and social ties to Tucson, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina Foothills than with Marana.</p>

10/21/2021 - 11:08	Marguerite Chaikin	Mapping for shared interests	I have spoken to the committee during your outreach tour here in N. Az. I am a long time Verde Valley, Sedona and Flagstaff resident having worked throughout the region. Presently retired in Sedona, I have been volunteering help our communities protect our tourism based communities while protecting our natural environment. Please draw the maps to put these communities together! They share economic interests and a culture of community engagement for building resilience during these challenging times. Thank you for your work.
10/21/2021 - 11:43	Karen L. McClelland	Keep Flagstaff and Verde Valley in one LD and CD	Flagstaff and the Verde Valley ARE a community of interest. We share similar economy based on tourism and the use of public lands. Your current LD maps SPLIT the City of Sedona, the Sedona-Oak Creek School District and the Sedona Fire department into two districts. This is unacceptable for many reasons. The whole of the Verde valley (Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Jerome, Rimrock, Beaver Creek etc) AND Flagstaff should be one district. I have lived in Sedona since 1987 and this has been my comment to the AIRC in 2000, 2010 and now- AS it is the majority of the residents of the Verde Valley.
10/21/2021 - 12:15	William Hoover Hoover	Latino Voting Rights Act Districts	The reason the Latino Coalition presented eight VRA districts instead of the current seven is that much of the population growth in Arizona in the last ten years has been Latino. Please respond to this growth by authorizing maps with eight Latino VRA districts.
10/21/2021 - 12:17	William J Hoover	Oro Valley and Tucson Foothills	Oro Valley has much more in common with the Tucson Foothills as a Community of Interest. Marana is more of a farming community. Please keep Oro Valley with the Tucson Foothills area. Do not put it with Marana.
10/21/2021 - 13:03	Kristen Tyler	Redistricting	Flagstaff and Cottonwood have very little in common. The district should be left as it is!
10/21/2021 - 13:08	Eileen West	Redistricting Maps	EMAIL 2: I heard that the IRC is planning to melt Southern Arizona communities with Maricopa County. That is illogical and plain silly. As a resident of Southern Arizona (Pima County), I want my districts to represent me and my community. The two areas are more than geographically different we are culturally and politically different too. Please keep Southern Arizona as independent as possible, make our districts for Southern Arizonians! Thank you.
10/21/2021 - 13:21	Cynthia Adams	Redistricting from Prescott to Flagstaff	I don't wish to have Yavapai county given to Flagstaff! Prescott has served our needs quite well and I have no doubt will continue to do so!!
10/21/2021 - 13:23	John Neville	Home for the Verde Valley & Sedona	When mapping out the new legislative districts, please be sure to combine the Verde Valley and all of Sedona in districts with Flagstaff. We, in the Verde Valley, have much in common with Flagstaff. We share the same economic, environmental and social concerns. The current link with Prescott in LD-6 means that we have had NO representation in the Arizona Legislature for years. The current senator and legislators from LD-6 in no way share our issues or concerns. They sponsored legislation that is of no value to us or is actually detrimental to us. We need people who represent us. The current CD-1 is highly competitive and has finally given us some representation in Washington. As you know, several our previous Congressional representatives were convicted of illegal dealings and possible insurrection. We don't want that. Please make certain the Verde Valley and Sedona are part of the same district as Flagstaff.
10/21/2021 - 13:48	Linda Peet Dugan	IRC redistricting	Despite Commissioner Mehl's insistence to the contrary, Oro Valley and Marana are not a "community of interest" with respect to the redistricting process. Oro Valley shares many more economic and social ties to Tucson, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina foothills than with Marana.
10/21/2021 - 14:00	Jeff Belokin	Redistricting	I am a resident of Pima County and enjoy living in Southern Arizona. I can say that it is disappointing to see the IRC considering merging Pima and Maricopa into one or several districts. We have different communities of interest and values for living. Please re-consider this and keep the districts for Southern Arizona in Southern Arizona. I appreciate your time.
10/21/2021 - 14:12	Tisha	Map	I strongly support keeping Verde Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff and the surrounding communities intact in one district. Do not divide this district.

10/21/2021 - 14:41	Linda S Johnson	AZ redistricting	<p>I reside in LD6. LD 6 and LD7 are a rural area that should NOT be any par of Maricopa County. LD6 contains large parts of Coconino, Navajo, Gila and Yavapai Counties. Sedona is in two counties and does not want to be split; we want the same legislative and congressional districts. We live in the Village of Oak Creek (VOC) and do not want to be split from Sedona. We are a community of interest. Mingus Mountain divides Yavapai County. The east side is a COI with Sedona. Verde Valley, including Sedona and VOC consider itself a region. Mayors and city managers meeting monthly to work together on issues of mutual interest. Medical care, shopping and transportation all integrated with the areas east of Mingus Mountain. PLEASE do not divide community! Thank you for your consideration.</p>
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10/21/2021 - 15:25

Phil Goode

Comments on First LD Draft Map - Phil Goode City of Prescott

IRC Commissioners,

I am currently a City Councilman and the Mayor elect of Prescott who testified at the original public hearing at Yavapai College in Prescott and did not comment or testify on the grid maps because based on the LD map presented, Yavapai was shown to be its own LD. The first issuance of your draft maps changed my concerns about LD1 significantly.

As you may know, Prescott was the first territorial capitol and Yavapai County is known as the mother of many other counties in Arizona. The counties of Apache, Navajo, Coconino, Gila, and Maricopa were formed from the original Yavapai County,. By state statue, Yavapai County is given the distinction of being recognized as LD-1. This historical distinction of LD-1 should remain.

In addition, Yavapai County should be composed as its own LD for several reasons:

- In the recent census, Yavapai county was found to have a population of over 236,600, and at our county's current growth rate, the county most likely has exceeded the LD minimum number of 238,384 this year. Yavapai county's new home permits in 2020 were 715, and so far in 2021 (end of September), 662 permits have been issued (estimating 2.5 persons per household). This doesn't take into consideration the new home permits issued by cities and towns throughout the county. Again, it's very likely the county has already exceeded the required minimum population number to qualify as its own LD.
- Yavapai County has a long history of Western heritage and culture involving ranching, mining, and forestry industries. Our Western heritage is a major element of our community of interest. People claiming Mingus mountain is a barrier to community interest and common economic and social concerns are clearly not widely connected to the wider cities and towns. I frequently visit and meet with community leaders in the Verde Valley and have found that we agree upon issues important to our communities and identify as rural Yavapai communities. Many of the people who I heard testify against being aligned with Yavapai County because of the "mountain barrier", also indicated that they come to Prescott to shop at our Costco and Trader Joes retailers and attend many of our Prescott held events, parades and holiday celebrations.
- It is important to the constituents of the county to remain whole as a county for the services provided to them that are funded by their property and TPT taxes. Government is more effective when issues arise that can be addressed from a central rather than defused authority and where their elected representatives have direct accountability.
- Water is becoming a major issue of concern in rural areas and particularly in the Prescott Active Management Area. The management of the aquifer in this area is intimately connected to the Verde River and its continued perennial flow. Since the City of Prescott is the only designated assured water provider in the PrAMA we must consider downstream impacts of our decisions related to the lower reaches of the Verde River. It is important that Yavapai County and other rural counties protect their water resources to sustain their industries and their way of life, and we can only do that if we are of one mind.
- In my view, the current draft map and continued efforts to split Yavapai County is highly likely to create a safe democrat LD for the next 10-years. Since the redistricting statute requires competitiveness in our elections, there is greater competition in keeping Yavapai County as its own LD.

I respectfully request that the next IRC draft map keep Yavapai County whole and not be split across other LDs. For many of the reasons (excluding water resource PrAMA issues) North Wickenburg should remain in the Yavapai County LD, and in an effort not to split the Town of Sedona, it should be incorporated entirely in LD-1 (Yavapai County).

I respectfully ask that my concerns be seriously considered.

Phil Goode
Prescott Mayor elect
Prescott City Councilman



10/21/2021 - 15:29	Kathy Henry	Redistricting	I want Verde Valley to stay together with Flagstaff and Sedona. Sedona should be stay in one district and stay together with Verde Valley and Flagstaff.
10/21/2021 - 15:32	Jaime Rennert	Keep the Verde Valley with more rural areas!	<p>Hello! I would like to voice my opinion regarding the redistricting discussions taking place. I strongly prefer that the committee keeps the Verde Valley together and with the rest of Yavapai County. Our values here (I live in Cottonwood) are far more closely aligned with Prescott Valley/Prescott versus that of Flagstaff and Coconino County. My vote is to keep our Yavapai county in one legislative district.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Jaime Rennert</p>
10/21/2021 - 15:33	Robert Pifke	Redistricting	<p>All parts of the City of Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek should be included in the same districts, and included with the rest of Verde Valley cities and towns. We share common problems and interests and our representatives should also be shared!</p> <p>Thanks in advance for sharing this comment with the appropriate Redistricting officials.</p>
10/21/2021 - 15:49	ANGIE BUENROSTRO	RE-DISTRICTING CONCERNS	Some would think that the IRC is not being independent when you are pushing the people of Southern Arizona to be in districts with people of Maricopa County. I pray that you do the right thing and keep Southern Arizona districts within Southern Arizona and not gerrymander the districts. As a resident of Southern Arizona, I am very different in my thoughts, community, beliefs, and civic mindedness than my Maricopa Arizonians. Please keep politics out of the district lines, keep Southern Arizona separate from Maricopa. Thank you for listening.
10/21/2021 - 15:53	James Hanson	Redistricting Pima/Maricopa	I'm a resident of Pima County and I have to wonder what you boneheads are doing?? Of all the stupidest things government does you are right up there with the rest. Do you even know there is a county between Pima and Maricopa?? The call it Pinal. Maybe that is who you were thinking of merging Maricopa or Pima with? When I hear a popping sound I'll know it's your heads getting out of somebodies ass, Republican/Democrat/Independent.
10/21/2021 - 15:59	Sheryl Eaton	Maps	I just heard that the IRC has pushed a map from business interests to the fore without proper review and has summarily set aside a map submitted by the Navajo Nation. Also, Latinx interests may be being downplayed. By law, the IRC must give minorities the chance to be in districts in which their interests will be represented. Lawsuits will ensue, no doubt, if the laws and regulations given the IRC to adhere to are not followed.
10/21/2021 - 16:05	Beth Mitchneck	IRC	I have three points. First, Marana and Oro Valley are not one community of interest. The economic base and the level of interaction with Tucson are very different as are the population structures. Second, the Navajo do constitute a community of interest in every way that Marana and Oro Valley do not. It is appalling, at best, that the recommendations from the Navajo Nation and from the Latino Coalition are basically ignored. Third, The Southern Arizona Leadership Council is representing its founder - Commissioner Mehl. It is not a citizen organisation if it comes from a commissioner.
10/21/2021 - 16:17	Leslie L Hunten	Make redistricting fair!	Dear IRC, the latest district maps you have drawn show a clear partisan bias, which is against your own rules directing you to draw fair and competitive boundaries. From the beginning, this process has been partisan. The Chairwoman is not truly independent, and the mapping firm's reputation does not hold integrity. Commissioner Mehl is not representing the Democratic Party, and is clearly aiming at his own real estate benefit. Now, Mehl's own preferred map was submitted and inappropriately accepted at the last minute, but maps by the Navajo Nation and Latino Coalition have been ignored. This is outrageous! This is blatant gerrymandering. I protest Commissioner Mehl's "Southern Arizona Leadership Council" influence, it's a for-profit real estate development group. I'm extremely disappointed at how this IRC is proceeding, and I think it's purpose will be completely subverted to gerrymandering. I will continue to watch and participate and agitate for more citizens to get involved.

10/21/2021 - 16:20	Cynthia Herron	Redistricting RE: D17	The draft maps have changed daily. It is impossible to keep up with the proposals. I had understood that this process was to be fully transparent. It has obviously not been. Oro Valley and Pinal County do not belong in the same district. Their interests and demographics are not the same. Casas Adobes, where I live, has more of a common interest with Oro Valley and should not be separated from it. I am surrounded geographically by Oro Valley and am actually anticipating being annexed by Oro Valley in the future. Where does my interest diverge from theirs? You can do better.
10/21/2021 - 16:23	Joseph K. Alexander	Comments on draft maps	The Town of Oro Valley shouldn't be split in different LDs. Oro Valley is in Pima County and should be in a Pima County LD. Oro Valley and rural Pinal County places do not belong in the same district.
10/21/2021 - 16:26	Diana Alexander	Redistricting comments	Oro Valley and rural Pinal County do not belong in the same district. Oro Valley is diverse by every measure. It has a balanced population by age, one quarter of its population is minority, mixture of housing options, a varied economy, investments in schools and multi-use parks and urban development. One political party should not have an advantage over the other.
10/21/2021 - 16:32	Katherine O. Bork	AZ Independent Redistricting Commission maps	I am a resident of Sedona, and I strongly believe that our town (and the Village of Oak Creek) form a community of interest with Flagstaff and the Verde Valley. Splitting our community in half makes no sense, and we share many common interests (the economy, water usage, tourism) with Flag and the Verde Valley.
10/21/2021 - 17:05	Susan Gould	Redistricting in northern Arizona	I've lived in Sedona since 1997. The two grandchildren we raised attended public school and college in Sedona and Flagstaff. Our healthcare providers are part of Northern AZ Healthcare system with hospitals in Cottonwood and Flagstaff, ER's in Sedona, Cottonwood and Flagstaff, and all physicians we see in Cottonwood, Sedona and Flagstaff. Our community involvements are in the Verde Valley, Sedona and Flagstaff where we also do all of our shopping, recreating and movie-going. Our communities of interest are with the city of Flagstaff and the Verde Valley. I urge you to keep us together in one Legislative and Congressional district with elected officials who know us and all of our issues and concerns. Commissioners, you have heard this message over and over from our community members. Please respect our unified request and keep our community together.
10/21/2021 - 17:05	Peggy Hughes	Redistricting	The draft maps have changed dramatically every day this week, which makes it difficult for the public to follow and comment, and prevents the process from moving forward. * Neither Democrats nor Republicans should be packed into districts which dilute their overall voting power. * Oro Valley is in Pima County and should be in a Pima County LD. * The Town of Oro Valley shouldn't be split in different LDs. * Oro Valley's larger community of interest includes northern Pima County and Casas Adobes. * Oro Valley and rural Pinal County places do not belong in the same district. Oro Valley is diverse by every measure. It has a balanced population by age, one quarter of its population is minority, a mixture of housing options, a varied economy, investments in schools and multi-use parks, and urban development. * LD maps should be competitive and representative. *The criteria for what is considered a "competitive" district should be consistent. The commission received testimony from national experts on what qualifies as competitive, and ostensibly adopted these guidelines, but have failed to incorporate these standards consistently. Please clarify this criteria and stick to it. *The process must be fair and accessible to all, not just the well-connected: a map submitted by Commissioner Mehl's colleagues at the Southern AZ Leadership Council (not a recognized "community of interest") via personal message at the very end of today's meeting was prioritized for consideration at tomorrow's meeting. Meanwhile, the map submitted by the Navajo Nation has not been made available on the website, and not given the deference shown to last-minute SALC map. Will the general public also be given access to IRC members' personal phone number and emails in order to make direct pleas for prioritization? * Congressional districts need to be competitive and fair.

10/21/2021 - 17:39	Judith Keagy	Independent Redistricting	So grateful we have an Independent Redistricting Commission in Arizona. Please do your best to keep the process fair and nonpartisan. There are reasonable criteria for creating competitive districts, respecting both geographic integrity and communities of interest. The last commission did a good job and I hope you will too.
10/21/2021 - 18:23	Klock Diane	Fair maps	Everyone's vote should count. We need fair maps in Arizona.
10/21/2021 - 18:40	Danielle Ramos	Redistricting	It is important that we keep our county in one legislative district. We in Yavapai county want to remain grouped with similar rural northern AZ counties to maintain our heritage and history. We do not want to be part of Flagstaff.
10/21/2021 - 18:47	Rhonda Licata	Redistricting	We don't belong with Wickenburg. Wickenburg is a 'western' town. Anthem is an upscale non-western town settled by people from across the US. We belong with communities south on I17 to Loop 101. Thanks again for taking our comments and working on this issue.
10/21/2021 - 19:37	Steven C Begay	Navajo Nation submitted map to IRC	My name is Steven C Begay, a Navajo, an enrolled member, and voter from Saint Michaels Chapter in Arizona. The map submitted by the Navajo Nation should be considered, discussed by the IRC and published for public review and comment in the redistricting process. The Navajo map should be included as an official version using the mapping software. Demographic comparisons need to be explained. Consideration should be given to the differences in communities of interest and reasons for compactness that stem from resources and treaty relationship with the federal government. An explanation of the data conclusions between the pending test map and the Navajo official submitted map should be on record. Important are transportation corridors when the IRC is deciding about rural Arizona district lines. For example, Highway I-17 and Highway 89A north connect Flagstaff and the Verde Valley. However, there is no similar easy connection in the east-west alignment between the Verde Valley and Apache County and portions of Navajo county. Transportation access reflects the economic and social connections in the north-south corridor, but it lacks similar connections or communities of interests in the east-west corridor. The map submitted by the Navajo Nation accounts well for the differences and the current test maps for LD6 and LD7 do not. The treatment of the Navajo Nation's map submission in contrast with the treatment of the submission by SALC, is wrong and probably illegal. Commissioner Mehl is allowing for something onto this redistricting process in a way that would disenfranchise Native Americans. The state election process must allow for input from communities of color. The process must allow Native Americans to elect candidates of their choice. No more unlawful gerrymandering of districts.
10/21/2021 - 19:58	Andrew Flach	Add more election data to Redistricting System?	I am curious how vote share has changed over time in the proposed districts, but most of the races in the Redistricting Systems are from 2018, with only two 2020 races and one 2016 race. Please add more D/R vote shares for non-Federal statewide races in 2020 and 2016, and please add vote shares for State Senate for 2016, 2018 & 2020.
10/21/2021 - 20:02	Nancy E. Ward	Redistricting maps	Why is the IRC practically ignoring a district proposed by the Navajo Nation and has rejected the eight Voting Rights Act districts proposed by the Latino Coalition? At the same time it is considering a legislative district map submitted by the Southern Arizona Leadership Council as citizen submitted. That Council just happened to be founded by Commissioner Mell. Very unusual! Also, I believe Oro Valley has more in common with Tucson, Casas Adobes, and Catalina foothills than it does with Marañá.
10/21/2021 - 20:14	Judy E Dolloff	Redistricting	Separating Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek from the Verde Valley and Flagstaff makes no sense, unless you are trying to dilute Democratic votes in this Legislative district which seems to be your purpose. The community exists within the Verde Valley, not Prescott. I live in VOC, and I transact all my business within the Verde Valley and Flagstaff. It takes over an hour to reach Prescott. The issues we face in this community are much more closely aligned with the Verde Valley. Do your job and protect this community. Stop the partisan politics with these important maps.
10/21/2021 - 20:31	Judi Davis	Oro valley redistributing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Neither Democrats nor Republicans should be packed into districts which dilute their overall voting power. * Oro Valley is in Pima County and should be in a Pima County LD. * The Town of Oro Valley shouldn't be split in different LDs. * Oro Valley's larger community of interest includes northern Pima County and Casas Adobes. * Oro Valley and rural Pinal County places do not belong in the same district

10/21/2021 - 20:35	Lee Stanfield	Inequity in consideration of maps submitted by Navajo Nation & Latino Coalition	A district proposed by the Navajo Nation, and the eight Voting Rights Act districts proposed by the Latino Coalition have been given insufficient consideration by the IRC. Yet the IRC has agreed to Republican Commissioner Mehl's motion to consider a legislative district map just submitted by the Southern Arizona Leadership Council (which Commissioner Mehl founded). It is being called a "citizen submitted" LD version 6.3.
10/21/2021 - 20:41	Lee Stanfield	Oro Valley community of interest is more aligned with Tucson than Marana	Commissioner Mehl keeps insisting that Oro Valley is aligned with the interests of Marana with regard to the redistricting. But Oro Valley residents say that they are more aligned with Tucson, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina Foothills both economically and socially.