

Submitted Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
12/06/2021 - 05:47	Tina Whitley	Stop the gerrymandering and go back to the drawing board	<p>I have been following the AIRC since you first began meeting. And the questions I continue to ask myself is: Are all members of the committee taking its mission seriously? If so, how will the results of the commission's work prove that? It recently came to light that an incumbent politician has abused the AIRC safeguards to influence the redistricting process and this politician, Vince Leach to be specific, is being listened to by his party's members of the commission, as well as the so called „independent“ chair Erika Neuberg. <a href="https://azdem.org/caught-emails-reveal-covert-efforts/">https://azdem.org/caught-emails-reveal-covert-efforts/</a>.</p> <p>After listening to Ms. Neuberg's defensive responses to the blatant gerrymandering of the present maps, (and why she was wearing red) I am convinced she wants to be sure Republicans stay in power. The problem with that is these Republicans are extremists who spent the last legislative session defunding public education, making it harder for people of color to vote, and spending tax payers money on a review of the 2020 election that was fair and more secure in any election in Arizona's history. Did the Republican led AZ Legislature respect the will of the voters in the 2020 election? NO! Did the Republican led AZ Legislature follow the will of the voters and implement Prop 208? NO! Did they address the water crisis in Arizona? NO! Did they address the need for better health care? NO!</p> <p>And finally, does the Republican led legislature even care about the will of the voters? This is an unequivocal NO! And why not? Their only, I repeat, only concern is to stay in power no matter what it takes. The Republican Party is opposed to one-person-one vote, and for this reason the AIRC's mandate is more crucial than ever. Erika Neuberg will prove her independence if she leads the commission to listen to the public comments from Saturday, Dec. 4, and demand that maps be redrawn in the most egregiously gerrymandered districts LD17 to name just one. This tweet has been viewed over 570 times: -ATTENTION @ArizonaIRCArizonans are speaking. They are telling you to #StopGerrymandering and expecting you to draw #FairMaps Our democracy is at stake, and this is your legacy Erika Neuberg.</p>
12/06/2021 - 05:58	Gerry Friedel	Redistricting	<p>After several attempts to sign into your live meeting last week (which were unsuccessful) I'm writing this message for your consideration. I am a councilman in the town of Fountain Hills. Please do your best to keep Phoenix as a whole district.</p>

12/06/2021 - 08:01	Nelson Morgan	Improving accessibility to testimony at draft map meetings	<p>Commissioners:</p> <p>At the virtual hearing on Friday Dec. 3, I described some work that some volunteers and I are doing to annotate and index semi-automatic transcriptions of the public draft map meetings. Chair Neuberger followed up by pointing out that any summary statistics that we generated would not be of a representative sample. I presume that what she meant was, not a representative sample of the voting population. I agree. Of course, the same could be said of the public meetings overall, and it is your unenviable task to assess the value of the many comments you are receiving during them. Many, many people have access to talking points from organizations favoring one view or another, but this does not entirely invalidate their testimony; were that the case, there would be no point to the hearings.</p> <p>Any summaries that we provide, numerical or otherwise, will be representative of the people who spoke at the meetings, and that's all any of us can do. But our conclusions are not the primary value we hope to provide – we are hoping that what we can provide is an additional tool for you to sort through the mountains of verbal comments that were made, at least for a very few issues that are being debated. It will not be a particularly sophisticated tool, given the press of time, but the work is being done primarily to help you. Primarily it will consist of a list of persons who spoke, with time stamps for their testimony, and a binary choice of their positions on a few key issues. The time stamps will allow you to assess nuance. We will also choose a few "typical" quotes for each position, and the time stamps will make it straightforward to see if our pulling a quote out of its context has distorted its meaning. We will certainly try not to do that.</p> <p>I hope that we can give at least a partial set of results by your meeting on the 9th; perhaps with more by the meeting after that. It's a lot of work, so I do hope that you find it helpful.</p>
12/06/2021 - 10:18	Lynne Hudson	Public comments	<p>When harsh rhetoric arises about specific issues and processes, it is an important signal. The authors of such rhetoric aren't malcontents, they are people who treasure fairness and democratic processes. They went to a lot of effort to codify these rules and processes into the AZ Constitution in 2000, so they are defending them against perceived threats—not unlike a mother bear defending her Cubs. Some of your actions have poked that bear. They want you to succeed as much as anyone else, perhaps more. But to them success is defined as adhering to all components of the law.</p>
12/06/2021 - 10:21	Joan J Mason	Inconsistent Use of Constitutional Criteria; Transparency	<p>I believe that there is an urgent need for more transparency in how the six criteria are being weighed by the AIRC. The Commission must be more explicit about which Communities of Interest it is prioritizing in each district. In addition, it must be specific about why certain of the six criteria are not met. The public needs to know why certain districts cannot be made competitive: if a district is over the Commission's own criterion of 7%, it should be explained why it cannot be made competitive. The highest level of transparency should be upheld. While, unfortunately, this has not been the case, I sincerely hope it is not too late for the Commission to address this lack of transparency. I also want to reiterate my dismay at the lack of competitiveness within districts. There has been a blatant disregard of the competitiveness criterion, a fact that will lead to more polarization and less voter participation.</p>
12/06/2021 - 10:28	Jerry Antone	Voting Rights	<p>I live on the Navajo Nation all my lifetime. I vote every four years and have used mailing address to do so. I never had any problems doing this. I know we don't have any street address to receive our mail daily. Our people should not have be confronted with problems every four years reference to 'Voting Rights ACT'. It seems that redistricting to segregate minority to dilute the majority votes is the intent of our choice. This is a FREE Country and keep as such and let people choose who they wish to vote and respect their conscience.</p>
12/06/2021 - 10:35	Kathryn Gullen	Redistricting	<p>I firmly believe that Green Valley belongs in District 21 and CD 7 with Representative Raul Grijava rather than be lumped together with a rural district to the east of us. Green Valley is a suburb of Tucson situated along the I-19 corridor. Green Valley should not be separated from Sahuarita. I do most of my shopping in Sahuarita. I eat at their restaurants and make use of their parks and outdoor facilities. The church I attend is in Sahuarita. Our two communities are bound tightly together and should definitely be in the same legislature district. Thank you.</p>

12/06/2021 - 10:39	Ellen Ferreira	IRC Comment from Sedona	<p>This article was published on Salon.com: <a href="https://www.salon.com/2021/12/04/will-arizonas-relentless-gerrymander-decide-the-2024-presidential-election/">https://www.salon.com/2021/12/04/will-arizonas-relentless-gerrymander-decide-the-2024-presidential-election/</a> I urge all of the Commissioners to read it. If the maps that emerge from this process produce a state that slants very heavily Republican for the next 10 years, I'm certain the lack of independence pointed out in this article will be used as an example for history of how the will of the majority can be suppressed by the trickery of the minority.</p> <p>Please be evenhanded in performing your job as the INDEPENDENT Commission called for in the Arizona Constitution.</p>
12/06/2021 - 11:33	Fred Corbus	Redistricting	<p>Please don't do this kind of stuff!! Surrender! If you have principles and a north star for morality and ethics, you get what you want by being fair and adhering to the democratic process! Don't redistrict so as to distort the picture of an overall popular vote. Come on, support democracy and temper your greed for power!</p>
12/06/2021 - 14:08	Peggy Pena	Cochise County not same community of interest as Graham/Greenlee county	<p>Cochise county has a entirely different community interest than Graham/Graham Counties. Graham/Greenlee counties are completely tied to the mining community whereas Cochise County has very little. The people in Graham/Greenlee counties shop, go to recreation activities, and have their media center in the Phoenix area and tied to the north socially and the with mining. The people in Cochise County shop, go to recreational activities, and have their media center in the Tucson area. Cochise County is tied economically to the eastern Pima county with their robust tourist interaction. Also we have nothing in common with the Casa Grand area which is tied to the Phoenix area.</p> <p>PLEASE LOOK AT PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED ON THE WEBSITE OVER THE LAST WEEKEND (12/4-5) by PEOPLE IN COCHISE COUNTY. COVID CONCERNS ABOUT MEETING 12/4}</p>
12/06/2021 - 14:09	Peggy Pena	Cochise County not same community of interest as Graham/Greenlee county	<p>Cochise county has a entirely different community interest than Graham/Graham Counties. Graham/Greenlee counties are completely tied to the mining community whereas Cochise County has very little. The people in Graham/Greenlee counties shop, go to recreation activities, and have their media center in the Phoenix area and tied to the north socially and the with mining. The people in Cochise County shop, go to recreational activities, and have their media center in the Tucson area. Cochise County is tied economically to the eastern Pima county with their robust tourist interaction. Also we have nothing in common with the Casa Grand area which is tied to the Phoenix area.</p> <p>PLEASE LOOK AT PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED ON THE WEBSITE OVER THE LAST WEEKEND (12/4-5) by PEOPLE IN COCHISE COUNTY. COVID CONCERNS ABOUT MEETING 12/4}</p>
12/06/2021 - 16:31	Pamela Little	Redistricting	<p>I expect the Commission to provide fair and competitive districts that comply with the Voting Rights Act. Thank you</p>
12/06/2021 - 18:55	Ann Rae Heitland	CD 2 - Dec. 6 discussion	<p>I was disappointed to hear Chair Neuberg repeatedly describe the Draft Map of CD2 as a 7% competitive district. It is more like 8%. 7% is already too much, but that it the outer number the commission agreed upon. Please stick to that as the outlying number.</p>
12/06/2021 - 18:55	Susan Simison	Proposed district for parts of Tucson and environs	<p>What the blazes is going on? Why on earth would there be a proposal to include areas from southeast Tucson all the way around the eastern edge of Tucson, then across to Marana?!!! Obviously a ploy to dilute democracy itself by gerrymandering a Republican dominated district. Kindly bring some decency and common sense and FAIRNESS to the process - and ENCOURAGE citizens to participate in government of the people, by the people, for the people.</p>
12/06/2021 - 19:13	Ann Heitland	CD2 - Is it a compromise?	<p>Listening to Chair Neuberg's distress and claim that CD2 was a compromise, it reminds us that it would be great to have official transcripts to determine if Commissioners Learner and Watchman agreed only that it should be put out for public comment in order to move the process along. Rather than agreeing to the map as a compromise. Or, we could just listen to the overwhelming public comments in opposition to the Draft Map version of CD 2 and not worry so much about who is going back on some supposed agreement.</p>
12/06/2021 - 19:16	Ann Rae Heitland	CD2 - Commissioner Mehl's Dream Version	<p>Mehl says his version of CD2 is a "really good map" and respects COI. Only a guy who thinks of rural Arizona as something to throw into the discard pile could say that. Read the COI testimony.</p>

12/06/2021 - 19:54	Teena Parham	Ld7	<p>I live in Heber/Overgaard. Right in the middle of the largest Ponderosa Pine forest in the WORLD. THIS HAS BEEN OVERLOOKED FOR TOO LONG. Forest Industries used to be a very lucrative business and brought other businesses. We have to follow different rules to manage our first than the BIA does. Putting us with any of the reservations makes this issue and many others mute. We have no one fighting for our needs and issues. This is just an example. We also have no voice if we are with suburban urban and metropolitan areas. Please keep LD7 completely rural. North eastern Az together</p>
12/06/2021 - 20:09	Brandy Reese	BLATANT partisan interference by the Republican Party	<p>I have played by the rules. I have studied the maps, scrutinized submitted user-generated maps, attended meetings and hearings, and made polite public comments. I have made polite online comments asking for what this committee is designed to provide, fair maps. Now as it has become apparent that bad actors (Rep. Vince Leach, Commissioner Mehl) have been working against the mission of the IRC to generate maps that are favorable to them I made comments asking for those maps and proposed districts to receive more scrutiny. After learning that the supposed independent chair of the committee has made several split vote decisions siding with Republicans (<a href="https://kjzz.org/content/1738281/dems-accuse-redistricting-commission-chair-political-bias">https://kjzz.org/content/1738281/dems-accuse-redistricting-commission-chair-political-bias</a>) that tarnish the independent character of this committee and these proceedings and certainly these maps, I'm just about beyond the point of making polite comments.</p> <p>Now, I'm DEMANDING that these districts be given scrutiny for competitiveness. There is no way the state of Arizona can abide anything less. We all know what is at stake here. No less than the 2024 election and the future of our democracy in this country.</p> <p>I assert that the actions of Erika Neuberg be given scrutiny as well. If she is indeed as she claims to be, independent then fine. However, if she is the Trojan Horse that was admitted as their goal in 2013, then I suggest she be impeached and the redistricting process begin with a new truly independent council. <a href="https://www.rollcall.com/2013/08/12/2020-redistricting-the-arizona-gop-is-on-it/">https://www.rollcall.com/2013/08/12/2020-redistricting-the-arizona-gop-is-on-it/</a></p>
12/06/2021 - 20:30	John C. Gray, MD	Redistricting	<p>My name is John C. Gray, MD and I am a resident of the Catalina Foothills Neighborhood of Tucson, Arizona and a registered voter. There is not always much we can be proud of in Arizona's current political arena due to partisan politics and the enactment of laws that are found to be illegal by our judicial system. However, a point of pride for the state of Arizona is our current legislative boundaries, which were created by a BIPARTISAN commission and are lauded around the United States as being fair and equal for both of the main political parties. Please do not make major changes in the current boundaries. The most recent changes proposed have the clear appearance of gerrymandering for political gain. As a long time member of the greater Tucson community, I consider Oro Valley and Marana as part to the Tucson Metropolitan Area and consider them our neighbors. Please do not build a legislative fence to keep us apart. I oppose the proposed plan to divide our community. I favor option #9 and would ask that you consider it as the most fair option being put forward by the committee thus far. Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Respectfully, John C. Gray, MD</p>

12/06/2021 - 23:09	Bruce Burke	Map 10.0, LD 21 breaks up and breaks apart Tucson neighborhoods, placing them in a rural district	<p>This submission supplements and expands upon the time-limited oral statement I made before the commission at the IRC's public hearing held at the Sheraton Hotel in Tucson, AZ, on December 4, 2021.</p> <p>I am submitting this statement as an individual citizen, along with the following information so you may understand my perspective on the reapportionment process and why I object to the commission's Legislative District map as presently proposed.</p> <p>I am Bruce Burke, a retired lawyer and former two term board member in the Tucson Unified School District. For almost 40 years my wife Melinda and I have lived in the historic San Clemente neighborhood at the intersection of Broadway Blvd. and Alvernon Way, just east of Reid Park in central Tucson. Our children went to TUSD schools, from Lineweaver Elementary to University High. We are members of our neighborhood association. This association is active, as exemplified by an annual membership meeting at which community interests are discussed, and a Halloween parade and an annual picnic for its residents.</p> <p>Our San Clemente neighborhood is currently located in Legislative District 10, which is a relatively competitive urban district that has elected both Democrats and Republicans to the legislature.</p> <p>Our neighborhood association is one of many active associations that are registered with the city of Tucson and listed on the city's "Associations and Neighborhoods" website (<a href="https://www.tucsonaz.gov/apps/associations-and-neighborhood-maps/">https://www.tucsonaz.gov/apps/associations-and-neighborhood-maps/</a>). My statement focuses on those neighborhoods with registered neighborhood associations that are located along Broadway Blvd., a major city east-west arterial, between Campbell Avenue and Craycroft Road. The city's website provides a detailed map of the geographic boundaries of these neighborhoods and their associations. I respectfully ask you to review this website to visualize the boundaries of the neighborhoods I reference in this statement.</p> <p>I have reapportionment experience similar in nature to the duties of this commission, as I have twice served on the Tucson Redistricting Advisory Committee, which meets every four years to review and recommend adjustments to the City's ward boundaries. Because of this committee service and my service on other city committees over many years, as well as my participation in successful city sales tax and city bond initiative campaigns that I have chaired or co-chaired, I am generally familiar with the city's communities of interest, including its neighborhood associations.</p> <p>I am also a current member and former State Chair of Common Cause, a citizen's lobby that supported the adoption of Prop 106 and creation of this independent commission. As a result, I am familiar with the constitutional provisions adopted by the passage of Prop 106, as well as this committee's responsibilities under those provisions. Under our State Constitution, among other nonpartisan obligations you are charged with creating competitive legislative district maps for the benefit of voters and their communities of interest.</p> <p>Having reviewed several maps and data on the IRC website, I must state my concerns about and objections to Approved Legislative Draft Map 10.0. On this map our neighborhood and several others bordering Broadway Blvd (See the list below) are placed into proposed Legislative District 21, which in makeup is a very rural district quite unlike the urban area in which the described central city neighborhoods are located. For our neighborhood and others along Broadway Blvd. our community of interest is better served in a wholly urban district focused on Tucson. We are not well served by LD 21, which includes rural areas and international border communities that have markedly different community profiles and different, perhaps even conflicting, sets of voter interests.</p> <p>I support adoption of IRC proposed Map 9.0, which is compact, competitive and a more intuitive division of our city. On that map Melinda and I, and our neighborhood would be located within Legislative District 18 with other similar neighborhoods, without any rural or border areas also included.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to consider this statement. This commission has important work still to do and I wholeheartedly thank you for your service.</p> <hr/> <p>The following are neighborhoods (and their associations) bordering Broadway Blvd. in Tucson that are moved from current LD 10 into the proposed LD 21 on Map 10.0: Sam Hughes (only one-half of the neighborhood – the proposed LD 21 map splits the neighborhood), El Encanto Estates, El Conquistador, El Montevideo, Peter Howell (only one-half of the neighborhood – the proposed LD 21 map splits the neighborhood), Poets Square, Sierra Estates, Highland Vista Cinco Via, Broadmoor-Broadway, San Clemente, Rosemont West, and Rosemont East. I am also aware that though the neighborhood known as Colonia Solana, located just west of Reid Park and bordering on Broadway Blvd. apparently does not have a registered neighborhood association, it fits the profile</p>
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12/06/2021 - 23:38	Julie Pindzola	Competitiveness and "Significant Detriment"	<p>Hello IRC,</p> <p>It is time to remind ourselves of the IRC Redistricting Mission – that is to honor all six criteria in equal measure and the will of the Prop 106 voters in 2000. As called out in the bill's title, "Fair and Competitive Districts" are vital to having an engaged and informed electorate. It is also vital to maintaining our democracy. At a time when the rhetoric is extreme and laced with spin, to put it kindly, this Commission has the opportunity to honor truth and justice. These are not outdated ideals. You have been entrusted to do the right thing by ALL of Arizona – not just you perceived "constituency." PLEASE SPEAK UP, fairness and fair elections need all of your care and attention. That is what this whole project is about. Please do not create safe districts when you have very good and proven alternatives.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
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