

Submitted Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
12/08/2021 - 08:41	Marie Wenzel	Rural AZ Is Too Big For One CD2 District	I am a Sedona resident and support spitting rural northern AZ into a western and eastern district. The eastern district would include the Verde Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff, tribal lands, etc similar to what we have today. The eastern district still leans R, but much more competitive. Sedona, the Verde Valley and tribal lands are huge revenue generators for the state and our voices deserve to be heard, not diluted.
12/08/2021 - 09:09	Ann Heitland	CD 2 - northern maps	<p>Chair Neuberg, in questioning Commissioner Lerner’s proposal to modify CD2 as Native Americans have suggested, asked “why do we redistrict if not to come up with something new?” Answer: The one and only reason to redistrict ever ten years is to population balance. The purpose being to achieve, as closely as possible, “one man, one vote.” The other 5 criteria laid out in the Arizona Constitution are there to assure that when population needs to be rebalanced, it is done fairly and in a manner that achieves competitive districts where possible.</p> <p>In other words, to avoid the gerrymandering that legislatures have done when they had complete control. There is no mandate to do something new just for the sake of doing something new. Indeed, embedded in the definition of “communities of interest” is the notion that historic alignments should be preserved to the extent possible.</p> <p>Refusing to divide Yavapai County as it has been for the last 40 years desecrates the rural community of interest of the western portion of Yavapai County and Mohave and LaPaz while stripping Native Americans of the opportunity to have a candidate of their choice. Indeed, it forces them into a district with a white supremacist Congressman with no hope of bettering that representation.</p> <p>The record will show that the Democratic Commissioners consistently objected to the Draft Map configuration of District 2 and voted to send them out to the public for comment only to move the process along. The compromise they made was a process compromise, not a substantive one. The record will also show that the overwhelming public comment opposes the Draft Map configuration of District 2, supporting the objections those commissioners made before the map was released for public comment.</p>
12/08/2021 - 10:21	Arthur Waid Reynolds	Map 10 -- LD19 is gerrymandered!	<p>Green Valley should not be separated from Sahuarita, and Sahuarita should not be split as depicted in Map 10. With the currently proposed layout of LD19, the IRC has divided the Town of Sahuarita, as well as separated Green Valley from its sister city. We dine, shop, attend church, work, and play in Sahuarita, Green Valley and Tucson, not in Benson, Wilcox or Sierra Vista. Green Valley and ALL of Sahuarita have the same legislative interests and should be in the same legislative district.</p> <p>The current map has Green Valley and portions of Sahuarita in a district that is primarily rural and stretches east all the way to the NM border. How is this "compact" as required by law? Where are the common interests? Green Valley is basically a suburb of Tucson. Our community of interest (COI) is the I-19 corridor, NOT rural Arizona!</p> <p>Please stop this obvious attempt at gerrymandering designed by conservatives to prevent many Democrats from having a voice in state government. The current map is blatant gerrymandering, NOT "independent" redistricting! The IRC needs to DO YOUR JOB, instead of kowtowing to conservatives!</p>

12/08/2021 - 11:12	Cathy Rutherford	Support for Commissioner Lerner's Competitive CD map	<p>I am hoping that the Commission can put aside partisan politics long enough to truly consider the importance of including as many competitive districts as possible in their final map for the AZ districts. I know that Commissioner Neuberg stated that the Commission has heard the message about competitiveness loud and clear. Now is the time to show the public that you have listened to that message.</p> <p>Commissioner Lerner's map will still create two Northern Arizona Republican majority Congressional Districts, but also in the process, it will create a truly competitive district. A spread of 4% is one that will encourage voters from both parties to get engaged. It will also show that the Commission is not gerrymandering this map.</p> <p>Please stand up against the polarizing partisan politics that are tearing our country apart and make the brave, right choice of accepting Commissioner Lerner's map.</p>
12/08/2021 - 11:29	Fred Olster	Northern Arizona	<p>Win by offering the best ideas....not by cheating.</p> <p>Arizona is already the butt of jokes for its sham audit that proved nothing but that the republicans are sore losers....don't add to the distrust of our state government by gerrymandering our voting districts. Supporting the proposed two rural districts in Northern Arizona would at least give the appearance of fair play. You are, after all, supposed to be an INDEPENDENT Redistricting Commission.</p> <p>Please, do the right thing.</p>

12/08/2021 - 11:31

Scott Day Freeman

Exploitation of the VRA
in the Proposed
"Flagstaff/White
Mountain Swap"

Dear Commissioners:

Please do not debase the federal Voting Rights Act by allowing it to be used again as a partisan weapon. This is precisely what is being done with the proposed "swap" of Flagstaff for the White Mountain communities on the legislative map. For the sake of the people of the White Mountains, Rim Country, and their connected corridors to the Valley, please reject this "swap" and give these people a voice at the legislature.

The VRA's objective is to ensure that racial and language minorities have the "opportunity to elect" the "candidate of choice" where possible on the map. The VRA should be a neutral redistricting criterion, not favoring a so-called "party of choice" (as this commission has stated) and not serving the interests of any party. The VRA is abused when partisans attempt to use it to serve ulterior motives, such as silencing other communities and achieving partisan wins elsewhere on the map. Where a district can be constructed in more than one way to satisfy the VRA, it is troubling to hear veiled threats of legal challenges being issued unless one, preferred version of the district is adopted, a version that confers an obvious advantage to one party.

Ten years ago, the people of the White Mountains spoke passionately and persuasively about their community of interest and how their interests stand in contradistinction to the interests of the Navajo and Apache tribes. I attended the hearings in Hon-Dah and Eagar/Springerville and read the considerable written comment from that area. The AIRC ignored many of these communities and allowed tribal interest to define the interests of the White Mountain and Rim Country communities for them. In this redistricting cycle, the White Mountain and Rim Country communities have again pleaded to have their voices respected. Please listen and understand the concerns of these people – as expressed by them and not others.

Keeping Flagstaff in the Native American VRA legislative district respects the communities of interest, the "voice," of both communities and satisfies the VRA.

Flagstaff includes the San Francisco Peaks, one of the four mountains defining the Dinétah, the traditional homeland of the Navajos. (I was surprised to not hear that pointed out during your last hearing.) Many Navajos and Hopis reside in the Flagstaff and its surrounds. Furthermore, Flagstaff and the tribes have synergies from their proximity. Flagstaff is the nearest metropolitan hub for the tribes, and having a legislator who understands that relationship would benefit both communities. Many who live in Flagstaff have expressed similar sentiments and agree with the concept of keeping Flagstaff with the tribes on the map.

Similarly, the White Mountain, Rim Country, and associated corridors have distinct rural, and non-tribal, interests that should be respected and not diminished or silenced, and it makes sense to link these areas to the Valley the way you have done.

The current LD 7, as drawn, can and should be made "more competitive," which is the fair and evenhanded standard for that goal, as opposed to selective, unequal application to meet an arbitrary and narrow metric, a classic form of gerrymander per your mapping consultant. There are likely ways to meet the "more competitive" goal through your final population balancing exercise, although it will take some work as you have a number of underpopulated districts in that area of the map. The VRA could very well compel the AIRC to underpopulate the Native American VRA LD, but the VRA does not give the AIRC cart blanche to ignore the state's equal population requirement. I would urge the AIRC to satisfy itself, as a matter of record, that equal population and the VRA cannot be simultaneously met before so doing.

The voice of the White Mountain communities should be respected, not diminished or silenced. Please reject this latest ply to exploit the VRA for partisan gain.

Thank you,
Scott
Scott Day Freeman
(Former Vice Chair of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission)

12/08/2021 - 12:01	Nancy Scharff	Redrawing map for Yavapai County	Please adopt the map that creates 2 rural districts by separating Mingus Mountains from the rest of Yavapai County, adding Mohave County to the western district and including Verdi Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff and the tribal lands to the eastern district. This would help fulfill the requirement of competitiveness.
12/08/2021 - 12:16	Steven H. Slaton	Future district 7	<p>My Name is Steven Slaton; I live in Show Low Az. Like to thank Chairman Neuberg, and Commissioners, My wife and I represent the White Mountain Conservatives. We represent thousands of folks who live throughout the White Mountains of Northern Arizona Mountain communities. As for the future of Legislative District 7, By including the Northern Communities with a Southern district of Pinal County as shown in your approved Draft Map Legislative District 7, is not communities of interests or competitiveness. With the size of these districts half of our population is bound to feel unrepresented. And they are already! Districts should accurately represent communities of interest who live and work together. Being loop in with the Pinal County which main community of interest is mining, were we have nothing in common with mining. A new Legislative District 7 should accurately represent communities of interest which is required by State and Federal law. We the people of Northern Az. request you reinstate your Az. Draft Map 1.0 Legislative District 7. HOWEVER the communities of Snowflake, Taylor, Holbrook, Joseph city, and Winslow, are not part of these communities of interested of the White Mountains. These communities are made up primarily of rock and high desert plateau, with a vast valley of ranchland, and agriculture, With 2 of the largest Marijuana growing facilities in the state, as well as large wind Farms, and Helium development from Holbrook Basin through the Navajo Reservation these differences separates the two regions, and they should be included in Legislative District 6 not Legislative District 7. The culture and way of life is different than those communities of interest of the White Mountain Communities. The White Mountain Community which is outlined on the Az Draft Map 1.0 with their community of interest is commitment to bringing tourism to the region, along with common interest within other White Mountain communities, which share rivers and lakes, National Forest, winter sport activities, Hunting, Fishing with ongoing Economic Development of the White Mountain. The White Mountain communities for Legislative District 7 need to be with other White Mountain communities of the same Interests. These interests are non-partisan and are for the common good in our locales and region. These cities include Lakeside/Pinetop, Show low, Heber/Overgaard, Forest Lakes, Payson, Pine, Strawberry, Cornville, Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Williams, Parks, Sedona, Suburban and Rural Flagstaff only as in Doney Park, and West Flagstaff. All of These Communities would meet communities of Interests as well population requirements for Legislative District 7 according to Federal and State Laws.</p> <p>Thank you for your time Sincerely Steven Slaton</p>

12/08/2021 - 12:42	Julie M Pindzola	Better Maps in Northern Arizona and beyond	<p>Dear IRC and Chair Neuberg,</p> <p>As you work throughout the state to improve the Draft maps, I hope you are willing to do the hard work of finding Fairness and Competitiveness. These objectives are primary to your purpose, and to your legacy. After this past year, Arizona wants and needs a political structure that works for everybody. This means starting with a Fair and Competitive set of district maps.</p> <p>We say NO to too many safe districts, especially when the state overall is made to be unbalanced. Let candidates earn our votes.</p> <p>It is not too late to repair Northern Arizona. CD2 and CD9 need your attention - neither is competitive and both lean R. The Draft map would leave thousands of Independents, like myself, from having the diverse choices we ask for. Putting the Verde Valley with Flagstaff and D7 makes this achievable. Let Central Yavapai County go with Mohave County. Together they are a natural Community of Interest as CD9, defining themselves as Rural conservatives. D2, on the other hand, needs to be an effective VRA district where the Native Peoples have the concentrations to possibly vote in candidates of their own choosing. I recommend newly submitted CD 0074 which achieves 3/3/3 Dem/Rep/Competitive.</p> <p>This last minute move to resurrect the idea of 3.2 is MEAN SPIRITED and wrongheaded. What is the reason behind such a play? It would reduce the congressional representation of Northern Arizona from its current two seats to only one. It would disenfranchise the Native people and all the Independents and Democrats in over ½ the state for 10 years. What a grotesque legacy!</p> <p>This same request and logic applies to the LD treatment in No AZ. For the past 10 years there has been a decent balance with two Red, one Blue, and one Competitive legislative district but the Draft map completely ruins this. LDs 30, 5, and 7 are safely R and LD6 Navajo/Hopi is overly packed D. This imbalance does not have to be. Please see LD0070 which displays these requested changes in a Fair and Competitive way. It incorporates LDF 50 and 51 as a basis for this statewide map for consideration but makes adjustments to achieve a Fair and Competitive statewide map. It achieves 11/12/7 Dem/Rep/Competitive.</p> <p>You have your good conscience and reputations at stake. Please do the right thing for all of Arizona's citizens and play fair Thank you.</p>
12/08/2021 - 12:46	Helen Abrahamson	Redistricting in Sedona	<p>Hello. Thank you for the work you are doing (it's a lot!) regarding redistricting in Arizona. I am writing to ask you to create two rural districts in CD2, keeping the area more competitive politically and keeping those of us with similar concerns regarding healthcare, education, environmental impact together. This makes sense all around and would help provide necessary government services as we move into the next decade. I also encourage you to keep the Navajo Nation together in one district. Indigenous people need to have their needs and concerns heard in the most equitable way possible. Thank you.</p>
12/08/2021 - 13:00	Salli Maxwell	A competitive redistricting	<p>Thank you for taking everything into consideration to make Arizona's districts competitive, with all the information you have.</p>
12/08/2021 - 13:14	Diane Leigh Lenz	plans for Congressional District 2	<p>My name is Diane Lenz, and I am a resident of Clarkdale, AZ (Yavapai County). My economic, employment, medical, and cultural community of interest includes the Verde Valley, Sedona and Flagstaff. For CD-2 I am in support of a CD-2 proposal that creates two rural districts with Mingus Mountain as the natural geographic divider. The western district could add Mohave county and the Colorado River communities. The eastern district would include the Verde Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff, and adjacent tribal lands, Such a District would be a genuinely competitive rural congressional district that reflects my community of interest and respects the indigenous vote.</p>
12/08/2021 - 13:16	suan pierce	redistricting	<p>Keep us competitive.....cottonwood with flag and 3rd sedona. I live on 3rd St in old town.</p>

12/08/2021 - 13:16	Kathleen Sauer	new proposed CD2 maps	<p>I urge the Commission to keep the issue of competitiveness front and center when drawing the maps. Please note that, pursuant to the AZ Court of Appeals, the criteria of competitiveness is equal in weight to the other criteria mandated by prop 106.</p> <p>This is important, not just because the AZ Court of Appeals ruling, but because a healthy democracy requires that all voices be heard. Non-competitive districts foster extremism and corruption and disregard the voices of independent, non-partisan voters. Anyone who is not member of the majority party in the safe district is left feeling like they have no voice, and, in fact, they do not, as representatives from such districts cater to their base voters, at the exclusion of the rest of the population of the district.</p> <p>Competitive districts create greater interest in the democratic process, better candidates to run for office and produce a government that is responsive to the interests and viewpoints of all constituents. We all prosper if all ideas are considered on their merits, and not through a partisan lens.</p> <p>This Commission is supposed to be structured so that no partisan voice has undue representation. We have all seen the media reports on the efforts of the GOP to tilt the commission in its favor. The ultimate decision made by the Commission in drawing these maps will be illustrative of the truth behind these efforts and the achievement of the GOP's ultimate goals, to create maps that are not representative of the diversity of the electorate, in order to ensure minority rule. Competitiveness should not scare any party. Lack of competitiveness should absolutely frighten any person who holds democracy dear.</p>
12/08/2021 - 13:45	Vivian Perry	Community of Interest	<p>Please chose the proposed CD2 map that respects the rights of Indigenous people in Arizona. This map would split Yavapai County at the Mingus Mountains, and would be fairer.</p>

12/08/2021 - 13:52	Jay Simpson	LD 6 in the draft map violates the Voting Rights Act	<p>Public Comment on Draft Map District Six in Northern Arizona</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Draft Legislative Map District Six as currently drawn violates the Voting Rights Act <p>LD 6 was drawn by the IRC as a Voting Rights Act District to empower the Native American voters in the district to elect candidates of their choosing. There are a sufficient number of Native American voters in the northern Arizona area to constitute a majority in a properly drawn legislative district. The Native American vote is politically cohesive in support of Native American candidates. Indeed, Dr. Lisa Handley found evidence of polarized voting in both Navajo and Apache Counties in her initial report.</p> <p>The inclusion of the City of Flagstaff in draft map district six renders it ineffective as a Native American Voting Rights Act district. The City of Flagstaff becomes a major population center of the district which will encourage non-native American candidates to run for election to the state legislature. White candidates in particular are likely to be able to defeat Native American candidates in a Democratic primary. This has happened before when the City of Flagstaff was included with the Navajo Nation in a Native American Voting Rights Act district after the 2000 census. In 2004 a white female candidate, Ann Kirkpatrick, defeated the Native American candidate (Beverly Becenti-Pigman) in a primary race for state legislature. Although a Native American candidate was one of two nominees in 2004 and was elected to the legislature for two terms (Albert Tom), he was defeated in the Democratic primary in 2010 by a white male candidate (Tom Chabin). The conclusion is very clear. If the City of Flagstaff is made a part of a majority Native American legislative district, the Native American community will not be assured of electing Native American representatives to the legislature because they will not survive a contested primary against white candidates from Flagstaff. This violates the Voting Rights Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The maps of LD 6 proposed by the Navajo Nation and Coconino County solve this problem by removing all of the City of Flagstaff from the district <p>If the IRC wishes to avoid attracting a claim under section two of the Voting Rights Act, it should adjust LD 6 to remove the City of Flagstaff. One means of doing that is to follow the map proposed by the Navajo Nation. Alternatively, the IRC could follow the map submitted by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors which also eliminates the City of Flagstaff from LD 6. Indeed, all of the major stakeholders—the Tribes, the City of Flagstaff, the Coconino County Board of Supervisors—agree with this principle: the Native American Legislative District should not include the City of Flagstaff.</p>
12/08/2021 - 14:12	Leah Donell	Revised District Maps	<p>I am feeling heard by the Commission regarding the the objections raised about redistricting as it affects Yavapai and Coconino counties. I am a resident of Yavapai County and support the revised maps that would create two rural districts by separating Mingus Mountain from the rest of Yavapai county; add Mohave county and Colorado River communities to the western district; and have the eastern district including the Verde Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff, tribal lands, etc similar to what we have today. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing the results of the process.</p>
12/08/2021 - 15:19	John Boyer	Legislative Maps	<p>Hello my name is John Boyer. I am a 41-year resident of Mesa. I would like to see a consolidated Mesa district. This district should include the Dobson Ranch area.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

12/08/2021 - 16:05	Millicent Gray	AZ Redistricting	<p>This message is from Millicent Gray, 86018, to the IRC.</p> <p>Please do not separate the community of Parks into two legislative districts to be split along the I-40 interstate highway. The Parks precinct has operated as a unit for many years. Our Post Office is off I-40 to the north. There are residences in Garland Prairie to the south of I-40.</p> <p>The Parks community is close to Flagstaff in many ways: in close proximity, where many children go to middle and high schools, where many of us work, and furthermore, that it is our shopping and government hub.</p> <p>I am asking the Commission to carefully consider that it is natural that the entire population of Parks should be with a Flagstaff legislative district.</p> <p>Thank you, Sincerely, Millicent Gray</p>
12/08/2021 - 16:33	Raymond Darragh	Proposed LD Maps	<p>Good afternoon. I did not have an opportunity to speak on Saturday at the last IRC meeting, but want to share my thoughts.</p> <p>I strongly support the Southern Arizona portion of LD map 10.0, specifically LD 17, which links Saddlebrooke, Saddlebrooke Ranch, Catalina, Eagle Crest Ranch, Marana, Oro Valley, the Tanque Verde Valley and the Houghton Corridor. This is my community of interest.</p> <p>This is where my family, co-workers, and neighbors work, where our children and grandchildren go to school, where we meet friends and family to dine at our favorite restaurants, where we shop, worship, receive medical services, and where we enjoy outdoor recreational activities.</p> <p>Just like Marana and Oro Valley, residents of the Tanque Verde Valley and Houghton Corridor enjoy a rural lifestyle and choose NOT to live in Midtown Tucson because we have almost NOTHING in common with large urban areas.</p> <p>I agree with so many others that Unincorporated Pima County and the smaller surrounding towns need a check and balance on the City of Tucson. LD 17 provides that and gives residents in Southern Arizona a voice—something we have not had the past 10 years.</p> <p>And that's all we want—to be heard. Unfortunately, LD Map 9.0 silences the voices of thousands of Southern Arizonans. I love where I live as well as my community of interest. That is why I strongly support Map 10.0 with LD 17 as drawn, and urge you to please adopt it as the final map.</p> <p>Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke, Saddlebrooke Ranch, the Tanque Verde Valley and the Houghton Corridor belong together.</p> <p>Thank you very much.</p>

12/08/2021 - 16:41	Rita Day	Maps for CD2	<p>Chairwoman Neuberg has recently remarked that testimony in public comments on competitiveness HAS BEEN HEARD. I truly hope that not only has it been heard, but it will be acted upon and not overlooked. Competitiveness is critically important, as without it, extremism results. I live in Prescott, current CD4. Our Congressional representative is so extreme that he appears at Proud Boy events as a speaker and has posted videos depicting an assault of a female Democratic Congresswoman and attempting to kill President Biden. He finds nothing wrong with this. Because our district is so uncompetitive, no matter how extreme & divisive the candidate is, if they are from the Republican Party, they will prevail, even over a more qualified, moderate Democrat. This is extremely dangerous for our country. So that's why I feel the factor of competitiveness is the most important factor.</p> <p>Recently the Commissioners has quite a heated discussion regarding proposed CD2, after which they agreed to draw 2 different sets of revised maps. Of these revised maps I strongly support the maps which create 2 rural districts by separating Mingus Mountain from the rest of Yavapai County. The western district would add Mohave County and the Colorado River communities. While the eastern district would include the Verde Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff & tribal lands. I strongly prefer this set of two districts over the 2nd map which combines the entire Northern Arizona region running west to east. This vast area is so large that it should be 2 districts not just one. This vast area can not be given fair representation with only one district. Furthermore, the Prescott/Yavapai County area is one of the fastest growing areas based on the last census figures. There is no reason to believe this rate of growth won't continue. If this vast area is only allowed one representative, that is very unfair. Not to mention how much this area will grow in 10 years, when the next Redistricting happens. So, I highly recommend the 2 district redrawn maps over the redrawn map which is just one large district including the entire Northern Arizona region.</p> <p>Respectfully, Rita Day</p>
12/08/2021 - 17:07	Eric Day	Redrawn maps for CD 2	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>The Commissioners recently agreed to redraw 2 different sets of maps for proposed CD2. One map incorporates all of Northern Arizona into one district. This would be entirely unfair for this vast area to have only one congressional representation. Furthermore, the Prescott area was one of the fastest growing areas in Arizona based on the recent census figures. So this district has potential to grow in population by vast amounts. If it is unfair now to have only one representative for this vast area, think how unfair it will be in 9 to 10 years from now. So I strongly oppose this redrawn map for CD2, as it is unfair for this vast area to have merely one representative.</p> <p>I strongly propose that the commissioners approve the set of 2 maps for Northern Arizona. The revised maps create 2 rural districts by separating Mingus Mountain from the rest of Yavapai County, with the western district including Mohave County with the Colorado River communities. While the eastern district includes the Verde Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff and tribal lands. This set of 2 redrawn maps is the map I strongly prefer. This vast area should be represented by 2 districts. It is too large and has the potential to grow in population by large amounts in the next ten years. So including this vast area of the entire Northern Arizona into one district is entirely unfair. This area deserves to have 2 congressional representatives.</p> <p>Respectfully, Eric Day</p>

12/08/2021 - 17:07	Gail Cook	Redistricting Maps	<p>Hello and thank you for taking the time to read this. I participated in the hearing in Prescott Valley a couple weeks ago and wanted to share a few thoughts. I wrote my statement out for the hearing and timed it so I would stay within two minutes and could not change or add to my statement. I wish I could make you understand how frustrating it is to see these gerrymandered maps! Also, people continue asking you to "keep" Yavapai County in one district as if that is how it has been in the previous map! If we were to keep things the way they were, Yavapai County would continue to be divided by Mingus Mountain and at least part of the county would be relatively competitive. I also wanted to tell you a story about the hearing: I got there early and found a seat right away toward the back where there was room for my disabled friend and her wheelchair at the end of a row. As the room filled up some people from Cottonwood sat in front of us and someone came over to them and told them they were sitting on the wrong side of the room. The "patriots" were sitting on the other side of the room. I looked across the aisle and saw a woman wearing a MAGA hat and figured I had inadvertently sat on the correct side of the room. Does that mean I'm not a patriot? Really insulting. But that just demonstrated how divided we are in this county. When the young woman spoke about the demonstration at the courthouse square when members of the "oathkeepers" showed up with military-style assault rifles, people started making noise as if that weren't true! This was featured on the "60 Minutes" program! Or maybe they just made noise because they support those people, who knows! (I was at the courthouse square during that incident. It was terrifying and people were screaming hate-fueled obscenities I can't repeat.) Also, she spoke of the police having to be called to a school board hearing right there in Prescott Valley. They were just discussing a mask mandate, which was never approved, but people were yelling and threatening school board members. I have lived here for 26 years and I want to continue to be a part of this community, but we need to at least have some voice in what happens in Yavapai County. Please "keep" Yavapai County divided so we have some chance of fair and competitive districts. Thank you for your kind attention. - Gail Cook</p>
12/08/2021 - 17:49	Robin Whatley	redistricting	<p>As a life long resident of Yavapai County and a current resident of Camp Verde-- I would urge you to adopt the map that includes Camp Verde, Sedona and Flagstaff in the same district. Thank you=</p>
12/08/2021 - 18:22	Maria A Lynam	Submitted Map CD0074 on 120421	<p>Commissioners: Please review CD0074 as submitted on 120421. CD 0074 makes Congressional District 2 competitive. Central Yavapai and Wickenburg have been moved to Mojave County, creating a more compact D9. CD2 now keeps Apache and Navajo counties whole and satisfies many of the state's Native Tribes and also makes CD6 more compact. This draft map merits discussion. I look forward to have this entered into the discussion when you review Northern Arizona. Thank you for all your efforts on our behalf to provide AZ with fair and competitive maps.</p>
12/08/2021 - 18:55	John Neville	Gerrymandering in Arizona	<p>As you surely know, the IRC was brought into being to prevent either political party from dominating the districting process. However, it seems that this time around, the Arizona Republicans have worked behind the scenes to manipulate the process to their favor. While Arizona has become a truly "purple" state with neither Republicans or Democrats holding a overwhelming majority, the proposed IRC maps are skewed to favor Republicans and disenfranchise Democrats, Independents, and minorities. This is a clear violation of the Voting Rights Act and Arizona law. It is important that the IRC obey the law and correct the gerrymandered map to create competitive and representative voting districts. If the IRC fails to abide by their oaths of office, it is more than likely there will be justifiable law suits to correct the malfeasance. Radical partisans forced an expensive, fraudulent audit of the highly secure and accurate 2020 election. Now, they are working to seize control of our state for another decade. It will make sad and uncomfortable news to the rest of the country. It will be troubling for the members of the IRC to be called out on network news as partisan hacks undermining our democratic processes. Please for your sakes and those of all Arizonans don't let this happen. Fix the maps they way they should be...by law.</p>

12/08/2021 - 19:04	Katherine Ginzel	Norther AZ CD Maps	<p>Dear IR Commissioners,</p> <p>I am a 20+ year resident of the Verde Valley. I am very concerned that we will not have competitive districts drawn if you do not listen to the residents of Rural Northern AZ and sincerely consider what we are urgently requesting. Please be certain that the final maps drawn for the Rural Northern AZ Congressional Districts are truly fair and competitive and will indeed honor and respect the indigenous vote. Please keep the nations together and don't dilute the Native vote. We are all counting on you to draw final maps that will reflect the true make up of rural AZ and honestly level the playing field for the next ten years. This will ensure genuine representation we deserve in Northern Arizona. If not, I don't see how I can remain in Arizona knowing that my vote is pointless.</p> <p>Thank you for all your hard work,</p> <p>Katherine Ginzel</p>
12/08/2021 - 20:35	Sandra K. Fischer	Southwest Mesa	<p>I have lived in my neighborhood, Marlborough Mesa, for 25 years. During that time, I have seen my neighborhood being less and less associated with Mesa. We are an active neighborhood that needs to be a part of an LD that is more in Mesa in order to have a voice with the City of Mesa. The latest map gave my neighborhood even less of Mesa than what we currently have. That is unacceptable. Marlborough Mesa does 2 major events each year that we coordinate with the City of Mesa, which they have done for nearly 20 years. We deserve the right to have a voice in Mesa through an LD that has more of its district actually living in Mesa. Please make SW Mesa more in Mesa as an LD.</p>

12/08/2021 - 23:44	Ann Heitland	Illegitimate Communities of Interest - Northern Arizona	<p>As I am observing your final deliberations, I revisited the Communities of Interest Report on your website. The "overlap count" puts any connection between Eastern Arizona towns (like Snowflake and Eagar) and Coconino County (Williams, Parks, Kachina Village, Bellemont) at the lowest of five ratings. There is zero community of interest justification for Legislative District 7 in the data.</p> <p>Nor can you legitimately find a Community of Interest for District 7 in the public testimony and comments. The so-called "rural voice" of Arizona that has been put forward to justify the apparent gerrymander in the Draft Map is very divided. Folks in the unincorporated areas around Flagstaff are not in a community of interest with Eagar, Show Low, or Pinetop/Lakeside. Their community of interest is Flagstaff. You divide them from their school district, their workplaces, their commercial activities, and their health center. Williams is even further afield.</p> <p>People in Snowflake claim they have had no voice in the legislature because they have been in a district with Flagstaff. They should meet their representatives who are their near neighbors. For the last 10 years they have elected Republicans of their choice in every cycle, including current Rep. Walt Blackman who lives in Snowflake and former Senator Sylvia Allen, also of Snowflake. Their other current Representative, Brenda Barton, has been elected in several cycles and is also from a small rural Navajo County town. The facts are that the "voice of rural Arizona" as they call themselves have defeated every candidate supported by Flagstaff voters in the last 10 years. Their plaintive cry is false.</p> <p>The current Republican Senator Wendy Rogers may claim residence in Flagstaff, but she was elected by the "conservative" White Mountain residents represented in the public comments submitted to you by Steven Slaton (owner of the Trump Store in Show Low) and in testimony by those who read talking points referring to a "non-Native District" without knowing what it meant. These voices advocating for putting Flagstaff into the "non-Native district" to protect Roger's seat are from rural Arizona, too. They are even rural eastern Arizona voices. Putting Flagstaff into a district with these eastern Arizona towns is exactly what they have told you they want. It seems the "voice of rural Arizona" contradicts itself.</p> <p>Refusing to put some of those eastern Arizona towns into a district with the Navajo Nation, as required to population balance, sacrifices compactness and competitiveness for a fictional community of interest that labels itself the "voice of rural Arizona" but can only define itself by what it doesn't want – it doesn't want to be with Native Americans, and it doesn't want to be with Democrats.</p> <p>These negative sentiments are not constitutional communities of interest and should not be given legitimacy by the IRC. A community of interest must be defined by who people are (protected minorities) or by things they do together, not by prejudice or partisanship. The Draft Map ignores economic, educational, social, and cooperative communities of interest in all these counties (Apache, Navajo, Yavapai, Coconino). Among other things, District 7 ignores the fact that Native Americans live in eastern Arizona border towns as well as on tribal lands. It slices up areas of shared commercial interests and family ties that are in both border towns and their neighboring tribal lands. It divides the tourism corridor of Flagstaff, Sedona, Verde Valley into three districts. Those places also share conservation projects and public safety arrangements. It divides the educational and workforce community of Greater Flagstaff into two districts.</p> <p>Failure to redraw the northern Arizona Legislative Draft Map would give voice to racism and partisanship for the next 10 years while violating the constitutional criteria for compactness, communities of interest, and competitiveness. Packing northern Arizona Democrats into a district with 13 tribal nations dilutes the voice of the tribal nations without reasonable basis justified by any constitutional criteria.</p>
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12/08/2021 - 23:53	Rebecca J Haynes	IRC mapping	<p>I am writing in support of the CD 0074 map, which makes Congressional District 2 competitive. Central Yavapai and Wickenburg have been moved to Mojave County, creating a more compact D9.</p> <p>CD2 now keeps Apache and Navajo counties whole and satisfies many of the state's Native Tribes and also makes CD6 more compact.</p> <p>This draft map merits discussion. Thank you for your consideration in keeping our districts competitive.</p>
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