



Web Comments 8.6.21 - 8.12.21

Submitted Time	Completed Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
08/06/2021 - 08:47	08/06/2021 - 08:47	Joyce Friedericy	Survey	Your on line survey does not work. Can not open map.
08/06/2021 - 09:39	08/06/2021 - 09:39	Shar Poirier	Aug. 5, 2021 IRC meeting in Nogales	I need the names of the people who spoke during the public comment period for a story in the Herald/Review in Cochise County. It was very difficult to hear the meeting and the number on the website does not connect me to anyone. [REDACTED]
08/06/2021 - 11:07	08/06/2021 - 11:07	Mark Adams	Survey	I have tried to personally fill out a survey regarding redistricting which is due by 8/10, but when I press the survey link on my computer it sends me to an external site which does not print??
08/06/2021 - 14:04	08/06/2021 - 14:04	Daniel C. Frey	competitiveness in southeastern AZ LDs	State legislative races in southeastern LDs have not been competitive for a very long time. As that is an important factor in the drawing of the state LD map, I would encourage the commission to make a serious effort to make the races in this decade in that area more competitive. Additionally, Gail Griffin and David Gowan have flaunted the spirit of the constitutional term limits by shifting from one house to the other. They have provided "representation" for only a narrow sliver of the population in their district, the most conservative voters in the district. It's time to draw the lines in such a way that more of Tucson is included in the district created. Many voters in Douglas and Bisbee have more in common with Tucson than with voters in Graham and Greenlee Counties. It's time for competitive races in the SE corner of the state. Uncompetitive races lead to voter apathy, something that should be anathema to the Commission. Thank you.
08/06/2021 - 15:47	08/06/2021 - 15:47	Monica Surfaro Spigelman	Your Listening Session tomorrow at La Paloma	Chair Neuberger and all the Commissioners: I have submitted my suggested map and have completed the Community of Interest Survey online, but regret deeply that I can't attend your in-person session in Tucson tomorrow. I want to explain why, even if this means providing personal information. I am 71, always engaged in my community. Not attending tomorrow goes against everything I've lived in terms of practice of my citizenship. But too few in our community are wearing masks. Because I have a newborn (first!) grandchild who I will soon visit, and because I volunteer with the elderly, I can't take the chance with this Delta variant. Please know I sincerely appreciate the very important efforts by all commissioners. I will be listening via WebX to your session tomorrow, and I hope -- as you listen to the community members attending -- that you also keep in mind submitted maps and comments. Although I am not present at your meeting, I care very much about this process, your upcoming decisions, and the maps you will draw. Thank you for your consideration and for your service to community. Monica
08/06/2021 - 15:51	08/06/2021 - 15:51	Nelson Morgan	Distribution of public meetings across the state	I appreciate all the effort going into having this "listening tour." I am a bit surprised by the distribution of venues, though. Maricopa County holds over 60% of the state's population, but is the site for 20% of the meetings. I would understand there being some compromise between an "area-based" and "population-based" choice for locations, so that rural areas do not feel ignored, but this choice was pretty extreme. Having more events in different ends of the County might have allowed a better representation of the state's population. Perhaps you can rectify this in the next tour.
08/06/2021 - 16:56	08/06/2021 - 16:56	Gail Kamaras	meeting locations	The choice of meeting places in Pima County is unfortunate. Rather than using publicly available facilities, the commission chose to meet at a resort hotel and another hotel facility. Neither of these was in a central location and neither was readily accessible to minority communities of interest. This is an oversight that should not be repeated.
08/06/2021 - 20:54	08/06/2021 - 20:54	John Mireles	Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission Hearing Maricopa County Comments August 9, 2021	August 6, 2021 Dear Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, The Arizona League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) officially requests that the Arizona Redistricting Commission provides Arizona with a full and accurate count of all communities before deciding on any redistricting maps, and that includes the following fair and representative redistricting principles: 1.Improved Census outreach and data collection; 2.Elimination of prison gerrymandering; 3.Protection of racial minorities; 4.Strong consideration of communities of interest; 5.Open and accessible meetings of decision-makers; 6.Outreach to communities and access to redistricting tools to allow meaningful participation; 7.Decision-makers who reflect the diversity of the population being redistricted and disclosure of potential conflicts of interest; 8.Clear and evenly applied rules for disclosure of relationships between decision-makers and non-decision-making participants; and 9.Access to information about any non-public discussions of redistricting between decision-makers. To date, none of the Arizona Redistricting Commission in Maricopa County meetings have not been accessible to low income and minority communities in Phoenix, AZ. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. John Mireles, Chair, Civil Rights Committee, LULAC of Arizona by phone (414) 480-501-1572 or email at lulac1969@gmail.com. Sincerely, Rev. John Mireles [REDACTED]

08/07/2021 - 10:37	08/07/2021 - 10:37	Ross Henne	Redistricting	As a Progressive Libertarian Independent voter who lives in Tucson. I am against further division/redistricting of the Pima County/Tucson community by ethnicity or political and/or religious affiliation. Especially when it comes to politics. The motivation for this tends to be for consolidation of political power vs community benefit and historically has numerous proven negative community consequences. People of good will want the same things for their children and grandchildren and the Tucson/Pima county community has been especially good at integrating many cultures in a positive way for many years. I see this move as another divisive political action to further encourage division, tribalism, and ethnic identity above community identity, which to me is a step backward, the antithesis of Progressive and Conservative Ideals. I feel our country has gone too far in that direction and needs to take a step back, become less divisive, less judgemental and listen to everyone's concerns for the future of the community. This is less likely to occur in Tribal districts.
08/07/2021 - 15:52	08/07/2021 - 15:52	Weldon Knappe	Redistricting Regarding Sun Lakes	Greetings: We live in Sun Lakes, AZ 85248. Although we are a "county island", almost all of our shopping and other activities are done in Chandler. We are currently in LD17, and being so closely integrated into the Chandler community, has been an excellent political environment for us. It is important that when drawing new district boundaries, we remain in the same district as Chandler. Also, it is incredibly important that you continue to function as an independent commission without external political influence. Arizona is one of few states having an apolitical process for defining legislative districts. This is a wonderful blessing for Arizona citizens, and I passionately implore you to maintain your mission of continuing to be objective and impartial. Respectively, Weldon Knappe
08/07/2021 - 16:16	08/07/2021 - 16:16	Suzanne Mead	Masking at Public Meetings	This is a recommendation that the Commission consider instituting masking and social distancing protocols at future public meetings. People who would have liked to present comments in person might be dissuaded from participation with the rising cases of Covid variants.
08/07/2021 - 16:41	08/07/2021 - 16:41	Trudy Miller	Listening sessions	Dear Independent redistricting commission Committee, I know that with only one more session in this round of public meetings that my thoughts are not likely to be of benefit now, but that may not be the case in the second go-around. So I will ask my question. With the resurgence of the "D" COVID variance many of us are concerned about being in enclosed rooms without social distancing and mask wearing. I know of at least 3 voters who had planned to attend this event in Mesa but are backing out because of the potential health risk. I do hope you will consider the protection of all participants, immunized and not, as you plan for the second round of in person meetings. Please know I laud you and the entire board for your work and effort in creating an opportunity for many voters to be heard. Thank you, Trudy Miller [REDACTED]

08/08/2021 - 10:41	08/08/2021 - 10:41	Suzanne King	Community of Interest	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to address the Independent Redistricting Commission regarding the initial phase of the mapping process. I would have testified in person, but I am concerned about rising COVID numbers and the number of unmasked hearing participants.</p> <p>I am a retired attorney who moved to Tucson from NYC about 24 years ago. I was drawn to Tucson because of its natural beauty, its small-town feel in a large city, and its remarkable diversity. I was impressed by the presence of the University of Arizona and the availability of higher education at the many campuses of Pima Community College. In the midst of incredible wildlife and natural beauty, such as Sabino Canyon and Saguaro National Forest, Tucson offers so many of the amenities of a large city—the Arizona Theater Company, the Fox Theater, the Loft, the Tucson Museum of Art, the Desert Museum. We are now a UNESCO-designated Capital of Gastronomy—a tribute to our multi-cultural heritage. We live near luxury resorts and the extraordinary San Javier Del Bac, which is not just an historic site but a functioning church for the people of the Tohono O’odham nation. Unfortunately, we also have incredible economic disparities; I am fortunate to live in the foothills near Sabino Canyon, but I deliver mobile meals in Picture Rock and have visited people living in mobile homes with card board covered windows and almost no furniture. Numerous community- based organizations such as Primavera, the Community Food Bank, Iskashitaa Refugee Network, and Youth on Their Own provide services to residents in need and define us as a community.</p> <p>Arizona voters overwhelmingly passed the proposition creating the IRC. We wanted an end to gerrymandering; we wanted competitive districts that represent the increasingly diverse population of our voters. Tucson is the second largest city in Arizona. Tucson is not just for retirees; we have military personnel, academics, employees in the tourism industry, employees of companies like Raytheon, employees at the forefront of the solar energy development, and many unemployed and underemployed. We are Latino, Native American, African American, and White.</p> <p>We currently have two Congressional Districts, which are fairly drawn and competitive; these CDs provide representation to these different constituencies. I live in LD9, which is also competitive, being nearly equally populated by Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.</p> <p>Because of its diversity, Tucson and Pima County require, at a minimum, two CDs to provide fair and competitive representation. LD9 is well drawn and any changes must keep it fair and competitive. We will be closely watching the mapping process and the results to ensure that the IRC fulfills its obligations to us under the Arizona Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.</p> <p>Thank you, Suzanne King</p>
08/08/2021 - 11:39	08/08/2021 - 11 39	Nelson Morgan	decisions about measures of competitiveness	<p>I hope that you will not rush into a vote on competitiveness measures on Tuesday. I've looked at the presentation from Dr. Johnson, and it is clear that this decision will require much Q&A with him, not to mention public comment that you can consider. I have a PhD in relevant data science (and 40 years of experience) and I would not be prepared to make a decision on this without spending some time examining the ideas more closely. I suggest that you take the time to provide Dr. Johnson with the best questions you can so that you can, afterwards, do your homework and think carefully about the practical tradeoffs between the different ways to estimate competitiveness. Otherwise, coin tosses would be just as good for your choices.</p> <p>I know that this is difficult, and I appreciate your position. You have the responsibility for the choice, and Dr. Johnson cannot make it for you. But efforts on your part to guide him into providing you with the best "translations" into the practical consequences of the different choices could help you. I wish you well in your difficult deliberations.</p>
08/08/2021 - 16:17	08/08/2021 - 16:17	Mary B Knape	Sun Lakes needs to stay in Maricopa Co.	<p>We lived in Chandler (5 miles from our current Sun Lakes home) for many years. While Sun Lakes is not a part of Chandler, almost all our shopping, entertainment and many of our friends are there. Our hearts are one. Please maintain the independence of this commission in order to have fairness and integrity prevail. Sun Lakes belongs in Chandler!</p> <p>Mary Knape, [REDACTED] Sun Lakes, 85248</p>
08/08/2021 - 16 21	08/08/2021 - 16:21	Debra Tullo	Redistricting	<p>There is no need for gerrymandering districts because you are to follow the AZ constitution and it is not needed. The only reason you have to redistrict is to put in the fix so that republicans gain an upper hand. Please follow the 6 tenets of the process and do the right thing-not the corrupt thing.</p>
08/08/2021 - 16 22	08/08/2021 - 16:22	Debra Tullo	Redistricting	<p>There is no need for gerrymandering districts because you are to follow the AZ constitution and it is not needed. The only reason you have to redistrict is to put in the fix so that republicans gain an upper hand. Please follow the 6 tenets of the process and do the right thing-not the corrupt thing.</p>
08/08/2021 - 17 00	08/08/2021 - 17:00	Barbara Miller	access to draw my map for IRC	<p>I cannot get access to draw my map of concern for IRC. This is probably because I have tried so many times</p>

08/08/2021 - 17:20	08/08/2021 - 17:20	Mark Ashley	My Testimony Remains but Allow me to Repeat	<p>Commission members first and foremost, competitive districts is paramount. I have not lived in one in all of my adult years here as an son of Arizona. I and would wager that that might have been the case during my years as a minor. Residents of my current LD, 23, have for far too long known that the election for house and state senate is over at the primary. The Republicans "chosen" if there was indeed a primary, would be the winner in the general. Residents of LD23 need hope. Let me next go to AZ CD6...again, here the Republican nominee wins though we are coming closer. Residents of 6 need hope. I ask you to consider this when maps are drawn.</p> <p>Mark N. Ashley Scottsdale.</p>
08/08/2021 - 18:23	08/08/2021 - 18:23	MYRON WARSHAW	Redistricting suggestions	<p>I understand that the committee's objectives are to design districts that are competitive based on electoral statistics, free of obscure uneven boundaries and avoid any appearance of gerrymandering. To accomplish this please consider the following facts about my legislative and congressional district.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In AZ LD23, Republicans have a 20 point registration advantage. 2. Only about 18% of registered Independents lean Democratic in LD23. 3. The actual vote counts in the last several election cycles prove that competitiveness matters. <p>It is important to note that some might argue the opposite. However, to argue the opposite would prevent the IRC from accomplishing its goals. Thank you.</p>
08/08/2021 - 19:05	08/08/2021 - 19:05	Jeannine Reno	Community Map is Difficult to Master	<p>I would like to comment on the Community Map feature of the listening tour. It is very difficult to draw, even on a laptop screen. I am normally tech-savvy, but had a hard time finding the points without having to zoom in and out multiple times. I cannot imagine how the underserved population was supposed to manage with this. I noticed there are very few submissions from the Navajo and Apache counties on reservation lands. Since you cancelled your listening tour there as well, this population was eliminated physically, by denying in person meetings, and economically by many not having internet access. I feel sad that you did not do more to accommodate our Northern Arizona tribal communities. You can see by the amount of maps submitted, and the lack of participation in this area, that my observation is accurate.</p>
08/09/2021 - 08:47	08/09/2021 - 08:47	Barbara Miller	can't get to map	<p>I tried more than once so now I can't do it. Can you do something from there to let me back in. Or should I just send my comments without a map??</p>
08/09/2021 - 08:49	08/09/2021 - 08:49	Marion Elaine Pack	Community of Interest comments	<p>I tried to send my comments through the Community of Interest survey. After spending almost an hour to figure out the map. When I added my comments it said they were too long. This is a stupid request when you are asking for in depth comments. The following are my comments.</p> <p>To the Redistricting Commissioners, My first request is that the mapping process not be rushed. Although you have had numerous meetings there are still rural communities who have not had an opportunity to give input on their Community of Interest. Those include:</p> <p>San Luis, Yuma County, Native communities in Navajo (Kayenta, Kykotsmovi Village), Gila (San Carlos), Pinal (Sacaton) and Pima (Sells) Counties. They are communities that were originally listed on the draft schedule, but were later cancelled included many communities of color.</p> <p>Regarding my own Community of Interest, I live in the county portion of Prescott. We consider ourselves a quad-city area which include, Prescott, Chino Valley, and Prescott Valley. Also, Mayer, Dewey-Humbolt, Spring Valley should be included. These small communities lie west of the 17, and are all on Hwy. 69. The 69 is the main artery stretching from the 17 to Prescott where it intersects Hwy 89. I believe that this area is its own Community of Interest.</p> <p>Although Jerome, Cottonwood and Sedona are part of Yavapai County, we laughing call those communities, on the other side of the (Mingus) mountain. Their economies are partial tourism of a different kind than Prescott, and agriculture. There is even a separate county administration building in Cottonwood.</p> <p>Lastly, I ask each of you to maintain your independence as a non-partisan commission. I fear that there may be others very eager to pressure your decisions. We need fair and competitive maps.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.</p> <p>Marion Pack</p>

08/09/2021 - 09:03	08/09/2021 - 09:03	Vickie Parks	Redistricting for CD1 and LD6&7	<p>August 8, 2021</p> <p>To: Independent Redistricting Commission Commission Chair Neuberg and Redistricting Commission Members</p> <p>My name is Vickie Parks, and I'm a fourth generation Arizonan, and my husband's heritage goes back to when Arizona was barely a territory. Our roots run deep. First, to thank you for this opportunity to express concerns to redraw Arizona Congressional and Legislative districts in suitable maps according to the census as well as following the Federal Voting Rights Act, including especially geographical, communities of interest and potential competitiveness and to follow criteria described in the Arizona Constitution. It does not appear these guidelines were followed ten years ago.</p> <p>I am concerned specifically with CD1 and LD6&7. First, CD1 is too large to manage extending too far south. Pinal County and Graham County should, in no way, be included in CD1. Also southern Arizona has completely different communities of interest with border issues, unique water issues as well as even ranching issues differ widely in northern Arizona from southern Arizona. CD1 might be better served to include Yavapai County with the exception of Sedona, since that community really doesn't have a community of interest with rural Arizona. Please leave CD1 rural. This current massive area is unthinkable for a Congressman to cover efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>My other concern lies with LD6 and LD7. I live at the east end of Flagstaff in LD7, which currently attaches to the tribal lands. Respectfully, the tribal lands have their own councils independent from Flagstaff, Page or Williams for example. While we enjoy and respect the culture and traditions of our tribal neighbors, the community of interests are vastly different between the tribal lands and non-tribal lands. They have Federal oversight and answer to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. As it is, LD7 is unconscionably too large for any legislator to represent effectively or efficiently. If population does not prove large enough for the tribal lands, could I suggest communities of interest and geographical considerations are given serious attention. Flagstaff is a hub for northern Arizona and surrounding small towns, which fall into communities of interest and to keep Arizona rural. LD7 is, in some areas, recklessly drawn. To divide neighborhoods from one side of the street in LD6 and the other side of the street in LD7 seem unconscionable. Having been in LD7 for the past ten years, experience has proven lack of response from LD7 legislators on issues and can assume this is due to the extreme difference in communities of interest.</p> <p>Thank you for consideration to work on such an important task that has existed for the past ten years and for your time. As noted in the Arizona Constitution, districts should be compact to accurately represent communities of interest who live and work together. This was clearly not followed ten years ago. I would like to say that Rural Arizonans want to stay RURAL and also be able to have a Voice. I appreciate your hard work and time to create the best map for all Arizonans for the next ten years.</p> <p>Highest Regards,</p> <p>Vickie Parks [REDACTED] Flagstaff, AZ 86004</p>
08/09/2021 - 11:08	08/09/2021 - 11:08	Franklyn J. Bergen (Frank)	community of interest meeting 8/8/21 Tucson	<p>Madam Chairwoman and Commissioners:</p> <p>I am an 85 year old retired California civil servant and mostly retired Episcopal priest, resident in Tucson (85749; LD10; CD2).</p> <p>I appeared before you at your 2nd Tucson meeting in order to state that my community of interest is the people of the State of Arizona, specifically any and all who, when pricked with a needle, bleed. As I sat and listened to public comments yesterday it became clear that they fell generally into two categories in roughly equal numbers. Some described their communities of interest and asked for districts that mirrored those communities. Those in this category who found themselves in an electoral minority were most insistent on the need to change this situation. Others said little or nothing of communities of interest and focussed their comments on a desire for competitive districts. Taking both positions seriously, you have a problem or two. First, for everyone who sought a district that mirrors their community of interest to be satisfied would require closer to 300 LDs than 30. Second, convinced as I am that your predecessor RC did its best in 2011 to give us competitive districts, it's a nearly impossible undertaking.</p> <p>I don't know exactly how many current LDs can objectively be considered competitive, but a majority are not. I consider LDs 2, 9 and 10 competitive because they have elected to the House members of both major parties. I've been active in campaigns in LD30 from 2004 to 2010 and LD10 to the present. Without fear of contradiction I'll say that no Republican could conceivably lose a legislative race in LD30. And the results in LD10, mostly Democratic wins, have been relatively close when the candidates have been well qualified. And I'll say the same for LDs 2 with a modicum of confidence and 9 with great confidence.</p> <p>CDs fall into 3 categories: 3 are competitive (1,2, 9); 2 are safe Democratic due to the minority majority requirement (3 & 7). Of the competitive ones, 2 has elected women and men from both parties; 1 & 9 have been Democratic through the decade. I think will every difficult to improve on the 2011 work. However, if the minority majority requirement were eliminated and the Commission committed to seek first to create competitive districts, we might be able to improve on 2011.</p> <p>In retrospect it seems to me unfortunate that Proposition 106 was worded in a way that makes competitiveness depend on satisfaction of other requirements. The success of democratic government and indeed of any element of a complex society depends on people working together even in spite of all their very real differences. Lack of competitiveness encourages folks on the fringes to seek office and to legislate with no concern for opposing views.</p> <p>I have no idea of how I may be of service to the commission and its daunting task beyond sharing my opinions and insights, and keeping you in my prayers.</p> <p>Thank you all for undertaking this work.</p>
08/09/2021 - 13:46	08/09/2021 - 13:46	Jean Meconi	listening tour	Will the recordings of the listening tour meetings be uploaded? Thank you.

08/09/2021 - 13 53	08/09/2021 - 13:53	Bruce Flocken	Testimony to the IRC - Written Only	<p>My name is Bruce Flocken. I'm a retired Gilbert (LD12) resident for the past 25 years and an Arizona resident for 42 years. I was a Phoenix and Glendale resident for the other 17 years.</p> <p>I've participated in all elections before and after the year 2000 Prop 106 that created the much needed Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), with it's stated mission to create fair and competitive districts. In most Legislative and Congressional District elections over my 42 years in Arizona, I've felt the elections were very one-sided, with many candidates unopposed because of the district's uncompetitive composition. In 2020 for example, one LD candidate won by close to 20% over the opposing candidate. A second LD candidate was unopposed in 2020 except by a late write-in candidate. This offered little real choice to voters in the LD even though the state of Arizona registered voters are almost evenly divided into thirds for Independent and political party registration. Voter's should have more competitive choices that more closely represent the evenly divided electorate.</p> <p>I applaud the previous work of the IRC and I recognize that perfection is unattainable. My voting experience indicates that the current IRC can improve on it's past efforts.</p> <p>I urge the IRC to keep a sharp focus on the 2000 Prop 106 mission of creating fair and competitive districts in the 2020 redistricting, while protecting or enhancing the representation of communities of interest.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Bruce Flocken Gilbert</p>
08/09/2021 - 14 28	08/09/2021 - 14:28	Barbara rosenberg	Communities of interest	<p>I have listened to some of the individuals regarding communities of interest. There are those that ask to be with certain individuals, and also those that ask not to be with certain individuals. If communities of interest is held as a priority, it begins to sound like a form of gerrymandering.</p> <p>I believe the most important considerations should be population size, and keeping districts contiguous. The fairest way to set up districts would be if there was a commuter program that could do that.</p> <p>Please create competitive districts, and please do it fairly.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
08/09/2021 - 14:43	08/09/2021 - 14:43	Julie M Pindzola	Assembling and retrieving public input on district mapping	<p>Hello RC</p> <p>I see others are asking this important question too, but it bears repeating. How are you planning to assemble, organize and then apply the many many public comments you are receiving on COI? I guess the same question will apply to the public's pending review of the draft maps as well. Who is on tap to read and sort all of this data - particularly the written dialogue? Are you keeping track of the hard copy submittals you receive? How, and by whom, are you catching all the live (recorded) testimony collected at the public hearings for actual study and use? We the public would like to know how you are prepared to do all of this??</p> <p>When a map is submitted, will it be simply the most numerous overlays that prevail? This would seem to make sense on its face but how do you ensure that it is not really a bot-like swarm? I'm sorry to be a thorn but we would really like to understand what is behind the curtain on all this.</p> <p>Thank you and staff/consultants for all your work on this important project. We do appreciate you very much, even though sometimes our questions and comments are a pain :) Could you please spend more time addressing the public comments and answer our questions at your regular IRC meetings? THANK YOU</p>

08/09/2021 - 15:29	08/09/2021 - 15:29	John Mireles	Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission Hearing Maricopa County Comments August 9, 2021	<p>Dear Independent Redistricting Commission, I am writing this letter on behalf of the Arizona League of United Latin American Citizens. I have been unable to post public comments for the August 9, 2021 Independent Redistricting Commission public hearing. Please accept the following comments due the barrier to post comments.</p> <p>ACCESS B LITY + COMMUNITY OUTREACH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Extend the deadline for the community of interest survey. The Commission shouldn't cap the deadline for COI survey when Census data won't be coming in until a couple of days after. The more opportunities the Commission can provide for public input, the better. ●Several hearing locations were cancelled or scheduled at the last minute. This makes it harder for community members to plan to attend and make arrangements. ●There have been inconsistencies with the hearing agenda and COI survey being available in Spanish or other languages at public hearings. ●There hasn't been considerable community outreach to ensure wider attendance at the public hearings. ●The Commission still has no Community Outreach Coordinator dedicated to this work. ●There was no press in Spanish-language media outlets announcing the hearings. ●The hearings were only announced via media alerts and on the IRC website. There didn't seem to be attempts to increase public engagement by alerting other community organizations or community outlets. <p>DISTRICTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Arizona's Constitution requires the Independent Redistricting Commission to comply with the Voting Rights Act. ●The Commission needs to, at minimum, maintain or expand the number of districts where communities of color have the ability to elect the candidate of their own choosing. ●That right for communities of color to elect a member of their own choosing is protected in the Voting Rights Act, and the Commission must uphold those protections in the maps that they draft for the next ten years of Arizona's electoral representation. That voting strength should not be diluted. ●Uphold 2 Arizona Congressional districts with primarily non-white, Latino populations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●One in Tucson, encompassing Southern AZ, the western part of the US/Mex border, and Latino communities in Yuma. ●One in the Phoenix metro area that runs through the West Valley that is primarily Latino. It should run from southern Glendale, through the West Valley, and down to Avondale and Tolleson. ●For Legislative Districts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○PHOENIX METRO: The Phoenix metro area has a large Latino population, particularly in the West Valley, that have the right to choose who represents them in the legislature. Protect 4 "minority-majority" districts in the Phoenix metro area. These are represented by the current Legislative Districts 19, 27, 29, 30. ○SOUTHERN AZ: There is a large Latino population in border communities and across Southern AZ, and they also have rights to choose who represents them in the legislature. Protect 3 "minority-majority" districts in Southern Arizona. These are represented by the current Legislative Districts 2, 3 and 4. <p>The power for the Latino community to elect those leaders means that there are legislators that we can hold accountable to our communities, calling on them to specifically represent regional interests and the interests of our communities at the legislature, where our voices must be heard.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted by, John Mireles Chair, Civil Rights Committee Arizona League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) ████████████████████</p>
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08/09/2021 - 16 35	08/09/2021 - 16:35	Margaret J Hendrickson	Public Comments for AZ Redistricting Commission	<p>I was unable to attend your recent Tucson public comment meeting and unable to use the map to draw boundaries, so I appreciate being able to submit public comment to the Commission here.</p> <p>My Community of Interest is the region including and surrounding the Santa Rita and Patagonia Mountains because this community holds so many common interests and concerns for this vast and fragile ecosystem we share. My Community of Interest includes all postal codes in Green Valley, the City of Sahuarita, and all of Santa Cruz County.</p> <p>The economy of our small communities is dependent on visitors, tourists and residents who are drawn to this region because of its great biodiversity. Madera Canyon and Patagonia are both important birding areas and bring many winter snowbirds and visitors to the area without whom these communities would fail. This unique southwest desert ecosystem crosses county lines from Pima County into Santa Cruz County just as as our current LD 2 does. All our residents now share the very real concern about the ongoing viability and availability of our precious water resources. We share a common destiny if we cannot work together to protect clean, safe water for both humans and wildlife.</p> <p>I feel very strongly that our unique area that includes the watersheds of the Santa Rita and Patagonia Mountains has a shared destiny and must be allowed to come together to ensure the welfare of this community and all its residents.</p>
08/09/2021 - 17 03	08/09/2021 - 17:03	Jay Simpson	Competitiveness	<p>The IRC agenda for tomorrow's meeting includes the topic of competitiveness.</p> <p>The first and most important thing for the IRC to do is to affirm its strong commitment to draw as many competitive districts as practical given the limitations of the Voting Rights Act and geography (the big sort). The measure of competitiveness is less important than a clear direction to the mapping consultant that the goal of competitive districts should not be an after thought.</p> <p>As for the measures presented in Mr. Johnson's 39 page powerpoint presentation, it is not at all clear that it is necessary for the RC to limit itself to one method at this point. The experts were very clear on one point. Even though they might come at the issue from slightly different perspectives, their overall message to the IRC was that this is not complicated and that all of their methods would work to help the IRC evaluate its draft maps. Mr. McGhee even demonstrated Plan Score in real time. Dr. Duchin seemed willing to remain involved and give her team's feedback on draft maps. Dr. Wang brought up a template that his team had created and he offered to share. Here is the question you should ask: Why is there a need to narrow the information that could be provided to the RC at the draft map stage? If I were a serving commissioner, I would want to see the varied evaluations. The public will also be interested in seeing multiple evaluations of draft maps. As an aside, it would have been useful if Mr. Johnson had posted the letters he received last week from Dr. McGhee and Dr. Wang rather than just cite to them in his powerpoint presentation. These letters should be posted on the IRC website immediately so that the public has access to them before the meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson's powerpoint presentation makes this seem like a difficult if not impossible task. This is the opposite of what the experts were each telling you. He also uses the word "complicated" to describe several of the methods under consideration which is a pejorative that is not useful in comparing methods. You want to have a communications strategy that makes it clear to the public which methods were employed in evaluating the maps; that does not mean that the public needs to be able to perform the mathematics used in the evaluation. It is enough to be able to say to the public that the IRC used several widely respected metrics and then identify the metric(s) employed.</p> <p>I understand that there is a need to do data entry for past election results at the census tract level in order to evaluate the maps for competitiveness. Given the recent growth and demographic changes in the state, it makes sense to limit the historic data to two or at most three election cycles. If the IRC goes back any farther, you run the risk of including data that provides a false positive. As far as specific elections are concerned, there seemed to be consensus that the Presidential election Data was quite useful and that several other state wide races such as secretary of state or treasurer could be helpful. There was also a consensus that using the gubernatorial races could skew the data set so those should probably be excluded.</p> <p>In sum, the experts were quite clear that evaluating maps for competitiveness is fairly easily achievable using the tools that are readily available to the IRC. From a policy standpoint the critical thing is for the RC to state publicly that it is committed to drawing competitive maps wherever possible and directing the mapping consultant to ensure that it is considered from the outset.</p>
08/09/2021 - 17 57	08/09/2021 - 17:57	Eve Shapiro	competitive districts	<p>Please make sure the provision to create competitive districts is adhered to in the final maps. A democracy depends on people voting and having a choice of candidates. If the outcome is preordained by the makeup of the district, that is no longer democratic. Thank you, Eve Shapiro MD</p>

08/09/2021 - 18 32	08/09/2021 - 18:32	dianne post	Competitive Districts	<p>NOW is a nonprofit 501(c)(4) corporation incorporated and headquartered in Washington, D.C. and is the largest organization of feminist grassroots activists in the United States. AZ NOW is a unit of the national organization, has been in existence for over fifty years, and has members statewide.</p> <p>Since its founding in 1966, NOW's purpose has been to take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals, lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life. AZ NOW uses a variety of strategies, including public education and legislative advocacy, to advance women's rights and address NOW's six key issues important to our members and women in general: (1) reproductive rights and justice; (2) economic justice; (3) ending violence against women; (4) racial justice; (5) LGBTQIA+ rights; and (6) constitutional equality.</p> <p>The political action work has been focused on election of candidates from local to federal levels that will work to achieve the six key issues. One of the problems that has surfaced every single election cycle is the lack of competitive districts. Arizona is very closely divided with nearly equal numbers of independents, Democrats and Republicans. That should mean that our state electoral districts are competitive so that the voices of all are heard and have an equal opportunity to prevail. That is not the case. In fact, very few of the districts are competitive.</p> <p>This has hampered the representation of those who live there as required by both the national and state constitution. Their voices are silenced and even when a majority of people in the district desire a certain outcome, the elected representatives who know they have a lock on the district, ignore them.</p> <p>Our members live throughout the state so naturally some live in what are now considered Democratic districts, some live in what are considered Republican districts and some live in the few competitive districts. Those who live in what are now considered Democratic districts have reported that they are often precinct captains and work very hard to maintain representatives who actually listen and respond to constituent needs.</p> <p>Those who live in Republican districts have mostly lost their right of representation completely because the current party platform is antagonistic to the six key goals of NOW. Even when the majority of the people in that district try to be heard, even when they want the elected representative to be held accountable for violating the law, they cannot overcome the financial and numerical advantage structured into the district e.g. LD11. The last two years, COVID has severely constrained political work with constituents on the ground and will continue to do so as our state refuses to respond adequately and scientifically to the virus. We can expect another campaign season where people who care about public health and their neighbors cannot go door to door to campaign.</p> <p>Independents don't have it any better because they don't get serious competitive debates among candidates, or realistic platforms, or in-depth information on the persons experience or abilities. So they have limited and one-sided, information on which to make their decisions.</p> <p>To maintain uncompetitive districts simply increases the divisions already existing in the country and being fanned into violent flames. It means that people do not have to speak to each other or hear each other but can continue to live in bubbles of their own creation. If there was a fair contest, candidates would have to put forth an actual platform with concrete steps so people can evaluate them, not rely on empty slogans and emotional memes. They would have to list their actual credentials and past deeds showing they have the knowledge and ability to make good decisions and to take appropriate action. They would have to meet with the constituents, listen to their concerns and address them. They would have to compromise – the glue missing from our political posturing today.</p> <p>So while we do have to ensure that communities of interest are allowed to elect someone that represents them we also have to ensure that all constituents in our closely divided state have an equal voice.</p>
08/09/2021 - 20 38	08/09/2021 - 20:38	Roger Rushlow	Redistricting Plan	<p>I believe the current district that includes Green Valley should remain unchanged. It reflects customary travel areas and common interests.</p> <p>Rational districts that share common concerns, that voters are familiar with are important to the integrity of fair voting.</p>
08/10/2021 - 08 23	08/10/2021 - 08:23	Leslie W. Davis III	Public Comment on Redistricting	<p>I am against gerrymandering to enable one political party's candidates to win. Elections should be competitive and I believe that is best ensured by mostly geographically compact districts without the inclusion of minorities into or out of districts to ensure they do not have a voice in the elections. I have described what I hope in my community of interest above.</p> <p>I also do NOT want to draw a map. You technology on that survey stinks. Was the survey done that way on purpose to reduce the citizen input? It appears so from the complexity.</p>
08/10/2021 - 09 23	08/10/2021 - 09:23	Richard W. Ferguson	Redistricting RE: 6&7	<p>I live near Flagstaff on Koch Field Road South of Townsend-Winona Road. Zip code 86004. For some reason, we have been placed in District 7 which primarily covers the reservations. All of our representatives are from the Navajo Reservation and are unfamiliar with our needs. I feel our needs would be far better represented if we were included in District 6.</p> <p>Thank you for your work.</p>
08/10/2021 - 09 33	08/10/2021 - 09:33	Kathryn Babcock	Input on redistricting	<p>I was unable to create a map but want to provide input on the Green Valley-Sahuarita-Santa Cruz County areas. From Pima Mine Road south to the International Border, these areas share an ecosystem that includes migratory paths for numerous animals, an aquifer and watershed, grasslands, desert vegetation. In addition we share cultural ties: many of our families have lived here for generations and are bilingual, a rich cultural asset. These areas attract visitors from the US and beyond to enjoy these unique features and while they are here they spend a significant amount of money that supports our area.</p>

08/10/2021 - 09:53	08/10/2021 - 09:53	Linda Morenz	Community of Interest Survey	<p>I want to respond to the Survey but could not figure out how to draw the map and don't have the geographic info to draw a map anyway - just want to make a more general comment without indicating precise boundaries: The current districts continue to represent my community of interest. Both my husband and I work in Tucson, for the University of Arizona. I work on main campus and my husband works near Ajo and Golf Links. Many of our social activities are in Tucson and we often shop there as well. We receive a daily newspaper from there. We have many values in common with those areas. Many of the large employers in the area are situated in the area covered by the congressional districts that include the Foothills so that helps define our community of interest. We never go to Saddlebrook and rarely go to areas north of here so we would not see that area as sharing any of our concerns. A "C" district would split the area geographically, socially, and economically.</p>
08/10/2021 - 10:07	08/10/2021 - 10:07	Barbara Burstein	Comments for hearings	<p>Dear Commissioners, I appreciate the opportunity to address the IRC concerning the initial phase of the mapping process. I have lived in Tucson most of my life. My parents brought me here when I was two, and I chose to stay here as an adult. I left for law school at Harvard and chose to return and practice law here. I live near the University of Arizona and in an area of churches, mosques and synagogues; schools from daycare through high school, and community college and university. I love the community in Tucson, and we share appreciation of the natural beauty, wildlife and outdoors here. We share issues of how to grow and increase jobs, and attract large employers, yet retain the feel of a much smaller community and support our economic and cultural diversity. We have employers of various sizes. The University of Arizona is a large employer that supports many academics, administrators and staff. Many who came here as students chose to remain here. We have other educational dimensions as well, including a medical school and graduate medical education with various internships and residencies. Davis Monthan is also a large employer, with a large military population. We have many smaller businesses and local businesses. We have a large tourism industry as well, and support solar industries as well as medical innovations. We have many of the amenities of a much larger city with many theaters, musical groups, and museums, including the Desert Museum. We also have great economic disparities, and those who are suffering economic hardships. We support numerous community-based organizations that provide services to those individuals in need and help define us as a community, such as Primavera, Youth on their Own, Community Food Bank. We currently have two Congressional Districts, which are competitive and fairly drawn, that provide representation to these various constituencies. Because of our diversity, to continue to provide fair and competitive representation we need to have at least two CDs. I live in Legislative District 9, which as currently drawn is fair and competitive. Any changes must keep it fair and competitive. That is the responsibility of the IRC under the Arizona Constitution and federal Voting Rights Act.</p>
08/10/2021 - 10:15	08/10/2021 - 10:15	Michael Phillip Jackson	The RC survey won't let me mark out an area, so I can't submit mine	<p>The IRC survey won't let me mark out an area, so I can't submit mine -- and by the way, is the deadline Tuesday 8/10, or Wednesday 8/11?</p>
08/10/2021 - 10:34	08/10/2021 - 10:34	Jean Ferguson	Redistricting RE: 6&7	<p>August 10, 2021 Redistricting Committee Arizona</p> <p>Dear Chairwoman Neuberger and fellow commissioners:</p> <p>Thank you for working on redistricting in the state of Arizona. Fair and equitable districts are key to good representation in the state legislature and senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.</p> <p>My name is Jean Ferguson. I have lived in Doney Park, a "community" northeast of Flagstaff, for 37 years. I live in District 7 while my neighbors who live a half mile to the north are in District 6. My senator and representatives are from the Navajo Nation. They have interests and concerns which are different from mine and they do not represent me at the state level. The city of Page is also in District 7 but, again, is not fairly represented. Please consider including all of Flagstaff and the surrounding areas as a community of interest and place them all in one legislative district.</p> <p>Another issue is Congressional District 1. The district is huge and includes parts of Northern Arizona, Eastern Arizona, and Southern Arizona. Southern Arizona has different issues from Northern Arizona. Water concerns and immigration are two issues that should be treated differently in the two different areas. Please consider making Congressional District 1 a district that includes only the northern part of the state. Our interests would best be represented by someone from our area.</p> <p>Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jean Ferguson [REDACTED] Flagstaff, AZ 86004</p>
08/10/2021 - 19:33	08/10/2021 - 19:33	Cindy Wagner	Communities of Interest Map	<p>Thank you for the public listening tours and also opportunity to submit COI survey. I am trying to submit my COI but I am having difficult creating the map. I don't think the survey should be dependent upon preparing a map. I am not a cartographer. This is a frustrating tool. I want to submit the survey but the site won't allow me w/o a map.</p> <p>While you did extend the deadline by ONE day, I think you should extend the deadline until the grid maps are released.</p>

08/10/2021 - 19:40	08/10/2021 - 19:40	Cindy Wagner	COI Survey	<p>Here is my survey because I could not complete the map, my comments were not submitted: My community is comprised of the quad cities: Prescott, Prescott Valley, Mayer, Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt. We share a library network, Prescott College, Yavapai College and Embrey Riddle College is our higher education. We have an airport. We are surrounded by Prescott National Forest. Our healthcare system is the VA as well as Dignity Health-Yavapai Regional Medical Center. We are surrounded by Highways 89 and 69. Prescott is the county seat. We have a great music scene in Prescott and many activities happen at the Courthouse Square, in addition to our museums, nature center and Heritage Zoo. Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Sedona, Clarkdale are their own community of interest and we are separated by Mingus Mountain. My husband and I have lived in AZ for 4.5 years and consider Prescott our permanent home. However, we are not familiar enough with the geography to draw a map and I am uncomfortable drawing a map. I think you can surmise from my community of interest where the map would be drawn. Thank you for providing a public listening tour. I appreciate that you extended the deadline but a one day extension is not sufficient. This tool should remain open until the grid maps are released. Thank you.</p>
08/11/2021 - 06:51	08/11/2021 - 06 51	Jean Ann Ferguson	Redistricting of Districts 6 & 7	<p>Dear Chairwoman Neuberg and fellow commissioners:</p> <p>Thank you for giving your time to this important work. Fair and balanced representation in the state is of utmost importance in assuring election integrity.</p> <p>My name is Jean Ferguson. I have lived in Doney Park, an area northeast of Flagstaff, for 37 years. I live in Legislative District 7, while most of Flagstaff and Doney Park live in Legislative District 6. My senator and representatives live on the Navajo Nation and their interest and concerns are for the Navajo people. My neighbors and friends who live a half mile to the north are in Legislative District 6 as is all of Flagstaff. Please consider consolidating the communities of interest to include all of Doney Park with Flagstaff. I realize that Legislative Districts 6 and 7 cover extremely large land areas but I believe that my issues can be better served if I have the same senator and representatives as my neighbors.</p> <p>Another issue which I would like you to address is Congressional District 1. My congressman has his office here in Arizona in the southern part of the state, near Tucson, while I live in Northern Arizona. Our issues are different than those in Southern Arizona. A congressional district that actually represents Northern Arizona would be more in step with the requirement for "communities of interest" to be together.</p> <p>Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jean Ferguson  Flagstaff, AZ 86004</p>
08/11/2021 - 07:23	08/11/2021 - 07 23	Kevin Brown	Maps	<p>My Name is Kevin Brown, and I have lived in Tempe for the last 30 years and am a lifelong resident of Arizona. I'm currently in LD26 and CD9. Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My area of interest is the neighborhoods surrounding ASU. From the Salt River south to Broadway Rd. and from the 101 Freeway west to 143. I would like to see LD 26 remain the way it is now as much as possible. A diverse community welcoming to all. As it should be surrounding a major university. Although changing with the addition of more luxury apartments and high-end town homes. It still is mostly working-class families and remains the most affordable part of Tempe.</p> <p>One troubling development I have seen with these meetings is the push to make the Legislative Districts less competitive. I'm distressed by this suggestion because competitive districts are good for our democracy, and it can use all the help it can get in these times. Competitive districts make for suitable candidates that have something to offer to their constituents. In noncompetitive districts, all they must do is get through the primary of whatever party is in the majority. No candidate should be able to win the primary and then skate through to the office. Arizona is a competitive state, and the LDs should reflect that competitiveness. Excellent candidates welcome that competition and make themselves better and more accessible to their constituents. We need more of those kinds. We already have plenty of the other kind.</p>

08/11/2021 - 18:36	08/11/2021 - 18:36	Priscilla Weaver	From Teec Nos Pos, AZ 86514-1457	<p>My name is Priscilla and I live in Teec Nos Pos, AZ 86514, a good development potential along a major tourist highway, and a Census-designated place in Apache County.</p> <p>My community is in the northeast state of Arizona that is pronounced T'is Nábąą in Diné bizaad (Navajo language) and translates as "cottonwoods in a circle."</p> <p>I live 3.75 hours from St. Johns, AZ, two hours from Window Rock, AZ, 90 miles from Chinle, AZ, and 1 25 hours (77 miles) from Kayenta, AZ.</p> <p>We have one store in Teec Nos Pos that supplies our community with general supplies and local people shop for basic daily needs. The trading post sell rugs, turquoise jewelry, and livestock supplies.</p> <p>T'is Nábąą has some gorgeous hiking trails with an astonishing waterfall, "Twin Falls" and Tsé Da'shii'jaai (Three Monkeys Mesa). Tourists can stop at the Four Corners Tribal Park to take a picture in all four states in one snapshot. Within an hour, visitors can be in Monument Valley and another hour they can be in Grand Canyon.</p> <p>Teec Nos Pos is a rural community that needs a larger post office and rural addressing for all the residents. The United States Postal Service is our lifeline to many essential needs. We need more clean water, better internet services, a radio broadcasting service, a waste management system or transfer stations, recycling centers, a library, more playgrounds, improved classrooms for our students, laundromats, a recreational sports center with baseball field/ basketball court, and a healthy restaurant with a coffee bar. The local tribal university campus is an extension center/ instructional site of Navajo Technical University that can provide additional innovative higher educational opportunities from Red Mesa High School dual credit students and graduates. NTU is affordable and local for students interested in computers, healthcare profession, carpentry, Navajo/ Diné studies, teaching, and more disciplines. We need more general public education and most importantly communications in our languages.</p> <p>Our cultural bonds in our community consists of internationally renowned artisans, spiritual leaders from all faiths, Navajo/ Diné hataali (medicinal healers & chanters), and livestock owners. We all share the beauty of living around the Carizzo Mountain and the San Juan River. We love our land and all our environment.</p> <p>T'is Nábąą has a strong history where our elders shared food and coffee together, not just for the tourists. They worked together with community leaders who advocated for education. They were able to have a Bureau Indian Affairs/ Educational facilities built in the community. The BIA and Red Mesa school districts put up dormitories, a cafeteria, a gymnasium, and housing units (apartments & homes) for staff, faculty, and administrators for Teec Nos Pos and Red Mesa. Despite the circumstances of being in an isolated Arizona location, our families have persevered and maintained residencies in Arizona. I worry about the Census data in our communities because we might have been undercounted during 2020, the pandemic/ COVID crisis. We have to deal with many boundaries and do not add another line to our Navajo Nation in Apache County. I want fair representation and fair mapping.</p> <p>On Monday, July 26, four days before the first public hearing I learned about the satellite location for Apache County being removed from the IRC public hearing schedule. I wrote an email to the IRC staff and requested to put the Chinle location back on the schedule. I sent the contact information to Navajo Technical University facilities in Chinle, AZ. The people in Chinle community of Apache County were not given enough time to attend the public hearing because of the poor IRC public hearing scheduling. I planned to attend the IRC satellite location in Kayenta because I live closest to that location. However, that location was taken off the schedule, too. The RC staff needs to make sure the locations are identified and publicized so we can make plans to attend the hearings. Please revisit our tribal communities and our counties.</p> <p>Please contact me if you have additional questions. My number is [REDACTED] Thank you.</p>
08/12/2021 - 08:51	08/12/2021 - 08:51	JO KONTZER	community of interest survey	<p>I tried to complete your community of interest survey, but I could not get the map to work at all. And since the survey requires the completion of the map I could not send it in. I believe that the Verde Valley and Flagstaff should be one district for both Congressional and Legislative elections. Including both sides of I-17 and from Flagstaff to Jerome.</p>