



Web Comments 9.10.21 - 9.16.21

Submitted Time	Completed Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
09/10/2021 - 09:39	09/10/2021 - 09:39	Evelyn Marin Casuga	Process Considerations	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I've spent nearly 40 years working to make Arizona a better place, so I wanted to first thank you for your service to the state. Your work on the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) will influence policy and impact Arizonans for decades to come.</p> <p>Because of that fact, there are a lot of special interests and partisan activists who want to influence the IRC process for their own gain. That's one of the fundamental reasons the voters created the IRC: to reduce the influence of partisan politics and the possibility of gerrymandering. By passing the ballot measure in 2000, voters agreed that Arizona should use an impartial system to create fair maps, rather than the political games we see in many other states that don't use independent commissions for redistricting.</p> <p>In my role at the Center for the Future of Arizona and as chair of the Arizona Town Hall Board, I work with Arizonans from all walks of life and one thing is clear: for the most part, Arizonans want the same things. We want quality schools for our children, accessible healthcare, sound infrastructure, good jobs, and a sustainable future. Perhaps most importantly, we want civic leaders who will work together to solve the problems facing the state. The decisions you make will have a significant impact on who these future leaders will be.</p> <p>This is why it's so important the final maps you adopt reflect the demographics of our state. We are growing more ethnically diverse and will continue to do so moving forward. The maps should mirror this diversity. We are also becoming more politically diverse. The proportions of Republican, Democratic, and Independent voters are almost equally divided at this point. Therefore, the final maps shouldn't give one Party an inherently greater advantage over another.</p> <p>This might be easier said than done, as I know you are going to be pulled in many different directions as the Commission continues its work. You're going to hear from all kinds of people and groups claiming they know best. Through it all I ask that you focus on serving only one interest: the long-term future of Arizona.</p> <p>I love my state and I am thrilled that we have an independent commission in charge of the redistricting process. It reflects the independent spirit of Arizona, and it sets us apart from many other states that are dominated by partisan politics throughout the redistricting process. The work you are doing is of the utmost importance, and I commend each and every one of you for serving on the Independent Redistricting Commission.</p>
09/13/2021 - 09:57	09/13/2021 - 09:57	Hope Busto-Keyes	Methods to Submit Maps	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>The available methods by which the public can submit maps should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1)AZ IRC online portal - AZ IRC online portal that allows the public to draw and submit maps. For example, the Colorado IRC portal is using Esri's ArcGIS software platform - https://redistricting.colorado.gov/content/redistricting-online2)Attachment links - submission of draft maps created on free online web mapping programs as an attachment - (i.e., maps created on Representable, Dave's Redistricting, District Builder, DistrictR) . An attachment button could be included on the online Public Comment Form. <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>

09/13/2021 - 10:01	09/13/2021 - 10:01	Hope Busto-Keyes	Public Meeting Access in Minority Communities	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Thank you for your commitment to reaching out and including minority communities in the redistricting process. It is understandable that rural remoteness or language present challenges, but these challenges, and others, can and must be overcome in order to receive important public input in the redistricting process.</p> <p>The second round of hearings provides the opportunity to conduct accessible (in-person/internet) public meetings with even more minority communities around Arizona.</p> <p>To mention some specific communities who need more outreach - the tribal communities of Kayenta, Kykotsmovi Village, Sells and more predominant Latines areas, i.e. San Luis in Yuma County.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
09/13/2021 - 11:16	09/13/2021 - 11:16	Maria A Lynam	Sept. 13 Training Session.	<p>Thank you for providing the training. During the presentation, two questions were asked in the chat. Neither were addressed. They are:</p> <p>Nelson Morgan Did the development team have a phase where naive users tried it and provided feedback?</p> <p>Bill Bowlus-Root When multiple people are collaborating on the same map, do the changes they make update on the screens of the other people working on it?</p> <p>My questions are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is anyone monitoring the chat? It is especially important to do so during training sessions. 2. If someone is monitoring, do they get the questions to those who can answer in a timely fashion. <p>Thank you.</p>
09/13/2021 - 11:25	09/13/2021 - 11:25	Diane E Boman	Public Input	<p>There has been no clear process by which the public can provide direct feedback, in real time, for the 3 official sets of maps drawn by the IRC; grid, draft and final proposals or input during business meetings. It has been said on multiple occasions that the IRC is committed to engaging the public in the most open and transparent manner yet we have not seen any process conveyed to the public. If not for Covid, the IRC would be meeting in person and taking public comment at each meeting in a live format. The IRC must establish this practice now!</p>
09/13/2021 - 11:32	09/13/2021 - 11:32	Diane E Boman	Input from Minority Communities	<p>The recent "listening tour" bypassed many communities of color which must be given the opportunity to speak to the commission about their communities. Ms. Chapel -Comacho has stated that she is prepared to provide an outreach plan addressing the 3 primary concerns, which were raised through public comment; more advance notice, more preparation and how to participate. We are now preparing for a 2nd set of listening tours and we have not been given any written plan or procedure for keeping our communities better informed.</p>
09/13/2021 - 11:44	09/13/2021 - 11:44	Diane Boman	Public Input for Mapping	<p>I ask that the IRC accept maps and community of interest submissions from all sources, i.e. Representative, Dave's Redistricting App, DistrictR and DistrictBuilder. Many of us do not have access to broadband or are well versed in GIS mapping programs. For this reason paper maps should also be accepted. A reminder to the commission - all work on maps must be done publicly. 100% transparency and full public participation!</p>

09/13/2021 - 15:05	09/13/2021 - 15:05	Rev. Katie Sexton-Wood	Letter from the Arizona Faith Network	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>The Arizona Faith Network is an interfaith organization focused on bringing people of faith together to promote civil dialogue and positive change for the common good. The independent redistricting process represents an opportunity to utilize that same approach in creating fair and representative maps for Arizonans of all wa ks of life.</p> <p>Active civic participation is a fundamental goal of our organization. We believe it is a moral obligation for all people, regardless of faith, to actively participate in their communities. But the moral obligation of allowing and opening the doors to that participation often lies within the hands of leaders such as yourselves. The work you are doing on the Independent Redistricting Commission will have an impact on Arizonans for decades to come.</p> <p>Why do we say decades? Because the legislative and congressional delegations that will be elected as a result of the approved maps will make policy choices that go well beyond the 10-year shelf life of these maps. And those policies will be a direct reflection of the values of the leaders elected to represent their constituents. Therefore it is incumbent on this Commission to create maps that accurately reflect the diverse and shared values of all Arizonans, as opposed to maps that give a particular advantage to one particular Party or ideology.</p> <p>As recent census data shows, Arizona continues to become more diverse. This is reflected in the composition of our faith-based communities. We are a state of numerous faiths - all of whom should have a fair opportunity to have their voices heard in our state's political process. As an interfaith leadership organization, we respectfully implore you to remember this in every decision you make.</p> <p>Finally, please know that we appreciate and understand the challenges of the job before you because, much like the Commission, we are an organization that is responsible for representing the voices of diverse groups of people. We understand how hard it is to balance out the needs and goals of various interests, and we are proof that it can be achieved. So, if we can be of further assistance or serve as a resource in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the people of Arizona.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Reverend Katie Sexton-Wood Executive Director Arizona Faith Network</p>
09/13/2021 - 21:25	09/13/2021 - 21:25	Julie Pindzola	mapping training slides from Timmons' presentation	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I wanted to set up my IRC mapping account and start to train using your 4 district practice setup. The presentation slides are truncated on the right so the slides are not fully readable. Where else can I see the website links to your data hub and the redistricting tools? Please Fix This.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

09/14/2021 - 05:30	09/14/2021 - 05:30	Deborah Howard	Failure to Respond in a Timely Manner to Public Record Act Requests	<p>I have submitted several public records requests for a non-commercial purpose to the IRC dating back to June. To date the IRC has not responded to even one of them. Nor offered me a reason for the lack of a response. Arizona's public records law requires the custodian of records to "promptly furnish such copies, printouts or photographs. . ." Arizona Revised Statutes Section 39-121.01-D-1. The Arizona Agency Handbook quotes from a 2007 Court of Appeals decision stating that "[p]rompt . . .mean[s] 'quick to act or to do what is required,' or 'done, spoken, etc. at once or without delay.'" Section 6.5.1 of the handbook. In any litigation relating to a public records request, the Arizona State agency to which a public record has been made must demonstrate to the court that it acted promptly.</p> <p>None of my requests seeks a voluminous amount of records and, in any event, the IRC has not been in existence long enough to have produced truckloads of records. So I am perplexed and disappointed that the IRC, which is supposed to act transparently during its short existence, seems to have ignored its responsibility under the public records law. I can't fathom any legitimate reason for this delay. If the delay relates to an incompatibility between the IRC's technology and that of outside counsel, the public records law does not establish an exception to the promptness mandate for legal review, which could be done in any event in person at the IRC's offices.</p> <p>Upon submitting duplicate requests in August I received these numbers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •#975 - seeking copies of monthly invoices submitted by Timmons Group; NDC; Ballard Spahr; and Snell and Wilmer (certain months) •#981 - CSV files for 910 community of interest submissions •#982 - documents (call records, emails, etc.) related to the planning and selection of sites for the Round 1 listening tour •#983 - seeking copies of monthly invoices submitted by Timmons Group; NDC; Ballard Spahr; and Snell and Wilmer (certain months) •#984 - list of all public record act requests received to date (submitted June 21 and again Aug 25) •#985 - transcripts of business meetings (All dates - these could be posted!) •#986 - Expense records for five commissioners (Certain months) •#988 - seeking calendars of commissioners and executive staff reflecting all meetings with third parties related to the business of redistricting •#990 - seeking communications between Ex. Director Brian Schmitt and staff in the Governor's office regarding budget planning 2021 and beyond. <p>I ask that you redress this failure immediately and comply with Arizona law as required by all public agencies.</p>
09/14/2021 - 10:29	09/14/2021 - 10:29	William Beard	Using the Online Mapping System	Are you required to have an ESRI account to login to utilize the grid map mapping tool to build your own or analyze the existing maps in the system?
09/14/2021 - 19:23	09/14/2021 - 19:23	Sharon R Edgar	Summary of Commission's decision on how to measure competitiveness	At the August 31st meeting, Doug Johnson said he was requested to provide a summary of the Commission's decision on how to measure competitiveness. The legal team found a typo in the slide he was going show at that meeting, so he said he would post that slide to the website once the typo is fixed. Please email me to let me know where to find that posting on the website. Thank you very much.
09/15/2021 - 17:59	09/15/2021 - 17:59	Julie Pindzola	Timmons Mapping Training	<p>I am trying to read the power point slides from Monday. They remain cut off on the right hand side AND are 90 degrees rotated. Please correct these issues to spare users unnecessary frustration. The glitches were through the Newsroom, Power point slide presentation link on the IRC website.</p> <p>There really should be a contact to call or email for responsive help with the mapping. The general public are now trying to teach ourselves with rather limited instruction. I hope that the Commission and consultants would want to be as helpful as possible. This is the public participation that is prescribed in Prop106 so it needs to be attainable for the average Joe.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration :)</p>

09/15/2021 - 19:44	09/15/2021 - 19:44	William Bowlus-Root	Creating Groups for collaboration in the Timmons Redistricting Online App	<p>I've created a map using the online Redistricting tool (https://maps.azredistricting.gov/redistricting) and would like to collaborate with other users on refinements. The training indicated that users could create groups that would allow us to do just that. However, there doesn't seem to be a way to create such a Group or manage members of it. Can someone please reply to this email to provide the information about how to do that, or grant the necessary specific roles so that I can create a group for me and my colleagues to take advantage of this feature?</p> <p>Thanks for your help,</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
09/16/2021 - 12:37	09/16/2021 - 12:37	Nancy Welch	Input on Community of Interest	<p>Dear Commission Members,</p> <p>I voted for Proposition 106 in 2000. Like thousands of Arizonans, I sought to reduce political partisanship and improve our electoral system for the good of all Arizonans. The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission process has proven to be a positive step from my perspective.</p> <p>As you lead the third redistricting process, I know you are thinking about how your work will shape the election of legislators and Congressional members now and policy and political outcomes far beyond 2030. You are certainly considering how the 2021 maps will help or hinder Arizonans' efforts to serve a state where the electorate is divided roughly into thirds among Republicans, Democrats, and independents. You know well that your work will affect decisions about critical issues from health disparities to water, jobs, education, and much more. This is particularly true at the legislative level, where the actions taken by an individual legislator rarely impact only their district.</p> <p>You are certainly considering how your maps soon will touch Arizona's some 1.6 million youth, 1.3 million seniors, and 4.4 million working-age adults. The nearly 500,000 students in public community colleges and universities must be in your thoughts, as are the quarter of Arizonans in rural areas.</p> <p>The U.S. Census has made you acutely aware of Arizona's growing diversity and the critical part our Latino, African American, Asian American, Native American, and other groups play in our communities and economy now and in the future. You are obviously thinking too about tribal communities in reservation areas and in cities.</p> <p>You have asked Arizonans to tell you about how they see their communities of interest, and have heard from many groups that are trying to further their own agendas. I submit that the most important community of interest is the entire state. More than 7 million Arizonans, from Window Rock to Somerton, Kingman to Safford—and everywhere in between—together comprise the most important community of interest. I ask you, as you discuss the minutiae of redistricting and your numerous goals and constraints, to keep fairness and ensuring all Arizonans an opportunity to be well represented squarely in front of you. I know you must think about individual districts but you must look at the same time at the state as a whole. Your result should be more than the sum of its parts.</p> <p>Arizonans took the dramatic step of creating the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, in part, to reduce party-serving decisions. Your products need to accurately reflect the breadth and depth of Arizona diversity so that no party ends up with an unfair advantage.</p> <p>Those elected on your commission's maps will make long-term decisions. Your legacy should be not just fair maps for the next decade but also a catalyst for wise long-term decisions by elected leaders acting in Arizona's best interests, regardless of party.</p> <p>You have one of the most difficult jobs in governance. However, success is both possible and more critical even than 20 years ago. I know you are thinking deeply about doing the best you can for our state.</p>

09/16/2021 - 14:18	09/16/2021 - 14:18	Kodee Goseyun	Error	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>Under the Launch Socioeconomic Report Application, there is a Bookmark tab listing all counties, but Pinal County has been left off the list.</p> <p>Kodee Kodee Goseyun San Carlos Apache Tribe Economic Development Specialist [REDACTED]</p>
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