



Web Contact Us Comments 6.18.21 - 6.24.21

Submitted Time	Completed Time	Modified Time	Full Name	Subject	Message
06/18/2021 - 16:56	06/18/2021 - 16:56	06/18/2021 - 16:56	Jim Iannuzo	Redistricting maps	When is the expected release date for new state legislative maps? is there a link you could refer me to for updates? Than you
06/18/2021 - 18:08	06/18/2021 - 18:08	06/18/2021 - 18:08	David Culbertson	District 4 redistricting	I reside in San Tan Valley, in Pinal County. I feel that District 4 is slightly gerrymandered and that Pinal County doesn't belong in District 4. I don't have much in common with residents in Bullhead City or Prescott and the issues that we face in Pinal County are different and more in line with communities in District 1. I know southcentral Arizona is at a geographical crossroads but my representative resides in Flagstaff, even though he says he has an apartment in Prescott. These are communities that are far from the agricultural, Native American, and desert areas of my area. Thank you, Dave Culbertson
06/19/2021 - 13:13	06/19/2021 - 13:13	06/19/2021 - 13:13	John Neville	Upcoming Public Meetings	Thank you for hosting the listening sessions around the state. As an Independent commission, you have the charge to remain independent from political manipulation to guarantee that our voting districts are fairly drawn. Gathering input for the range of citizens in the state is a critical part of that process. However, we have seen, especially in recent years, some people have come to public meetings with the sole purpose of disrupting the process. Some political operatives have even paid stooges to appear at events like these to present misinformation about the legislative districts. We hope that the IRC will do a couple of common sense things to prevent disruptive and fraudulent presentations. First, we suggest that you post a list of civil presentation practices that include speaking quietly and respectfully when providing testimony - and refraining from unruly behavior during the presentations of others. Second, we suggest that you require people to present identification when they sign in to attend the meeting. You need to know that the people in attendance should be there and are not imported trouble-makers. Of course, all weapons should be prohibited from these meetings. Thank you for making sure your public sessions safe and respectful for all.
06/20/2021 - 17:54	06/20/2021 - 17:54	06/20/2021 - 17:54	Marilyn Bernhardt	Upcoming onalisting meetings	Dear Commissioners, First, let me say that I appreciate your service to the people of Arizona. Next, I am hoping to attend your upcoming listening sessions in Coconino and/or Yavapai county, and I want to request that you take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the meetings are orderly and civil. I have heard of crowds of angry and sometimes unruly people occasionally swamping public meetings in AZ and other states, and since our state has "open carry" laws this is a matter especially worthy of concern. Thank you.

06/21/2021 - 07:08	06/21/2021 - 07:08	06/21/2021 - 07:08	Susan Bickel	public hearings	<p>Thank you, Commissioner Lerner, for addressing the increasingly common practice by extremists to try to take over local school board meetings and other public meetings.</p> <p>In the 2011 public hearings, I recall having to walk through groups of rowdy tea party activists who would get right in front of my face and dangle a tea bag. While unsettling, this aggressive behavior did not dissuade me from speaking. I am interested in hearing specific actions that the commission will take to assure the safety of the public during the upcoming public hearings. Given the recent increase in gun violence, I suggest that the commission make it clear that firearms and other weapons are prohibited during these public meetings. Additionally, I suggest that the commission hire security to be a visible presence both outside and inside the venue. Intimidation and aggressive behavior should not keep the public from their right to speak.</p>
06/21/2021 - 07:41	06/21/2021 - 07:41	06/21/2021 - 07:41	Deborah Howard	Public Records Act Request	<p>Good morning. I would like to request a copy of all public record act requests that have been received by the IRC since formed in January 2021.</p> <p>My preference is to receive copies of these records via email. If there are fees associated with searching for or copying the records, please inform me if the cost will exceed twenty dollars. This information is for informational purposes only, not for commercial purposes.</p> <p>Please respond to this request by June 28, 2021. If access to the requested record will take longer, please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email [REDACTED]</p> <p>I will be submitting an identical request via email as the proposed process for submitting these requests is not currently functioning. Obviously, I am doing so only to make sure you receive the request in a timely manner and can respond - not to generate multiple responses.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention and timely response to this request.</p>
06/21/2021 - 07:52	06/21/2021 - 07:52	06/21/2021 - 07:52	jo kontzer	redistricting	<p>What measures will the Commission take to ensure that the public hearings are conducted safely and in an orderly fashion? I agree with Commissioner Lerner that the recent takeovers of local school board meetings have the effect of intimidating and scaring away Arizonans who want to make their voices heard at public meetings.</p> <p>During the 2020 election an Arizona based political organization paid "trolls" to spread election disinformation online. What measures will you take to ensure that the testimony from real Arizonans is not drowned out by paid political operatives?</p>

06/21/2021 - 07:54	06/21/2021 - 07:54	06/21/2021 - 07:54	Deborah Howard	PRA Request - Meeting Transcripts	<p>Good morning.</p> <p>I would like to request meeting transcripts for IRC Business Meetings for the following dates: copies of the following public records related to the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* January 14, 2021* January 21, 2021* January 28, 2021* February 2, 2021* February 9, 2021* February 16, 2021* February 23, 2021* March 2, 2021* March 9, 2021* March 16, 2021* March 23, 2021* March 30, 2021* April 6, 2021* April 13, 2021* April 20, 2021* April 27, 2021* May 4, 2021* May 11, 2021* May 18, 2021* May 25, 2021* June 1, 2021* June 8, 2021* June 15, 2021 <p>and tomorrow's meeting as well -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* June 22, 2021 <p>My preference is to receive copies of these records via email. If there are fees associated with searching for or copying the records, please inform me if the cost will exceed twenty dollars. This information is not being sought for commercial purposes.</p> <p>Please respond to this request by June 29, 2021. If access to the requested records will take longer, please contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]</p> <p>I am submitting an identical request via email as the proposed PRA request procedure is not functioning. I appreciate your attention to this request.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
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06/21/2021 - 09:59	06/21/2021 - 09:59	06/21/2021 - 09:59	Deborah Howard	Legal Counsel Political Consulting	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I repeat my request that the IRC reconsider its tolerance of the continued political consulting of one of your selected law firms, Snell and Wilmer. I went back and listened to their interview and caught that they have agreed to stop consulting for political parties. This indicates they recognize the potential for conflicts of interest – real or perceived. The remainder of their answer was essentially – “trust us – we’ve got this covered.” They named an internal ethics and compliance process for Snell and Wilmer. Again this recognizes the prospect of real and perceived conflicts of interest, but does not address the concern of the public for impartiality or transparency. The firm’s process is in place to protect the firm – not the IRC or the public. Neither the IRC, nor the public, should be asked to accept at face value the internal processes of the firm. The IRC and the public deserve more.</p> <p>I ask that you either 1) request the firm suspend its political consulting for the duration of their contract with the IRC or 2) establish PUBLIC policies, procedures and protocols for standardized and regular disclosures of the work Snell and Wilmer is conducting that intersects with the interests of redistricting.</p> <p>As an example, the Snell and Wilmer website states the individual lawyer: regularly advises candidates, consultants, lobbyists, political action committees (PACs), ballot measure and independent expenditure committees, political parties, municipalities, corporations, election-related vendors, trade associations and other tax-exempt organizations, and individual donors and political contributors.</p> <p>I emphasize five specific categories – candidates, consultants, municipalities, individual donors and political contributors. These entities are primary stakeholders – where you draw the lines directly impacts their individual political futures and fortunes.</p> <p>To draw this out further: I don’t know which municipalities Snell and Wilmer represent – but suppose they represent Glendale where I live, 2010 population of 191,719. Despite having a population that would easily be contained in just one state legislative district, Glendale is currently divided among seven state legislative districts 13, 15, 20, 21, 22, 29, and 30. If Snell and Wilmer is now representing Glendale, will our city be more fairly treated in 2021? If they are not representing Glendale, will we be sliced and diced again?</p> <p>This question highlights just one example of the direct intersection between the political work of Snell and Wilmer and the redistricting work of the IRC.</p> <p>This creates a substantial threat to the IRC as it quite easily draws into question the integrity of the core of your work – drawing districts for fair and equal representation for all Arizonans. So many IRC actions taken “in an abundance of caution” to establish public trust and diminish risk for litigation seem performative in comparison. (Such as not posting meeting transcripts that may not exactly match the video – even with a disclaimer.) By taking one of the two actions noted above, this very real and serious threat to the ideals, integrity, and transparency could be mitigated.</p> <p>This report by the Pew Research Center (https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2021/05/17/public-trust-in-government-1958-2021/) reflects the low level of public trust in American government and institutions. Fair, or not, the IRC is part of this universe where an overwhelming majority (76%) do not think</p>
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06/21/2021 - 14:31	06/21/2021 - 14:31	06/21/2021 - 14:31	Norma Bliven	Technology	Technology problems need to be solved. Meetings have been held since January. Six months is ridiculous to still have issues.
06/21/2021 - 14:33	06/21/2021 - 14:33	06/21/2021 - 14:33	Norma Bliven	Fiscal Responsibility	Is it possible for Executive Director Brian Schmit to produce budget information/records in a written format?
06/22/2021 - 07:04	06/22/2021 - 07:04	06/22/2021 - 07:04	Julie M Pindzola	open discussions	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I find myself missing the conversation and open deliberations needed by the IRC for its decision making. If the meetings are the only communication among yourselves then it is not a good process you have landed on.</p> <p>1) Can you please share with the public the conversation/communication opportunities that you have outside of the public meetings? There must be some, given the limited interaction visible at your Tuesday meetings.</p> <p>2) Each commissioner individually should be asked if they have any thoughts on the agenda item. Cultivate interaction, please. There is way too much pregnant pause as the chair asks "if there are any comments by the Commission?" You each should come prepared to contribute to the public conversation. To those who do already, thank you. The meetings seem a bit rushed.</p> <p>3) It appears from the outside that the E Sessions are being overused, in part because there is so little thought sharing in the public eye. Are there frequent one on one conversations between legal team and chair? One on one between commissioners and outside leaders? A communication log would be most helpful.</p> <p>4) The public wants to see written staff reports, presented to you and posted on the website. This would be the full transparency, professionalism, and good governance that I trust you want to deliver..</p> <p>Thank you. We are rooting for your success!</p>
06/22/2021 - 07:22	06/22/2021 - 07:22	06/22/2021 - 07:22	Julie M Pindzola	stock presentation and listening tour	<p>We would very much like to see the substance of your stock presentation. The material and consistency are both going to be important. Presenting to civic groups and to the varied communities of interest statewide should incorporate this stock power point show. People need to understand what it is they are invited to share. What is it that the IRC is looking for in this first round of public input? It seems appropriate to collect this info before any grid maps are drafted.</p> <p>How will you assemble and organize the public input for later use in the mapping exercise itself? Will there be COI tabular data attached to the maps for citizen mappers to access and understand?</p>
06/22/2021 - 07:49	06/22/2021 - 07:49	06/22/2021 - 07:49	Julie Pindzola	ALL SIX CRITERIA	<p>What is the issue with Competitive districts as one of the full citizen-adopted redistricting criteria?? The Freudian slip of excluding it from your draft presentation slides is extremely worrisome. You need to understand that that is a very important criterion.and not minimize it. If each district cannot be made to be competitive, then the state overall needs to be competitive. Arizona is growing and the in migration is of varied backgrounds and political beliefs. Your job is to reflect that in a fair and unbiased way.</p>

06/22/2021 - 07:54	06/22/2021 - 07:54	06/22/2021 - 07:54	Linda J Piurek	Redistricting Committee Meeting	As you continue to put the public trust, first please provide safety measures during your hearings. Arizonans want to make their concerns known in a safe environment. Thank you.
06/22/2021 - 09:15	06/22/2021 - 09:15	06/22/2021 - 09:15	Tami Ryall	Pinal County offer to use our facilities for mtgs	Hello. I am reaching out on behalf of Pinal County to offer the IRC use of our facilities for your meetings in our area. We have buildings throughout the County & would be happy to help you when you start scheduling. Let me know if I can be helpful: cell [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]
06/22/2021 - 10:06	06/22/2021 - 10:06	06/22/2021 - 10:06	William Bowlus-Root	X. Discussion and Possible Action on census data, census delays and ways to mitigate its disruption.	Is there a reason you are not asking the Census Bureau itself to provide us with a defense of their use of Differential Privacy from a legal perspective in addition to the pro/con analyses from your legal scholars? It seems their view of this issue would be helpful to take into consideration as well. Also, does it matter what the legal analysis comes up with? In the end isn't the commissioner's primary concern how to understand and interpret the meaning of the data that it does receive? You just need to know how the introduction of differential data affects the level of accuracy that can be reasonably expected of the maps you draw. Since the apportionment data and basic data used in redistricting will not be adjusted for differential privacy, this is not something that should be of primary concern. It only comes into play when you fine-tune the district lines on your maps to deal with demographic, housing, and employment related data (which is adjusted under differential privacy). William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen
06/22/2021 - 10:15	06/22/2021 - 10:15	06/22/2021 - 10:15	William Bowlus-Root	IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to today's (June 22, 2021) meeting.	When the commissioners make no comments about any of the public comments that have been posted since the last meeting, it gives the impression that they are ignoring those comments. Occasionally that impression can be countered if a commissioner makes a comment during later agenda items that reflects something that was mentioned in one of the public's submissions. But that's not something that seems to happen very often. If you're actually reading and considering the comments left by the public, it would be a good idea to make that apparent by at least commenting about what you've read and telling us what you thought about it. Otherwise you look like you're disinterested at the least or intentionally dismissing or ignoring us at the worst. William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen

06/22/2021 - 12:12	06/22/2021 - 12:12	06/22/2021 - 12:12	Barbara Burstein		<p>Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>I am writing because I am concerned about the public hearings that the Independent Redistricting Commission will be holding, and what measures the Commission will take to ensure the the hearings are conducted in an orderly fashion and safely.</p> <p>One vital step for safety is prohibiting firearms and other weapons from the public hearings</p> <p>Further, as Commissioner Lerner expressed, I share concerns about the recent takeovers of local school board meetings around the State. While the public should have the opportunity to communicate with the Commission, the hearings should not be overtaken by political extremists, and those whose goals are the taking control of or shutting down the public hearing. Instead, the the public should be able to participate, as long as it is with respect, established norms, and a decorum of civility.</p> <p>Before the meeting it would be beneficial to adopt and follow commission rules of procedure, including Robert's Rules of Order. Where ground rules are understood going in, it can certainly aid in maintaining order and civility. Consider the option of remote meeting attendance for individuals who cannot attend the meeting in person. Also, for those who may not be comfortable commenting at the meeting in person, by allowing comments by email or handwritten letters that can be made part of the record. Further, utilizing a sign-up sheet for those who wish to address the Commission that includes the person's name, address, phone number would help understand who and how many intend to speak, and may facilitate determining the order in which speakers will be called.</p> <p>Determining ground rules for how the meeting will be run and letting the public know those in advance may also assist the meeting to be orderly. These would include having a reasonable time limit for comments, for example, 3 to 5 minutes, and enforcing that consistently. Also, stating the values and behavior that the public will be expected to demonstrate during the hearing, such as treating others and their opinions respectfully, refraining from personal attacks, not interrupting, and other norms of decorum.</p> <p>Also, it would be beneficial to put the public on notice before the hearing, for example, in the notice of hearing or the agenda. For example, informing the public in advance that the Chair reserves the right to ensure that all comments are appropriate and abide by rules of civility, which applies to the audience as well as to the speakers. Individuals who refuse to abide by these ground rules may not be permitted to continue speaking. Certain individuals who are disruptive and uncivil should not be allowed to intimidate or silence Arizonans who want to make their voices heard at the public hearings.</p> <p>I urge the Commissioners to consider adopting these measures to aid in conducting safe and orderly public hearings.</p>
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06/22/2021 - 14:56	06/22/2021 - 14:56	06/22/2021 - 14:56	Suzanne King	Mapping	<p data-bbox="1165 149 1388 175">Dear Commissioners,</p> <p data-bbox="1165 203 1955 277">I am writing regarding the need to protect the upcoming mapping process from the spread of disinformation by political organizations and to insure that testimony considered by the IRC is that of real Arizona citizens.</p> <p data-bbox="1165 305 1955 592">As you know, disinformation was used extensively in the last election; it's effect was to confuse voters, discourage and intimidate voters from going to the polls, and ultimately to needlessly cause some voters to lose confidence in the voting process. The AZ Republican state leadership has continued this process of disinformation by its insistence on an "audit" of votes in Maricopa County although the election results have already been confirmed and certified. Add to this the potential for gerrymandering and the proliferation of do-it-yourself online redistricting tools, and its plain that the IRC faces a daunting problem to maintain the integrity and transparency of its process. Use of political disinformation, including bad mapping from political operatives would undermine the entire redistricting process.</p> <p data-bbox="1165 620 1955 1015">It does not appear to me from the IRC website that anyone other than the IRC can use the IRC mapping tool to draw maps; anyone else would use one of the do-it-yourself tools. The Commission must give consideration to and outline means to protect the process by, at a minimum, requiring accurate and complete identification of any organization that posts maps, including disclosure of any political affiliation, and banning of fake accounts. Any map posted should disclose the software used to draw the map. For any such software used, the code or algorithms used to score districts must be disclosed, users must have the ability to obtain data and redistricting plans in machine-analyzable format, and any organizations providing financial backing must be disclosed. (See The Dawn of Do-It-Yourself Redistricting, Micah Altman, Ph. D. and Michael P. McDonald, Ph. D. , Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. https://www.campaignsandelections.com/campaign-insider/the-dawn-of-do-it-yourself-redistricting-online-software-puts-redistricting-tools-in-the-hands-of-the-public)</p> <p data-bbox="1165 1042 1955 1248">Many people are likely to post public comments regarding the IRC maps. Again, the IRC should ban fake accounts and require identification of organizations that post comments. It should also develop its own methods for fact checking and rules under which false statements by political operatives can be removed or at least identified as false statements from a political operative. Links to fact-checking sites should be included for use by the public. Disinformation regarding threats to safety at public hearing sites must be promptly removed and reported to the proper authorities.</p> <p data-bbox="1165 1276 1955 1482">Because disinformation from any person or organization can be harmful, it is important that Arizona voters who access the online mapping tool have information on how to recognize disinformation—such as excessive typographical errors, over use of capitalization, punctuation that includes many exclamation marks, an over-the-top message, and lack of identified reliable sources for the information—and to be reminded not to cause the further spread of disinformation by sharing it. There should be a way for users to report disinformation to the platform.</p>
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06/24/2021 - 16:27	06/24/2021 - 16:27	06/24/2021 - 16:27	Jon Faber	IRC Public Hearings	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the IRC process. I have become aware that the tentative dates for the Public Hearings for Pima County are on August 7 and 8th, both in the morning. I live in Tucson and was planning on attending at least one hearing. May I suggest that in order to provide times that would allow for people with different work schedules and commitments, that both morning and evening times, on both weekend and week days be made available. I also want to stress how important it is that these hearings be ADA compliant. This is personally important for me. Thank you, Jon Faber</p>
06/24/2021 - 22:04	06/24/2021 - 22:04	06/24/2021 - 22:04	Julie Pindzola	mapping and Community of Interest	<p>Hello, I want to ask if the COI and mapping software versions available online today will be able to interface easily with the ESRI version being prepared by Timmons/NDA? Is it too early to begin describing COIs and do preliminary mapping of same using the open source resources OR should we wait for your consultant's mapping software and training?</p> <p>Will there be any of the demographic data attached at the block group level so that we can see the results of the boundaries we are drafting? Will there be voter registration data attached to these polygons as well?</p> <p>The matter of Competitiveness still draws my interest. Should the new maps seek to make each district as competitive as possible so elected officials don't feel so safe that they become extreme and out of touch with the majority of AZ? Or should AZ seek to have a balance of districts such that there is fairness and hopefully good governance overall for our state? What have been the drivers of this in previous years? What do the commissioners think? Are you waiting for the citizenry to tell you our goals or is this process so localized that only our smaller COIs are what you want to hear about? More insight from the consultants would also be helpful. Please beef up the info they share at your meetings. It was extremely vague 6/23.</p> <p>Thank you. Appreciate your efforts!</p>
06/24/2021 - 22:34	06/24/2021 - 22:34	06/24/2021 - 22:34	Julie Pindzola	Input from our AZ Native Communities	<p>I wanted to pass along info on an upcoming session that may be of interest to our Native American communities. On Tues July 13th from 7-8:15pm CST there is a virtual session being facilitated by All on the Line (AOTL). AOTL is a Fair Redistricting nonprofit that will be coordinating an open session for Tribes in North and South Dakota. There may be some activities and ideas that can be borrowed for Arizona Tribes. Just a thought.</p> <p>https://www.mobilize.us/allonthelinewi/event/397040/</p> <p>Thank you. We want to see input from all corners of the state!</p>