



Public Meeting Comments 08.08.22

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
8/8/2022 10:14:31	August 8, 2022	IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to today's (Aug. 8, 2022) meeting.	Bill Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	The Chair's comments about her reaction to the outcome of the 2022 Primary election were really outside the purview of the IRC and did nothing to advance the Commission's work. Unfortunately the comments after that seemed only self-serving, self-congratulatory, and self-justifying the quality of the Commission's work in general and her leadership in particular. It was bad judgement to have made them at all.
8/8/2022 11:07:53	August 8, 2022	Public Comment	Jay Simpson	85016	Myself	Chair Neuberg's summary statement ignores the horrible reality that this commission has wrought by adopting state legislative maps only about five of thirty competitive districts. The failure to create competitive state legislative districts has resulted in many, many candidates running unopposed with no candidate whatsoever from the other party. To the extent there were competitive primary races, most were in safe districts with the result that the winner of the primary is virtually guaranteed to win the general election. The bottom line result will be the election of a majority of entrenched legislators with no incentive to compromise or reach middle ground. The IRC was created by the adoption of a ballot proposition that amended the state constitution. The Arizona constitution requires the IRC to draw maps using six criteria, five of which pre-existed the amendment. The key sixth criteria that was added was a direction to create competitive districts. The history of the amendment shows that the sponsors intended that the creation of competitive districts would increase citizen participation in the process, improve candidate quality and result in greater responsiveness by those who won election. This IRC, with Ms. Neuberg as the swing vote, chose to ignore this constitutional mandate in favor of creating roughly 25 of 30 safe legislative seats. Last week's primary results show the terrible impact of this choice.