

8.10.21 Public Meeting Comments

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| 8/10/2021 8:06:54 | August 10, 2021 | VI. Presentation, discussion, and potential action concerning Competitiveness measures/Grid Map Selection decisions. A. Competitiveness B. Grid Map Selection | Karl Flessa | 85716 | self | I urge the commission to not allow the "Communities of Interest" criterion to outweigh the "Competitiveness" criterion. All Arizona communities share a common interest in preserving and protecting the Constitution of the United States, respect for the Law, a sustainable environment, public health, good jobs, and having their voices heard. Competitive districts are the best way to ensure that the members of this community are represented. |
| 8/10/2021 8:07:36 | August 10, 2021 | Redistricting | M Sylvia Andersh | 85749 | LD10 | IRC. Public meeting I am a resident of LD10 on the eastern part of Tucson. I want to state my comments about redistricting. The blatant efforts to make homogeneous (AKA racial pure) districts is against democratic values. You have a group of people with ideological beliefs antithetical to American values. Their statements are their values and they have the right to say them. This is America, but I have the right to call them divisive and destructive to the common good. We need fair districts that represent all constituents fairly, not just the loudest and most ideological. This is an overt attempt to establish minority rule and minimize diversity and keep "OTHERS" subjugated. As a veteran I did not serve my country to tolerate this kind of behavior. My oath was to protect against ALL Enemies foreign and DOMESTIC. That oath does not expire and public officials also swear their oaths to protect our constitution. Thank you. Sylvia Andersh |
| 8/10/2021 8:10:08 | August 10, 2021 | IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to today's (August 10, 2021) meeting. | Nelson Morgan | 85054 | Self | I generally provide critiques of your process, so I wanted to take this opportunity to specifically thank Chair Neuberger for attending every one of the 15 meetings. This couldn't have been easy. Well done. |
| 8/10/2021 8:11:54 | August 10, 2021 | Redistricting | Darsha Doran | 85718 | LD9 | Unfortunately, I cannot attend the virtual meeting this morning as I have a volunteer job which takes precedence. Therefore, I am submitting my comments at exactly 8 AM. As a Democrat and a resident in the Tucson Foothills for many years, I find combining the Foothills LD9 with other districts a blatant attempt to obliterate Southern Arizona's Democratic voice in Phoenix. Let's call it what it is, GERRYMANDERING. There is a huge ideological divide between Foothills and Oro Valley. It appears that we are far more willing to look at facts, truth and reality. Foothill voters did not vote for Donald Trump, they elected Joe Biden. We do not deny the results of the election. We are not perpetuating the false notion that Trump won. We do not support Oro Valley politicians who condone the Jan. 6, violent attempt to overthrow the government, especially those who actually participated in the attack on the Capitol. This year we voted to end the conservative political vise grip that has long ruled our district. Foothills has far fewer retirees, willingly supports public education, and has an ethnic, religious and educational diversity that is representative of what America should stand for. We do not want decisions made behind closed doors by individuals with questionable agendas. We want our voices heard, our votes to count. |

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| 8/10/2021 8:16:37 | August 10, 2021 | Redistricting | Sally Brandon | 85749 | LD10 | I have been a Democrat, Republican and Independent voter during my life. I switched to Democrat with the 2016 election which Trump unfortunately won. Our country has lost its balance. I reside in LD10 which has elected Democrats and Republicans to county, state and federal offices. We need fair and competitive district maps to reflect accurate representation. I am appalled at the outright dishonesty and blatant racism displayed by many members of our community. This is not what our country stands for. I am against gerrymandering of the past and attempts at present. This is voter suppression at its worst. Thank you. |
| 8/10/2021 8:18:07 | August 10, 2021 | Grid maps / competitiveness | Jennifer Dawson | 85711-1011 | myself | I am a proud member of LD 10 - that is my "community of interest". It is diverse in population, and fair in electoral representation (1/3 Democrat, 1/3 Republican, 1/3 Independent). Over the years, both Democrats and Republicans have been elected to federal, state, and local offices. Currently we have a fair and competitive map, and I want this to continue. Fair and competitive maps protect against extremism, and encourage better representation. LD 10 is a thriving, diverse and politically fair community; please ensure that it stays that way. Thank you. |
| 8/10/2021 8:23:21 | August 10, 2021 | Discussion of public comments | Rita Day | 86301 | Myself | I sympathize with comments made by Commissioner Watchman about tribal lands and concerns about covid causing difficulty in scheduling for public comment meeting in the tribal area. It is very important that the Native American community have opportunity to have input and something needs to be done to arrange for that. They have been subjected to many disadvantages when it comes to access to voting. That is not acceptable! Everything needs to be done to make it easy for this community to provide their input! |
| 8/10/2021 8:30:46 | August 10, 2021 | Deadline for submitting comments about communities of interest | Rita Day | 86301 | Myself | It's very important that everyone who wants can provide their input. There is not enough time and a couple more days would be needed. One problem that makes it difficult is the necessity of drawing a map to be able to submit their input. That process is very confusing and not easy to do. I attempted to complete the process on my iPad and wasn't able to draw the map because the icon that draws the lines wasn't shown on my iPad, so I could draw the map. I couldn't figure out how to do it. I finally gave up and tried it on my laptop and the icon was there, so I was able to complete the map. Imagine how difficult for someone who doesn't use computers often. It would be better if comments could be submitted without a map. |
| 8/10/2021 8:37:21 | August 10, 2021 | LD10 redistricting | Kathleen Chsn | 85718 | Myself | As a resident of la Paloma I am not interested in redistricting to establish a more restrictive CD. The current district in which I live provides the diversity that I feel is essential to fair elections and will reflect the community in which I live. I have moved to Az to enjoy the many diverse cultures ...Hispanic, Indian American. America is made up of many layers of humanity.... Cultures, socio economic levels, sexual orientation, professionals, laborers, retirees. Redistricting this area only serves to marginalize those underrepresented. |
| 8/10/2021 8:49:45 | August 10, 2021 | time line discussion | Julie Pindzola | 86301 | myself | Could you please post the timeline for the public to read? The discussion you are having is difficult to follow, even pinpoint the basics. I imagine you all have a hardcopy to follow as you talk about added meeting dates. Thank you |
| 8/10/2021 9:03:33 | August 10, 2021 | socio economic report | Julie PIndzola | 86301 | myself | As you are improving the socio economic data layers for user friendliness, could you make the zoom in and out function more refined and responsive? It seems to be set without little adjustment available. Its either too far zoomed out or not easily respecting county limit lines. Can we get an incremental adjustment button please? thank you |



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| 8/10/2021 9:04:47 | August 10, 2021 | Public comment | Laura Huenneke | 86004 | self | Watching some of the listening tour hearings (and seeing notes from journalists and others covering them) – I see many comments from people in communities of color pleading for more opportunities to communicate with the Commission. Referring them to the on-line surveys is not really an adequate answer! You have professional staff and a very large budget (compared to any community group and even many municipal governments) – YOU should be facilitating the outreach and the communication. Will your new community outreach staff members have multiple language skills and significant travel time and budget, for example? It was good that the COI survey was made available in Spanish as well as in English, but that is a very minimal step given the complexity and diversity of Arizona's people. And so many of our communities have technology and time limitations – having a person on the ground (eg at community events or market days or the like) would get you the kind of feedback you say you are “seeking” – far beyond what you are likely to get passively through the website. |
| 8/10/2021 9:07:45 | August 10, 2021 | Update from mapping consultants | Laura Huenneke | 86004 | self | I have spent a little time exploring your Socioeconomic Report Tool. Thanks for making this accessible! A little feedback for you...I noted a number of typographical errors in the “About the Report” guide for the use of the tool. This suggests no-one actually proofread this carefully – I would expect something more carefully reviewed before you make it available to everybody. Second, there are some issues with how confusing it can be to try to use this tool. One example – in looking at the income variable, the data layer is named “Income Less than \$75K” – but the legend shows the color reflecting (%) “Income > \$75,000” – It's very confusing to have the actual data on the map being the OPPOSITE of the name of the variable. I kept having to look at neighborhoods I know well and trying to check the colors against my personal knowledge. If I were looking at areas I don't know personally, I would have very little trust that I was assessing things correctly. I strongly recommend you do some training/testing on naïve users and use this information to improve the usability and clarity of the tool interface. (Update – I like the new story map approach that has been presented today. It might be really confusing to have both versions available at the same time on the website.) |
| 8/10/2021 9:09:04 | August 10, 2021 | VI Competitiveness | Lori Romero | 85345 | LD 21 | Please use party registration to determine competitiveness. We want to encourage citizens to participate in the election process. This can also encourage elected leaders to work in bipartisan efforts demonstrating representation of an entire district vs only pandering to a party base. |
| 8/10/2021 9:11:38 | August 10, 2021 | V.B. Competitive grid map selection | Rita Day | 86301 | Myself | I request the IRC to create more than one grid map and to do all discussion in open session. This would give the opportunity to compare the possibilities. It's important that public trust be built and it can be maintained only through transparent public discussion among the commissioners. |
| 8/10/2021 9:19:35 | August 10, 2021 | Public feedback | Laura Huenneke | 86004 | self | A quick comment on the Community of Interest survey: I completed one of these myself and have talked with several other people who submitted, or tried to do so. It's terrific that you made such an app available to people to draw their own maps. But I noted – even for a person with reasonable web access, the ArcGIS app took some time to load and to work; and MANY of our citizens don't have that kind of network access and speed available to them. Any person who could not actually complete a map was not able to submit comments in the text boxes portion of the app - so felt that they could not participate or contribute at all. I hope that when you are taking feedback on the grid map and draft maps you will facilitate submissions that are text-based and not requiring a map submission. Text-only would be far more accessible to people relying on their cell phones, for example, or who have only slow data connections. |



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| 8/10/2021 9:33:02 | August 10, 2021 | Create a political district on I19 Corridor & Patagonia | Analizabeth Doan | 85621 | Nogales Community | demographics, international trade because I19 is an extension of Highway 15 in Mexico (which has been upgraded beautifully, something we don't see in the USA) and that is the direction we must be a part of, international trade based on the international freight train that runs parallel to I19 (it does not go east or west), ecotourism, demographics (our diversity is more similar to the I19 corridor than Cochise County), Pima Community College and the University of Arizona offered higher education degrees, Cochise College pulled out, the Arizona Mexico Commission works more closely with I19 and I10 than communities on AZ State Highways, the Commission is interested in Agribusiness & Wildlife, Arts & Culture, Community & Social Organizations, Economic Development, Education, Emergency Management, Energy, Environment & Water, Financial & Legal Services, Health Services, Mining, Real Estate, Security, Tourism, Transportation, Infrastructure & Ports, and Sports. We have much more in common with communities along I19 and Patagonia than with Cochise County. We need representatives at the State and Federal governments that will listen to us and understand our needs. |
| 8/10/2021 9:56:07 | August 10, 2021 | VI. Presentation, discussion, and potential action concerning Competitiveness measures/Grid Map Selection decisions. | Nelson Morgan | 85054 | Self | <p>These questions of competitiveness measures are quite complex, and the profusion of putative solutions from area experts does not make decisions easier; I would prefer it if you do not make decisions today (though by the time this meeting is over, perhaps you will have). One issue I currently have in mind is that, while simplicity is definitely an appealing quality, if that simplicity misses something important, it can be problematic. In particular, making use of some kind of statistical regression does need to be considered as part of an evaluation of a map, especially since the state (and the partisan makeup of each of its parts) is rapidly changing. Just using the last couple of election cycles is insufficient, but weighting the earlier ones (say, 2012 and 2014) just as much as recent ones doesn't make sense. We need to either implicitly or explicitly take account of temporal trends.</p> <p>Another issue that we can't take care of with current time constraints but which I find interesting is that we don't know what the public considers to be a competitive range. I proposed to Dr. McGhee that there should be a probability distribution that we learn from the public, which would give us a better idea of this range. He liked the idea, but there's no time ...</p> |
| 8/10/2021 10:22:28 | August 10, 2021 | competitiveness methodology | Julie Pindzola | 86301 | myself | Please be careful not to err on an overly simplistic emphasis of methods selection. Running your draft map through an adequate range of measures is really important. I hope fairness is somehow incorporated with the "Competitiveness" evaluations. |

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| 8/10/2021 10:39:37 | August 10, 2021 | VI. Presentation, discussion, and potential action concerning Competitiveness measures/Grid Map Selection decisions. | Nelson Morgan | 85054 | Self | <p>I agree that registration is a poor measure, as the consulting experts all agreed. I do think that a down-weighted 2012 and 2014 might be superior to totally dropping them, but dropping them is probably OK. Observing trends in some way might still be better than a simple average, if possible.</p> <p>I also appreciate Commissioner Mehl's question (and Dr. Johnson's reply) that clarified how the census block votes were estimated.</p> <p>I have just heard the vote on methods, and while those are fine, I also think there should be a double check by running a more complex measure. Running Planscore is apparently straightforward even though the results are harder to interpret, and so I think it would be a good check on the results. I also agree that seeing where the overall map sits on Prof. Duchin's Markov Chain-derived distribution is a good double check.</p> <p>For ranges: having the two (7%, competitive ,and 4% highly competitive) is reasonable. Once you have districts that are in the 7% range, you can also look at the distribution within that range to get a better idea.</p> |
| 8/10/2021 10:49:56 | August 10, 2021 | competitiveness criterion | Laura Huenneke | 86004 | self | <p>I heard a number of comments from people at various sessions in your listening tour, complaining about their current districts being too competitive (or about the 2010 commission having been over-focused on competitiveness as a criterion). I have to object strongly to this view. First, it is your constitutional obligation to promote competitiveness where possible without totally compromising the other criteria. Second – Arizona is frankly a very competitive state right now, with lots of split ticket voters, plenty of swings in major elections, a huge proportion of Independent voters...if you don't wind up with lots of competitive districts in your maps you will not be representing the voters of the state. And third – I disagree that living in a competitive district is harmful to anyone's interest (except maybe professional party officials!). Minority voters, ideas, and priorities are totally ignored in "safe" districts – but in a competitive district, the elected official cannot afford to ignore substantive numbers of people. Attention, communication, work on priorities – these are all much better where elected officials know they will seeking votes from EVERYONE in a next election. Please do not give too much credence to these people claiming that somehow they have been harmed by being in a competitive district these past few years. Frankly I believe that more competitive districts actually help you achieve the other criteria of equal representation (VRA and US Constitution). Also – I really appreciate your having posted the competitiveness presentation from Doug Johnson ahead of time – very helpful!</p> |
| 8/10/2021 10:53:47 | August 10, 2021 | Listening Tour Report | Suzanne Meadd | 85331 | Self | <p>Chair Neuberg's dedication to the process of visiting all 15 communities in the first listening tour in person is impressive. I enjoyed seeing her at all three of them in Maricopa County. However, I was concerned by the implications of Chair Neuberg's pointed remarks in Mesa. They appeared to devalue the importance of competitiveness in the redistricting process. Her expressed belief seems to diverge from requirements set forth in the VRA and the language of Prop 106. While COI, population data and civic borders need to be respected, if competitiveness is not weighted appropriately, we can anticipate discord across the board politically.</p> |



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| 8/10/2021 10:55:44 | August 10, 2021 | Vii. | M.A. Larkin | 85016 | Myself | <p>Please describe in the future how it will work with the 2 different bands you use. How does this intersect with the grid maps?</p> <p>Could you discuss the legal reqs and descriptions behind communities of interest? Could you discuss how economic communities of interest speakers are identified? How do you find these people? I would suggest individuals that work with DEMA that have worked out zones for service or hospital demographers?</p> |
| 8/10/2021 10:55:51 | August 10, 2021 | outreach | Julie Pindzola | 86301 | myself | <p>Thank you Commissioner Watchman. RADIO is an obvious, long time method of reaching local populations, especially in their native languages. Please maximize this ubiquitous method of communicating to the public. Was RADIO advertising and interviews used in the Listening Tour outreach?</p> |
| 8/10/2021 10:59:30 | August 10, 2021 | outreach | shanna leonard | 85719 | self | <p>Thank-you to Comissioner Neuberg, Watchman, Mehl (hope I did not miss anyone) who attended the listening tour in Tucson. Very much appreciate your in-person presence.</p> |