




Public Meeting Comments 8.17.21


Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
8/17/2021 8:07:22	August 17, 2021	executive director report and budget updates	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I look forward to the financial presentation today; I have been hoping for more substantive reports on your budget. I've been associated with many organizations over my career (from universities to non-profits to for-profit companies), and I have never seen such casual and vague reporting on budgets from an executive director or unit head. While budget updates are perhaps boring relative to the substance of your work, your finances are relevant to the Arizona public because your budget is rather large in comparison to many of the communities (social and/or governmental) who wish to interact with you. We would all benefit from knowing just how much you have available for outreach (newspaper ads, radio spots, social media, travel for your coordinators, etc.). I hear Commissioner Watchman request more budget details repeatedly – in his consulting work he has undoubtedly seen many budget reports from government agencies. And Commissioners York and Mehl are successful business leaders – they too would be great resources for deciding how to structure and provide budget updates. We understand that your specific numbers might be refined over time as you determine specifics like salaries for new hires – but surely the general outline of your finances (and updates on how much you have spent) could be shared on a regular basis.
8/17/2021 8:08:09	August 17, 2021	Roll Call	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	When the meeting began, the public could not hear Valerie Neuman. We could hear the Commissioners say they were present, but we could not hear Valerie Neuman give the roll call or say who was present from staff or consultants.
8/17/2021 8:13:09	August 17, 2021	competitiveness metrics	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I want to thank the Commission for the substantive and thoughtful discussion and decision-making concerning measures of competitiveness to use in evaluating your eventual draft maps. As an academic myself, I was very positively impressed with the three external experts brought in to present to you – they are extremely knowledgeable, they are excellent communicators, and they took time to explore Arizona's specific situation. And I really appreciated Doug Johnson's summary of their findings and recommendations (both his explanation AND the fact that his presentation was made available prior to the meeting last week). Thank you, Commissioners, for working through this issue so carefully – your decision to go with easily-explainable measures is much appreciated.
8/17/2021 8:13:36	August 17, 2021	Mark Flahan's updates on COI survey	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Please let us know how many people successfully submitted maps from their phone. Thank you. As you have heard, many people had trouble using the mapping function of the COI survey. What do you do with the submission that includes part of Mexico? Will you be contacting people if you think their map was not precise or correct? Will you provide help desk support when you roll out the redistricting software?

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8/17/2021 8:31:16	August 17, 2021	competitiveness	Susan Bickel	85718	self	<p>Thank you Commissioners for your thoughtful deliberation on the measures of competitiveness. I really enjoyed the presentations by your qualified experts and appreciate that you have given their advice a thorough review and debate.</p> <p>I live in an LD now represented by 3 qualified and accessible representatives/senator. This has not always been the case.</p> <p>Early in the current redistricting cycle, our representatives were well-known and popular figures on the public stage, but their views on public education were extreme and partisan. They would state their support of public education but consistently vote to withhold funds from our public school systems, diverting the money instead into public charter schools.</p> <p>Public schools in this area were forced to hold bond elections to supplement state funding. In my district with portions of 3 school districts, 2 of them have been less successful in getting the money to properly maintain infrastructure and hire qualified teachers.</p> <p>Six years ago, people in the district were fed up with the duplicity of our district representation and voted for change. Since taking office, our new representatives have worked together to fight for legislation that benefits the residents in this district. While their bills were not always given consideration by the majority party, these representatives kept us updated and encouraged citizen participation in the legislative process to strengthen their arguments. The collaboration between our representatives and the voting public demonstrates how legislation can and should serve the residents of this state.</p> <p>Our ballots consistently provide candidates from the two major parties and occasionally, we see write-in candidates, independents and Green party candidates. The races are not run-away elections but appear to be competitive races.</p> <p>I am a firm believer in competition. It forces dialog and collaboration between opposing sides.</p> <p>Thank you for giving competitiveness due consideration.</p>
8/17/2021 8:31:43	August 17, 2021	III. Opportunity for Public Comment	Brandon Perlow	85259		<p>First off, I want to thank the Commissioners for your time, and for considering the importance of competitiveness of districts when drawing new maps. You gave this decision the needed amount of review and debate.</p> <p>In large part due to lack of competitiveness, in current Legislative District 23, constituents are not represented in a way that allows feedback to be considered by our elected officials. For multiple election cycles, our State Representatives and our State Senator have refused to hold town halls, virtual town halls, or even a public debate during the election period. Clearly they feel as if they do not need to, given there is a built-in 20 point registration advantage for the GOP, due to the maps drawn by the 2011 IRC. As such, our elected officials take their reelection for granted, and almost exclusively focus on private event fundraising, while avoiding their actual constituents. Our community, as a whole, is not well-represented, nor are we listened to, even with 90%+ voter turnout (by both parties) in the 2020 election.</p> <p>Thank you again for your consideration as you draw new maps for Arizona.</p>
8/17/2021 8:32:04	August 17, 2021	Public Comment Meetings	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	<p>I am concerned about the lack of attendance by people of color at the past meetings. The format for the meetings is unwelcoming to this sector of the population. The typical board meeting setup is not conducive to interaction from this group. Has there been direct contact with community groups that would represent these minorities? Are these venues accessible by public transportation?</p>



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8/17/2021 8:33:21	August 17, 2021	V. Update, discussion, and potential concerning report from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>While it's interesting to see how many people submitted Community of Interest maps using the survey tool and also to see how those submissions appear when they're all drawn on the Arizona map, what's not clear is how that data will be processed and used.</p> <p>What concerns me is that NDC will treat areas that have been submitted for the same Col as having more weight or importance based on the NUMBER of people who submitted them. IMHO, this would be a mistake because doing so would reduce the exercise to a popularity contest rather than an analytical determination of the validity of such boundaries. Just because there are many people who submitted such maps, does not mean that other maps that were submitted do not have widespread support in the broader community. Not everyone who supports a Col feels it's important or worthwhile to submit a duplicate map when s one that reflects their views has already been submitted.</p> <p>It would be very easy for organizations that have a particular interest in the process to get the word out to their members urging them to submit maps with boundaries favorable to that organization. That would flood the data with similar maps, essentially 'votes' for defining a particular Col.</p> <p>A better solution would be to treat all the maps that are very similar to each other as one. Then you can try to ensure that the resulting Col is respected when drawing the boundaries.</p> <p>In any case, it's not clear what methodology will be used for this processing. It should be clearly stated by NDC - and defended by them as well. That would be consistent with your transparency goals and go a long way to help members of the public understand the data and maps that are produced.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
8/17/2021 8:37:02	August 17, 2021	V. Update, discussion, and potential concerning report from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	<p>Commissioner Lerner asked about ways of assessing compactness and contiguity that she assumed they would be looking at as we get draft maps. Dr. Johnson just referred back to descriptions that the legal team had given. Were I Commissioner Lerner, I would be rather unsatisfied with that answer; the legal team did not supply quantitative measures.</p> <p>At least for compactness, there are reasonable and fairly simple measures that are available, such as a comparison of the area of each district to that of the area of a circle with the same perimeter. We have not had that discussion, comparable to what we had for competitiveness. A minimal discussion and determination of a specific measure that the consultants will report for each map would be advisable. I'm not sure what would be the similar one for contiguity; presumably in addition to just assuring that each district will be fully connected, there could be some measure that would penalize a skinny thread connecting two pieces.</p>
8/17/2021 8:39:06	August 17, 2021	public GRID/DRAFT mapping submittals	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>I'm asking again if the next round of map survey input we provide: will the software include a census block and block group toggle switch? Will the public be able to use the dot and line current mapping tool supplemented with the more accurate, recognized block level mapping polygon?? This is important as we get to actual district boundary drawing. Thank you for your response.</p>
8/17/2021 8:49:18	August 17, 2021	Mapping Tool Training	Hope Busto-Keyes	85743	Self	<p>An "open to the public" training along with Commissioners would be awesome!</p>
8/17/2021 8:54:01	August 17, 2021	Competitiveness	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	<p>I would like to commend the commission on their choices for measuring competitiveness. Those selected appear to be objective and easy to understand. Several years ago my community had what was called a "100 year storm." The storm caused part of the state highway leading to the closest town to collapse as well as the only road in and out of our community and other roads in it. We were excited when our state senator agreed to meet with us. Unfortunately his message was that there was more serious issues and he couldn't help us. Our district was not competitive and we felt that if it was he would have been more helpful.</p>
8/17/2021 8:54:56	August 17, 2021	ESRI v. Timmons training	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>We have wanted and asked for weeks that this training to be held in public. For Timmons to only say now that they need extra time to prepare a training for it be held in public is very disappointing. That we only learn now that Timmons is the only format that permits the public to learn and observe along site the IRC. Very frustrating.</p>

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8/17/2021 8:56:07	August 17, 2021	Training sessions for commissioners	Rita Day	86301	Myself	For transparency purposes, I feel the training sessions should be open to the public. Not separate sessions for the public. So I feel the best selection would be the training that would be I open to the public.
8/17/2021 9:01:15	August 17, 2021	V. Update, discussion, and potential concerning report from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	For the training on the mapping software, you should probably publish an index to the topics covered. That would make it a valuable resource for the commissioners and the public alike. And it would make it possible for members of the public to access the training at times that are convenient for them and in a form that's efficient and matches their level of understanding. William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen
8/17/2021 9:03:25	August 17, 2021	Training sessions for commissioners	Rita Day	86301	Myself	Most commissioners were flexible in their schedules, so they were open to whatever training sessions were the most appropriate. It's disappointing that Commissioner York was not flexible and preferred the schedule of training that was NOT open to the public. It seems that transparency should be important and the training that was open to the public would be the best choice.
8/17/2021 9:10:43	August 17, 2021	The map created by 900 people	Analizabeth Doan	85621	Self	The map along I19 Corridor is the darkest area on the entire Arizona map. I understand that the rest of the map may be a little complicated for your decision making, however, it would not be accurate to say that the people's input along the I19 corridor can be clumped with the input from any other area throughout the State. It is obvious that the people along the I19 Corridor have billions of dollars of reasons not to be clumped with rural areas that are more concerned with retirement, vineyards, rural living, religious beliefs.
8/17/2021 9:14:42	August 17, 2021	Use of Mapping Data	Hope Busto-Keyes	85743	Self	Just looking at the map of the digital submissions, one can see areas that definitely have common "community of interest" points (very dense color on map) – this can be a starting point when drawing district lines and keeping community of interests together as well as meeting other criteria. Have fun!
8/17/2021 9:36:39	August 17, 2021	IV	Rita Day	86301	Myself	I want to thank the commissioner for the extent of time and consideration given to the measures of competitiveness decision. competitiveness is so important! In my congressional district (CD4), there is almost no competitiveness. The district is heavily Republican. This has resulted in our congressman (Paul Gosar) holding NO town halls. He rarely ever visits our area. I live in Prescott and he rarely comes here. The only time I have seen him here is when he came to gather with a group of Proud Boys at our courthouse square. He was proudly seen in photos with his Proud Boy supporters. So he seems to feel because of the lack of competitiveness, he can do whatever he wants and he will still be re-elected. How can any elected representative feel it is appropriate to be seen socializing with a group of Proud Boys?? However he seemed very proud to be photographed with this far right-wing group. This is my concern about lack of competitiveness, it makes it easy for the representative to ignore factions of his district.
8/17/2021 9:38:57	August 17, 2021	Non partisan organizations	Rita Day	86301	Myself	The most obvious and important non-partisan organization is League of Women Voters.
8/17/2021 9:55:43	August 17, 2021	VI.C. Outreach and Communications Plan	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters of Arizona	It is heartening to know that the IRC communications team has finally been completed and to hear of plans to improve the IRC communications and outreach efforts. This is an essential effort necessary to reaching all sectors of the state. The League applauds your recognition that outreach in many formats will be necessary...traditional methods as well as social media and technology. The website redesign is urgently needed. The important information there is being reference frequently and can be difficult to find. The communities of information survey data is only the beginning of information and data that the public will be accessing. The grid maps and, especially, the draft maps will generate heavy traffic to the site. In addition, plans for a public mapping tool will place robust demands on the site. Thank you for your continuing work on behalf of Arizonans.