



Public Meeting Comments 8.24.21

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
8/24/2021 8:05:51	August 24, 2021	public comments	Susan Bickel	85718	self	<p>Traditionally, the public has had the opportunity to participate by direct interaction with the commissioners during regular business meetings. It was especially critical during the map drawing process.</p> <p>The pandemic has forced change in how people can now address the commission. I encourage you to take advantage of the technology made available to you. The IRC must honor the commitment of direct engagement with the public.</p> <p>During the last meeting, I became concerned about the commission giving certain non-partisan groups direct access to the IRC. I am sure that these organizations can address specific concerns in a non-partisan way, however this should not be done to the detriment of public comment.</p> <p>Equal access to the IRC during public meetings for public comment must assured and respected.</p> <p>In anticipation of the opportunity to draw maps, I would like to request that the mapping company download CD, LD and tract/precinct data into a standard format such as shapefile.</p> <p>Access could be granted by clicking on the maps tab on the website since it appears that JPG and PDF files are already listed there. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
8/24/2021 8:07:50	August 24, 2021	mapping	Dwight Jaeger	86301	Self	<p>James Madison, as did others, wrote extensively about how pure democracies lead to tyranny by both the majority and minority. This was one of the major reasons the founding fathers opted for a republic rather than a democracy. In this redistricting we seem to have a good practical modern day example of this. My understanding is that the competitiveness criteria was added to the Arizona constitution in 2010. This was an off year election with roughly 1/2 of the eligible voters voting, thus a majority would be about 1/4 of the voting population. Of that 1/4 many probably did not do their research on the issue and just took party recommendations. Bottom line, a very few are responsible for adding this to our constitution and far too many were asleep.</p> <p>I moved to a geographic area where I found people who think like me. Thus I could help elect and be represented by someone of similar beliefs. The 2010 modification of the Arizona constitution was put in place to take that right away from me. The amendment was softly worded to give the redistricting commission a choice, please make the right choice. From what I hear, the number being used for the competitiveness criteria is around .52 to .54. This ensures that competitiveness is the number one priority consideration by loading my district with voters who do not think like me. Thus, with a little propaganda, they can take my vote away. The narrow competitive range that the Commission is considering will break the community of interests in my non-metropolitan, more rural area of Arizona, thus making it a detriment to the community of interest element of the redistricting criteria.</p> <p>Please make the competitiveness criteria a consideration to be discussed, not the driving criteria. Other criteria like: 1) "Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable", 2) "District boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable", 3) "To the extent practicable, district lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts", are far more important than the wishes of a few who's goal is just to extend their influence over others.</p>
8/24/2021 8:10:30	August 24, 2021	Public Meetings	Diane Boman	86303	myself	<p>Found this training that would surely be helpful in getting minorities involved in public meetings.</p> <p>https://indivisibleaz-wxs9448.slack.com/files/U020F0GMC2K/F02CVR9N06L/redistricting_101_english.pdf?origin_team=T020VNY28NN&origin_channel=C020W02B1RR</p>
8/24/2021 8:12:15	August 24, 2021	V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	<p>I am glad that Commissioner Lerner brought up the compactness measure issue, which I also mentioned last week in my comment. This needs to be covered as well.</p>



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8/24/2021 8:14:07	August 24, 2021	Update from Mapping Consultant	Jay Simpson	85016	Myself	It is disappointing that the IRC determined to take its ESRI software training in private session because Timmons was not prepared to conduct the training in a timely fashion. It is even more concerning that there are no concrete, transparent plans to provide training on ESRI to the public. Timmons keeps coming forward with vague promises. "Internal conversations" are not enough. A "holding pattern" is not enough. The public training on the ESRI Arizona system needs to happen sooner rather than later. Alternatively, the IRC could require Timmons to consider maps submitted by the public from third party web sites.
8/24/2021 8:15:46	August 24, 2021	Mapping Training for the Public	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Please provide a live training for the public, in addition to your anticipated YouTube module tutorials. We want to have the same level of training that the IRC is going to get. It may be even more important that regular citizens have a generous opportunity to learn the mapping tools since this is your primary method of input and response to the GRID and DRAFT maps. THANKS
8/24/2021 8:25:59	August 24, 2021	Budget	Diane Boman	86303	myself	As a previous project manager, unknowns are part of any budget. This involves discussions with all of your consultants and relying on their past experience with previous redistricting issues. You need to take advantage of all of your contractors if you are not experienced enough to make these comments on your own. Maybe hiring someone with project management experience would be helpful.
8/24/2021 8:27:50	August 24, 2021	Outreach Strategy Plan	Wes Crew	85737	Arizona Center for Empowerment	When conducting outreach strategies and conducting those practices please take into account the lack of resources in most Latin communities. Both of the tour dates that were had in Pima County were well attended by constituents from AZ 2 and AZ 9. AZ 2 is 60% hispanic and had zero people from those communities represented in those hearings. Its not from lack of care or ability to attend. I believe that this is from lack of information. These communities of interest should be giving an equitable platform to be able to promote their comments and concerns regarding their communities and the redistricting process.
8/24/2021 8:30:02	August 24, 2021	mapping procedures	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	So as not to be redundant, please read my Contact Us comment submitted just prior to today's IRC meeting start. Please make the mapping trainings effective and user friendly but in a way that gives us granular levels of data grab at the block level for line and population refinements where desired. Thank you
8/24/2021 8:31:23	August 24, 2021	Budget	Diane Boman	86303	myself	What does the pie chart represent? Total cost, July or August. What?
8/24/2021 8:33:29	August 24, 2021	public input	Misty Atkins	85737	self	I am very hopeful that the public will have the opportunity to participate in meetings "live" as the grid maps evolve. While I appreciate the ability to comment from a bird's eye view, the technology to hold public meetings and have live comments, even virtually, is available and should be used at all meetings going forward. Being able to comment as each step evolves shows that you do value public input and intent to consider our concerns. As for hearing from various groups, even if they are partisan, as long as a wide range of perspectives is presented, that input would be valuable.
8/24/2021 8:33:38	August 24, 2021	Who Can Testify/Submit Public Comment	Hope Busto-Keyes	85743	Self	Dear Commissioners, Public comment from diverse points of view is an essential contribution to your decision making of fair maps. In the spirit of inclusiveness, comments that are delivered by either an Arizona citizen or a representative of a particular group should be allowed. Also, ground rules of civility and respect should be followed by all. Thank you for your consideration.
8/24/2021 8:34:15	August 24, 2021	VI B Budget and Financial Presentation	Loraine West	86303	Self	Slide showing table of budget expenditures for July and part of August has a pie chart to the side. Is the pie chart showing the combined budget expenditures for July and part of August? The colors used in pie chart do not appear to match the categories in the table. Issue may be choice of colors and inability to distinguish between similar hues. For example, dark blue should be operating costs (pie chart shows it accounts for 50% of expenditures but table shows just over \$5000).



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8/24/2021 8:36:46	August 24, 2021	Public comment and community outreach	Laura Huenneke	86004-1521	self	I appreciated the update this week on community outreach plans. The website improvements, the weekly email newsletter, and the social media content and pushes all sound very appropriate and useful. It would have been helpful to have a little more description of the "groups" that are being contacted, beyond city and town governments; for example, tribal governments were not mentioned. And certainly many of the minority or VRA-relevant communities of interest might be more difficult to reach than municipal governments. Having so much ready-to-go content will be really helpful; I hope that in addition to social media the team is compiling lists of local "conventional" media, such as radio stations and local newspapers. Weekly newspapers, public radio in rural areas, tribal radio stations and tribal newspapers - all of these are going to be your most powerful allies when trying to reach some of the most important and dispersed communities.
8/24/2021 8:40:09	August 24, 2021	Budget	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Executive Director Schmitt - Thank you for giving an update on July and August expenses. I was surprised to not see "legal" expenses listed. Also, the pie chart did not match the list of expenditures. The pie chart showed that "Operating" expenses was half of all expenses though "Mapping Consultant" was \$126,375.50 and the July/August total for "Operating" expenses was \$5,236.
8/24/2021 8:43:39	August 24, 2021	Budget update from executive director	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I appreciated ED Schmitt's update on the budget today - finally a few numbers being shared. I do understand the challenges of "building the airplane while flying" and the huge uncertainties that Chair Neuberg reminded us about (every commission is different, we can't begin to know what litigation will cost us later, etc.). But I still think it is not unreasonable to expect some tentative advance budgeting work. Perhaps one of the commissioners with business experience could make some suggestions about setting up tentative budgets for a newly launched enterprise. At least knowing that the commission has tentative "buckets" in the right places - from travel for hearings, to advertising budgets, to legal and consultant services -- would be reassuring to the public. Of course it will be understandable if precise numbers in each bucket are adjusted later, as needs develop, but having the right buckets (budget categories) ahead of time shows how thoroughly you are thinking through upcoming possibilities.
8/24/2021 8:54:56	August 24, 2021	self	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	I have a legal question about drawing grid maps. The Commission asked that the grid maps be drawn to respect county boundaries wherever possible. Is that in compliance with Prop 106? Prop 106 states that population is the only redistricting criteria to be used in drawing grid maps. Please have the legal team explain. I would hate to spend tax payer dollars on defending how the 2021 grid maps were created, especially since it was stated several times that the sole purpose of the grid map is to "wipe the slate clean." Thank you.
8/24/2021 8:58:21	August 24, 2021	Public Comment	Diane Boman	86303	myself	I want to request that the commission allow for public comment beyond the listening tour meetings. As we get further into the maps the comments should be more relevant to how the lines are being drawn. This was also allowed in the last redistricting commission.
8/24/2021 9:02:40	August 24, 2021	Missing Videos of Listening Tour Hearings	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Please explain why there are no videos for the public hearings in Pinal and Coconino counties. If there are problems with the videos, when can we expect to see transcripts of those public meetings? Thank you.
8/24/2021 9:04:06	August 24, 2021	Mapping Software training	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	I would like to see the mapping training videos in more than one language. At least spanish but I think we need something in the Native Languages that are spoken in Arizona.
8/24/2021 9:07:34	August 24, 2021	Community Outreach Plan	Victoria Kauzlarich	85255	Myself	The IRC's Community Outreach Plan must include additional opportunities for the public to provide direct, spoken testimony to the IRC during regular business meetings. If not for COVID, the IRC would be forced to hold live, public meetings and accept real time comments. When Prop 106 created the IRC, it also established the constitutional right of Arizonans to engage directly with the IRC and participate in the redistricting process. The IRC is duty-bound to honor this right. So far, the IRC has functioned in relative isolation - keeping the public at arms' length. The technology exists for remote real-time, live public input. Courts do it. State agencies do it. The IRC must do it. The credibility of the redistricting process requires it.



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8/24/2021 9:08:14	August 24, 2021	V. B. Mapping consultants	Rita Day	86301	Myself	<p>Back in April or May, when the Commission was debating which Mapping team to hire (Timmons group or Haystaq), I recall Commissioner Neuberg voicing concerns that Haystaq had made prior commitments and she was concerned that they wouldn't have sufficient time to devote to this mapping project.</p> <p>Haystaq was the choice of Commissioners Lerner & Watchman because they had a better record of their maps holding up against court challenges.</p> <p>However Commissioners Neuberg, Mele & York voted for Timmons group regardless of their poor record of their maps being approved by the courts.</p> <p>Now, 17 weeks later, Timmons group is unable to provide timely training for the Commissioners and the public on mapping. Instead they have opted for online training provided by ERSI. They have had sufficient time and now that this training would be needed. Why did they not prepare this training ahead of time so it was ready for presentation to the Commissioners and the public? It seems that Commissioner Neuberg's concern regarding Haystaq was merely an excuse to select the mapping team preferred by Republicans, regardless of their poor record of having their maps withstand court challenges.</p>
8/24/2021 9:11:06	August 24, 2021	Redistricting System	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>A question/suggestion for the mapping consultants. Will/can the redistricting system have a "group" submission function? Doug Johnson said that if all the people of a development say they want to be in the same district, one person can send in the map and everyone else can make a public comment saying they support that map. Did he really mean for groups to use both the "public comment" link and the redistricting software to advocate for a map?</p>
8/24/2021 9:12:33	August 24, 2021	A. Updates on Census Data download and integration, creation of grid maps, approved competitive measurement integration	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>The mapping consultants mentioned that the mapping software provides a variety of options for measuring the competitiveness of maps and that the commission could use any that they wanted.</p> <p>But didn't the Commission already settle on how they would measure competitiveness? If I recall right, that was during the 8/10/21 meeting.</p> <p>Why is the method to gauge it with the options available in the mapping tools being re-considered? That was the whole point of the previous discussion and the decision to use a simple method that could be easily explained to the public and could be defended in court. That's the only measure that the commission should use and that the mapping consultants should build into their reporting.</p> <p>You're muddying the waters if you plan to consider one or more other measures or if you actually make decisions about district boundaries based them instead.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>



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8/24/2021 9:17:33	August 24, 2021	V-A	Maggie McConnell	85016	self	Now that the mapping process has begun, I'd like to express my concern about an aside that attorney Brett Johnson on July 20th about the mapping consultants receiving input from "stakeholders" to explain their proposed maps. While I don't want to overreact to that, it made me a bit anxious because I believe that there must be a transparent and open process if that access is planned. Any "behind the scenes" process or one that is available only to persons who are already vigorously involved in observing the IRC's work would likely result in skewed input. The mapping consultants should not be meeting with "stakeholders" to discuss their proposed maps at all, much less behind closed doors. At a minimum, there should be some written record of any meetings, including with whom the consultants met, that is easily accessible to the public. The preamble to the Constitutional provision creating the IRC and its process directs that the process be "fair"; a process that is not open and transparent cannot be described as fair. Thank you.
8/24/2021 9:20:55	August 24, 2021	Public Hearings - Written submissions	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Will all proposed maps be available for public review in the redistricting system? Former State Senator Sylvia Allen submitted a paper map during the Show Low hearing. Will that be available to the public?