

ARIZONA LEGISLATURE						
Public Meeting Comments 10.4.21						
Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
10/4/2021 12:40:35	Oct. 4, 2021	IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to today's (Oct. 4, 2021) meeting	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	Dr. Neuberger seemed to characterize the criticisms about what was visible on the maps presented by Timmons as being about the thickness of the lines. But another key aspect is whether the fonts used in text on the maps are sufficiently large. They have not been.
10/4/2021 12:44:40	Oct. 4, 2021	Legislative District Maps	Victoria Kauzlarich	85255	Self	Cloaked partisans have an outsized impact on who represents the voters of northeast Maricopa county. On paper, it appears that Republican voter registrations are at 45% - roughly the same as they were in 2011 when current district lines were drawn. With the growth of Independent voter registrations state-wide added to the already large percentage of cloaked partisans in this part of the state, one party rule became the norm and has stayed that way since (at least) the 2010 census. The IRC has heard from many residents of LD23 - which occupies this portion of Maricopa county. Almost to a person they have observed how uncompetitive this district is and how their interests are not represented in the legislature. Regardless of how this area might be redrawn, these cloaked partisans will continue to dominate election outcomes. One way to minimize this impact is to keep the large swath of rural area (as represented in the current draft grid map) in one LD and place the urban corridor east and west of Scottsdale Road in another. This change would actively support both rural and urban communities of interest and best serve the voters within each. The next iteration of maps should reflect this reality.
10/4/2021 12:45:23	Oct. 4, 2021	Comments	Beth Bremer	85224		Thank you for listening to the public and making time for public comments during the meeting, as well as making public map submission easier and committing to include underrepresented communities in your next round of hearings. I recommend using your data to find areas that have lower income and higher minority rates, and that have had lower turnout to prior public hearings, to determine which communities are likely to need more representation. Please post notices in public places such as billboards, newspapers, television, city newsletters, and social media to ensure people are informed about the meetings, how to participate, and how they are impacted.
10/4/2021 12:45:53	Oct. 4, 2021	public meetings	barbara tellman	95705	self	How can I submit my written comments from the Tucson Hearing? They relate to LD0012 (formerly LD 0006)?
10/4/2021 13:14:37	Oct. 4, 2021	Item Five	Jay Simpson	85016	Myself	Someone should ask Dr. Handley how many VRA districts currently exist on both the congressional and legislative side for the purpose of understanding the minimum number that the IRC will have to preserve in the new maps.
10/4/2021 13:17:57	Oct. 4, 2021	Draft map decision discussion	Paul Weich	85044	self	Please do not allow South Mountain to bisect either a legislative or congressional district. Despite the freeway that was not there during the previous redistricting, it is a formidable barrier. It is impossible to tunnel under, darned near impossible to walk over and still very difficult to drive around to campaign in both of the distinct communities on the north and south sides. Adding the Communities of Interest to the mix and it would be very unfortunate to mash both together. IN FACT, currently, there are approximately 6 homes in the Ahwatukee area that are separated from the rest of their community and districted with non-contiguous areas on the north side of the mountain - both Congressional and legislative. They effectively have NO representation or interaction with their elected officials. Please do not perpetuate this problem. We appreciate all of your hard work so far and in the months to come! Thanks--Paul
10/4/2021 13:28:08	Oct. 4, 2021	Redistricting Hualapai	Damon Clarke	86434	Hualapai Tribe	Hualapai does not want to be split, need to stay in LD7
10/4/2021 13:32:57	Oct. 4, 2021	Commission procedures	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	Why is it necessary to go into executive session every time you need clarification about the 6 criteria and the language in Prop 106? The public would also benefit from legal direction on these issues, especially if the advice is going to affect how the commission decides electoral boundaries on our behalf.
10/4/2021 13:33:21	Oct. 4, 2021	public comments	Barbara Tellman	85705	self	Please return to the YouTube format so we can go back and see things we have missed.
10/4/2021 13:38:11	Oct. 4, 2021	GRID map adjustment line drawing	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Thank you Vice Chair Watchman for acknowledging the importance of the Verde Valley COI staying separate from Prescott/Central Yavapai County. Doing so upholds the Verde's legitimate COI differences, it allows for a more competitive Flagstaff-area district, and an improved statewide competitive district map. Thank you
10/4/2021 13:42:09	Oct. 4, 2021	Lerner's mic	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Concessioner Lerner's mic is not picking up well at all. PLEASE CORRECT HER SOUND.
10/4/2021 13:44:04	Oct. 4, 2021	Oct 4 map hearing	Maria Lynam	86301	Self	Please check Commissioner Lerner's mic-could not hear her.
10/4/2021 13:49:19	Oct. 4, 2021	VI	Richard Hopkins	85326		Please have the LD map for Buckeye & Goodyear area the proposal entitled New LD4 in your possession.
10/4/2021 14:12:11	Oct. 4, 2021	Technical issue	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters of Arizona	At time is is very difficult to hear some of the speakers, especially Commissioners Lerner and York. Please speak into the mike. It's so important to hear all that everyone says. Thank you.
10/4/2021 14:18:57	Oct. 4, 2021	VI. Draft Map decision discussion and possible action concerning revisions to the Grid Map	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	When Commissioner Lerner was giving her "35,000 foot" comments, I couldn't hear much off it. I don't know whether her mic was off or whether she was just not speaking directly into it (much as Chair Neuberger was less audible until she started speaking directly into the mic). Please sort this out - we want to hear what you all are saying. Thanks.
10/4/2021 14:26:50	Oct. 4, 2021	Rural districts	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	During the meeting I heard the comment that perhaps that competitiveness is not as important for rural counties because they have more in common such as agricultural interest. I think that it is important for the commissioners to look at census demographics that show that most rural counties are just as diverse as urban areas.. The most common employment sectors for my county Cochise is not agricultural but Public Administration, Health Care & Social Assistance and Retail Trade. Rural areas need competitive districts.
10/4/2021 14:27:02	Oct. 4, 2021	V. Update, discussion, and potential action concerning polarization data and report presentation from mapping consultants.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	Thanks for allowing access in the Redistricting System tool to the submitted maps. They can be helpful for additional analysis in the tool and also as starting points to submit potential tweaks without having to completely recreate the map already submitted. I notice though that not all the submitted maps (available in the Viewer tool) are available in the Redistricting tool. For example, in the meeting just now Doug referred to CD0003, which was displayed using the Viewer, but I could not see it in the list of shared maps in the Open Plan dialog in the Redistricting tool. I'm not sure why that is, but it would be helpful to have all of the submitted maps available there. (BTW, CD0003 is a very poorly drawn map in that it violates most of the criteria. Bringing attention to it as a submission from the public that's an example of thinking outside the box makes it seem like you think it has some merit - despite your statements that you're not saying that it does or that you're endorsing it. Unfortunately by focusing on it you've placed it as the starting point for discussions, and despite your attempts as a mapping consultant to avoid undue influence you have done just that.) Also, I note that the list in the Open Plan dialog allows you to sort by the contents of any given column. Unfortunately, the sort is implemented as an ASCII sort. In an ASCII sort, all upper-case (capital) letters occur before all lower-case letters of the alphabet. As a result, all the items in the column that start with a capital letter appear in the list before the ones that start with a lower-case letter. That means if you sort on the Plan Name column, plans starting with a capital T will appear in the list before those starting with a lower-case "a". Although that's the way it sorts in ASCII, that's contrary to human expectations. Similarly, if you sort on the Owner's name, maps owned by the same person may actually appear at different places in the list if that person used a lower-case first letter for one map and an upper-case first letter for a different map when they submitted them. Please adjust the Open Plan lists so they sort without regard to case (i.e., as case-insensitive). Thanks, William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen
10/4/2021 14:32:25	Oct. 4, 2021	VI	Maggie McConnell	85016	self	Just to be clear, the question under the Constitution isn't whether a noncompetitive district is detrimental. The chair's statement to this effect concerns me as that isn't what the constitutional standard is. Instead, the Constitution obligates the IRC must to make a district competitive unless making doing so would be a "significant" detriment to the other five factors. It is critical for the IRC to understand that it must analyze all 6 criteria at the outset. Thank you.
10/4/2021 14:39:37	Oct. 4, 2021	your audio is not strong. PLEASE BE CAREFUL TO SPEAK INTO THE MIC - ALL SPEAKERS PLEASE	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	We need strong audio to follow your thinking and discussion. Both for live listeners and for your recorded public record. Please everyone, speak into your mics and have your sound person monitor this carefully. Thank you!
10/4/2021 14:40:51	Oct. 4, 2021	sound volume	Nancy Meister	85364	self	Male voices come across okay but female voices need to be turned up. Thanks
10/4/2021 14:46:23	Oct. 4, 2021	line drawing	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Your quick move to lump all the northern counties together is a R talking point and would likely gut the competitiveness we now enjoy in part of the northern region. It would seem that "What if" maps are need so the public can see what the implications are for your "Rural, County driven criteria. Competitiveness is being lost with this emphasis!
10/4/2021 15:01:49	Oct. 4, 2021	Hearing	Nancy Meister	85364	self	Yes, Wickenburg can be a natural addition to Central Yavapai County. Please ask Com. York to speak into the microphone. Mr. Johnson is sometimes not loud enough for those of us listening at home.
10/4/2021 15:05:20	Oct. 4, 2021	Congressional Districts	Cathy Lee	85209	Myself	I disagree that E. Mesa should be lumped with Gilbert & Chandler. That does not make us competitive and we are not fairly represented. There is enough population in Mesa from Greenfield Rd. east to the Maricopa border & north to McKellips to have a legislative district. We are being disenfranchised right now.
10/4/2021 15:13:36	Oct. 4, 2021	Redistricting	Cathy Lee	85209	Self	In addition to my last comment wherever you live in Mesa you are affected by anything that happens or is legislated for Mesa. For example, infrastructure, entertainment, employment, voting, etc. Chandler & Gilbert's rules & regulations will not be relevant to East Mesa. As part of the current LD16, many of us also do not think that AJ should be a part of E. Mesa.

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10/4/2021 15:19:51	Oct. 4, 2021	VI. Draft Map decision discussion and possible action concerning revisions to the Grid Map.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>Commissioner Neuberger expressed concern for Communities of Interest that find themselves in districts where the majority of people have different needs than theirs. She asked how competitiveness plays into them feeling more or less represented.</p> <p>When districts are NOT competitive, the majority interests are so paramount to the elected official that it's not necessary to pay any heed to the voices of the minority groups within their district. It's not necessary to consider their issues or struggles or the way they're impacted by any of the policies that may be advanced or supported by the official. Only the majority matters. That's how you get re-elected (over and over and over and over...). It's not even necessary to have an official who is at all competent or skillful at governing, since the district is 'safe', anyone who's willing to run and can convince the party bosses that they'll toe the line will be an acceptable candidate. Fealty to the party - not the people - trumps everything.</p> <p>This leads to very bad government, discourages highly-qualified candidates from running, and significant non-participation by the voters. It's exactly the situation that the voters tried to remedy by passing the proposition that established the IRC, and why they were explicit in including competitiveness in the proposition and later the constitution.</p> <p>When districts ARE competitive, then the parties have to do more than simply run just any candidate. Both parties have to find candidates who are willing to fight for the office, willing to put forth ideas for policies that address the issues facing the communities - both the majority AND the minority communities - and deliver the programs and services they need to make their lives and their communities stronger, willing to debate those ideas with the other candidates. You only get that kind of candidate if they feel like they have a chance of success at the polls. When you have competitive districts, the public becomes more engaged in the election and consequently in their government and participation in elections increases. When the public is engaged, the politicians must listen and be responsive to the ideas and needs of their constituents. And that leads to more effective governance.</p> <p>In short, minorities feel hopeless (and rightfully so) if they are in non-competitive districts because it doesn't matter what they say. No politician is listening. In competitive districts, at least they have a chance of being heard - and by someone who is more likely listening.</p> <p>So if you want to help ensure that Communities of Interest are not overwhelmed, then create as many competitive districts as possible. That will help ensure that your legacy matches what the voters tried to accomplish with the IRC: Government that is responsive to the people.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
10/4/2021 15:20:45	Oct. 4, 2021	your ongoing discussion	Julie Plindzola	86301	myself	The CD0004 with the vast northern CD 1 swath that you have called out positively (Rural, tidy with county lines, contains many of the native lands) would reduce half the state's land area to one, dominantly R district. It would dilute the Native Americans from possibly electing one of their own. It would also leave the state 3 D and 6 R CDs - from its 5 D and 4 R currently. This is the antithesis of Competitive. It would also reduce the overall representation that these Northern citizens would enjoy from Congress.
10/4/2021 15:21:16	Oct. 4, 2021	Mapping LDs	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	Thank you Commissioner Lerner and Chair Neuberger for acknowledging interests in joining northern Maricopa (Anthem, Cave Creek and Carefree) with Maricopa County communities south of Carefree Hwy and separating them from rural areas like Yavapai.
10/4/2021 15:22:21	Oct. 4, 2021	Communities of interest - Pinal County	Brian Schaumloffel	85048	South Phoenix / Pinal County	Mid-size cities between Phoenix and Tucson are a community of interest. These cities all have lots of commuters and are experiencing rapid growth. Keep Marana, Eloy, Red Rock, Maricopa, Casa Grande, Coolidge, and Florence in the same congressional district.
10/4/2021 15:32:41	Oct. 4, 2021	Rural counties	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	Rural counties are not alike. Some rural counties may be connected by demographics. Cochise county is distinct from Graham/Greenlee County. Their TV shopping ad TV hub are Phoenix where Cochise's is Tucson. Their demographics are different also