

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
4/13/2021 9:10:25	April 13, 2021	Legal representation	Cindy Cook-Keller	857459245	self	Thank you to the IRC for the decision to use two legal firms to work with the redistricting effort. This action adds to the public trust for a fair and balanced process.
4/13/2021 9:11:22	April 13, 2021	Appreciation for hiring two legal firms	Leslie Hunten	85716		I want to say thank you for hiring two legal firms for advice. Knowing that both conservative and liberal views will be represented, I feel more confident that the commission will operate fairly and transparently.
4/13/2021 9:11:37	April 13, 2021	legal representation	Cindy Cook-Keller	857459245	self	I urge the IRC to consider firms that have already demonstrated that they are fully aware of and are committed to the mapping criteria that was voter-approved.
4/13/2021 9:12:30	April 13, 2021	Public comments	Cindy Cook-Keller	857459245	self	To make it easier for the public to have access to comments, it would be helpful to have a portal to the website that is available all day, as well as comments publicly available during the IRC meetings.
4/13/2021 9:13:27	April 13, 2021	III, Opportunity for public comments	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	Thank you for providing this opportunity for public comment during your meetings, and for the accessibility of your meetings (on-line) to those of us located outside of the Phoenix metropolitan area. I am writing to ask you to consider providing a mechanism for public comment and input beyond the time period you are making available during your meetings on Tuesdays. I believe there are numerous people throughout Arizona who are very interested in your process, and well-informed about it, but who are employed in positions that do not allow them to watch, listen, and submit on-line comments during your Tuesday meetings. (A simple example would be people employed as teachers or faculty members who are committed to classes or instruction on weekdays.) I ask that you discuss the possibility of providing a portal for submission of public comments that would be available 24 – 7 or at least during some much more available time frame. Thanks for your consideration.

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4/13/2021 9:14:22	April 13, 2021	Public Comment - Open Meeting Law	Deborah Howard	85308	Self	<p>The Pinal County Attorney responded to an open meeting complaint I submitted related to the March 16th meeting. In this complaint I raised concerns about individual discussions commission members referenced in choosing who to interview and who not to interview for the executive director position. It was clear in the commission's deliberations that commission members had vetted candidates prior to the meeting – and these off-the-record discussions were then used to include and exclude candidates.</p> <p>In this complaint the Pinal County Attorney finds that “the complaint refers to conversations by an individual member of the AIRC, not the public body itself. Any discussion or conversation that an individual member has with an outside contact is not a discussion of the quorum of the public body. Therefore, Arizona’s open meeting laws do not apply to discussions that individual members of the public body may have with individuals who are not members of the public body.”</p> <p>I remain concerned that individual commissioners are seeking guidance on AIRC business with unnamed and undisclosed individuals and using that guidance to influence the decisions of the commission. If the information gleaned from these conversations is so substantial as to impact the AIRC decisions – shouldn't the other commissioners and the public know who is being consulted? Are they elected officials? What is their expertise? What is the business relationship?</p> <p>The Pinal County Attorney finds this practice legal. Just because it is legal doesn't mean it is right. I ask that the AIRC discuss this practice and develop ground rules so that you at a very minimum disclose the contact, the discussion and how it impacts the business of the commission. The other commissioners and the public deserve the respect of such basic disclosure. The work and the business of the AIRC should be conducted in public with the other members of the AIRC, consultants and staff. Individual “kitchen cabinets” will undermine the confidence of the public and diminish the integrity in which you are approaching your work.</p> <p>I want to be clear. I am not suggesting these conversations not take place. Members of the AIRC and the public have much to learn about redistricting, Arizona, and redistricting Arizona. I wholeheartedly ask that these learning conversations be brought into the business meetings of the AIRC and that you learn together – as a team from designated and identified experts. Doing so will create a shared foundation for your decision-making and expose differences - before those differences are unbridgeable.</p> <p>I could go on – but you get the point. Thank you for consideration of these comments.</p>

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4/13/2021 9:15:34	April 13, 2021	IX, securing a mapping consultant	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I understand that one of the key issues you will be wrestling with is the relative weighting or consideration given to the various criteria that you are required to consider – including the criterion of creating competitive districts from an election perspective. It's my understanding that the work of Arizona's IRC in 2011 actually won a nationwide award due to its outstanding achievements in satisfying all the criteria. In preparing for your mapping and decision-making processes, it might be useful not just to review the various legal challenges that your predecessors faced, but also the positive recognitions and the award – so that you have the best chance possible of emulating that successful fulfillment of the requirements and criteria. I'd suggest that in selecting the mapping consultant you ask them how they see the balancing of the various criteria; as a member of the Arizona public, I am especially interested in the issues of competitiveness of districts and of compliance with the Voting Rights Act.
4/13/2021 9:17:18	April 13, 2021	II. Approval of Minutes	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	I prefer to comment on points that are, in my view, of great import, but in this case the grammarian/Robert's Rules follower in me can't help but comment on something extremely minor: I find it hard to listen to Commissioner York saying "I motion that ..." The correct usage is "I move that". The motion in this instance is the noun, "move" is the verb. I apologize for my nitpicking.
4/13/2021 9:20:05	April 13, 2021	Public Comment - Open Meeting - 2	Deborah Howard	85308	Self	<p>The Pinal County Attorney has responded to my open meeting law complaint submitted in reference to your January 14th and 21st meetings. Without exception the Pinal County Attorney found that the AIRC complied with the open meeting laws and acted appropriately. To quote a final paragraph:</p> <p>“Although it may be good governance and in the best interest of the public to allow for public comment, a public body is not required to have a public comment period of its agenda. Because nothing in Arizona law requires a public body to hold or even consider input from the public, Arizona’s open meeting laws cannot have been violated. The level of engagement with the public is completely within the discretion and policy-making authority of the public body itself.”</p> <p>I appreciate the sincerity in which you have embraced the spirit of public comment despite no requirement to do so. The Commission has expanded the window for public comment to include most of your entire meeting; are interested in what has been submitted; and not infrequently draw on both information and opinion shared in your deliberations.</p> <p>Thank you for inviting the public to a "sixth chair" at the table - even though you didn't have to. I am certain and hope you are as well that doing so has - and will - serve the AIRC well.</p>
4/13/2021 9:20:15	April 13, 2021	General	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	I want to thank the redistricting committee for their unanimous decision to select both a democratic and republican leaning law firm. This decision has increased my level of trust that this will be a fair and non-partisan committee. I hope that I will feel the same level of trust when the committee selects a mapping consultant.
4/13/2021 9:25:06	April 13, 2021	Public Comments	Barbara Hutchinson	85718	Self	Thank you for providing this simple form for submitting public comments. It would be helpful, however, to have a system that would allow for public comments to be submitted at any time as well as retrievable in a searchable format. I also appreciate that the Commission unanimously hired two law firms to ensure a balanced process.

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4/13/2021 9:31:27	April 13, 2021	IX	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	Access to this process is a concern. I would like to see the public comments website open 24/7. Most people work and cannot wait to put in their comments during the committee meeting. Also it would be good if the public were able to upload documents and maps and search the public comments so that we could interact with each other as we would in a normal chat session.
4/13/2021 9:36:11	April 13, 2021	4	Janell Hunt	85143	Myself	Commissioners: I was pleased to hear from the IRC Chair this morning that comments from the public are carefully read. While it is still early in the Redistricting process, we are commenting because we are interested in a good outcome. Last week, I realize many of us were similarly writing you about hiring two law firms, and it was good to hear that our input was part of your decision process. I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for considering what we feel important, and how good it was to see the IRC come to consensus on your decision. Again, best wishes to you as you work on this important project for our state. Janell Hunt, San Tan Valley, AZ
4/13/2021 9:37:34	April 13, 2021	IX	Diane Boman	86303	myself	Will the mapping consultant be starting with a clean slate grid map based on population? I believe this is a requirement. Never having witnessed this procedure I think it would be helpful to have redistricting experts to educate the public and the commission. My concern is that if the rules are not followed we will not have a final map that would hold up in court if it was indeed challenged in some way.
4/13/2021 9:40:11	April 13, 2021	agenda on where hearings are	Matthew Nelson	85623	myself	There should be hearings near Oracle, AZ or near Catalina, AZ too
4/13/2021 9:40:33	April 13, 2021	V. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. A. Budget	Nelson Morgan	85054		Commissioner Watchman's question about how to modify the budget request once the Legislature is adjourned seems critical to me. I appreciate Commissioner Neuberg's interest in avoiding costs by reducing or eliminating the need for litigation, but you can't count on that; in fact, given the contentious political climate, it seems unlikely that there will be no need for such funds. I think that the mechanisms for altering the funding requirements in the future need to be well understood. It didn't sound like anyone had a good answer to this.
4/13/2021 9:42:04	April 13, 2021	Selection of Mapping Firm	Hope Busto-Keyes	85743	Self	The public needs the reassurance that whatever mapping firm the Commission selects will not insert their political interests over the interest of creating fair representative maps for Arizonans. It's imperative that the selection of a mapping firm includes one that has a track record of experience and proven capability creating maps using census mapping data; knowledge of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; familiar with the Arizona redistricting process and is dedicated to keeping political influence to a minimum. Such a firm will greatly assist the Commission to stay within the critical timeline to create districts, avoid time-consuming pitfalls and result in lawful, representative maps for Arizonans. Thank you for creating a commission that is committed to fairness, transparency and open to public input.
4/13/2021 9:43:52	April 13, 2021	Historical Information of Public Hearings	Cindy Cook-Keller	857459245	self	I would like to suggest that you set up meetings on the Navajo reservation at chapter houses which is the best place for holding meetings...rather than expecting the Nation's residents to travel long distances to cities like Flagstaff.

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4/13/2021 9:45:58	April 13, 2021	Public Comment	Deborah Howard	85308	Self	<p>I share your frustration that the open meeting law inhibits the ability of the AIRC to have a working groups as discussed related to Commissioners York and Lerner to work with the Executive Director to vet staff applications.</p> <p>On the one hand you could individually call the Governor, AG or other elected official if they were in your contact world and not report it - but two commissioners can not collaborate and report on their work to the whole AIRC. Doesn't this seem out of whack to you as well?</p> <p>This is not the last time such a working group would be useful - this should be one of your very first conversations with your new legal counsel.</p>
4/13/2021 9:48:34	April 13, 2021	Meeting minutes on website	Diane McQueen	86327	self	<p>Why do the minutes of past meetings, with the exception of 1/4, just point to the youtube video recording? Where are the written minutes documents? Just posting the recording is really hard for those of us who have limited Internet bandwidth. In order to find out what official decisions were made at past meetings we have to listen to the entire recording. The public really needs to have a written document that we can download and review. Please change this.</p>
4/13/2021 9:50:42	April 13, 2021	9	Emmie Cardella	85260	Myself	<p>Thank you for acting in line with previous IRCs and hiring two firms as legal counsel. This helps instill trust in the Commission and its stated goal of acting independently. Please continue to act as thoughtfully in the hiring process of a mapping consultant. It is important that the consultant has a demonstrated commitment to the mapping criteria, which includes competitiveness and compliance with the US Voting Rights Act.</p>
4/13/2021 9:50:47	April 13, 2021	Item IX	Andrea Varela	85122	Self	<p>I would like to first thank the Commission for considering 2 firms for legal counsel. I feel the Commission is looking at public comment and taking them into consideration during decision making. Redistricting is a once-in-a-decade process and mapping consultants are the keystone to the map-making process. As you consider and interview consultants, please take into account the fact that consultants have localized experience and understand the redistricting process, and is committed to creating fair maps. The Commission should also take into consideration past experience, potential political ties and previously created maps of these consultants.</p>
4/13/2021 9:51:47	April 13, 2021	VII - Exec Asst hire or Admi Asst (whichever name?)	M. E. Dunn	86303		<p>Sorry, but given the rather partisan background of the Exe Dir, it is imperative that the Commissioners review finalists with reasoning for hiring. YES, Comm Watchman, the IRC should formally approve the hires.</p>

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4/13/2021 9:53:26	April 13, 2021	public comments	Susan Bickel	85718	self	<p>In these times of extreme partisanship, it is imperative that the people of Arizona have trust in the redistricting process. Mapping the new districts is critical to that process, and competitive districts are a key component of fair mapping.</p> <p>The United States Supreme Court has said that "gerrymandering is incompatible with the principles of democracy." Ariz. State Legislature v. Independent Redistricting Commission, 576 U.S. 787, (2015). And the Supreme Court has recognized that to address the problem of partisan gerrymandering, states have created Independent redistricting commissions. Rucho v. Common Cause, 588 U.S.(2019). Indeed, Arizona voters had acted decisively before Rucho to create such a commission when they amended the Arizona Constitution in 2000. That decision by the voters specified what characteristics of equitable redistricting a mapping procedure must follow, characteristics such as equal population among districts, contiguity, town and county boundaries, and others. Key among them is the creation of competitive districts Arizona Const. Article 4, Part 2 (14) f.</p> <p>We note that at the time of the last redistricting in 2011, Arizona was subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, which required the Department of Justice to review changes to Arizona redistricting. That level of review is no longer applicable. However, because any redistricting must still comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, with applicable federal law, and with the Arizona Constitution and laws, and because DOJ review is not available, it is essential that the Commission hire a mapping firm with a proven track record of familiarity with all the legal requirements governing redistricting.</p>
4/13/2021 9:53:51	April 13, 2021	V. Executive Director Report	Diane McQueen	86327	self	<p>I'm really disappointed to hear Brian Schmitt twice talk about ways of basically "skirting" the process by encouraging the commissioners to lobby legislators for additional funding for staff positions instead of following the formal State budget process and, even worse, suggesting ways to skirt the open meeting laws by suggesting small enough meetings of the commissioners that would not meet the public meeting laws because there wouldn't be a quorum. He needs to know that the public is watching this process and this is supposed to be a transparent process. He should not be suggesting ways to exclude the public out of this very important process.</p>
4/13/2021 9:54:43	April 13, 2021	III	Cindy Wagner	86301		<p>Thank you for allowing for public comment and input. I believe the Commission should jointly decide on the new hire. Thank you.</p>
4/13/2021 9:56:10	April 13, 2021	III. Public Comment	Thomas Sonandres	85327	Myself	<p>For your consideration: To encourage bipartisanship, on all 3-2 votes except on won't-wait urgent issues, ask for the record the justification/explanation on the precise nature of the opposition, require a second vote the following week, task one Commissioner on each side to consult during the intervening week and use the time to discuss creative ways to overcome differences, and to present new proposals for discussion and a new vote at the following meeting. This would show the public that bipartisanship was sought in good-faith, that a week's time was allowed to come up with a resolution, a week in which the public could also participate with opportunity to propose solutions at the following meeting before the second vote. If, despite a good-faith effort, no bipartisan compromise is reached, the two Commissioners tasked to negotiate would present for the record the specific reason(s) why they failed before the second 3-2 vote.</p>
4/13/2021 9:57:13	April 13, 2021	VI	linda chiles	85051	the public	<p>I agree wholeheartedly with Commissioner Lerner's comment regarding their input in the hiring process of staff especially considering Brian's past history of only working for the City and not the State in any capacity and his close connections with the Republican party. Please, Commission, continue to act as oversight. The opportunity for partisanship is too strong.</p>

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4/13/2021 9:57:43	April 13, 2021	VII	David Dunn	86303		The Admin Asst will need to be someone who fills in the many blanks in Mr Schmitt's background. And, I can understand hesitation on part of some commissioners re him having the final word on hires. He was not an unanimous choice so they have good reason to protect the process. And, as Comm Watchman said, please do follow what the constitution says.
4/13/2021 10:01:14	April 13, 2021	III	Maria Lynam	86301-5758	self	Thank you for your comments at the beginning at the meeting re public comment. Please include the fact that the public can comment at anytime using the CONTACT on the website and include the link.
4/13/2021 10:02:32	April 13, 2021	hiring of further staff	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	I believe that the IRC should retain some oversight over the selection of the remaining staffers. Brian Schmitt is an obvious Republican selection and so his influence needs to be balanced with additional staff that can be vetted as highly qualified and unbiased. Retain your authority where public perception and communication skills and outreach are so very important. Thank you for being open to others' concerns.
4/13/2021 10:03:56	April 13, 2021	N/A	Stephanie Luna	85015	Fuerte Arts Movement	N/A
4/13/2021 10:06:11	April 13, 2021	Hiring	Debbie Lopez	85042	Arizona Hispanic Community Forum	Giving the hiring of the entire staff to the Executive Director is so concerning, Brian is so partisan that you need to retain the power of hiring to the commission. I'm relieved that Commission Watchman is being so careful. No I do not trust Brian and that is the commission's fault for hiring such a partisan person. Take the extra time to ensure that the staff is hired with oversight.
4/13/2021 10:07:18	April 13, 2021	Hiring of additional staff	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	It is very important, given the current makeup of the Commission, that additional hires reflect the diversity of the Arizona population.
4/13/2021 10:07:23	April 13, 2021	VII Exec Asst	Maria-Elena Dunn	86303		This person will be acting on behalf of the Commission, even if indirectly, and it is important that the commissioners - ALL - feel that the person is well qualified and, at least this time, will be able to hit the ground running. Waiting a week to get the right person is significantly more important than rushing the process. Commissioner Watchman is absolutely right in saying that the Exec Dir is yet to prove himself to those who did not vote for him - or did - so giving him free reign at this point is a privilege not yet earned. "Expediency" does not always result in a good product. Please remember that Chair has said that this is a marathon...not a sprint.
4/13/2021 10:08:50	April 13, 2021	V	Maria Lynam	86301-5758	self	Will the proposed budget be available on the website? Or will it be contained in this month's meeting minutes? Please tell the ED that he should review all materials he will present via zoom for readability. "You guys"...is the current ED is the right person for this job?. His budget prep was not well prepared. It seems like he is Commissioner Neuberger's trainee.
4/13/2021 10:18:22	April 13, 2021	Mapping consultants	John Moore	85395	Self	Thank you for your decision last week to hire two legal firms to assure representation of all points of view. It was a decision that will go a long way to maintaining public trust. As you consider mapping consultants, I hope you will continue to take that in mind and look for a firm or firms that the public will trust, and a firm or firms that assure you they will focus on diverse and competitive districts that meet all federal voting rights rules.
4/13/2021 10:18:42	April 13, 2021	Selection of Mapping Consultant	Valerie Green	85614-6341	Self	Thank you to the Commission for hiring two legal firms as counsel. This will enhance the public trust in the Commission. Now, I urge you to judiciously select a mapping consultant, one that has a proven record. Their job is incredibly important to Arizonans of all political persuasions.

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4/13/2021 10:20:32	April 13, 2021	VII	D Dunn	86303		Re IT hire - in the interest of transparency, suggesting that Exec Dir look around for someone who he may know and who he can work with is not a good way to go. It could open the commission to a legal challenge in that it could be seen as hiring a friend, as he himself was hired by a "friend" to conduct the election event at the Prescott Cths. Open job announcement and processes is the least questionable way to do this.
4/13/2021 10:24:43	April 13, 2021	Mapping Consultant item	Ben Scheel	85015	Myself	Timmons Group and National Demographics Corporation have previously failed to deliver on contracts in our state. Having a bad history in Arizona already, the Commission shouldn't rely on a mapping consultant who has already demonstrated being incapable of handling the task.
4/13/2021 10:25:58	April 13, 2021	Mapping Consultant	Debbie Lopez	85042-7859	Arizona Hispanic Community Forum	Please put EXPERIENCE in the criteria for hiring the Mapping Consultant. You will be in such a time crunch that you will need that experience to hit the ground running.
4/13/2021 10:27:03	April 13, 2021	IX	Cindy Wagner	86301		Please bring in redistricting experts to educate the commission and public about the constitutional requirements for mapping. Thank you.
4/13/2021 10:27:23	April 13, 2021	Open public meeting	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	Would like to see public meetings to reach rural areas such as eastern Cochise County. Public meetings in Willcox or Benson or Douglas
4/13/2021 10:27:35	April 13, 2021	IX B -	ME Dunn	86303		Why does evaluation tool - for mapping firm hire - have to be developed in Exec Session?
4/13/2021 10:32:02	April 13, 2021	mapping consultants	dianne post	85006	myself	I cannot believe the low quality of 3 applicants. If I had behaved like this in my career I would never get a job! Timmons and Nat'l Demographics breached contracts with the state before and failed to deliver the contracted product. They should not even be considered. Nat'l Demographics has often had it's maps thrown out of court because of low quality. We have no time for that. The CEO of Taylor English has made homophobic remarks and supported rapists over their victims - clearly not a person who should get any contact of any kind let alone one paid for from the taxpayers money!
4/13/2021 10:35:15	April 13, 2021	Expediency vs public trust in decisions	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	Don't think public trust is helped by the commission members seeming to imply expediency is so important
4/13/2021 10:35:51	April 13, 2021	IX Mapping Consultant	Diane McQueen	86327	self	I really encourage the commission to unbiasedly look at the 3 mapping RFP's and not exclude from serious consideration a firm just because they worked on past redistricting efforts. The commission needs to choose the firm with the most mapping experience overall, how long the firm has been providing mapping services, to whom they have been providing mapping services to (past and present), mapping experience as it relates to redistricting, mapping software they use in regards to being able to read the older formatted data. The commission has been charting a course of not wanting to hire anyone or any company that had anything to do with the past commissions and redistricting processes by evidenced by their Executive Director selection and legal counsel selection. Chair Neuberg keeps talking about "hit the ground running" but those words seem to ring hollow now based on selections so far. The commission has already set their progress back by previous selections made and mapping is too important and too complex to not consider the experienced firms. There line between wanting to blaze your own trail so as not to be compared to your predecessors and wasting time by always having to recreate the wheel in every decision you make.

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4/13/2021 10:41:05	April 13, 2021	IRC Mapping Consultants	Patricia Hibbeler	85051		I am concerned regarding the businesses that have responded to the Mapping RFP. The company chosen (that the state contracts with) should have strong mapping experience, be able to demonstrate years of successful experience in this field including successful and competent completion of contracts. This is an important, one-in-ten-year process, and we must get it right the first time. I understand both the Timmons Group and National Demographics Corporation have failed to deliver on previous agreements in Arizona and Taylor English Decisions does not have state-wide redistricting experience at all. Furthermore, Douglas Johnson of the National Demographics Corporation has a poor track record in creating maps, many of them being rejected by courts. For these reasons, I recommend the RFP be re-opened and some targeted recruitment occurs to businesses that are experts and provide the diligence necessary in this field of work.
4/13/2021 10:42:38	April 13, 2021	IX	Maria Lynam	86301-5758	self	Considering the importance of the once-in-a-decade process that is redistricting, the mapping consultant should have experience specifically with redistricting and at a state-wide level. Timmons Group and National Demographics Corporation have previously failed to deliver on contracts in our state. Having a bad history in Arizona already, please do not rely on a mapping consultant who has already demonstrated being incapable of handling the task.
4/13/2021 10:43:37	April 13, 2021	IX. Discussion and Possible Action on securing Mapping Consulting support.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	It seems like you're ready to move forward with selecting one of three mapping consultants that have responded to the RFP. You seem to be very familiar with those firms and their proposals, but the public is still in the dark. We have not even been informed of which consultants you're considering, and they are not listed in the agenda. We should be given the opportunity to review the list of firms under consideration so we can have sufficient time to research them and add make public comments regarding their pros and cons before your decision is made. Moving too fast on this will undermine public confidence that you're making a good decision on their behalf and that they can trust any of the maps that are generated by such a firm. Please take the time to do this right. This is one of the most important resources in this process and must be selected in a way that will inspire public confidence, not undercut it. You can do that successfully for the people of Arizona if you proceed as you did with choosing your legal counsel and the opposite of the way you selected the Executive Director. William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen
4/13/2021 10:44:09	April 13, 2021	IX	Maria Lynam	86301-5758	self	Douglas Johnson of the National Demographics Corporation has a terrible track record with previous maps. Many of them have been rejected by courts resulting in the need for new maps. With Census data delays, we can't risk having to re-draw our state's maps. We need a mapping consultant that has proven they can take on this work successfully.
4/13/2021 10:45:44	April 13, 2021	Mapping Consultant	Holli Ploog	86336	Self	Please take into consideration the previous track record of mapping firms in Arizona. We cannot afford to make a mistake in retaining a mapping consultant that has a poor record of rejection by the courts. We also need a consultant who has statewide redistricting experience.

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4/13/2021 10:45:54	April 13, 2021	VI and VII	Phyllis Smith	85331		When the Executive Director was hired it was stated that subsequent staff hired by the Commission/Executive Director would be diverse. The intent at that time was to assure political diversity. Having the Executive Director hire without public interviews does not give that assurance to the public. All following staff hires need to be interviewed openly for public viewing.
4/13/2021 10:47:44	April 13, 2021	IX	Maria Lynam	86301-5758	self	Commissioners, are you aware that Taylor English Decisions does not have state-wide or redistricting-specific experience? Their website does not even mention "mapping" once. It does not appear to have any record of drafting maps for this crucial process, nor taking on the challenges of the process. Additionally the CEO of Taylor English has a history of using homophobic language and has previously defended students accused of rape. This alone is unacceptable and should disqualify Taylor English from being hired.
4/13/2021 10:49:02	April 13, 2021	Mapping Consulting firm	Peggy Pena	85643	Aselk	In order to integrity in the mapping process and public trust one of the criteria for selection of the Mapping Consultant Firm should be their past work demonstrates US Voting Rights and political party competitiveness. If the IRC selects a firm with a past mapping history that shows the courts have thrown out their redistributing maps this will not generate public trust in the process.
4/13/2021 10:51:21	April 13, 2021	public comment	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	First, thank you for taking and reviewing public comments. However, I think the process can and should be improved by allowing public comment between meetings and allowing the public to easily see the comments of others. It's not always possible to submit a comment on a Tuesday morning. And the ability to easily see the comments of others would help educate the public, provide more transparency by showing that the Commission is responding as needed, and perhaps even reduce redundant comments. Thanks for your consideration.
4/13/2021 10:52:31	April 13, 2021	Thank you	Holli Ploog	86336	Self	I wanted to thank the commission for exercising their good judgment in hiring two legal firms at last week's meeting. You have demonstrated a spirit of bipartisanship. This gesture will help maintain public confidence in the commission's decisions.
4/13/2021 10:54:31	April 13, 2021	Hiring of Mapping Consultant	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	I feel strongly that the mapping consultant have the proven expertise and experience in the complex mapping process. It is also critical that the consultant have a demonstrated commitment to mandated mapping criteria as set forth in Article 4, Part 2, Section 1 of the State Constitution, including competitiveness and compliance with the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

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4/13/2021 10:55:19	April 13, 2021	Mapping consultant contract	Sahar Bick	85282		<p>It is of utmost importance that the mapping consultant has experience - specifically with redistricting - and at a state-wide level.</p> <p>Taylor English: Does not have the necessary experience, has a CEO who is homophobic and defends students accused of rape. Please disqualify them.</p> <p>Timmons Group and National Demographics Corporation: have failed to deliver on contracts in Arizona in the past. The IRC should have high standards and should not consider shouldn't a mapping consultant who has already demonstrated being incapable of handling the task.</p> <p>Specifically, Douglas Johnson of the National Demographics Corporation has a terrible track record with previous maps. Many of his maps have been rejected by courts resulting in the need for new maps.</p> <p>Due to delays in receiving the data from the census, we cannot risk having to re-draw our maps.</p> <p>In short, we need a mapping consultant that has proven they can take on this work successfully.</p>
4/13/2021 10:55:50	April 13, 2021	IX	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	<p>I would like to see the results of today's executive session that is finalizing the scoring and evaluation document. I think it is important for the public to comment prior to finalizing this. What's the rush we don't have a census data yet?</p>
4/13/2021 10:56:35	April 13, 2021	VI	Maria Lynam	86301-5758	self	<p>For the ED and the Commissioners: Please look for candidates for all positions that will approach their position in creative ways to engage us across an extremely diverse state. Many Arizonans face challenges with accessibility. The PIO and communications staff should have the skills to address and overcome these challenges in order to include the whole state in the redistricting process.</p>
4/13/2021 10:59:20	April 13, 2021	mapping consultant	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	<p>In my opinion, National Demographics Corp does not have the experience or expertise to be hired as our mapping consultant. The company's track record is not good as to drawing maps that meet judicial muster. The Commission should expect and be prepared for legal challenges, and one of the best ways to do this is to hire the most qualified and most experienced mapping firm available.</p>
4/13/2021 11:00:01	April 13, 2021	V	Bill Lynam	86301-5758	self	<p>For the ED - looking at the map with the red stars and your Round 1 suggested list, they do not align. I suggest that you have your Round 1 meeting in Yavapai County at the Prescott County Office Building. Perhaps by that time you can have a hybrid meeting - in person and virtual.</p>

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4/13/2021 11:01:55	April 13, 2021	IX. Discussion and Possible Action on securing Mapping Consulting support	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	<p>I think that you have previously noted that Haystaq is one of the responding applicants for Meeting Consultant. I would strongly urge that the IRC consider them neutrally in terms of their qualifications, and not disqualify them because of the fact that their mapping work was in 2011, which was technically sound. This is a technical role where previous experience is really critical. You folks will be setting policy (while responding to public concerns), not the mapping consultant, so the last thing you need is to have this firm be one that has less relevant experience.</p> <p>My impression is also that there are limitations to the other applicants - for instance, Taylor English Decisions doesn't have statewide experience, or any track record with drafting maps for this purpose. I would also suggest carefully examining the track record of Timmons Group and National Demographics Corporation, which appears to be iffy as far as previous work on contracts here; but I'm not an expert in that topic, so my main point is that I hope that you do due diligence on this point before hiring someone with a track record that does not inspire confidence for this critical task.</p> <p>Thank you in advance for giving this matter your careful attention.</p>
4/13/2021 11:02:58	April 13, 2021	Legal Consultants	Joan McDermott	86403	Mohave County Democratic Central Committee District 3	Thank you for following past precedent and appointing 2 legal firms to work with the Commission.
4/13/2021 11:04:32	April 13, 2021	mapping consultant	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	In my opinion, Taylor English is not qualified to be our mapping consultant. We need a consultant that has experience and who can meet the challenge presented by the late delivery of census data. As far as I can determine, Taylor English does not have the necessary redistricting-specific experience.
4/13/2021 11:06:18	April 13, 2021	Mapping Consultants	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>A couple of suggested questions for mapping firms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Ask for examples of previous experience drawing state-wide Congressional and Legislative maps. (2) Ask about bench strength to deliver maps in a timely manner. (3) Ask each firm to explain all litigation they faced from previous mapping work. (4) Ask what software they use. (5) Ask if they can provide a data base of searchable maps on the IRC website -- maps that the public can submit. (6) Ask about their commitment to a fair and transparent process. <p>Thank you so much for your service to Arizona.</p>
4/13/2021 11:08:08	April 13, 2021	cronwms@gmail.com	Ron Williams	85395	Self	It has come to my attention that several firms being considered for the mapping consultant contract have neither the expertise nor successful experience in fulfilling obligations of this difficulty in Arizona. These firms should not be considered for this contract: Timmons Group, National Demographics Corporation and Taylor English Decisions. Thank you.
4/13/2021 11:09:55	April 13, 2021	Public Comments	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Please consider making public comments available to the public during meetings. If we were having in-person meetings, us audience members would be able to hear what others were saying during the meeting.
4/13/2021 11:10:20	April 13, 2021	III	Maria Lynam	86301-5758	self	Re supplying minutes of meetings - instead of fullblown "minutes", provide instead a Summary. The videos are available should anyone want the full content.

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4/13/2021 11:20:35	April 13, 2021	Mapping Process	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	According to Prop 106, the Commission is required to start mapping with a clean slate, and the first sets of maps are required to be grid maps based only on population. Tim La Sota said in his April 6th interview that he was one of the lawyers who (unsuccessfully) sued the 2011 Commission because they transitioned from the grid maps to the final maps too quickly. Please agendize this topic for a presentation and discussion. What is the expected process to transition from the initial grid map to the final maps?
4/13/2021 11:26:08	April 13, 2021	Mapping consultant contract	Sarah Simmons	85718	Indivisible Arizona	Considering the importance of redistricting, you should be hiring the best mapping consultant possible. The consultant should have a track record of excellence on a statewide basis. None of your four candidates have that qualification. Each candidate is seriously flawed. Timmons Group and National Demographics Corporation have failed to deliver on contracts in Arizona in the past. Douglas Jones' efforts in mapping have been rejected by the courts on several occasions. Taylor English lacks experience in redistricting and state-wide projects. In addition, the repeated use of homophobic language by the Taylor English CEO raises concerns about the culture of the company and its ability to be objective. I urge you to find other qualified candidates for this critical position. You owe it to the State and its citizens.
4/13/2021 11:36:37	April 13, 2021	Thank You!	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Thank you so much for your service on behalf of Arizona. I appreciate you working in a collaborative manner and striving to reach consensus as much as possible. Thank you for hiring two law firms. Having a Republican firm and a Democrat firm should give you and the public confidence in a fair process and mitigate court challenges. In the April 6th meeting, I appreciate Chairwoman Neuberg explaining to the public that they would be jumping around the agenda in order to get work done in between interviews. I also appreciate her explaining why the Commission needs to re-convene in executive session, though the nuances of SPO's procurement process still alludes me.
4/13/2021 11:49:13	April 13, 2021	Selection of Mapping Consultatn	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voter of Arizona	Thank you to the Commissioners for your continued diligence in carrying out your mandate in a fair and open process. The choice of mapping consultant is a critical one for the IRC, especially given the shortened time you will have to draw maps due to the census data delays. The League of Women Voters of Arizona urges you to select a firm with a proven record of success in legislative and congressional redistricting work. An understanding of the work needed to prepare the data for use in redistricting and the specific criteria that must be met are critical. There isn't a lot of time to learn on the job or to re-draft maps that are not acceptable. Examine carefully both successes and failures in performing contract work in our state and elsewhere.

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						<p>Experience may not be the only factor - knowledge, skills, interest all play an important role in success. Indeed each of the five commissioners - all successful in their chosen endeavors - were selected because of your knowledge, skills and interest. None had direct statewide redistricting experience. I can see a temptation to look at the 2000 Commission and the 2010 Commission and decide you need not be bound to history or experience.</p> <p>You did this - albeit with a 3:2 vote to hire an executive director with not only no redistricting experience, no statewide political experience and no state government experience. You collectively bypassed a legal firm with direct statewide redistricting experience here in AZ. One who guided the commission through pretty choppy waters to sustain an AZ financial audit, multiple lawsuits, DOJ pre-clearance and whose work product that has ultimately withstood the test of time. Instead of seeing that as a value - you believed the choppy waters were created by the law firm.</p> <p>You are now considering mapping consultants. Which firm has worked statewide? Which firm has worked in AZ? Which firm has had their work product upheld, or overturned, by the courts? Which firm has a track record of integrity? Which firm has a track record of working in an open and transparent process?</p> <p>Experience may not be the only factor - but it is an important factor. And one that should be given the highest value as you consider proposals for mapping consultants.</p>
4/13/2021 11:58:14	April 13, 2021	Mapping Consultants	Deborah Howard	85308	self	
4/13/2021 12:06:30	April 13, 2021	Technical Challenges	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>There are times when the sound quality is quite poor. I'm assuming this can be improved in the future. In the meantime, if the transcriber does not clearly hear something, is it appropriate for her to let you know?</p>
4/13/2021 12:10:20	April 13, 2021	Exec Session on Mapping Contract	M. E Dunn	86303		<p>Wait a minute!?! You are not going to report on any aspect of that long ES???? T</p>
4/13/2021 12:13:11	April 13, 2021	ES on mapping	David Dunn	86303		<p>Thank you to the Comm Mehl and York who made sure that the Chair backed up and addressed the issues that needed public airing - and voting - re the ES re the mapping consultants.</p>
4/13/2021 12:17:52	April 13, 2021	IX. Discussion and Possible Action on securing Mapping Consulting support.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>I find it incredible that you are not sharing the evaluation matrix for the mapping consultants with the public. These are essentially the criteria that will be used to evaluate the candidates and the items on it are critical to the public's understanding of your selection process. Without knowing them, there is no way for the public to be confident that your eventual choice is even remotely qualified to do the work. We need to know the vectors upon what your decision is based. We don't need to know how those criteria are scored for each of the candidates (that's privileged information), but we DO need to know what the criteria are.</p> <p>Without knowing the criteria, there is no way the public can have confidence in this process.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>

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4/13/2021 12:18:12	April 13, 2021	IX. Discussion and Possible Action on securing Mapping Consulting support.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>I find it incredible that you are not sharing the evaluation matrix for the mapping consultants with the public. These are essentially the criteria that will be used to evaluate the candidates and the items on it are critical to the public's understanding of your selection process. Without knowing them, there is no way for the public to be confident that your eventual choice is even remotely qualified to do the work. We need to know the vectors upon what your decision is based. We don't need to know how those criteria are scored for each of the candidates (that's privileged information), but we DO need to know what the criteria are.</p> <p>Without knowing the criteria, there is no way the public can have confidence in this process.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
4/13/2021 12:19:41	April 13, 2021	Map building hiring	Misty Atkins	85737	Self	<p>Given that redistricting only happens every ten years, it is imperative that the firm selected has a good track record and is relatively free of political drama. Timmons group and National Demographics Corp have a bad record in following through with contracts. Douglas Johnson has spent many hours in court defending highly controversial maps. Please take the due time to find a company that will represent Arizonans.</p>
4/13/2021 12:24:13	April 13, 2021	Public comment	Misty Atkins	85737	Self	<p>The narrow time frame for public to comment makes it impossible to hear ideas and concerns from the majority of Arizonans. Please open public comments at least a day before the meeting and keep it open throughout the meeting.</p>
4/13/2021 12:24:28	April 13, 2021	II and III	María-Elena Dunn	86303		<p>Arizona has significant rural areas and sectors with very limited, if at all, internet service. It is a lot to ask that interested individuals in those areas be required to watch YouTube minutes in order to know what transpired at a meeting. Particularly important for the Navajo Nation. Similarly, we have to find a way for public comments to be submitted outside of the meetings so that there can be more public access (for instance when a family visits a library over the weekend and then can access the internet that way). Public outreach and input are crucial to making this process as transparent and inclusive as possible.</p>