

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
4/20/2021 9:10:10	April 20, 2021	mapping consultants	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>Please ask all the mapping consultants if they are committed to producing fair maps in a timely manner that will hold up to court challenges. Doug Johnson and NDC produced maps for the 2001 IRC. Their initial maps did not hold up in court and did not receive DOJ preclearance, which was a known requirement at that time. The following excerpt is from the January 2004 Ruling by the Superior Court of Arizona:</p> <p>“On May 20, 2002, during the federal court proceedings, the DOJ objected to the Commission’s 2001 Adopted Legislative Plan as having a retrogressive effect on Hispanic voting strength in at least three of five legislative districts (13, 14, 15, 23, and 29). Ex. 4123. In explaining its refusal to preclear District 23, the DOJ cited the Commission’s removal of San Manuel and Oracle from District 23. Id. at 4. The DOJ reserved its harshest language for the Commission’s treatment of District 23 when it said that “the removal of these two towns [San Manuel and Oracle] and the resulting drop in the Hispanic voting age population percentage, has raised concerns regarding the ability of the AIRC to establish that this action, which had a retrogressive effect, may have also been taken, at least in part, with a retrogressive intent.” Id. at 5.”</p>
4/20/2021 9:13:21	April 20, 2021	Mapping Firm Selection	Hope Busto-Keyes	85743	Self	<p>As I mentioned in a previous comment, I believe that it is important to select a firm that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1)has a successful track record of mapping experiences using census data; 2)has deep knowledge of the VRA; 3)is experience with the AZ redistricting process and laws; 4)is dedicated to keeping political influence to a minimum. <p>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.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
4/20/2021 9:15:22	April 20, 2021	consideration of mapping firms	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	<p>Thank you for providing opportunities for the public to watch and to comment upon your deliberations. I am writing regarding one of the three mapping firms you are considering for your work over this coming year – the Timmons Group, working through their partner National Demographics Corporation or NDC. Given the potential for legal challenges and the contentious nature of choosing among possible mapped boundaries, it seems critical to me that you set yourselves up for success by looking at the track record of mapping firms. It took only a little digging and inquiry for me to learn that in recent years NDC’s work in redistricting efforts has been the focus of multiple legal challenges – including cases where the ultimate product was rejected as inadequate to meet constitutional requirements. The case I have read the most about, and one of the most recent, was in California’s Kern County, where the redrawn maps were later ruled to have blatantly denied Hispanic/Latino voters fair representation. Another very high-profile case in the history of redistricting, in North Carolina, involved racial bias in the gerrymandering of districts; Doug Johnson, a principal in NDC, was consulted as an expert witness in that case but his testimony was shown to be careless, erroneous, and “unpersuasive” – essentially was not even considered in that court case. Given the demographics of voters in our state, we cannot afford to work with a firm that has shown itself willing to produce racially-biased maps that don’t meet the constitutional criteria and don’t comply with the Voting Rights Act. Nor do we want to have an “expert” working with the Commission who has shown himself less than objective, professional, and truly expert on redistricting’s requirements. In this time of extreme skepticism and worries about voting access and election fairness/integrity, the selection of a firm that has a poor track record in meeting VRA criteria would only alienate and alarm our state’s diverse voters. Please make sure your evaluation of the three mapping firms includes a careful examination of the prior redistricting work these firms have carried out, and please do not accept a firm whose work has been the subject of successful legal challenges based on Voting Rights Act violations and racial bias.</p>
4/20/2021 9:16:06	April 20, 2021	Mapping Consultant Selection	Ted Hiserodt	85020	Self	<p>I wish to log a comment in opposition to the candidacy of Taylor English as the mapping consultant of the IRC. Taylor English Decisions’ CEO, Earl Ehrhart, is the former chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). ALEC is a right-wing organization that writes model legislation for conservative causes. Much of their agenda has found it’s way to the Arizona State Legislature in the form of bills. The IRC is designed to be an independent, non-partisan commission. If the IRC is to hope to remain unbiased, then it cannot be influenced by ALEC and it’s proxies. Therefore, Taylor English must be eliminated from consideration.</p>

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4/20/2021 9:18:07	April 20, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on options for mapping consultant:	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	<p>Today, the interviews for the Mapping Commission will take place in Executive Session. This is unfortunate, though currently required. Nonetheless, it is my hope that the Commission will make its decision based on the experience of the applicants, and on their demonstrated ability to fulfill the requirements for the position. These criteria might sound obvious, and yet apparently two of the three applicants do not satisfy them.</p> <p>In the case of Taylor English, as far as I can tell, they have no experience in mapping for redistricting. They have worked on redistricting litigation, but that is not the same thing. This should disqualify them.</p> <p>While the Timmons Group also lacks the relevant experience, they have partnered with the National Demographics Corporation (NDC), who has worked in this area; in fact, I believe that they worked on maps for the 2001 redistricting commission. So it would appear that they pass the "experience test." However, I do have concerns over their reliability to produce the results that are required. For instance, the Republican Advisory Commission chair for Yuma County has noted that they did not meet deadlines for the county redistricting, not delivering as the contract required. When Doug Johnson of NDC served as an expert witness in several North Carolina redistricting cases, the courts rejected his analysis in each of them.</p> <p>The third group, HaystaqDNA, appears to be qualified according to both criteria: they are experienced in the specific task, and they produced maps that have withstood court challenges. I understand that at least two of the current Commissioners may have qualms about using them, since they were the mapping consultants for the 2011 IRC. But the other applicants do not satisfy the rather obvious criteria that I have described. I also think that it is important that the Commission not reject out of hand resources just because they were used in 2011 – whatever any Commissioner thinks of the specific district boundaries from that year's work, they survived numerous court actions, and were competent.</p> <p>In summary, please make your hiring decision based on experience and reliability, and suspend any partisan criteria that you might have. You are the INDEPENDENT Redistricting Commission. Please make your choices with this in mind.</p>
4/20/2021 9:19:20	April 20, 2021	mapping consultant	kathleen dubbs	85745	self	<p>Since there is less time to complete the commission's report this year, I believe it is important to choose a mapping consultant with a great deal of experience.</p>
4/20/2021 9:19:51	April 20, 2021	Mapping Consultant Selection	Ted Hiserodt	85020	Self	<p>I wish to log a comment opposing the candidacy of the National Demographics Corporation for the IRC's next mapping consultant. In a previous redistricting effort in Yuma County, the National Demographics Corporation failed to meet deadlines and provide maps on a timely basis. As we know, the census data is being released quite late this year and time will be of the essence. Additionally, the President of the National Demographics Corporation was found to have fabricated data in his court testimony for a North Carolina gerrymandering lawsuit. Our next mapping consultant must be trustworthy and reliable. Please oppose the National Demographics Corporation.</p>
4/20/2021 9:22:51	April 20, 2021	Mapping Consultant Hire	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	<p>Experience matters and two of the firms being considered by the Commission for mapping consultant do not seem to measure up. In fact, one of them—NDC/Timmons Group, in collaboration with National Demographics Corporation—has failed to deliver viable maps more than once.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In 2002, the firm failed to meet criteria set forth under the Voting Rights Act •In 2004 the firm's map was declared unconstitutional •In 2018, the firm's redistricting plan for North Carolina was declared unlawful because it denied Latinos the ability to elect candidates of their choice <p>Taylor English Decisions does not have redistricting experience. Also problematic is the CEO's long-term connections to a deeply partisan bill factory that has drafted many controversial, hyper conservative, anti-democratic bills that are making their way through legislatures around the country.</p> <p>Given the very tight timeframe between the release of legacy data in August and the projected deadline, please prioritize a firm with the appropriate experience and one that is likely to respect the mandated criteria.</p>
4/20/2021 9:23:42	April 20, 2021	public information officer	kathleen dubbs	85745	self	<p>Considering the ethnic population of Arizona, I hope when you consider applicants for the position of public information officer that you choose someone who speaks Spanish.</p>

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4/20/2021 9:25:26	April 20, 2021	Public comment on hiring a mapping firm	Leslie Hunten	85716	Myself	Dear Commissioners, I appreciate the effort you all are making to keep this redistricting process transparent and fair. As you debate hiring a mapping firm, I ask that you eliminate any connection to Doug Johnson and NDC/Timmons group. This firm has been convicted of partisan gerrymandering. For example, the case of Luna vs. Kern County 2018 showed that they drew maps that suppressed the Hispanic vote in California. Here in Arizona we have a huge Hispanic population, as well as other minority groups. The whole point of this redistricting project is to make sure that our elections are fair and our districts are evenly drawn for true representation. Please look critically at the candidates, and avoid any possibility of discrimination. Arizona has been a model for the rest of the country in our redistricting process, and everyone is watching what is happening here now. Thank you for your work on this incredibly important issue.
4/20/2021 9:39:12	April 20, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on options for mapping consultant	Virginia Dotson	85902	Self	Please select a mapping consultant who will be fair, competent, and able to produce balanced bipartisan maps. In the 2001 redistricting, NDC/Doug Johnson (now allied with the Timmons Group) failed to include competitiveness information when he provided data to the IRC. As a result, the IRC drew up its maps without considering this important factor or even asking for public comment on the importance of competitiveness in creating new districts. Very late in the process, in an opinion dated 1/16/2004, a judge from the Superior Court of Arizona - Maricopa County issued a finding that the maps were illegal and had to be reconstructed. I think we would all agree that this is an outcome we should try to avoid. Thank you.
4/20/2021 9:44:43	April 20, 2021	Legal Representation & V. 3. Mapping Consultants	Joan McDermott	86403	MCDCC	REDISTRICTING RESPONSE: 4-20-21 between 0930 & 1200 Doug Johnson and his organization have a track record in CA, TX, N.Carolina, and AZ that hardly demonstrates the kind of independent unprejudicial work necessary to fairly redraw the AZ. He completed work in N.C. before the legislature had drawn up rules and used racial data to do that – and actually admitted in court that he had presented false information. His organization has been successfully challenged fairly consistently there and in other states. His history across the nation should have disqualified him from consideration. Timmons Group has a history of drawing gerrymandered maps, confirmed by the courts. Why would the Commission even consider hiring that organization to perform the mapping tasks in 2021?!? All of this is even more crucial since the Supreme Court ruling a few years ago that will not allow politically based lawsuits in federal courts! Never mind the fact that the census results are incredibly delayed, allowing very little time to challenge prejudicial mapping before the midterms.
4/20/2021 9:49:45	April 20, 2021	V	James Durand	85396	myself	Thank you very much for your work on this commission. I believe this committee is essential to ensuring the fairness of our election process. I realize that the committee is required by law to go into executive session to hear presentations of possible Mapping Consultants. However, I am concerned that the public cannot observe those presentations so that it can understand the basis for any decisions made. It gives the impression of a lack of transparency.
4/20/2021 10:04:22	April 20, 2021	V	Phyllis Smith	85331	self	The mapping firm Taylor English Decisions LLC is extremely partisan and should be disqualified from consideration. This firm does not present as one that would provide fair and equitable maps.
4/20/2021 10:06:39	April 20, 2021	V.	Dr. Karyn Riedell	86001	myself	I hope that you will reject NDC/Timmons Group from consideration. In 2018, a US District Court Judge ruled that Doug Johnson's redistricting denied Latinos the ability to elect candidates of their choice and violated the federal Voting Rights Act.
4/20/2021 10:07:58	April 20, 2021	choice of mapping consultant	Barbara Tellman	85705	self	Please follow the standard you have already set in choosing legal firm, by selecting the mapping consultant with the most experience in successfully developing maps that passed court muster. Experience with Arizona would also be a plus.
4/20/2021 10:18:23	April 20, 2021	V	Phyllis Smith	85331	self	The firm Timmons Group is associated with National Demographic Corporation (NDC). NDC has a record in Arizona having been the mapping consultant for the IRC in 2001. Since this firm had maps thrown out because they did not meet preclearance requirements and another that was unconstitutional this firm should not be considered as the mapping consultant.

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4/20/2021 10:18:26	April 20, 2021	5	Janell Hunt	85143	Myself as an Arizona citizen	Commissioners: Today is one of the most important days you will have as you serve as our IRC, and I send best wishes to you as you deliberate on hiring the mappers. In reviewing the work history of the three firms who replied to your RFP, I see some problems with two of the groups. NDC/Timmons has had some major Court challenges. Taylor English is inexperienced. Since Haystaq DNA's team has members who have been successful here in Arizona, and elsewhere, my recommendation is to go with them. I do not know the extent to which your interviews of the firms will influence your decision, but I trust you will also review our public comments; we sincerely want you to produce a good plan for our state. Thank you for your consideration, Janell Hunt, San Tan Valley, AZ
4/20/2021 10:24:21	April 20, 2021	Mapping consultant	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	The Arizona Constitution states that the IRC should take into account 6 factors in consideration when redrawing congressional and legislative districts to insure one-person/one-vote. In 2001 DNC(now Timmons), as IRC mapping consultant, first approved failed to take in account the Voting rights Act(2002) and a second approved map failed to take into account other factors(2004). Both were thrown out by courts. It is imperative that the IRC not select a mapping firm that has a history of submitting maps that are not in compliance with the Arizona Constitution. To do so would diminish the credibility of the current IRC.
4/20/2021 10:30:07	April 20, 2021	Public Comments	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Thank you for providing the "contact us" link on the IRC website. Will comments submitted through this link be made public, as are the public comments that are submitted during Commission meetings? Even better, can all the submitted comments be available in a searchable database on the website?
4/20/2021 10:38:32	April 20, 2021	Executive Sessions	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Thank you, Chairwoman Neuberg for trying to explain why the Commission is going into executive session. Unfortunately, the nuances of SPO's process still elude some of us.
4/20/2021 10:43:03	April 20, 2021	website improvements	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	The links for watching Commission meetings and submitting public comments should not change every week. There should be direct links from the website.
4/20/2021 10:47:15	April 20, 2021	Mapping Hire	Barbara Hutchinson	85718	Selt	Given the poor track record of the NDC and Doug Johnson in previous redistricting plans, it seems unlikely that this company could give Arizona the accurate and fair maps our citizens expect. We need a mapping consultant we can trust, especially for decisions that will be with us for the next decade.
4/20/2021 10:50:37	April 20, 2021	Mapping consultant	Jay Simpson	85016	Myself	In selecting a mapping consultant the IRC must avoid those with a history of hyperpartison maps and court cases that overturn maps. The Timmons Group proposal that partners with National Demographics Corp goes down this path and should be rejected by the IRC. NDC's failed maps proposed by the 2001 IRC should be enough to disqualify them this cycle.
4/20/2021 10:52:15	April 20, 2021	General Comments	Mark N. Ashley	85260	Myself, my vote.	Greetings from Scottsdale. Here are my comments and a question: 1) Item 1--This meeting schedule does not permit the working public to easily comment on the commission's efforts. Constituent request...yes, I am your constituent even though you are appointed. The commission needs to hold is regular meetings at a different time. 2) Item 2--I am naive but I believe the Commission should not strive this time to create as many 50-50 or approaching same districts that they can re-draw as possible. After my return from college and the military, I have spent basically all of my adult voting life in districts for various positions where my vote did not matter... along with everyone who might have voted that way based on registration. That is disheartening and Arizonans deserve better. 3) Request...is there an app that the Commission can share so us amateur redistricting folks can play along at home? I am sure the Commission could benefit from hundreds, possibly thousands of sample maps.

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4/20/2021 10:58:44	April 20, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on options for mapping consultant	Paulette Zinzun	85012	Arizona Advocacy Network	<p>Dear Independent Redistricting Commission,</p> <p>On behalf of the Arizona Advocacy Network, we want to express strong concerns about Timmons Group, National Demographics Corporation, and Taylor English Decisions as potential mapping consultants for the IRC, especially regarding the harm that may fall upon communities of color if these firms are entrusted with working on the statewide redistricting process.</p> <p>Timmons Group and National Demographics Corporation have previously failed to deliver on contracts in our state, specifically in Yuma County. The Commission shouldn't rely on a mapping consultant who already has a bad history in Arizona. Douglas Johnson of the National Demographics Corporation especially has a questionable track record with previous maps being rejected by courts, resulting in the need for new maps. Additionally, Taylor English Decisions does not have statewide or redistricting-specific experience. It has no proven record of taking on the challenges of drafting maps for this crucial process.</p> <p>We oppose the hiring of Timmons Group, National Demographics Corporation, and Taylor English Decisions and instead want to see a mapping consultant that is determined in promoting solutions to ensure fair redistricting. It is our priority to ensure that this process is guided by transparency, bipartisanship, and public input so that the maps reflect the will of voters and fairly represent communities of color across Arizona.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.</p> <p>Arizona Advocacy Network</p>
4/20/2021 11:00:09	April 20, 2021	Vii, viii	Maria Elena Dunn	86303		<p>Fail to understand the need to conduct these hires reviews under ES. More transparency was used when selecting commissioners and ED. Trust a full report will be made public after group comes out of this ES.</p>
4/20/2021 11:00:50	April 20, 2021	V. Mapping Consultant	Phyllis Schiller	86001	self	<p>Mr. Crumly is a founding Principal of Taylor English Decisions, LLC, the firm's government affairs affiliate. While the firm proports to advocate for diversity and social justice, Mr. Crumly argued and lost a motion presented in Georgia state court regarding the Trump campaign's unsupported claim that 53 ballots arrived late at a polling place in the Savannah area.</p> <p>In the past, Crumly frequently retweeted the Alliance Defending Freedom, a self-styled religious liberty organization that has been designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as an anti-LGBTQ hate group. Such a prominent leader of this organization is NOT an advocate of social justice nor respectful of diversity. Taylor English would be a biased, strong right leaning mapping firm and not appropriate for Arizona's independent redistricting.</p>
4/20/2021 11:03:21	April 20, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on options for mapping consultant	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>This is the first of four posts on this topic.</p> <p>I'm concerned about how the choice of a mapping consultant will impact the public perception of your work output. The public wants a redistricting map that has been drawn independent of political influence (that's why they set up an Independent Redistricting Commission in the first place). That's the only way they will consider them to be fair. Given the highly charged partisan atmosphere surrounding the Commission's processes, it will be important to choose a mapping consultant that will create the kinds of maps the public expects. Ideally, such a consultant would be non-partisan with significant experience in redistricting and related laws as well as an understanding of the many communities that make up the people who live and work in the state.</p> <p>With that in mind, I did some checking into the three companies that are under consideration. I'm alarmed by what I found. Unfortunately other more qualified and less controversial consultants did not step forward, but it means the Commission is in the position of selecting the least objectionable provider.</p> <p>In three additional posts, I will provide my notes and comments on what I found about these firms – and what reporters and the public will find out as well.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>

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4/20/2021 11:03:55	April 20, 2021	Executive sessions	Deborah Howard	85308	self	<p>On a process note:</p> <p>Consider preparing an executive session agenda - post it and do all of you discussion of executive session items in one session rather than bouncing in and out of public/executive session. Doing so would almost certainly provide a more valuable discussion/ session for AIRC Commisisoners, staff and legal counsel and make the public session far more accessible to the public.</p> <p>This is a common practice and one that the public is mostly familiar with.</p> <p>Reporting out the general discussion - thinking, rationale and decisions is still requested.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
4/20/2021 11:06:04	April 20, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on options for mapping consultant	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>This is the second of four posts on this topic.</p> <p>Timmons Group/National Demographics Corporation</p> <p>This firm has very bad history of creating maps that don't pass muster:</p> <p>* The public in Kings County, CA, weighed in on the work of Doug Johnson and NDC. According to the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara, "The behavior of Johnson and NDC has become so predictable in regards to these voting rights violations that when the City of Alhambra entered a settlement agreement after facing a lawsuit over the creation of districts, that agreement specifically stated 'Parties recognize that the City will require the services of a qualified demographer to assist that process; and that demographer will not be National Demographics Corporation or its principals, officers or employees.' The other public comments against NDC are just as concerning: https://www.countyofkings.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=25894.</p> <p>* NDC was so unfamiliar with the California voting rights laws and the demographics of West Contra Costa County (or possibly just careless of them) that they created a school board district map that left Latino communities under-represented, an error they were unable to defend when challenged in court (https://richmondconfidential.org/2019/03/07/a-final-trustee-area-map-emerges-as-lawsuit-resolves/)</p> <p>* In a North Carolina redistricting case, NDC's data was found to be inadequate and unreliable. The judge wrote "The Court finds Dr. Johnson's analysis unpersuasive and gives his opinions little weight. Dr. Johnson has testified as a live expert witness in four cases previously, and the courts in all four cases have rejected his analysis."</p> <p>* Even here in Yuma County, where I reside, NDC failed to meet deadlines to provide draft maps. "Two Yuma County Redistricting Advisory Commissioners, Republican Phil Townsend (Advisory Commission chair) and Democrat Alicia Aguirre told the Arizona EagleTarian that they are dissatisfied that National Demographics has failed to meet deadlines and provide the draft maps on a timely basis." (https://stevemuratore.blogspot.com/2011/06/redistricting-potential-mapping.html)</p> <p>Given the compressed time frame we will have the census data, the people and the commission cannot afford delays or the potential for maps that are of questionable legality or fairness. This firm should not be selected if the Commission expects the public to be satisfied with the new maps.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>

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4/20/2021 11:07:45	April 20, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on options for mapping consultant	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>This is the third of four posts on this topic.</p> <p>Taylor English Decisions</p> <p>I checked out this firm's website and could find no indication that they're mapping consultants or have had any experience with redistricting at all. They seem almost more of a marketing organization. It seems they were responsible, at least in part, for the hire of a number of Republican operatives that worked to influence the redistricting process in Georgia in 2011 and to gain Federal approval for the legislative plans in that state. Of course the most recent elections there have made the public keenly aware of how grossly biased and skewed to favor Republicans those districts are. The Arizona IRC cannot risk having their consultants behave in a similar way if they want to keep the public's faith in them. The people are hiring mapping consultants, not lobbyists.</p> <p>Perhaps most disturbing, the head of the company, the person who directs its work and mission and view of the world, is CEO Earl Ehrhart. Mr. Ehrhart served for 30 years in the Georgia State House as a Republican. According to his bio, he was also the National Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and served on its board for more than 20 years (https://tedecisions.com/about-us/our-team/earl-ehrhart). Clearly he has a very strong Republican bias. That's not to mention his use of homophobic language (https://www.republicreport.org/2012/former-alec-chairman-homophobic-slur) and his self-proclaimed advocacy for students who are accused of sexual assault (https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/tylerkingkade/meet-the-republican-lawmaker-whos-taken-up-the-cause-of), both of which call into question his fairness and whether a firm he runs is suitable for our purposes. Can we expect this company to produce maps that are unbiased if their work is under the influence and direction of this man? And will the employees and consultants doing that work be more interested in keeping their jobs by making the boss happy or in serving the people of Arizona? The public will find it hard to believe the latter. If the Commission wants to keep their confidence, it would do well not to select this firm.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
4/20/2021 11:09:18	April 20, 2021	V. Discussion and Possible Action on options for mapping consultant	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>This is the fourth of four posts on this topic.</p> <p>Haystaq DNA</p> <p>This firm was used by the 2011 Arizona IRC, so it brings extensive experience with the task at hand and a sensitivity to the communities that will be served by its work. It worked closely with the earlier Commission to deliver maps in a timely manner. Although the firm has done work for the Democrats in the past, it should be noted that the fairness of their work for the IRC held up in all court challenges. The Commission would have the best chance of retaining public confidence in its processes and output by using this firm.</p> <p>I would close by entreating the Commission to select a mapping consultant that will work for the benefit of Arizonans, producing district maps that will allow their voices to be heard in their government, one that will work independent of either of the political parties.</p> <p>Thank you for your careful consideration of this critical member of the team.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
4/20/2021 11:16:19	April 20, 2021	Outside Groups	Brian Templet	85715	Myself	<p>Please be aware of outside consultants who have a history of court rejected or discredited work previously as well as a history of providing clearly gerrymandered district recommendations. These will not be good for the people of Arizona.</p>

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4/20/2021 11:16:54	April 20, 2021	Mapping Consultants	Deborah Howard	85308	self	<p>Redistricting/mapping software is amazing. There are many free, publicly accessible tools that make it easy for individuals and groups to think about their local communities. It would be easy to think redistricting could be reduced to an algorithm - and all that is needed is good software. That would be a gross mistake.</p> <p>Mapping is what puts the people in the districts and that has to be done by people - and best done by people who have experience in statewide redistricting processes and working with an independent commission.</p> <p>YOU, the commissioners will be making the decisions of the specific district boundaries. That process and the final product will be greatly enhanced if you have a team at your side that isn't doing this for the first time.</p> <p>Chairwoman Neuberger just spoke of the fast pace and crescendo of work that you are going to face in coming months. Only one firm, HaystaqDNA, is prepared and experienced to make that work less cumbersome.</p> <p>Please do not be misled that because of their engagement with the 2011 commission is disqualifying. Indeed of all hires - this experience should be highly valued.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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4/20/2021 11:36:09	April 20, 2021	Taylor English Decisions	Angela Hughey	85013	ONE Community	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Taylor English Decisions does not have state-wide or redistricting-specific experience. It has no proven record of taking on the challenges of drafting maps for this crucial process.</p> <p>The CEO of Taylor English has a history of using homophobic language and has previously defended students accused of rape. This is unacceptable and should disqualify Taylor English from being hired.</p> <p>Sources: Timmons Group/NDC California School District: https://richmondconfidential.org/2019/03/07/a-final-trustee-area-map-emerges-as-lawsuit-resolves/ https://www.countyofkings.com/home/showpublisheddocument?id=25778</p> <p>Failure to deliver on AZ contract in Yuma: https://stevemuratore.blogspot.com/2011/06/redistricting-potential-mapping.html</p> <p>Taylor English Taylor English CEO defending students accused of rape: https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/tylerkingkade/meet-the-republican-lawmaker-whos-taken-up-the-cause-of</p> <p>Taylor English CEO using homophobic slur: https://www.republicreport.org/2012/former-alec-chairman-homophobic-slur/</p>
4/20/2021 11:47:38	April 20, 2021	Taylor English Decisions	Janine Gelsing	85018	Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona	Taylor English Decisions CEO has made homophobic remarks publically, tried to pass laws to defend rapists, and fought against anti-discrimination. This firm is not the independent choice for the independent redistricting.
4/20/2021 11:48:38	April 20, 2021	XII. Discussion and Possible Action on Speaking Engagement Requests.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	54
4/20/2021 11:59:08	April 20, 2021	Redistricting	Ashley Van Bodegon	85007		Redistricting is a once-in-a-decade process and is extremely important. Therefore the mapping consultant should have experience specifically with redistricting and at a state-wide level. Taylor English Decisions does not have state-wide or redistricting-specific experience. This firm also employs people who have distributed a clear bias against populations such as the LGBTQ community. This is unacceptable and should disqualify Taylor English from being hired. We need organizations with employees who behave in a professional manner and have everyone's best interest in mind.

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
4/20/2021 12:04:56	April 20, 2021	Selection of Mapping Consultant	Julie Pindzola	86301		<p>Hello, Thanks for the chance to give input to your Mapping Consultant selection. This is a most important decision by the IRC because of the algorithms used by these firms, and their reputations will reflect on you.</p> <p>Taylor English and CEO Earl Ehrhart are greatly concerning. They are a lobbyist firm, not a mapping firm (look at their website). Why would a politically well-connected lawyer head a mapping firm if not to influence the outcome politically? Mr. Ehrhart is a 30 year Georgia state representative and a former Chair of ALEC. That should be enough to immediately disqualify Taylor English. I fear this firm would run the IRC and not the other way around.</p> <p>Timmons/National Demographics Corp NDC shows to be a quite reputable mapping firm with no overt political bias. They served the 2001 AIRC undertaking, which withstood AZ court challenges. However, the drawback seems to be occasional missed deadlines and a history of occasionally not defending well its work in other court challenges.</p> <p>HaystaqDNA is a strong contender, though has clear left leaning bias in its political campaign projects. This strong mapping agency successfully helped defend the 2011 AIRC maps all the way to the Supreme Court. The maps were balanced, fair and competitive. Isn't that what we want for 2021.</p> <p>Bottom line – Please DO NOT SELECT Taylor English; anybody but this firm. Doing so would destroy the balanced and fair bipartisan goals of this Commission. The citizens' trust in the outcome would be compromised at a time when AZ is already suffering from extreme partisanship.</p> <p>Thank you, JMP, Prescott</p>
4/20/2021 12:30:37	April 20, 2021	Arizona Redistricting Map Consultant	Isis Gil	85009	Myself	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
4/20/2021 12:43:37	April 20, 2021	Mapping Consultant	Michael Soto	85015	Equality Arizona	<p>The once-in-a-decade process that is redistricting is vital to the future of our state and to the health of representative democracy in Arizona. As such, the mapping consultant should have experience specifically with redistricting and at a state-wide level, and should not have a history of discriminating against vulnerable populations.</p> <p>Taylor English Decisions does not have state-wide or redistricting-specific experience. It has no proven record of taking on the challenges of drafting maps for this crucial process.</p> <p>Additionally, the CEO of Taylor English has a history of using homophobic language and has previously defended students accused of rape. This is unacceptable and should disqualify Taylor English from being hired.</p>

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						<p>Thank you for your service. My understanding is that there is some discussion over a process called differential privacy that the Census proposes using to keep data secure. By adding noise, this may distort the data at the census block level used for mapping. As outlined by the NCSL (see below) in a summary along with responses to a request for feedback from the Census Bureau, there were several concerns including these 3 that I read as issues re redistricting (1) "Rural areas will see a greater variance from the raw data than urban areas. Specifically, rural areas are likely to show increases in population and urban areas may show decreases in population." (2) "Smaller subpopulations, such as specific racial groups, will be affected more than larger racial or ethnic groups." (3) Household data is separated from population data. The site described unpopulated areas being assigned a population. The Census Bureau is currently seeking input by June. As regards to redistricting, I am worried about the implications for one person - one vote overall, the accurate geographic representation of our Native American tribes on and off the reservation, and the potential for dispersion of racial communities or inaccurate representation of let's say a prison population or an institutional setting.</p> <p>I bring it up today in the hopes that discussing these issues with potential consultants is an important fitness test. I also bring it up because my reading suggests that it would be beneficial for the following:</p> <p>A) Public briefing on how this method might impact Arizona data or an analytical report by future mapping consultants.</p> <p>B) Briefing of commissioners by the State of Arizona as to whether they have or have not chosen to comment on the adoption of differential privacy. Beyond redistricting, there are implications that would impact public health/housing/distribution of shared revenues. So, they may have the legwork on understanding how the data might impact the state.</p> <p>C) Discussion if the Commission should comment to the Census Bureau should be pursued by IRC or the State of Arizona. The Census Bureau is evaluating and refining the process at present and accepting comments.</p> <p>D) Briefing/Educational Matter by Attorneys as to the Census, Redistricting, Federal Law & Basic Briefing on Basics of Census, Census Block Data, and Political Mapping for Constituents whether at a meeting or in a video form for public awareness. If we've learned anything this past year, people are hungry for digestible information on processes. If done well rather than just relying on "trust us", this can be an invaluable means of combatting disinformation.</p>
4/20/2021 12:45:04	April 20, 2021	Item 5 Discussion of Mapping Consultants	M. Anne Larkin	85016	Myself	Resource: https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/differential-privacy-for-census-data-explained.aspx
4/20/2021 13:06:15	April 20, 2021	cartographer hiring	John Franklin	85935	self	NDC is a BAD choice for Arizona. Doug Johnson and NDC is neither competent nor bipartisan judging by their court record. Please hire a competent and fair to all map maker.
						<p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important matter.</p> <p>The mapping consultant will play a critical role in the redistricting process, and it is absolutely vital that they not have a bias against any population. Unfortunately, this is not the case with the CEO of Taylor English Decisions, who has a history of using homophobic language and has even previously defended students accused of rape. This is unacceptable and should disqualify Taylor English from being hired.</p> <p>Considering the importance of the once-in-a-decade process that is redistricting, the mapping consultant should also have experience specifically with redistricting, and at a state-wide level. Again, we see here that Taylor English Decisions is not the right choice. Taylor English Decisions does not have state-wide nor redistricting-specific experience. It has no proven record of taking on the challenges of drafting maps for this crucial process.</p> <p>Residents and voters within Arizona need to know that this process is carried out with integrity. These concerns raise serious questions about the ability of Taylor English Decisions to be trusted to carry out such a crucial process for our state.</p>
4/20/2021 13:06:59	April 20, 2021	Mapping Consultant	Isaac Akapnitis	85015		
4/20/2021 13:44:01	April 20, 2021	XII	Phyllis Smith	85331	self	<p>If I were the Ex Dir, I would already have offered to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make and maintain a speaking engagement list from all requests and make such list publicly viewable and available for all commissioners to access, decide which to attend and choose the appropriate commissioner to speak, 2. Develop and propose a public meeting schedule based of the number and locations from 2011. I would propose the possibility of hybrid meetings at this time using virtual and in-person options.

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4/20/2021 13:55:08	April 20, 2021	redistricting mapping consultant	Monica Surfaro Spigelman	85718	myself, an Arizona citizen and voter!	I've just learned that Timmons Group has as its partner a consultant (National Demographics Corporation) that is involved in several gerrymandering court cases. Why would you allow this? Ethics are critical in this most important venture in our state. Please delete this firm from your list of qualified, ethical vendors to be considered for such an important task.
4/20/2021 14:15:12	April 20, 2021	Mapping consultant	Corraima Samaniega Ochoa	85031	Youth Poder	Taylor English is known for using homophobic slurs as well as siding with men all the time. We need EQUALITY! We need more people who represent equality.
4/20/2021 14:53:11	April 20, 2021	Mapping consultant	Jay Simpson	85016	Myself	In selecting a mapping consultant the IRC must avoid those with a history of hyperpartisan maps and court cases that overturn maps. The Timmons Group proposal that partners with National Demographics Corp goes down this path and should be rejected by the IRC. NDC's failed maps proposed by the 2001 IRC should be enough to disqualify them this cycle.
						<p>Chairwoman Neuberger raised the discussion of the emerging opportunities for the AIRC to present to the public about the process.</p> <p>I have several thoughts I'd like you to consider.</p> <p>First, I think it is important to distinguish between community outreach/education meetings and public hearings where you will seek out communities of interest testimony. These meetings might be back-to-back - but they should be recognized as distinctly different ways for the public to engage. The AIRC may log in (x) community presentations as a metric of its future success. It is the community of interest testimony that will drive your collective judgements when creating district lines. And it is this testimony that will be considered by the courts.</p> <p>Second, I encourage the AIRC to entertain as many requests as possible with a couple of caveats. In my mind these include:</p> <p>A) Commissioners, not staff, should be providing educational/civic presentations.</p> <p>B) The AIRC should develop a uniform template that is delivered consistently and made available publicly.</p> <p>C) All events should be calendared and made open to the public - no private events.</p> <p>D) Personally I think partisan groups - like the 30 LD Dem and Rep groups are a legitimate audience. One role of the AIRC is to set the framework to participate - and that framework should be identical regardless of party - or no party - affiliation. Participation is desired.</p> <p>E) There are many organizations - including the LWV, Common Cause, and others - that have generic resources that could easily be modified to 2021 AZ specifics. Take advantage of these resources. And others that would certainly be available - Princeton Gerrymandering Project jumps to mind.</p> <p>F) Make a video recording of your basic presentation - and post it on your web site for use by community, civic and advocacy organizations. Technology - while not universal - is a great resource.</p> <p>G) Make an effort to be available to the more rural and remote areas of the state - especially in this initial educational stage. My thought is this will benefit the AIRC in the public testimony period when you are traveling hte state and collecting community of interest testimony.</p> <p>I hope these thoughts jump starts your own thinking about how to make this a powerful tool to reach Arizonans and engage them in the redistricting process.</p>
4/20/2021 15:32:10	April 20, 2021	Public Outreach and Presentations	Deborah Howard	85308	Self	Thank you for considering these comments.