

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
6/15/2021 8:05:48	June 15, 2021	Tour	Lynne Hudson	85704	citizen	<p>Thank you all for reaffirming the AZ law passed in 2020 that specifies the times when input from State legislators is to be provided. At last week's meeting Commissioner Learner raised the issue of putting procedures in place to ensure that local/area voters at each stop along your statewide tour are given speaking priority. I believe this is an issue worthy of discussion at a public meeting, and I hope you will put it on your agenda.</p> <p>The purpose of your tour is to get a sense of what matters to voters in different parts of the state. For this reason, it would be inappropriate if the representative views of voters in any region are overpowered by bands of partisans of either political party who might follow you around the state and make sure that their views are heard over and over at each stop.</p> <p>I was not a resident of Arizona until 2015, so I am unaware of what procedures were in place to address this concern in prior cycles. One possible strategy that occurred to me is requiring persons who want to speak to write the town where they vote at the top of the request to speak card that I'm imagining you will ask them to fill out. It would be easy, then, for staff to grant speaking privileges first to locals. In addition, all persons who speak should state their hometown before beginning their remarks. The cards of all speakers could be preserved and serve as a record of who participated. I think this level of documentation and transparency would be useful given the current partisan political climate.</p> <p>Thank you again for your willingness to serve and support representative democracy.</p>
6/15/2021 8:06:54	June 15, 2021	Redistricting boundries	Louis Lagrave	85331		<p>The people of Dove Valley Estates, Dove Valley Ranch, Ventana and others reside in Phoenix, but we are placed in District 1, which centers in Prescott. Our representatives live in the Prescott area and Skull Valley, and represent a district which stretches as far north as I-40. No disrespect to any of those legislators, but none of them have any connection to those of us who are most connected to District 15 through our residence in the Desert View Village of Phoenix. I am a long time member and vice chair of the Desert View Village Planning Committee.</p> <p>The current District 1 placement basically disenfranchises those of us who live in this area, and we would like to be included in the area in which we live, shop, work, and play.</p> <p>I would ask that as you redistrict, you return those of us west of Cave Creek Road, North of Lone Mountain, and south of Carefree Highway back into the revised District 15 geographic area.</p> <p>I am a registered independent who has never voted a straight ticket in my life, so I assure you this is not politically motivated in any way.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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6/15/2021 8:07:44	June 15, 2021	public hearings scheduling	Susan Bickel	85718	self	<p>Good morning Commissioners. Thank you for your dedication to this important work for the people of Arizona.</p> <p>I suggest the following locations for public hearings in Pima County:</p> <p>Pima Community College has 4 excellent campus sites which are located around the major metropolitan area of Tucson. Each site is ADA compliant and is easily accessible by car and public transportation. The college hosts a variety of speakers and events throughout the year and will have access to services such as language translation and interpretation.</p> <p>I suggest that you consider hosting a public hearing at each site. While not as large as Phoenix, Tucson is a sprawling city and driving across town can take the better part of an hour.</p> <p>The greatest part of Pima County is rural. I would suggest that you consider hosting a public hearing in Ajo, Sells and Green Valley or Sahuarita. Each location will have a public venue that should support a public hearing. Please be aware that Ajo and Sells are 1-2 driving hours from Tucson and the Green Valley area can be 1-1.5 driving hours. These diverse locations will provide these Arizona citizens the opportunity to participate.</p> <p>I strongly encourage you to consider scheduling some of these hearings outside of standard business hours. Tucson is a city of hard-working folks who none-the-less have an interest in this process. Offering the people the opportunity to speak to you about their interests during non-working hours is important.</p> <p>I strongly suggest that you consider visible security for each venue. Personally, I do feel intimidated by people carrying guns despite their legal right to do so. Quite frankly, I do not trust these people so I would feel much safer if I knew that local law enforcement was on the scene to assure me and my fellow attendees of our safety and security.</p>
6/15/2021 8:11:49	June 15, 2021	VII	Aris Correa	85194	self	<p>The Independent Redistricting Commission is currently discussing the proposed travel schedule. In the proposed schedule the IRC had only schedule 9 public hearings throughout Arizona. This is woefully low, especially compared with the 23 public hearings the IRC had before grid maps were drawn in 2011. The proposed schedule does not include a public hearing for Pinal County. I am from Pinal County, the fastest growing county in Arizona with half a million persons and the IRC is ignoring us and our communities. This is incredibly disappointing but not surprising, often big city interests ignore rural needs and voices. The IRC should be putting in the work to engage these communities but with the proposed anemic schedule the IRC is clearly failing to do this and is clearly ignoring the Arizona Constitution which states that "District boundaries shall respect communities of interest." I urge the commissioners to rethink their schedule and put more effort to reach out to communities throughout Arizona. Pinal County should be part of Arizona redistricting process. Thank you.</p>
6/15/2021 8:23:29	June 15, 2021	V. Update from the mapping consultant, Timmons/NDC	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Self	<p>Why is it necessary to build your own database for socio-economic data for the state? Why not use the Census Bureau data directly, and only the Census Bureau data? What data is being added that does NOT come from the Census Bureau, and how can the Public and the commissioners assess the suitability, reliability, and accuracy of that data? How can the Public be assured that the data in your database accurately and reliably describes the actual population? How can we be assured that you have not selectively added data that will skew the results in a partisan way? What is your justification for using your data for drawing the maps?</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>

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6/15/2021 8:24:35	June 15, 2021	Pinal County	Anne LaMooureux	85132	Self	Pinal County is the third largest county in AZ. It is unimaginable that The Commission is ignoring input and not holding hearings re rural Arizonans.
6/15/2021 8:37:12	June 15, 2021	VII	Andrea Varela	85122	Self	<p>I was born and raised in Casa Grande, AZ, a small rural town in Pinal County. I truly believe in civic engagement and believe my community should have a seat at the table. In fact, the Commission should want for every community of interest to have a seat at the table. The proposed public hearing schedule currently does not have dedicated dates for Pinal County, All the communities of Arizona should be able to weigh in on redistricting plans and you are not giving us the opportunity to do so.</p> <p>Pinal County is the third largest county in the state with over half a million people yet we're being LEFT OUT!!! We should be included in the redistricting process and be able to have access to provide early public input. You cannot assume that people from rural areas will easily have access to metro areas like Pima and Maricopa Counties.</p> <p>Pinal County had one early public hearing last cycle, we should meet or exceed this. Anything less is unacceptable.</p>
6/15/2021 8:46:47	June 15, 2021	Mapping Team & public meetings	Rita Day	86301	Myself	I appreciate Commissioner Lerner's comment on the concern of "packing" public meetings so that not all of public is able to get into the meeting and add their input. This is a legitimate concern.
6/15/2021 8:53:09	June 15, 2021	V. Update from the mapping consultant, Timmons/NDC	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>Thank you Commissioner Lerner for trying to get the mapping consultants to talk about best practices around the scheduling and logistics for running the public meetings, gathering (and separating out) the substantive information available from people testifying at them, and distilling that information into actionable items for commissioners consideration. Why haven't they provided the commissioners with a document that outlines these best practices - drawn from their experience - and that includes the rationale and pros and cons of each of them? That would help guide the commission's efforts to set up effective meetings that will successfully acquire the kind of information that will be useful to them while filtering out what's not.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
6/15/2021 8:53:35	June 15, 2021	Public meetings	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters of Arizona	<p>The Commissioners have received excellent advice via Public Comments regarding planning for your statewide listening tour. The League of Women Voters of Arizona endorses these suggestions. It is essential that Arizonans everywhere have opportunities to talk about their communities of interest and their need for fair and independent maps. Firm plans and decisions are needed for agendas and meeting rules, accessibility, technology, how to collect and collate data and comments from the meetings, and how to make it public. When, where, and how the meetings will be held must be decided quickly. A compressed meeting schedule seems essential. We already are 6 months into the process. While much has been accomplished, much remains to be done.</p> <p>Is anyone creating and maintaining a time line for tasks to be done and tracking progress? If so, please share with the public.</p>

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6/15/2021 8:54:58	June 15, 2021	Public Meetings	Elaine Downing	86404	Self	<p>I'm very concerned about the public meetings. Here in Mohave County there are people who are so ANTI-Democratic that most people are afraid to put a bumper sticker on their car, or wear any kind of identifying apparel that would ID them as a Democrat. It isn't just that we are a minority - it is the fact that some people have lost all common decency. They are rude, they bully, they threaten, and some would be willing to commit violence! There is a truck in Lake Havasu City that drives around, two flags flying in the back, that says "FxxK BIDEN" on it in LARGE letters- like 3 foot tall letters!!! People are getting killed for asking folks to wear a mask for goodness sakes in other parts of the country- and it would not surprise me to see it happen here. I was yelled at in Walmart in Kingman one day while wearing my mask back in 2020 before the vaccinations were available.</p> <p>Are you going to provide for safety in the parking lot and inside the building? Are you going to have your meetings in a place that is along public transportation lines, that will be after hours for folks that are working. Are you going to give us enough advanced warning of the meeting so that we can make arrangements to have the time to attend. I have read the transcripts from 10 years ago in Mohave County and people were rude then when a Democrat was speaking. Things are so much worse now. I hope you will be prepared for that.</p>
6/15/2021 8:55:42	June 15, 2021	Public Meetings & Schedule	Monica Surfaro Spigelman	85718	self	<p>I am a Pima County Foothills resident who values commitments made by members of the IRC to ethics, transparency and accessibility. As you firm up the summer listening tour and schedule your town hall meetings, I know that careful planning by the commissioners is needed so that all citizens have an opportunity to attend. The public must be safe at the meetings, and all voices must be heard.</p> <p>In your plan I hope you include a strong public awareness campaign, implemented prior to the meetings. I hope there is assurance that meetings are held in ADA-compliant and accessible locations. Although I'm hoping Arizona has a productive monsoon season, I know storm possibilities (as well as ongoing COVID concerns) add additional dimensions to your planning for public safety. The various community college campuses across Arizona have accessible large, safe spaces and may have COVID procedures in place to support the meetings. In Pima County there are several well-located Pima Community College venues to consider when you create the Pima County schedule.</p> <p>On your website, perhaps in your FAQ, it would be helpful if you provided more information about and a definition of "Communities of Interest." The community wants to ponder important questions about how the current district has or has not worked, and thus be best able to contribute to informed discussions at your meetings.</p> <p>Please continue to use various platforms for communication outreach (like Dr. Neuberger's recent online public conversation with the League of Women Voters of Arizona, which was interesting and helpful).</p> <p>Thank you for your service. from Monica Surfaro Spigelman</p>
6/15/2021 8:56:04	June 15, 2021	Suggestion	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>Is it possible for the public to see video tiles for everyone attending the meetings? We used to be able to see everyone on the meeting. It is about 8:50 and the public has not seen Commissioners Watchman or York since the beginning of the meeting. Also, ED Schmitt just appeared for the public for the first time this meeting. Thank you.</p>

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6/15/2021 8:58:19	June 15, 2021	open positions	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	May we get an update on the open IT position?
6/15/2021 9:00:54	June 15, 2021	Mapping	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters of Arizona	There was a lot of discussion of the public mapping tool that will be provided. When will it be available and what training in its use will be provided? Will there be scheduled training? The public cannot use it effectively unless they know how to use it.
6/15/2021 9:02:42	June 15, 2021	V. Update from the mapping consultant, Timmons/NDC	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	Did the mapping consultant leave the meeting after their presentation? Why are they not attending every meeting? Didn't they say during the selection process that they would be attending every meeting? Why would they not have someone at least monitoring the meetings, available if questions come up but mainly to understand what's on the commissioner's minds and how the process is working or not working that they might be able to assist with to get it back on track? The commission and its meetings are what drives their work. IMHO, they should be present.
6/15/2021 9:04:58	June 15, 2021	V. Update from the mapping consultant, Timmons/NDC	Norma Bliven	86301	Self	Timmons Group/NDA is using software from a company called ESRI. Esri software was used during Arizona's 2010 redistricting. Has it been modified/updated/improved? What provision will you make to provide training on ESRI so the public can provide input. This process must start before their upcoming public meetings so citizens can provide adequate feedback. What formats must the maps be in to be acceptable for submittal to the Commission for review.
6/15/2021 9:05:01	June 15, 2021	Exec Directors report	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Thank you Chair Neuberg for acknowledging the matter of acronyms before stating the agency's name. Explaining RFP and RFQ was helpful but even just stating Request for Proposal would be helpful enough. Who/what is ACA? That is what I am asking, just state the full name of the acronyms (except for maybe IT). Thanks again!
6/15/2021 9:09:42	June 15, 2021	Public meetings	Linda Chiles	85051	self	Cochise was missing from E.D.'s list of counties. Will there be a meeting held in that county?
6/15/2021 9:14:49	June 15, 2021	VII	Phyllis Smith	85331	Self	Maricopa County has 60+ % of Arizona's population. Three public meetings will not provide for the potential public involvement. At minimum, provide 2 more meetings for north and south county locations. And think about Gila Bend and Buckeye as a satellite location.
6/15/2021 9:15:11	June 15, 2021	VII. Discussion and possible action on proposed revised travel schedule	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	Regarding your proposed for the Yuma/La Paz counties meetings, please separate those into two meetings. The people living in them have very different concerns. Also, you need another satellite location in Yuma County (perhaps Dateland), and for La Paz County, how can you not have the main meeting or at least a satellite location in Quartzsite? Anything short of this will result in incomplete information from these counties or the mixing of concerns from them that are not shared between them. William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen
6/15/2021 9:19:22	June 15, 2021	VII	Diane McQueen	86327	self	The Public Hearings tentative site schedule presented today is better thought out especially with the Satellite locations. The timeline of mid to late July is much more realistic. Still need to see the agenda, what the expectations are from the public, times, locations, ability for the public to participate. This information should be released at least two weeks before the meeting to allow the public to prepare their thoughts and questions in advance. This will allow these public hearings to run more smoothly.

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6/15/2021 9:23:19	June 15, 2021	Timmons/NDC presentation	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>Good question and answer session with IRCers and Mapping reps, Thanks!</p> <p>The point of the IRC being the one to set weightings to the inputters was helpful. Locals v. lobbyists, out-of-staters, etc. Making sure that well organized masses don't necessarily dominate the process and your decision making. It needs to stay thoughtful and fair.</p> <p>We will look forward to the mapping input and response tools coming live later summer. Will there be a demonstration module up sooner than later so people can get familiar with it? Thanks again.</p>
6/15/2021 9:23:24	June 15, 2021	8	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	<p>Did the mapping consultants prepare a draft slide on redistricting basics that omitted competitiveness as a criteria? Based on Comm Lerner's comments, that's what it sounded like. And if so, What the Hell?</p>
6/15/2021 9:28:26	June 15, 2021	VI	Diane Boman	86303	Diane Boman	<p>When will we see public training on the mapping software?</p>
6/15/2021 9:30:07	June 15, 2021	mapping	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>Follow up question on citizen mapping input: What formats besides the ESRI tools that Timmons/NDA provides can be used for COI and mapping input?</p> <p>Will the Representable software be acceptable for use by the IRC/Consultants? Are there any cautions about using this mapping software as early input?? Thanks</p>
6/15/2021 9:32:25	June 15, 2021	IX. Community Outreach Coordinator and other potential hires	Norma Bliven	86301	Self	<p>The IRC has made a number of highly charged partisan decisions. Going forward how do you plan to "check your partisanship at the door"? Will you take party affiliation into consideration with these new hires?</p> <p>Specific to Chair Neuberg: What do you say to those who have watched you vote with the two republican commissioners on the few controversial votes that have been taken and concluded that you are less independent than partisan. Can you point to examples with the IRC efforts that would demonstrate your independence?</p>
6/15/2021 9:33:59	June 15, 2021	Agenda Item VII & VIII	Joan McDermott	86403	Mohave County Democratic Central Committee & the Local Veteran Community	<p>I appreciate your attention to 'best practices' in anticipation of the Commission's first listening tour. A brief opening presentation defining the structure and parameters of the meeting, which has already been defined in the media announcements, will be helpful – what people can and cannot expect in the way of information and answers to questions. I especially appreciate the comments today regarding guidance to the public: The best ideas, not the number of comments regarding a topic, are what will get serious attention.</p> <p>As I mentioned in a previous comment, widely disseminated announcements of the meetings, sent in well in advance – and then an announcement closer to the date – are vital. For example, in Lake Havasu City, the newspaper has a Best Bets section that will run an announcement for a few weeks, the White Paper is widely read, and the city website is well-run and a popular 'read' for citizens here (and recorded meetings can be viewed at the public's leisure). Some people may want to travel to Kingman to be 'in person' (like me), so they may need time for advance schedule planning.</p> <p>Commissioner Lerner addressed concerns regarding having too many attendees. What a wonderful problem that would be!</p> <p>Where you hold the meetings out here in Mohave County will be so important. I am curious about how you will determine the satellite locations. Having a virtual option for people to access at home, with a way to ask questions and have input, as in a Zoom chat, will be vital, as well.</p>

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6/15/2021 9:34:36	June 15, 2021	4	Janell Hunt	85143	Myself as an AZ Citizen and Voter	Commissioners: Thank you again for paying attention to those of us who are genuinely interested in the work you are doing as the IRC. I was so pleased to hear that these statements are taken seriously, and I was greatly relieved to see that Pinal County has been added to the list of tentative sites the Commission will be visiting to hold public hearings. I also thought the discussion about potential security issues for these meetings is something to consider; there have been intruders looking to disrupt both online and in person meetings in the news, and it is important for you to be aware of any potential for this type of distraction to your work. Please know we are continuing to send best wishes as you do this for our state, and how important a good report is to Arizonans for the future. Thank you. -Janell Hunt, San Tan Valley
6/15/2021 9:36:04	June 15, 2021	X	Jana Granillo	85282	Self	References are all financial. Consider favoring one political party vs criteria.
6/15/2021 9:36:16	June 15, 2021	Agenda item IX	Diane McQueen	86327	self	It is essential that the Community Outreach Coordinator be hired with enough time to actually do some useful community outreach before the first public hearing. I hope the person hired has ample experience in this area and experience with reaching out to rural areas, culturally diverse population, racially diverse populations, tribal populations, etc. And that the commission hire someone who actually knows the state layout and where rural cities and towns are. For instance "where is Alpine located?" "Where is Sacaton located?" It would be bad to hire someone who has no knowledge about the physical layout of our state and where cities and towns are located.
6/15/2021 9:38:13	June 15, 2021	public meetings	Linda Chiles	85051	self	I believe that Yuma County and La Paz County should have their own meetings. I don't feel that their interests and needs are the same. Even though I don't live in either county, I have friends in both counties and will suggest to them that they submit their comments regarding the efficacy and/or necessity of having a separate meeting for each county. I hope that the Commission will receive feedback from those 2 counties regarding this issue.
6/15/2021 9:40:44	June 15, 2021	Agenda Item VII	Nicholas Medel	85122	Self	I'm frustrated that the current tentative schedule of public hearings does not include a hearing in Pinal County. All communities in the state should have an opportunity to weigh in on the commission's redistricting plans. Pinal County, being one of the largest counties in the state, deserves to have a voice. Our county must be included in the redistricting process and we must have access to provide early public input. Not doing this would leave over half a million people out of early stages of the redistricting process. Our community members deserve a voice.

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6/15/2021 9:41:10	June 15, 2021	Public meetings	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	I have lived and worked outside of Willcox Az for over 20 years. In this time I have noticed that eastern Cochise County has been typically ignored as in the current proposed travel schedule. This area includes the Sulphur Springs Valley. The area includes Willcox, Bowie, San Simon, Elfrida, Sunsites, Cochise and other small towns; numerous ranches; vineyards; farming & dairies; and several national monuments. Our area is interconnected by ground water problems, shopping, transportation issues, economics (ranching, agriculture, tourism). I suggest that a public meeting be held somewhere in eastern Cochise County. It is spread out over a large geographic area so the meeting time needs to accommodate travel time and driving at night in a rural area. In addition notice for the meeting need to be tailored to the needs of small towns: at least two weeks (or longer) notice; and posted at local city and county building, post offices and libraries. Also public advertising on local or regional radio stations and newspapers would help.
6/15/2021 9:41:35	June 15, 2021	transcripts	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	I live in Phx and have a high quality broadband connection, but I often cannot hear or understand what is being said or by whom. The transcript is necessary for many members of the public who can't otherwise figure out what has happened.
6/15/2021 9:44:05	June 15, 2021	VII: Proposed Travel Schedule	Jeanna Tendall	86305	Myself	Is it the intent of the Commission to make the field visits to the counties in the order in which they are listed in the graphic that was presented at today's meeting? Also, will the Commission delay the visits to the counties until all staff members are on board? It would seem that all personnel resources should be on board before the field visits commence so all commissioners and counties are afforded the same level of resource/staff access throughout the field visit process. Thank you in advance for your responses.
6/15/2021 9:46:21	June 15, 2021	Transcripts	Diane McQueen	86327	self	Regarding the posting of transcripts: While it is nice that to have the videos posted the commission still needs to realize that not every has access to internet bandwidth that would allow for them to download the videos. We still need the transcripts for those of us in rural areas. Downloading these large videos is too expensive for people who have to pay for expensive internet bandwidth. And there is a delay in submitting a request for public records.
6/15/2021 9:46:31	June 15, 2021	transcripts	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	if the transcripts are available through a public record request, what is the IRC accomplishing by not simply publishing them? Just creates an additional hurdle for the public to find out what is going on.
6/15/2021 9:48:11	June 15, 2021	X. Discussion and possible action on legal counsel briefing. - Transcripts	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	Your attempt to avoid posting the written transcript of the IRC meeting is understandable. But please make sure that you're not making it more difficult for people who are deaf to be able to get a complete picture of how a particular agenda item was discussed by the commission. If there are a sufficient number of timestamps in the meeting minutes AND the video contains closed-captioning that's available on replay, then it would make sense to adopt the proposal to not publish a full verbatim transcript. However, if either of those criteria are not met, then you would be making it hard if not nearly impossible for deaf people to follow your meetings. William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen



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6/15/2021 9:54:42	June 15, 2021	11	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	I would like to hear this stock presentation and I am sure that others would like to comment as well.
6/15/2021 9:55:41	June 15, 2021	stock presentation	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	The viewing public would very much like to see your stock presentation at a regular meeting. Even as it is being refined. thanks