

IRC 6.8.21 Public Meeting Comments						
Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
6/8/2021 8:05:38	June 8, 2021	public hearings	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	I gratefully appreciate you conducting a listening tour, but I have some concerns about starting in Coconino County. Coconino County is the second largest county in the United States. Depending on where you hold the public hearing, residents here might be driving for a couple of hours to attend. Grand Canyon Village, Supai, Williams, Flagstaff, Winslow, Page, Tuba City, and part of Sedona are all in Coconino County. How will you notify these different communities? Newspaper and radio ads? Social media? Notifications to the tribal and county governments, town councils and city councils? Some of these areas do not have consistent internet services. Will you be mailing notices? Can you effectively notify all these communities in less than two weeks? Assuming you want to hear about Communities of Interest, will your notifications give a definition of COI and explain the mission of the IRC?
6/8/2021 8:10:18	June 8, 2021	Partisan Input	Hope Busto-Keyes	85743	Self	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>The independence of the IRC and the avoidance of unnecessary partisan influence are of utmost importance to upholding the public's confidence in the fairness of the final outcome of redistricting.</p> <p>As I understand, Proposition 106 indicates that the AZ legislature will have equal opportunity, within a designated 30-day period, to make recommendations to the IRC after draft maps are published. I believe this time period provides adequate opportunity for permissible partisan input. Partisan recommendations and comments given BEFORE draft maps are drawn is the definition of partisan influence on map-drawing.</p> <p>Please uphold the public's confidence in the fairness of the final outcome of redistricting.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
6/8/2021 8:12:25	June 8, 2021	Public Hearings	Debbie Logan	85614	Myself	My concern is the commission will not have many public meetings in sites all over the state. Specifically the rural and tribal areas, not just the major metropolitan areas of Phoenix and Tucson. All voices need to be heard with the opportunity to speak. Additionally our state constitution specifies the legislature can provide input AFTER the draft maps are completed NOT BEFORE.
6/8/2021 8:13:02	June 8, 2021	G.1.	Lauren Bernally	86511	Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission	Item G.1. NNHRC would like to assist with establishing a town hall mtg in Window Rock,AZ for either the June 22 or 24th proposed meetings.
6/8/2021 8:15:14	June 8, 2021	transcripts	Laura Sampson	85224	self	Transcripts of meetings should absolutely be posted and available to the public.
6/8/2021 8:15:18	June 8, 2021	ED Report	M. E. Dunn	86303	myself	Have the Commissioners been given a copy of the proposed IRC budget? Vice Chair Watchman asked for it THREE weeks ago. Are the commissioners getting documents/materials between public meetings which we are not seeing and are not being posted? Also, we have asked that BS present his reports in writing and share a screen with these and nothing is happening. And, he is giving answers to Commissioner Lerner with very vague replies and dates. The members have to demand that he get a better handle on the time frame of tasks since time is running away and every time his answer is that he will deliver or the task will be completed in a week or two....maybe! THANK you Commissioner Lerner for pushing for answers.

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6/8/2021 8:15:41	June 8, 2021	VI	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	on the May 25th meeting the chair proposed to invite the legislative leaders to the address the commission. I join Commission Watchman, Lerner and Mehl in disagreeing with the Chair's proposal. I do not see a benefit of having legislators who are involved with voter suppression bills having a say before maps are drawn. This is an INDEPENDENT commission and this sends the wrong message to the voters of Arizona. AS a reminder the IRC was created to remove politicians form the redistricting process.
6/8/2021 8:19:05	June 8, 2021	transcripts	linda Chiles	85051	self	I'm not sure I understand the resistance to having a written transcript of the meetings posted on the website. The concerns regarding additional cost I can understand but the accuracy should not be an issue or questionable. However, I'm not sure the cost would be substantial inasmuch as the work would have been completed and it would only be a matter of transferring that to the website. I would think that there is a written transcript of each meeting so why not go ahead and put that transcript online so that the public can read it instead of having to watch the meeting on youtube.
6/8/2021 8:20:01	June 8, 2021	Meeting venues	Larry Romo	85929	self	Public hearings should be scheduled outside of standard working hours, with the meetings scheduled with enough advance notice to allow for the arrangement of child care, transportation, work shift coverage, etc. The hearing schedule should also be geographically diverse, providing opportunity to participate to Arizonans living outside of the major metropolitan areas.
6/8/2021 8:22:15	June 8, 2021	Commissioner Lerner's recommendation to post transcripts of meetings	Rita Day	86301	Myself, AZ resident	I highly recommend that transcripts be posted, in addition to video of meetings. It is very cumbersome to review the videos of meetings, especially when there are numerous executive sessions with nothing happening on the video. Even if it's necessary to add a disclaimer, it would be helpful to have a written summary of the meeting for the public to review.
6/8/2021 8:23:52	June 8, 2021	V	Diane Boman	86303	Diane Boman	When will training be provided to the public for ESRI? The public must have ample time to learn the software before commenting on the maps.
6/8/2021 8:23:57	June 8, 2021	Ex Dir report	David Dunn	86303	myself	From the listening tour discussion taking place right now, it is apparent that these dates were set without the input of other commissioners and perhaps only in conversations with the Chair. At last night's LWV presentation she and Ex Dir said to ignore these, so why were they set and published? And, from the list it appears that the Ex Dir did not consult paperwork or individuals involved in this part of the process last time so as not to reinvent the wheel. BRAVO, Commissioner Lerner for bringing logic, reason and programmatic organization to this process. It is shameful that this was not the way this was presented to the commissioners by the Ex Dir as it well should have been. "Buying" him a Deputy is not the answer.
6/8/2021 8:25:52	June 8, 2021	V	Andrea Varela	85122	Self	I am not in favor of the tentative proposed travel schedule for early public hearings that the IRC has released. I am from a small rural town, Casa Grande, here in Pinal County. It is very surprising that there are no hearings currently scheduled for Cochise, Gila, Greenlee, Pinal, La Paz, or Santa Cruz. We matter and our voice matters yet it seems you don't want to hear rural voices and learn about underrepresented communities of interest. I encourage the Commission to build on the previous cycle's work and AT A MINIMUM host public hearings in every county to ensure Arizonans across the state have an opportunity to address the Commission.

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6/8/2021 8:26:10	June 8, 2021	public hearings	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>Here are some suggestions for public hearings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Start the meeting with a presentation of the IRC and the redistricting process in Arizona. •Determine how much time each presenter will be given and enforce that time limit. •Require each presenter to register. Require home zip code and presentation topic. Assign someone the task of organizing the order of presenters. Please allow those who have traveled the farthest to speak first. Please ensure that no one side prevents others from speaking. •Consider allowing a group to speak for longer than an individual. The whole group should stand when their spokesperson is speaking. Those individuals would not also be allowed to speak as individuals. •Run the meeting in an organized and respectful manner. •Start the meeting during normal business hours but extend it beyond 5:00 pm. •Provide high quality sound equipment. •Ensure reliable internet access. •Live stream the hearings and record them for future viewing. •Select venues that are ADA compliant. •Follow COVID-19 protocols. •Do not allow weapons. •Hire local security personnel trained in de-escalation techniques. Security personnel should be stationed inside and outside. •Be prepared for press. Be prepared for cameras.
6/8/2021 8:27:40	June 8, 2021	Executive D report	Maria-Elena Dunn	86303		<p>These are LISTENING TOURS, Chair. You are there to listen to the communities as to how they want to see the process go. This is the FIRST round so the fact that data is late is NOT relevant. The second round will allow the public to opine on the maps but this one is always seen as a PRECURSOR to the creation of the maps. And, the VALUE OF CONDENSING the schedule is the fact you get it done faster and more efficiently since, in the Chair's words, there is some urgency....</p>

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6/8/2021 8:29:33	June 8, 2021	Listening Tour schedule	Diane McQueen	86327	self	I am in total agreement with Commissioners Watchman and Lerner. Schedule the meetings in Northern Arizona once you know the public facilities are open. Brian Schmidt should have checked into this first. He obviously is not very aware of how rural Arizona works. Be considerate of how far those of us in rural areas have to travel. Start the meetings in Maricopa and Pima counties to work out the bugs. A very smart suggestion on Lerner's part and I totally agree. The public should know ahead of time what our opportunities for comment is and what the commissioners will expect to hear and what can we expect to hear from the commissioners. And I agree with condensing the schedule. The first round of tours should not take 2 1/2 months.
6/8/2021 8:29:43	June 8, 2021	Redistricting	Holly Hanson	85929	Myself	I am recovering from a serious illness and I'm unable to travel a long distance. Living in a rural area I would appreciate having the hearings near my town, not just in one of the large Arizona cities. Also, I would like to have the hearings take place in a venue where everyone would be able to hear; for many of us over 70, our hearing is not as acute as it used to be.
6/8/2021 8:30:09	June 8, 2021	VI. Discussion and Possible Action regarding invitation to Legislative Leaders to present on Constitutional criteria and role of Legislature report.	Norma Bliven	86301	Self	We do not want to give a special platform, before maps are drawn, to politicians who have passed legislation that creates barriers to voting. The IRC, an INDEPENDENT COMMISSION, risks sending the wrong message to underrepresented voters and communities of color. The IRC was created to remove politicians from the redistricting process. Because caucus leaders have direct stakes in the outcome of the maps, giving them a formal platform to provide opinion, guidance or recommendations is counter to the spirit and intent of the IRC.
6/8/2021 8:30:37	June 8, 2021	Public meetings	Rita Day	86301	Myself, AZ resident	I agree with Commissioner Lerner's comment that the public meetings need to have parameters set and guidelines of how the meetings should be held & what the public should expect.
6/8/2021 8:31:24	June 8, 2021	V	Diane Boman	86303	Diane Boman	I am so disappointed in the preparedness of Brian Schmidt. To make up a calendar without the input of the commissioners is living in a silo. These are basic project management skills. His explanation about this position in the LWV meeting last night was uninformative and lacked relevant content. This position requires detailed responses to budget questions and the hiring process. Neither of these items have been updated in the weekly meeting with any depth or preciseness. This person could be a great help to the commission but sadly Mr. Schmidt is not up to the position.

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6/8/2021 8:33:07	June 8, 2021	G. Travel Schedule update	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Self	<p>The task of planning the scheduling of public meetings would be made much easier and more efficiently if you start by creating a document that lays out the strategic and tactical approaches you will take.</p> <p>You should state clearly what the purpose of these meetings are, what you expect to accomplish by holding them. In addition, you should document exactly what you plan to do with what you hear and why that's important to the redistricting process.</p> <p>Those statements will set the tone for your meetings, help the public understand what to expect and how to prepare for them, and guide you in determining what meetings to hold and where and when they should be held as well as how you can structure those meetings in order to optimize the harvesting of the information you hope to acquire.</p> <p>In business, you always start by establishing foundation documents that guide all your future activities. That's a best practice that will work well for the commission's work too.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
6/8/2021 8:33:58	June 8, 2021	Travel schedule	Maria Lynam	86301	Self	<p>I cannot believe that the ED came before the commission with NO plan for COI outreach meetings. Who is going to put together a framework for the meetings?</p>
6/8/2021 8:34:28	June 8, 2021	Public Hearings Tentative Calendar	Janell Hunt	85143	Myself as an AZ citizen and voter	<p>Commissioners: I am glad to see discussion of public hearings today, and hope you will continue to to form up your schedules so people can plan to attend and bring concerns to your attention regarding the Redistricting Plan.</p> <p>While this was a first draft of potential calendar dates, I was really quite alarmed to not see my county included. If you have not received an invitation to come here to Pinal County, I am extending one at this time. I will be watching for Pinal's addition to your plans.</p> <p>We do want you to come and see our rapidly growing and beautiful communities, and hear our citizens talk about the communities of interest and other interests of the IRC, and sooner rather than later.</p> <p>Thank you again for the work you have been doing, and best wishes as you continue toward a successful mapping plan for our next decade here in Arizona.</p> <p>Janell Hunt, San Tan Valley</p>

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6/8/2021 8:35:06	June 8, 2021	Choosing venues for hearings	Sheryl Eaton	85929	self	<p>I hope that the Commission, when choosing venues for hearings where the citizens can voice their opinions, will consider spreading the hearings all over the state so as many people as possible have access. In 2011, a hearing (or two?) was held at Hon-Dah on the White Mountain Apache Reservation near McNary. That allowed easy access to White Mountain Apaches and the people of Pinetop-Lakeside and Show Low and beyond. The meeting was in the evening after most people were off work. We who attended felt like the Commissioners listened to us and took our ideas into account.</p> <p>That Commission worked VERY hard to make the maps fair and balanced and compliant with the laws. The result was maps that were acceptable to almost everyone--not wildly hated nor loved by anyone. Arizona's maps were models for the nation! It is my strong hope that the current Commission will produce similar maps and will not solicit nor hear ideas from partisan groups. Just hearing from individual citizens is needed. Thank you.</p>
6/8/2021 8:35:32	June 8, 2021	Not seeing Commissioner York	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Commissioner York is not visible on my screen. Was his connection lost?
6/8/2021 8:36:10	June 8, 2021	Question	Margaret Gallagher	85258	self	<p>I do not believe it is appropriate for members of the State Legislature to provide direction or to influence the Commission regarding the development of maps. The whole point of the hearings is to encourage participation by the public, enabling their voice to be heard, so that there is public confidence in our electoral systems. Please make every effort to ensure that your meetings are easily accessible; meeting in the evening, in public buildings that are well known in the community, easily reached by public transportation. It is especially important this year that public participation be encouraged; faith in our electoral systems is being undermined, and our tradition of free and fair elections is in jeopardy.</p>
6/8/2021 8:37:17	June 8, 2021	Public meetings	Nancy Meister	85364	Self	<p>I am in Yuma. Arizona Western College has the capability to use their IT system to have meetings board cast to San Luis, Somerton, and Parker (and maybe Wellton). There will need to be Spanish translation. Evening and weekend meetings will be important for working people.</p>
6/8/2021 8:37:57	June 8, 2021	public meetings	linda chiles	85051	self	<p>Is it possible to establish "hot zones" for those areas that don't have internet usage much as some school districts established for their students who were without that service? I'm thinking particularly of the Reservation areas.</p>
6/8/2021 8:44:11	June 8, 2021	Travel schedule	Maria Lynam	86301	Self	<p>Dear Commissioners, First of all be aware of my deep appreciation of your willingness to visit communities across the state. You have a great deal to think of you before you embark.</p> <p>I suggest that you ask the ED and PIO for a detailed plan of a proposed meeting. There are many aspects to be considered: meeting times, handicap accessibility, sign in sheets, testimony timings, personal safety. Unfortunately we have many citizens who carry firearms. You need to consider this in your meeting approach.</p>
6/8/2021 8:44:31	June 8, 2021	Stakeholder meetings	Suzanne	85331	Self	<p>It is very concerning to me that you would invite legislators to IRC meetings. Given the IRC's mandated political independence, undue political influence is problematic. Why risk setting yourselves up for public and legal opposition at a time of controversial and extreme partisan activity in the legislature? The optics are terrible and you would appear to be negating the oft stated goal of creating a level playing field for all stakeholders.</p>

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6/8/2021 8:44:44	June 8, 2021	V	Diane Boman	86303	Diane Boman	I do not believe that the commission is ready to meet with the public at this time. The items that would have to be prepared in advance are numerous. In particular the talking points for these meetings, that the commissioners asked for in the previous meeting, have not been provided. The idea of having multiple meetings per week is a great way to expedite this process and meet a date in late July or August. The blatant mistakes concerning venue availability just shows that the IT officer, Community Outreach Coordinator are desperately needed. The other items; advertising guidelines, social media, public surveys, meeting comporment, safety etc. Just because people haven't been hired in a timely manner does not mean you should be condensing this schedule. These meetings could be quite contentious and you don't want to make mistakes right of the bat.
6/8/2021 8:45:02	June 8, 2021	Public Hearings	Cynthia Cook-Keller	85745	self	I appreciate that the Commission is giving serious attention to the best ways to reach and include as many Arizona residents as possible. Due to the vast geographic areas in our state, the challenges are many. Limiting the physical hearings sites to the main cities will exclude groups of people who are continually marginalized. I hope that live remote links, zoom, etc. will be incorporated so that residents who are unable to be present at any given meeting (for any number of reasons: disabilities, lack of transportation) are able to participate.
6/8/2021 8:45:51	June 8, 2021	Listening Tour	Diane McQueen	86327	self	Michele Crank hopefully realizes that many people do not use social media at all. Personally I do not use twitter or Instagram and barely use Facebook. What about advertising on local radio stations such as those on the Navajo Reservation? Or working with local, rural newspapers to get articles published? But it's foolish to think that you can just send out a press release and post on social media and expect to get good results. Good thought from Lerner on reaching out to local community organizations. I find it amazing that the commission has already scheduled listening tours but yet Michele Crank and Brian Schmidt are not already presenting their "reach-out" plan at this meeting but instead are talking about setting up a slide show on how they will be reaching out? The meeting for 6/17 is next week for goodness sake. And I agree with Lerner that one week is not enough time to let the public know about upcoming meetings. Totally agree with Lerner on pushing off the meetings for a couple of weeks to make certain both Crank and Schmidt get their ducks in a row. Seems like they are putting the cart before the horse. You don't teach a class if you don't already have your curriculum developed. Thank you Commissioner Lerner!
6/8/2021 8:46:24	June 8, 2021	VI	Norma Bliven	86301	Self	The "fraudit" of Maricopa County voters' ballots has made Arizona a nationwide laughing stock, and is becoming a national model for undermining confidence in free and fair elections. The IRC must be very wary of drawing maps that could be construed as being biased or unfair.

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6/8/2021 8:46:30	June 8, 2021	G. Travel Schedule update	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Self	<p>The idea of having a way for people attending the public meetings to register their agreement with a particular stand, while initially appealing, has a downside that should be considered.</p> <p>What you'll see is that the meetings will be attended by groups of people that have been rallied by political activists from both parties (and other groups) to flood the meeting with supporters who want to overwhelm you with their numbers, leaving the impression that they represent the viewpoints of most Arizonans. But these may well be false impressions. Using them in your decision making process will lead you to faulty conclusions and thus bad choices.</p> <p>Furthermore, if you decide to do this in an electronic format, it will be easy for people who want to promote their agendas to game the system, creating bogus attendees and automating the flooding of the response system to give the impression there is more support for or opposition to a particular speaker's position than is actually the case. Guarding against such activity will be a significant security challenge for any system you put together to gather such information. Whatever you come up with, you should be very cautious about drawing any meaningful conclusions from the results.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
6/8/2021 8:48:36	June 8, 2021	Listening Tour	d dunn	86303		<p>Talking about when to do the meetings - over weekend, night, etc. If one or several commissioners are out in the field on the usual day of the IRC meetings (i.e, Tue morning) it may be very educational/informative for them to try to connect to the meeting from the hinterlands just to understand how difficult it may be for the public to connect/participate.</p>
6/8/2021 8:51:43	June 8, 2021	V	Diane Boman	86303	Diane Boman	<p>I just wanted to say thank you to Commissioner Lerner for speaking up when asked for comments. I believe that these positions were voluntary so I expect the peoples representatives to be prepared to speak at these meetings. We need you.</p>

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6/8/2021 8:52:14	June 8, 2021	Public Meetings/Tour	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>Maybe use social media to find people who are willing to post meeting notices, work a telephone tree, etc. to alert the most rural communities/tribes so that they can plan to attend and speak.</p> <p>Might it be smart to have sub-locales set up with remote capabilities thereby allowing residents to tap into the actual public meeting. They can watch and comment too.</p> <p>The idea of concentrating your meetings into a shorter period makes sense so that your initial thinking process can be more concentrated as well. IF you can give enough notice and work through a well structured meeting format, the data gathering could be fairly efficient.</p> <p>Give the locals first shot at speaking and even seating space. There have been concerted efforts by some in the past to swamp a public meeting leaving little room for the less organized locals.</p> <p>Having your business meetings before or at the town halls, so that the public meetings can be tapped into by the viewing public, no matter where they are being held would be great.</p>
6/8/2021 8:52:17	June 8, 2021	Travel Plans	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	Commissioner Lerner's recommendation for more public outreach meetings in large population areas like Maricopa and Pima Counties is excellent. I also think these meetings should occur much earlier than August.
6/8/2021 8:52:42	June 8, 2021	Listening Tours	Diane McQueen	86327	self	For those of us who live in rural areas: We need Saturday meetings too. If I live up near Tusayan or maybe Tuba City, it will take me 1 to 1 1/2 hours to get to Flagstaff. Meeting is at 6pm and will probably last anywhere from 1-3 hours. That leaves me driving home at possibly 9pm at night on dangerous, dark roads.
6/8/2021 8:55:10	June 8, 2021	Travel schedule	Maria Lynam	86301	Self	Your ED is not even articulate. Ummm... Where is your budget. We haven't seen that, have you?
6/8/2021 8:55:17	June 8, 2021	dates and locations for public hearings	Sheryl Eaton	85929	self	I just noticed your tentative hearings schedule. I don't see how having a meeting for Navajo and Apache Counties on June 23 will do any good. I doubt that you will have proposed maps ready by then, so there won't really be much of substance to talk about. You may have to cram meetings closer together later in the year...and even have two meetings per area so you have a more complete idea of what the people think. The people can tell you how proposed maps will affect them and you can make adjustments accordingly.
6/8/2021 8:58:22	June 8, 2021	Inviting legislators	Nancy Meister	85364	Self	Thank you for your decision to not inviting the legislators to present before maps are done.
6/8/2021 8:58:26	June 8, 2021	Physical security during community meetings	Rita Day	86301	Myself	Commissioner Nueberg mentioned physical security during community meetings. Regarding that I feel it is important to make it clear that guns are NOT allowed in these meetings.

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6/8/2021 9:00:06	June 8, 2021	VI. Discussion and Possible Action regarding invitation to Legislative Leaders to present on Constitutional criteria and role of Legislature report.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	I am happy that the Commission members agreed that they will not be inviting the legislative leaders for a special role prior to the development of maps.
6/8/2021 9:01:18	June 8, 2021	III. Opportunity for Public Comments	Joan McDermott	86403	Mohave County Democratic Central Committee	I live in Lake Havasu City in Mohave County, which is a very rural part of Arizona, as I am sure you are aware. The 3 main cities - my town, Bullhead City, and Kingman - are an hour away from each other. When the Commission visits Mohave County we want to be sure our citizens have an opportunity to be heard in each area. The communities are not only far apart, but also have a high percentage of elderly and low-income residents who have physical and/or financial restrictions to traveling long distances, as well as limited virtual communications abilities. We really need enough advance notice to allow us to alert people and, possibly, arrange transportation or opportunities to gather at a site to join virtually so they can express their concerns and questions to you.
6/8/2021 9:01:23	June 8, 2021	Listening Tours and Invitations	ME Dunn	86303		Would like to agree with Commissioners who have suggested that the initial listening tours be done near to "home," in Pima or Pinal, where it will be easier to iron out the kinks. And, compressing them has a lot of value for efficiency. At least two weeks heads-up to residents of areas where these will be held is essential. AND, beforehand, there needs to be a guide for both commissioners and public re how the meetings will be held. And, if commissioners are to make an opening presentation, it should be a power point from which all will work from and use. That should have been presented by ExDir long ago and shared with the public. This is important because the commissioners will also be addressing public groups (i.e, Chair last night at LWV), together and/or individually and everyone should be speaking off the same page.
6/8/2021 9:05:03	June 8, 2021	Where to locate public meetings.	John Franklin	85935		The citizens of Eastern Arizona ask that you make the public meetings geographically diverse and ADA compliant. I live in far Navajp County where Holbrook is more than an hour drive away. A public meeting in Show Low AZ would be great. It needs to be ADA accessible as well. Thank you.

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6/8/2021 9:05:20	June 8, 2021	G. Travel Schedule update	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>Why is the process of setting up public meetings so difficult? This is a job for an outreach coordinator. That person should put together a proposed plan for how the meetings should be conducted (IT and format as well as physical and security considerations, etc.) and also a proposed schedule to ensure that all public viewpoints are aired. (Note that there may be better and more strategic ways to go about this than the currently proposed approach of holding a meeting in each of the counties. These should be explored as well.) Such a fleshed out proposal could be presented to the commission for comment and action in a streamlined fashion.</p> <p>Watching the commissioners deal with these low-level considerations - and seeing them fumble through the issues and factors to consider - only exposes them to the public perception that they don't know much about this whole process (and in some cases that they don't understand what the public expects of the opportunity to speak).</p> <p>I can't imagine the board of a corporation spending time in their business meetings discussing the nuts and bolts of outreach meetings like this. It would be hashed out at a much lower level of their organization.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
6/8/2021 9:05:41	June 8, 2021	Rules regarding legislator contact and transparency	Leslie Hunten	85716	myself	<p>Dear IRC,</p> <p>I've lived in Arizona most of my life, but I moved to another state for a job opportunity from 1998 to 2000. When I returned, I was flabbergasted to see that we had passed two amazing things: a smoking ban in public places, and we had the IRC. These were such positive, progressive measures. Arizona now has a national reputation for a fair, transparent redistricting process. So, I'm very interested in maintaining our position, and I'm trying to follow the discussions.</p> <p>I have two concerns for the current discussions: keeping the legislature out of the process until the maps are refigured, and making sure that the meetings are open, accessible and transparent to all. Let's avoid any appearance of political bias from our legislature, this being a "red state" in which one party dominates the other with no sense of bipartisanship. Please stand firm about following the rules.</p> <p>Thank you, Leslie Hunten Tucson, AZ</p>
6/8/2021 9:06:06	June 8, 2021	Template for Speaker Engagements	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	<p>The suggestion that commissioners work from a pre-approved template in their public engagements is a good one. This will provide some consistency and avoid legal challenges down the line.</p>
6/8/2021 9:14:23	June 8, 2021	PUBLIC COMMENTS	MEDunn	86303		<p>Not urgent nor that huge - the time stamp for the public comments (at least the one for last Tue's 1 June mtg) is incorrect. Shows comments starting at 9 or so and ending just after 11. Meeting started at 8 and ended near 1030. Please see if that can be corrected.</p>

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6/8/2021 9:16:10	June 8, 2021	mapping consultant firm	Leslie Hunten	85716	myself	Dear IRC, I continue to object to the hiring of the firm of Timmons/NDC. Their reputation is shady, and that's the last thing we need here in a state that is becoming a national joke for our bungled election audit. Please guarantee that our contractors are fair, reputable and non-partisan. Let's keep politics and ideology out of our redistricting process. Thank you!
6/8/2021 9:19:47	June 8, 2021	V (E), Hiring of Community Outreach Coordinator	Virginia Dotson	85902	self	I am glad to hear you are scheduling "Listening Tours" statewide to involve more citizens in the Independent Redistricting process. But I am concerned that you are proceeding with these meetings in spite of not yet having hired a Community Outreach Coordinator. Do you expect this to happen before the meeting cycle starts? Thank you.
6/8/2021 9:21:06	June 8, 2021	Community Outreach/ Townhall schedule	Shanna Leonard	85719	self	Why Northern Arizona first? and why only in-person meetings? and without coordination by community outreach coordinator (not hired) - And you don't have a presentation yet? And this first townhall is in less than 2 weeks? The Navajo and Apache nations need additional lead time to notify folks due to the geographic dispersion and spotty internet coverage. Please start in Maricopa county.
6/8/2021 9:22:07	June 8, 2021	Role of IRC	Brian Templet	85715	myself	The AZ constitution makes clear that legislators should not be allowed to make comments until after the draft maps have been prepared. The process should be apolitical. Public hearings should be scheduled to allow the most access to the public (time of day, advance notice, etc.).
6/8/2021 9:28:04	June 8, 2021	Item V (G), Travel Schedule and Attachment A	Virginia Dotson	85902	self	It is good that you will be holding statewide listening tours. I live in southern Apache County and I see in Attachment A that you plan to visit Apache and Navajo Counties on June 24th. I have seen no hint of how you will organize the public meetings, or what time of day they will be held. I hope it will be possible for working people in the area to attend at least part of the meeting. And communication takes time in Arizona's rural areas, so please advertise any meetings well in advance in the Navajo Times and on radio stations like KTNN and KNDN. You should also notify Apache and Navajo County governments, Tribal governments (Navajo, Hopi and White Mountain Apache), along with town and city council members so they can help get the word out. Window Rock would be a good central location for a meeting, possibly at the Navajo Nation Museum. Please run the meetings fairly and do not allow one side to dominate or shout out the other. And please realize that people will need to hear a basic explanation of what the IRC is, the significance of the redistricting process, and how it will play out. Thank you.
6/8/2021 9:29:44	June 8, 2021	I	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	I am concerned that the legal counsel, Snell and Wilmer, is violating the ethics policy that they recently submitted to the Newsroom Page on the IRC website. They continue to do political consulting. I see that Snell & Wilmer are in many states with 450 employees, but could their be a request that the staff working on this project are not affiliated with the political consulting branch of this firm. The commission has made reference to acting with an "abundance of caution" and adhering to the highest levels of integrity and transparency. Asking for this information could reduce the likelihood of litigation
6/8/2021 9:31:33	June 8, 2021	VI, possible Invitation to legislative leaders	Virginia Dotson	85902	self	Why would you ask for the approval of Legislative leaders? The whole point of an "Independent Redistricting Commission" is to redistrict fairly and independently of the Legislature. Thank you.

IRC 6.8.21 Public Meeting Comments						
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6/8/2021 9:44:29	June 8, 2021	VI. Discussion and Possible Action regarding invitation to Legislative Leaders to present on Constitutional criteria and role of Legislature report.	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>Regarding Commissioner Neuberg's comment that she is sad the public and other commissioners don't feel good about including the legislative leaders in the process.</p> <p>Commissioner, please wake up and take a look around you.</p> <p>The very existence of this commission was required BECAUSE the public found it could not rely on politicians to be fair with the redistricting process. We recognized that the process was too important - for our democracy and for our well-being - to leave in their inherently partisan hands, that they would inevitably corrupt the process to ensure their own hold on power (despite the will of the people). As such, it was imperative that the redistricting process be taken out of their hands and placed in the care of a commission that is INTENDED to carry out the task in an INDEPENDENT manner, without regard to partisan influence. (Please remember that the existence of the commission did NOT start in the legislature; it started as an initiative of the people, so your focus should be squarely on doing a good job for the people.)</p> <p>Rather than being sad about this, commissioner, you should be happy that the other commissioners and the public have weighed in and agree that politicians should NOT be involved in this process beyond the very narrow role they were able to insert for themselves in the final amendment to the constitution.</p> <p>Please start behaving as an INDEPENDENT agent of the people (not of the politicians) in this process. You seem to see your role as striking a balance between the Democrats and Republicans, so that their influence cancels each other out. But that's not what's needed. We need you to approach this task as an INDEPENDENT, without regard to political influence.</p> <p>Make no mistake, political activists and politicians will be making every effort possible to steer you to making decisions that favor their agendas, using every trick they know to put the pressure on.</p> <p>But the people of Arizona rely on you to guard against their insidious intrusion at ALL levels and at every opportunity. Don't play their game of balancing one against the other. Instead, resist all their attempts.</p> <p>It's not too late for you to become the champion of the people, striving to fulfill the vision of the commission as they set it forth. Start by taking the stance of an independent.</p> <p>We depend on you carrying out your role in that fashion.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>

IRC 6.8.21 Public Meeting Comments						
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6/8/2021 9:46:07	June 8, 2021	Ethics guidelines	d dunn	86303		I am confused. If the ethics guidelines will have to be published, why was this clarification guidance discussion held as an ES? Well, if there are to be amendments, etc, at next meeting, let's make sure that discussion happens in public, please.
6/8/2021 9:47:54	June 8, 2021	Public meetings	Debbie Logan	85614	Self	Judging by the discussion today for public meetings it does not sound like there will be many. There were 53 public meetings in 2011 and they occurred all over the state not just at one county location. There needs to be at least the same amount of meetings if not more all over the state.
6/8/2021 9:48:28	June 8, 2021	Listening Meetings	Norma Bliven	86301	Self	Will listening tour questions be posted before the meetings? Will they be consistent with each location? Will the data be collected in a database in order to produce useful results?