



8.31.21 Public Meeting Comments

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
8/31/2021 8:15:02	August 31, 2021	Technical issue	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	Technical suggestion: Please ask your attorneys to improve the quality of their audio during live-streamed meetings. The quality is poor and affects our ability to hear and understand them.
8/31/2021 8:17:40	August 31, 2021	posting public comments	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Please post the Web Contact Us comments. They are a couple of weeks past due, it appears. Thank you. I imagine there has been a lot posted on the publicly available and anticipated Timmons enhanced ESRI mapping tools. Thank you
8/31/2021 8:21:07	August 31, 2021	Public Comment	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	Chairman Neuberger totally lost me this morning with her comments on public meetings. Why is it better to meet on line as opposed to having the public engaged physically in meetings? What do you mean by Organically? For those of us who are no longer in the business world on a daily basis these terms are confusing.
8/31/2021 8:32:16	August 31, 2021	Previous Public Comment/Social Media	Wes Crew	85737	AZ 2 CD 11	Regarding the topic of social media handles that are operated by the IRC; the accounts are very useful and easily accessible but does not have any Spanish translation. Please urge the team that handles these accounts to consider posting information and posting in Spanish.
8/31/2021 8:44:37	August 31, 2021	VI.B	Jana Granillo	85282	Self	<p>Agenda item VI. B</p> <p>I would like to see training goals, outcomes and objectives for the public.</p> <p>The ultimate goal is that the public will be provided training and tools to draw maps to ultimately influence decisions given the decision criteria.</p> <p>Hopefully...</p> <p>The public will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be able to use mapping software and other alternatives to submit maps. have technical support and or hotline or online chat to assist while using software. have prompts (related to criteria) to help explain reasons for map changes submitted. alternatives to submit maps other than software. <p>Additionally, would like to see some info graphics produced by IRC to help get the word out about public comment opportunities to our networks and opportunities available in public libraries and/or other publicly available resources.</p>



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8/31/2021 9:02:02	August 31, 2021	Guest speakers	Rita Day	86301	Myself	<p>Thank you for the informative presentation about water. Sara, the presenter did a excellent job of explaining this extremely important issue. This critical issue was particularly important in our recent local election in Prescott for Mayor and City council, where there was dramatic change in our elected city officials and water was a critical issue in voters changing the leadership of Prescott.</p> <p>I would recommend that in preparing the agenda for these IRC meetings, that the guest speakers names be included in the agenda. So far there are 3 guest speakers: Sara, who spoke about water and 2 guest speakers on farming. None of these guest speakers are listed in the agenda. Even if these speakers aren't confirmed until late, it shouldn't be that difficult to list their names and the topics they are speaking about.</p>
8/31/2021 9:16:27	August 31, 2021	V. Arizona 5C Presentation, Round 1	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>From the testimony about water management in the state, it might be tempting to try to create legislative and congressional district boundaries that allow the areas with significant water needs to have a single representative.</p> <p>But if you listen carefully, her comments expose a fundamental distinction the commission needs to keep in mind: For governance to be effective, it matters less where the boundaries are drawn and more on the skills and knowledge of the representatives elected in them. Without skillful representatives who are in tune with their constituents and knowledgeable about the issues they face, the policies and legislation they produce will fall short of the needs of the people.</p> <p>The voters in 2000 who created the IRC knew the best way to encourage the political parties to put forth their best candidates - those who have the knowledge and innovative ideas to address the issues head-on and the drive to actually carry them to successful completion for the benefit of their constituents and all Arizonans - is to draw competitive districts.</p> <p>When districts are competitive, the political parties must work to stay in power. They have to prove to voters that their candidate is the best for the job. They have to put forth the best candidates they can find.</p> <p>When districts are not competitive, so-called 'safe districts', the parties can put up just about anyone, regardless of their suitability or fitness for the job (or their fealty to party bosses), and still be assured that they'll retain the seat from election to election - regardless of the performance of their candidate. How does that benefit anyone other than the politicians? It's more likely to do harm than good.</p> <p>Please note also the testimony indicating there is little synergy between the water needs of the population and the district boundaries you will be drawing. The real need is for ALL the representatives elected in those districts to be thoroughly knowledgeable about water management so they can do the best job for their constituents and for all Arizonans in the long-term. The best way you can help assure that is to draw boundaries to create competitive districts.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
8/31/2021 9:32:26	August 31, 2021	myself	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>Hello</p> <p>Regarding the importance of Agricultural activity and the presentation by AZ Farm Bureau, I would aske that you post their maps up on the site, specifically. Similarly if you would post all of the Kyle Foundation Sarah Porter's maps. We the public will be viewing and studying these inputs as they relate to our COIs and desire for Fair and Competitive statewide maps.</p> <p>It was all very interesting and informative. THANK YOU</p>



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8/31/2021 9:34:42	August 31, 2021	V. Arizona 5C Presentation, Round 1	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>It's great to hear the testimony of the folks who are talking about the 5-C's (although there are probably more). It seems that all the important issues they talk about that directly and indirectly affect Arizonans are issues that must be addressed by elected officials, not by this commission.</p> <p>While the testimony is very interesting, is not clear how you will use it in your decision making. Or even if you should.</p> <p>As you've heard in other testimony, it's often better for the interests of a community to be represented by multiple elected officials rather than just one because there's more clout. How will the testimony you heard today impact your decisions about where to draw the boundaries?</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
8/31/2021 9:35:52	August 31, 2021	V. Arizona 5C Presentation, Round 1.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	<p>I appreciate the presentations about water and agriculture, though I am not clear on just how this information can be used by the IRC. One thing that might have been nice would have been a discussion of the different categories of agriculture and how those relate to water usage. There are some crops that have a much bigger impact on water - for instance the growing influence of pistachios as a crop here can negatively impact the water supply, since it is a very thirsty crop. Growing efficiency of the methods is important, but with the likelihood of continuing water issues, paying more attention to the nature of the agricultural categories will be a requirement for the state. This will need to be a concern for the future, and having agricultural communities share representation with others may be necessary in order for potential water disaster to be avoided.</p>
8/31/2021 9:48:52	August 31, 2021	Public Training	Diane Boman	86303	Myself	<p>So, since you had all this time to prepare for the receiving of the data, what was the difficulty in getting this training available for the public prior to receiving the data?</p>
8/31/2021 9:51:16	August 31, 2021	myself	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>What time on Sept 13 training? We will need to make scheduling plans.</p>
8/31/2021 9:52:09	August 31, 2021	Mapping	Suzanne Mead	85331	Self	<p>Public mapping training on Sept. 13 is a welcome opportunity. Thank you Timmons.</p>
8/31/2021 9:58:02	August 31, 2021	Mark Flahan and Doug Johnson	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>According to the Timmons schedule, the Community of Interest Report is due today. I was surprised to not see it on today's agenda. Will it be published on the website? Thank you.</p>
8/31/2021 10:00:29	August 31, 2021	VI. Update from mapping consultants	Rita Day	86301	Myself	<p>Re: Esri- There are many videos on the IRC website concerning Esri, the mapping tool that will be used by the commissioners and THE PUBLIC. However, these videos are NOT USER FRIENDLY! Please provide Arizona specific resources which have been referenced by the Timmons Group during past meetings. Also, it would be of great help if there is support helpline available for the public to access. The public wants to be involved but needs the resources to understand how to use the available tools. Please don't prevent the public from being as involved as they want because of non user friendly programs.</p> <p>Re: Public feedback on grid maps- Please provide the public a process by which they can give direct, real time feedback on the grid maps and the ability to follow these draft maps to the final proposed maps. This must be a top priority! Please provide the public with this process!</p>



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8/31/2021 10:06:58	August 31, 2021	Mark Flahan	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	The Community of Interest Submission Dashboard is a bit difficult to use if you want to read through several submissions. Would it be possible to provide a download of the text boxes into an Excel spreadsheet? Thank you for your consideration. Also, Mark Flahan mentioned that Timmons is organizing listening tour testimony into an Excel spreadsheet. Please make that data public. Thank you.
8/31/2021 10:17:33	August 31, 2021	Public Comments	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Thank you Chairwoman Neuberg for explaining that there were problems with the videos of the public hearings in Coconino and Pinal counties and that transcriptions will be provided. You did not mention a date. May we expect them within a couple of weeks? Thank you.
8/31/2021 10:35:13	August 31, 2021	city, town, county boundaries for mapped lines	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Please recognize that keeping counties whole above all other criteria would fly in the face of competitiveness goals, which may be the reason why some press for county lines being dominant. That can be a forced "COI" where there are actually other, smaller COI areas that should be legitimately recognized. The IRC's judgement is going to be crucial for a fair and balanced statewide map. Doug Johnson's presentation has been very helpful. Thank you.
8/31/2021 10:59:06	August 31, 2021	D. Explanation of measurements for polarization data analysis during the map creation phase	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Dr. Lisa Hanley's audio is choppy. Her voice comes in and out. In the future, is it possible for the IRC to provide quality microphones for presenters? Also Brett John's audio quality is hard on the ears. Can his audio quality be improved. Thank you.
8/31/2021 11:00:14	August 31, 2021	ethnicity map	Barbara Tellman	85705	self	Does the EIC have the ability to adjust census data that appears to be inaccurate from ground-level observation? For example, there was a report that San Luis had a big population increase, but the census reports them losing population. A lot of people must not have participated in the census. Or are you tied to the census data?
8/31/2021 11:01:50	August 31, 2021	Testimony by experts	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	Every time you bring in someone to provide testimony before the commission, you MUST do a dry run with them before the actual meeting to ensure they have the necessary camera and audio equipment (with volume settings tested) and that they can use the conferencing tools and can share their screen and/or presentation. Failing to do this simple thing is inexcusable. Without the dry run, you risk the kind of fiasco that happened today with the poor presenter being helpless when she couldn't figure out how to share her screen. It is not only embarrassing for the person presenting but it's even more embarrassing that the staff did not take this simple precaution to ensure the meeting could proceed without interruption and concentrating on the business at hand rather than fixing avoidable technical issues. What a waste of the commissions and the public's time. A sincere apology should be convey to your guests. And you should take steps to ensure it never happens again. William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen
8/31/2021 11:03:30	August 31, 2021	Public comment on Grid and Draft Maps	Diane Boman	86303	myself	We have been waiting for a timeline and clarification on when and how the public will be able to comment on the grid and draft maps as well as between the draft and final maps. I think this information is of the utmost importance for those that have created maps and are following this closely. There are only 114 days left to complete this process.



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8/31/2021 11:27:07	August 31, 2021	Mapping Criteria	Suzanne Meadd	853331	Self	Chair Neuberg has said numerous times that public comments about the lack of competitiveness in voting districts are "unhelpful" in discussing COI. If she is concerned that these are only expressions of partisanship— that voters just don't like or disagree with their representatives, I offer another perspective. In fact, competitiveness for many COI map submitters appears to be a desire for more balance between parties so that candidates from either party have relatively equal chances of winning. They emphasize that this forces candidates to work toward the middle in order to attract enough of a majority to win, and in winning, be more likely to govern in service of their diverse constituencies. They cite current examples of legislators in the least competitive districts of AZ prove the point with extreme ideologies and arrogant disregard of large swathes of their voters being the norm ad infinitum.