

Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
9/21/2021 8:07:09	Sept. 21, 2021	mapping tool and public hearing schedule	Susan Bickel	85718	self	<p>I am very disappointed that the public hearings scheduled to start this week relegate Tucson, the second largest city in the state, to a satellite location. This becomes even more objectionable since Scottsdale is hosting two primary location sites within a week. It would seem reasonable for the second hearing to meet in Tucson and have Scottsdale be the satellite location. Since Commissioner Mehl actually lives in Tucson, it wouldn't be difficult for him to host an in-person hearing.</p> <p>I have spent a week trying to learn the online mapping tool. Not only do I lack confidence in using this overly complicated tool, I am really uncomfortable making changes that might affect other parts of the state. A simple change in a district in Pima County could impact districts to the north, east and west of us. I encourage you to provide an alternative option to the public mapping tool with modifications that would allow me to submit single district or partial maps.</p>
9/21/2021 8:07:37	Sept. 21, 2021	The Redistricting System	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>Please allow single districts to be submitted in the Redistricting System. I understand expecting a single district to have the required population, but I cannot thoughtfully population balance surrounding districts. Doug Johnson said we could just move around areas we don't know and force a population-balanced state-wide plan—and just attach a note saying to ignore the changes we made except to one district. Personally, that is not a map I want to put my name to and doesn't it make extra work for mapping team and the Commissioners?</p>
9/21/2021 8:09:14	Sept. 21, 2021	The Redistricting System	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>I took the training on the Redistricting System on September 13, 2021. I watched some of it twice. I can draw maps in Dave's Redistricting App, but not the Arizona Redistricting System yet. My guess is that I will need help from someone with GIS experience and hours of practice before I can use the Redistricting System. This is not a user-friendly system meant for wide-spread public input.</p>
9/21/2021 8:16:03	Sept. 21, 2021	Paper Map Submissions	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>I appreciate Chairwoman Neuberg promising to look at paper maps. Obviously not everyone will be comfortable using the Redistricting System. Will those paper maps be digitized and available to the public?</p>
9/21/2021 8:19:19	Sept. 21, 2021	Public comment - mapping system	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	<p>I appreciate your providing the mapping system for the public to create, modify, and submit maps illustrating their thoughts about district boundaries. It's great to have such a powerful and sophisticated system available to the general public. (And I also appreciate greatly your providing suggestions for free wi-fi spots accessible to the public on your website – a nice gesture towards those who might not have personal convenient access.) However – the power and sophistication mean that the system is less than user-friendly for most people! People with less than high speed connections will have a tough time (very slow and cumbersome), even if they themselves are comfortable negotiating the system. And people who haven't had experience with such sophisticated systems will have an even tougher time. One particular obstacle is the need to pass all the integrity checks prior to submission – for a person interested in just one region of the state, or one proposed district, it will be tough to adjust all the neighboring districts in such a way as to pass the integrity checks for the entire state. I wonder if it is possible to adjust the system to allow submission of maps that don't pass all the checks? This seems like one relatively easy fix that would really help the public.</p>
9/21/2021 8:25:06	Sept. 21, 2021	Mapping tool	Debbie Logan	85614	Myself	<p>After attending the mapping training, I have found this is not an easy tool to use and most likely impossible for the general public. There needs to be more in-depth training for the general public. Why anyone would think ,as important as it is, why this software would be easy to use speaks volumes about the mapping company. Additionally more hearings need to be scheduled, there are not nearly enough!!</p>
9/21/2021 8:25:51	Sept. 21, 2021	The Redistricting System	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>I have a question about using an application like Dave's to draw maps and input those maps into The Redistricting System. If I understood Brian Kingery correctly, he said you must start in the Arizona Redistricting System, export a statewide plan, import that plan into an app like Dave's and make your changes. Once done, import the whole state plan back into the Arizona Redistricting System and conduct the integrity checks. Once the plan passes the integrity checks, it can be submitted. Am I correctly understanding the process? Am I correct in thinking a plan initiated from Dave's cannot be loaded into The Redistricting System?</p>
9/21/2021 8:29:46	Sept. 21, 2021	mapping too setting demogtaphics	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>Can't one just set the percentage of "Key Demographics," and use sum for "Universal" to get ready loaded Population, Deviation, and all Dem and Rep elections and comp elections for easy to read competitiveness by district?</p>
9/21/2021 8:31:28	Sept. 21, 2021	Competitiveness Report	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	<p>Is the Competitiveness Report available to the public? If so, where is it posted? Thank you. It was expected on September 14.</p>

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9/21/2021 8:40:14	Sept. 21, 2021	IRC website	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters of Arizona	The League of Women Voters believes that it is critical for the IRC to provide timely, helpful, and findable information about the IRC and redistricting. The IRC website is populated by many valuable resources, but they are sometimes difficult to find. The Newsroom seems to be especially disorganized. Items have been added chronologically, requiring scrolling through a long column of items. Some items are dated and some not; some titles are descriptive and some are not; e.g., "Stock Presentation" is a mystery for most. Is it about cattle or the IRC? It is the shorthand term used by the consultants for the basic presentation about the IRC and communities of interest, but the title gives no clue as to content. And it's not dated. Arranging the items into categories such as press releases, expert presentations, weekly newsletter, mapping, legal, would make the Newsroom more user-friendly for the public. The rich resources listed there would be more accessible to all. The latest items listed, Powerpoint Presentation for Public Meetings on Grid Maps, is clearly named. It just needs a date. Thank you for your continued efforts to provide information for the public. It is an important IRC responsibility.
9/21/2021 8:44:56	Sept. 21, 2021		5 Maria Lynam	86301	Self	1. Please review the comments re map plan submission in writing. 2. What is the IRC review process? 3 If a map is submitted by the public, how does the IRC review it? Will they review each map in a district and then decide whether to move a line on the draft map.
9/21/2021 8:52:03	Sept. 21, 2021	Integrity Criteria	Hope Busto-Keyes	85743	Self	Will meeting the competitiveness criteria override the requirement of population percent deviation (+/- 5%) or visa versa?
9/21/2021 8:56:22	Sept. 21, 2021	mapping tool	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	Can you advise how to print such tables as you are showing for all the grid LDs? Also how to print our draft maps??
9/21/2021 8:57:54	Sept. 21, 2021	V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	Commissioner Lerner asked about detection of duplicate maps. Dr. Johnson suggested that the IRC "rely on the wisdom of maps not the volume." And Dr. Neuberger suggested that the IRC would certainly be able to discern the difference. However, the IRC will be looking at a great deal of data, and how that data is presented really matters - we are all human. For this reason, as someone who has looked at a lot of data in his professional life, I strongly recommend that the IRC direct the consultants to add to the software (or generate separately) a way to determine the number of duplicates for a map. This will make the IRC's task much easier, and potentially more accurate. The software can still take in every map as a new submission, as I'm talking about a post-processing step.
9/21/2021 8:59:56	Sept. 21, 2021	IV	Maggie McConnell	85016	self	This is a revised version of a comment that I submitted on the web on Sunday, September 19th. The revision is in the last paragraph. I appreciate the fact that the IRC has added 5 public hearings at 14 sites over the next two weeks. I am confused that the IRC seeks public comments on its grid maps, which do not play a substantive role in the overall effort to draw new districts. I hope that this scheduling of hearings will ramp up vigorously and with better notice when the IRC publishes its draft maps. My concern with the hearing schedule is threefold. First, it appears that only a few – perhaps only three - of the 14 sites are located in communities of color. Given the data from the Census showing a significant growth in Arizona's minority population, the location of the hearings seems to be an inadequate allocation of the opportunity to be heard. Additionally, the satellite locations at Window Rock and Kayenta are restricted to 25 persons. I understand that the Navajo Nation has a 25-person limit in place for gatherings as part of its covid plan. I am not sure that I understand why there is a limit for the township of Kayenta. Perhaps it has instituted a gathering due to its proximity to the Nation. But these limits, coupled with the limited number of hearings in minority-populated parts of the State, suggest, fairly or not, that the IRC is being cavalier about its obligation to hear minority voices. Finally, the IRC has scheduled 5 hearings. The web notice for the hearings says that two hearings start at "4pm 5pm", another at 4, a fourth at noon and one at 10. The notice does not give any duration for the hearings. I am now told that the hearings will last longer than one hour. However, the web does not provide that important information to the public. Additionally, the web notice that says that the time for two of the hearings is "4pm 5pm" implies that those will last for one hour or that there are two start times. Both interpretations are confusing. Also, the suggestion of a one-hour time limit along with the fact that folks from multiple sites will compete for a possible limited time makes the chances of hearing a broad spectrum of opinions unlikely, particularly from minority voices. Another serious barrier to obtaining input from many voices is the fact that the four hearings being held on weekdays begin at noon and 4, which is going to discourage most citizens who work from participating. For any hearing, and not just these grid map hearings, the IRC must put itself in the shoes of its constituencies and schedule hearings to begin at the end of the work day.

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9/21/2021 9:02:52	Sept. 21, 2021	grid maps	Misty Atkins	85737	self	I agree with Commissioner Lerner that it will important to look at the data from COI carefully. Understanding that using the overlays is just one piece of this very complex puzzle. "Campaigns" are a valuable part of the overall picture, but need to be weighed appropriately in order to maintain the integrity of the process.
9/21/2021 9:07:31	Sept. 21, 2021	mapping tool	Misty Atkins	85737	self	After experimenting with the mapping tool, I found it difficult to navigate and cumbersome. If the Commission truly wants feedback from the general public, the program must be much easier to use. Also, is it really necessary to map the entire state? You are asking people to make decisions on information they don't have, like COI in areas outside of our experience.
9/21/2021 9:08:40	Sept. 21, 2021	V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	The data table presented by Timmons was unreadable, and each of my friends who were already watching this said the same. The resolution was too small. For future such presentations, please consider how it will look on Youtube - the commentary sounds like it would have been very helpful if we had actually been able to read what he was pointing to!
9/21/2021 9:10:46	Sept. 21, 2021	mapping	Barbara Tellman	85705	self	The mapping app is too unreliable. I nearly completed a map but there were a group of blocks that could not be assigned no matter what I tried, throwing numbers off. This made the map unsubmittable Note: I am an experienced GIS user! . So I tried again. This time those blocks were OK but others had discontinuities that could not be resolved no matter what I tried. So couldn't submit with totals wrong. It went into an endless activity cycle that could only be stopped by exiting the program. No difference whether I used a Mac or PC. So I tried another app which worked fine, except it lacked detail, so I tried to import into the IRC system. Would not accept either shape or txt format. The lack of any help button or even a FAQ makes this system close to worthless. I imagine other users gave up, especially those with no GIS experience.
9/21/2021 9:22:10	Sept. 21, 2021	mapping process and public input	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	What "easy" decisions do you envision in this early decision making by IRC? This is a little concerning. At least one of the COI map overlay displays seems inconsistent with the public testimony and written comments attached to submitted survey maps. The emphasis on county lines is problematic for many of the communities of interest highlighted by citizens. Please keep top of mind the critical objective of Competitiveness statewide. Please do not rush the process in order to meet your deadline if this means you are leaving the public out of the input/feedback loop. Thank you
9/21/2021 9:24:56	Sept. 21, 2021	Public map tool	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	Having submitted a community of interest survey including a map I am invested in the process. I viewed the zoom training on the public mapping tool. I found it very complicated especially the section where you physically change the map; how to equalize the population for the districts; and building demographic & political tables. I would prefer to see an additional mapping tool which would be more user friendly for the public. Hopefully this mapping tool would allow for just changing the district for your community of interest. I don't feel comfortable changing other districts because it would be just arbitrary and provide no input to the IRC. If this is not possible I would suggest that the current mapping tool have a choice to select the integrity check or to exclude it therefore a person could just do their community of interest district. Also the mapping tool needs a dictionary of terms. It would be nice if it provided the ability to select a range of demographic and competitiveness tables to select as well as being able to build your own.
9/21/2021 9:39:49	Sept. 21, 2021	IX. Discussion and possible action ...the Grid Map...	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters	Thank you, Chair Neuberg, for working so insistently to set aside additional days for the IRC to meet. The short time you have and the pressure to complete your work obviously will require a concentrated effort. It is helpful for the public to know these dates as far in advance as possible. Kudos to the Commissioners for your dedication to your task.
9/21/2021 9:47:20	Sept. 21, 2021	Mapping tool	Peggy Pena	85643	Self	Why couldn't their be a choice of using the integrity check or leaving it off. Why this would probably require results separated by those with the integrity check vs those without it would solve the issues of people who only feel comfortable doing their community of interest districts and the complexity of equalizing population across districts.
9/21/2021 9:52:27	Sept. 21, 2021	Submissions of paper maps	self	86004	self	I just want to verify that paper map submissions will NOT be available to the public. If members of the public want to see those maps, we have to submit a public records request. Is that correct? At the August 17, 2021 meeting, Mark Flahan, Timmons Group Project Manager, reported that Timmons is organizing/combining the 910 online COI surveys, paper surveys, "listening tour" public testimony and "a batch of" public comments into the "Community of Interest Report." That did not happen. The mapping function of the COI Report ONLY contains the 910 online COI surveys. In terms of effectively communicating with the Commission, is it correct in thinking that public testimony, public comments and paper maps will not be organized and presented in an official report?



9.21.21 Public Meeting Comments

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9/21/2021 9:59:39	Sept. 21, 2021	public testimony on grid maps	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	I believe it has been said that people can call into the public GRID map meetings coming up. How do we get that info well ahead of time if we are out of WIFI range during our meetings times? Please post the phone numbers and youtube? links now so we can make note. THANKS
9/21/2021 11:31:56	Sept. 21, 2021	Competitiveness Measures	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	At the August 31, 2021 meeting, Doug Johnson said he would post a summary of the Commission's decision on how to measure competitiveness. (The legal team found a typo in the slide he was going to show the Commission, so he could not show that slide in the August 31st meeting.) Has the Commission's decision been officially posted? Thank you.
9/21/2021 11:35:36	Sept. 21, 2021	Item 8(A) and (B)	Jay Simpson	85016	Myself	Mr. Hererra's presentation on the VRA was excellent but there is absolutely no need for the IRC to go into executive session to hear a presentation from him on the activities of IRC 2.0 with respect to compliance with the VRA. The public should be allowed to hear that presentation. His analysis of the history of the previous commission is not even legal advice. One would presume that much of Mr. Hererra's historical presentation was part of the public record compiled by the last IRC including its preclearance submission to the Department of Justice. Chair Neuberger, this is the opposite of transparency. These presentations should be made in public. Compliance with the VRA is required by the Arizona Constitution and is a core part of the map drawing activity. The public is entitled to hear the advice the IRC is receiving on this vital topic of respecting the voting rights of minority communities. The attorneys are always going to be overly protective of their communications with the IRC because that is their default position. Only the Commissioners can push back and pay more than lip service to the goal of transparency. Put differently, don't the Commissioners want the public to know how they are going to go about complying with the Voting Rights Act, one of the six constitutional criteria they are required to follow? Isn't it important to make a public record that the Commissioners took the criteria seriously and implemented it fairly?