

ARIZONA						
Public Session Comments 9.28.21						
Timestamp	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	First and Last Name	Zip Code	Representing	Comments
9/28/2021 8:10:26	Sept. 28, 2021	Roll Call	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Can the names on the video tiles be enlarged? They are too small to read. Also, on September 28, Valerie Neuman could not be heard when she took roll call.
9/28/2021 8:10:31	Sept. 28, 2021	Schedule of future meetings	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I appreciated Chair Neuberg pushing last week to establish a firm list of dates for the IRC to do the hard work of publicly discussing, modifying, and adopting actual draft maps. Given that the general nature of the schedule (and the fact that October will be the key month for this) has been clear for quite a while, I was shocked to hear how limited the availability of some commissioners is going to be. And while I understand the high priority of some travel commitments, I do wonder if there might be some room for adding one or two sessions where the person calls in remotely while on travel. That is, one might be unavailable for most of a week but perhaps could make time for a couple of short periods during that week? I think we all anticipate that it may be challenging for this group to come to consensus on district maps, and every additional hour available for discussion and votes might become pivotal. This is a once-in-a-decade process, and I would have thought that people agreeing to take on this major civic responsibility would have prepared to give it a unique priority for this one year.
9/28/2021 8:12:34	Sept. 28, 2021	Public Hearings on September 21, 2021	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	Please explain the audio, video, and connectivity issues with the September 21st hearings on the grid maps. The link did not work. I tried a couple of times because I did not want to believe a link was posted and not tested. The webex login page stated: "This event is for authorized attendees on azgov only." I called in and got connected but the volume was so low that I could not hear the proceedings. I have now "watched" the video. You must know that none of the speakers can be clearly seen. What's worse are the audio problems. What happened in Window Rock? The audio cut during public testimony. At least someone texted Chairwoman Neuberg and she let the public know that there was a problem. Did the staff not know real time that none of the public speakers in Mesa could be heard? And not just the public speakers. Was Ivy Beller Sakansky in Mesa? She was introduced but could not be heard at all. "Legal" was introduced but there was no sound. Later, when Attorney Eric Spencer spoke, it was difficult to hear him and there was a lot of background noise. At one point it sounded like someone else's microphone was on. It is difficult to believe that a \$7.9 million budget does not include acceptable audio. Commissioner York did not attend the September 21st hearing. Watching the video will not bring him up to speed. Will he be provided a transcript? Can that transcript be posted on your website?
9/28/2021 8:18:19	Sept. 28, 2021	Mark Flahan's presentations	Sharon Edgar	86004	self	When Mark Flahan shows a web page, the presentation is too small to read.
9/28/2021 8:20:20	Sept. 28, 2021	Grid Maps	Rita Day	86301	Myself	It's critically important that Mapping Firm gives detailed and clear instructions so the public can go into the mapping tool and view submitted maps along with the populations details. So far we have no way to do that.
9/28/2021 8:27:39	Sept. 28, 2021	Timmons presentation	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	this presentation is going too fast; cannot see much from his screen share. not clear whether the imported map is in the redistricting hum, or if that is an additional step. We need written step by step directions.

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9/28/2021 8:40:45	Sept. 28, 2021	Executive Director's Report	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I was puzzled by last week's report giving such uncertain (and slow) timelines for finally responding to previous public records requests and for completing the IT systems migration. The business about public records is a crucial part of the transparency and public understanding of your work that are called for by Prop 106. And it all feeds into us understanding how (or even whether) you are truly open to public input in all your work. (For example, you have said repeatedly that people can submit their input and suggestions through multiple portals – including comments through your website, paper maps handed over in a hearing, etc. But if the public never gets to see those submissions, then not only do they receive less public scrutiny and reaction than other kinds of submissions, we also cannot understand how or whether YOU are seeing those submissions and how you are evaluating them relative to others.) So these aren't just trivial administrative issues. Meanwhile, you are a public entity with a (relatively) huge budget – surely you can pay to expedite this work! Allowing this kind of thing to drag on so late in your actual working progress is causing cynicism and opening you to allegations that you are not being equitable in your treatment of public input.
9/28/2021 8:43:04	Sept. 28, 2021	Mapping	ME Dunn	86303		Thank you, commissioners, for asking all the questions of the contractor, regarding the map creation difficulties. But, now, for the paper maps they say they will have a form, like the last time, which in fact was inadequate. Hopefully, this one will provide more space in the form for people to be able to explain their maps, especially as he is saying right now that one needs to be very specific with street names, etc.
9/28/2021 8:43:53	Sept. 28, 2021	Mapping consultants' presentation	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	Thank you thank you thank you!! The ability to submit a single district map will be incredibly helpful to those seeking to provide constructive input. And the demonstrations of how to submit both CSV files and shape files are going to be important. We appreciate the responsiveness.
9/28/2021 8:49:27	Sept. 28, 2021	V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	In the output from the redistricting software corresponding to the legislative district information for the grid map, LD15 shows more registered voters than there are people in the district. This doesn't help to instill confidence in the measures we are seeing from the mapping consultants. Please do a bug hunt.
9/28/2021 8:56:51	Sept. 28, 2021	V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC.	Nelson Morgan	85054	Self	Viewing the Timmons explanation of steps for any purpose, even on a large high-resolution screen, is pretty hopeless, being filtered through youtube etc. The videos that have been promised might be better, but the most useful thing would be to provide a text list of steps to take, perhaps with a few illustrations. I really hope that this will be provided. And I also might suggest that the person who is writing the list be a non-engineer who has learned how to take those steps. Engineers and scientists often skip through things that are obvious to them. Think of the old Norbert Wiener story of him presenting the same solution multiple times to a student who asked for how to get there, and Wiener just presenting the same solution 3 times after thinking to himself, and then saying, "I've now given you three approaches, surely you can take it from there."

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9/28/2021 9:00:14	Sept. 28, 2021	Prior Communities of Interest report	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I appreciate the work that the Timmons Group did to make the Communities of Interest report available to us all. (Though, as I note in another comment, there remains some confusion about whether or how we can see the submissions that were made on paper or in some venue other than through the on-line COI tool.) There have been multiple comments made in your meetings that this is a rich source of data (which it certainly is) – but I haven't really heard any of the commissioners discuss the substance of the information you have gained from this report. The report provides some metrics but they are mostly about numbers of submissions (eg the overlap measures) – and of course we would all expect that there would be more submissions from and about the highly urbanized areas than from and about the rural areas where fewer people live. But you have said several times that you are more interested in good ideas than in simple numbers of comments. So can you say anything about the kinds of good ideas you gleaned from the hundreds of submissions you received? Or what general concepts from these submissions you will be using as you move to modify the grid maps into your draft maps?
9/28/2021 9:03:16	Sept. 28, 2021	timmons presentation	Mary-Jeanne Fincher	85253	self	I have watched the first six training videos, some several times. The problem I have is that it's hard to see the presenter's screen, and it goes too fast. Either screen shots that zoom in on the feature being explained, or supplemental written instructions, would be very helpful.
9/28/2021 9:30:51	Sept. 28, 2021	Competitive Districts	Atkins	Misty	Self	Dear commissioners, thank you for your time and dedication to this enormous project. As an Arizona resident however, I am very concerned at the lack of attention to building competitive districts. The very language that was used on the ballot to describe the purpose of an Independent Redistricting Commission was to build competitive districts in a non-partisan way to prevent gerrymandering and level the playing field. That is what voters voted for. Thank you, Misty Atkins
9/28/2021 9:31:54	Sept. 28, 2021	Public comment methods	Laura Huenneke	86004	self	I am strongly in favor of you maintaining the electronic submission form for public comment and input. Having people speak in person at your working sessions might be a nice "feeling" but it so unfairly favors people located there in Phoenix near you - and those who don't have employment or other place-based constraints.
9/28/2021 9:37:23	Sept. 28, 2021	reviewing the COI as suggested by Timmons	Julie Plndzola	86301	myself	I want to caution that the heat map for Central Yavapai County seems to grab all of the Verde Valley and give it the highest order of frequency for staying inside the county boundaries. Yet when I read through all of the related written comments by zip code attached to the COI survey submittals, the opinions shared were equally split between the Verde staying with Central Yavapai County, or continuing to align with Flagstaff and its current LD. I am concerned that "campaign" efforts to persuade may have been starting with Yavapai County at the COI level. Please do not be overly persuaded by the heat maps as they may be manipulative. Thank you

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9/28/2021 9:48:28	Sept. 28, 2021	mapping access accommodations	Julie Pindzola	86301	myself	<p>I want to thank you all for responding to the public's concerns about the difficulty of using the ESRI/Timmons tool. By providing clear instructions on how to import and analyze our maps developed with open source mapping tools, you have given a great service. Hopefully this works easily enough for those of us who want to participate to the fullest extent possible. Paper map print offs are another wonderful addition.</p> <p>Question - can you show us in a video how to print off our own maps or those of others so we can further study them off line??</p> <p>Thank you again!</p>
9/28/2021 9:56:43	Sept. 28, 2021	V. C. Draft maps meetings	Betty Bengtson	85718	League of Women Voters of Arizona	<p>When the IRC meets in person on Monday, 10/4 to begin creating draft maps, it will be very important to provide livestreaming and meeting recordings for the public to attend and observe remotely and to hear the discussion and see any maps produced. Such arrangements were not discussed today, though implied in your discussion about receiving public comments during the meeting. Please clarify your plans. The League understands that you are entering a new phase of your work and that adjustments might be made as these meetings proceed. Your flexibility demonstrated in today's meeting with the new accommodations for the public is very much appreciated. Additional instructional videos for the mapping app as well as the new ability to submit a one-district map are very welcome. They provide a solution to problems encountered by the public. Thank you for your continued work on behalf of Arizona's citizens to ensure we have fair and independent congressional and legislative maps.</p>

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9/28/2021 10:29:28	Sept. 28, 2021	VII. Legal update	William Bowlus-Root	85365	Myself	<p>Why is it necessary for the commissioners to go into Executive Session in order to hear from legal counsel about how they should deal with the competitiveness criteria specified in the constitution? Why is the public, who pays for this advice, not able to be privy to what the commissioners are being told? This seems not only inappropriate, it flies in the face of transparency.</p> <p>The public has a right to know how you will be treating this crucial factor and whether you will be giving it the equal weight it deserves in relation to the other criteria. There's already a perception that some of the commissioners are not convinced they need to consider it as anything more than a 'nice to have'. Obviously, the leadership of the political parties that appointed those commissioners would much prefer districts that were reliably biased in their own favor, where they could score a win without having to invest much time, effort, and money in a campaign and where their candidate didn't have to make any effort to come up with policies to benefit the people. And yet that is what the people formed the Independent Redistricting Commission to avoid. They wanted to see fair and competitive districts formed, districts that would encourage the parties to put forth their best candidates whose policies would compete as the most responsive to the needs of the electorate.</p> <p>The commissioners do not need to exacerbate this perception of them by receiving legal advice in private on how to treat the competitiveness criteria. Doing so gives the impression the legal team is telling them how they can get around it all the while making it seem like they're paying it heed. That's no help to the commission or the process or the public confidence you say is important to you.</p> <p>The commission should take legal advice in regular session so the public is able to understand the reasoning and rationale behind how you conduct yourselves and so that we will have a basis upon which to judge how well you complied with that advice.</p> <p>William Bowlus-Root A concerned citizen</p>
9/28/2021 10:32:44	Sept. 28, 2021	Item Seven	Jay Simpson	85016	Myself	Can the IRC post the presentation is received today during executive session?