

**Summary of Public Meeting  
of the  
State of Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission**

**Location: Phoenix Community College, Phoenix, Arizona**

**Date: June 21, 2001**

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners: Steve W. Lynn, Chairman  
Andrea Minkoff, Vice Chairman  
James Huntwork, Commissioner**

**Commission Attorneys: Jose Rivera**

**Others: Marguerite Mary Leoni, Attorney for NDC**

Twenty four members of the community actively participated in the discussion. Two groups, South Mountain Central Phoenix Community and the Central Phoenix Historical District Community, made PowerPoint presentations.

After a presentation defining their community of interest, the South Mountain Central Phoenix Community proposed boundaries for a district tying their community together. (See map.) The community centers around its diversity; development concerns such as Rio Salado, the Baseline Corridor Project, the Central Development Project and the Monterey Master Plan; educational issues including two community colleges, two high schools and seven elementary schools (the Creighton Edgmont precinct should be part of the district because the students go to Creighton School but their parents vote in another district), as well as community programs to raise educational standards; community welfare concerns such as the location of a major supermarket chain in Arizona; unique environmental issues; and the neighborhood Block Watch. It is very important to include the precinct of Creighton and Westward Ho because of the similarity of common issues, especially the noise pollution from airplanes. Many of the residents have been working with the neighborhood associations, the city, and the state on this issue.

Central Phoenix Historic District: this community proposed a plan for a legislative district for the Central Phoenix Historic District to encompass all existing Historic Districts and Central Phoenix neighborhoods. No neighborhoods are divided in this proposed plan (see map of proposed district). The focus is on preserving the past and the union of neighborhoods, including a large part of Phoenix's gay community, that has worked to preserve Phoenix's architectural history. The community has also been united through its fight against crime and blight and the need to manage its transient population; unique transportation and noise problems; environmental issues centering around air quality and brown field contamination; land use and planning issues; youth, after-school, summer school and elderly programs. The Phoenix Art District should be incorporated along with the Historic Districts. The arts are a growing aspect of downtown Phoenix, which will generate dollars and become a catalyst for change.

District 20 should be redrawn: presently it has a big loop with islands (El Mirage and Surprise), which are very different from the area surrounding it, basically Sun City. Issues of concern to the retirement community prevail in Sun City. Surprise and El Mirage are much younger communities with young family concerns. The area of Maryvale is also a community of interest developed in the fifties. The way the district is drawn makes it difficult for a representative to do a good job representing these communities. Sun City should be a district unto itself.

District 24 presently has compact boundary lines, and is only slightly above the number so should stay pretty much as is: the district includes Paradise Valley Unified School District, one of the most efficient districts in the city. The district should end on the south on the north side of Camelback, and on the north side of District 24 at just above Beardsley, at Highway 101. This would maintain the compactness of the district and promote communication.

Phoenix is a community of interest, which has urban interests distinct from the vast stretches of rural Arizona and small cities included within the Phoenix districts (Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Tube City, Window Rock, Globe, Strawberry, and Show Low). The city deserves one Congressional seat solely within its boundaries. The boundaries would comport with the east side and west side boundary lines of the city, Washington Street on the south, and then moving north to gather the appropriate number of residents for the district.

Mountain Cities: one speaker noted the community of interest in mountain cities including Williams, Flagstaff, and Winslow, and the surrounding areas, which have issues with airports, economics, logging, tourism, highways, schools and the like. These communities also have a strong interest in mountains and forests. They are not well represented in districts which include Phoenix, but should be in their own northern or northern and central district.

District 18 represents a community of interest that is only 25,000 people short of ideal. It should be preserved and the boundaries of Washington School District observed.

School districts should be kept intact, including the Creighton District. This speaker objected that the South Mountain Plan would split the south part of the Creighton School District.

Unite the Coronado Neighborhood: it has common interests such as youth-at-risk issues, crime, and elderly concerns. Currently the homeowners association is split. The boundaries should be Thomas at the freeway, State Route 51, over to Seventh Street. I-10 cuts the neighborhood in half. The Central Phoenix Historic District Plan brings the community back together.

AURs:           South Mountain Central Phoenix Community Map  
                  Central Phoenix Historical District Community Map  
                  Sun City as a separate district  
                  A Phoenix-only district, as described  
                  School District lines

**NOTE:** These summaries and excerpts were developed for the Independent Redistricting Commission by its consultant, National Demographics Corporation, and have not been reviewed by the Commission prior to posting. They are not official statements of the Commission and represent only the consultant's best effort to identify major themes and highlights of each public hearing. The excerpts were chosen by the consultant in an effort to identify common themes and especially noteworthy statements.

These materials are placed here for citizen review and with the hope that they will encourage comments. Comments can be made on the form provided.