

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

Location: Globe, Arizona

Date: June 27, 2001

In attendance:

Commissioners: Dan Elder

Commission Attorney: Lisa T. Hauser

NDC Staff: Florence Adams

An Hispanic speaker expressed concern that grouping Gila County with Coconino County, Navajo County and north Apache County would "dilute the minority representation, especially the Hispanic and Native American population." This speaker also noted that the key issue was urban versus rural, "maybe some urban Hispanics versus us or rural Hispanics here." He emphasized that mining interests are centered in south Gila County and the Globe-Miami area, but not much in Coconino County. Another speaker, emphasized that the mining industry, agriculture and Indian communities were the bases of the community of interest. He said there should be a concern to prevent vote dilution for Indians, Hispanics, Blacks and Asians and noted that the Hispanic group has a focus in the Hayden-Winkelman area. This speaker stressed the importance of creating a minority/majority district and urged the exclusion of Gold Canyon and Saddlebroke from the district and the inclusion of the Indian reservation and Globe-Miami.

A resolution from the city of Globe was read requesting the Commission "to protect and enhance the long-term interest of the rural tax-payers" and afford "the realistic opportunity to elect representatives who reside in rural Arizona." Another speaker noting the importance of the San Carlos and the White Mountain Apache communities, warned of diluting the vote of the people on tribal lands where access to voting places is already difficult. Yet another speaker said: "the most important dividing line in Arizona is not racial or anything else. It is simply Phoenix versus the rest of us." Insisting that Globe has more in common with Kingman or Bisbee than with Phoenix, he urged locating a congressional district centered on metropolitan Tucson to permit two districts for rural Arizona. The same speaker said that the design of truly competitive districts, given partisan concentrations, was impossible and that the only way to achieve competitiveness is to create a number of relatively strong Republican districts and a number of relatively strong Democratic districts.

Noting the existence of the Eastern Arizona Counties Association, another speaker urged that the southern half of Apache and Navajo counties excluding the Navajo reservation be united with Greenlee, Graham and Gila counties to form a rural congressional district.

The Attorney General of the Navajo Nation, referencing that Nation's plan proposed to the Commission, said that his Nation "has taken great interest in keeping together the rural communities as a community of interest" and "is interested in representation for northern Arizona."

AURs: Southern Apache and Navajo Counties united with Greenlee, Graham
 and Gila Counties (proposed by Eastern Arizona Counties Association)
 Navajo Maps

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.