

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

Location: Glendale
Glendale Community College

Date: June 28, 2001
7:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Steven W. Lynn
Andrea Minkoff
James R. Huntwork

Commission Attorneys:

Lisa T. Hauser
Jose Rivera

NDC Staff:

Marguerite Mary Leoni

A total of 19 speakers addressed the Commission. The speakers addressed several distinct issues. Six speakers urged the Commission not to split the Sun Cities, as was done by the grid. They argued that they constituted a community of interest in senior issues, Medicare, social security, HMOs, and tax issues. Another speaker disagreed in part, advocating that Sun City and Sun City West be placed in separate legislative districts (Sun City with Peoria and Sun City West with Surprise and Sun City Grand) although arguing that they should be placed in the same congressional district. Several speakers contended that the Sun Cities constituted communities of interest different from those found in areas with a younger population and school-age children such as Peoria, Glendale, and Westlake Village and that they should therefore not be included in the same legislative district with them.

Several speakers noted that Glendale is currently split into five legislative districts and four congressional districts and urged the Commission to keep Glendale as whole as possible, placing it in no more than two legislative or congressional districts. Several speakers also argued against the splitting of Peoria.

Several speakers spoke well of the grid as presented by the Commission; some argued that it created competitive districts and that any departure from the regular square or rectangular shape of the grid lines would constitute gerrymandering and contended that drawing lines that created compact and contiguous districts was more important than drawing lines that recognize communities of interest. They generally echoed the sentiments of one speaker who declared, "Remind them of the Supreme Court decision that says ethnic origins cannot be the primary factor in legislative [redistricting]," and

who announced the following guidelines: “Draw compact and contiguous shapes for districts; use natural man-made boundaries, rivers, canals, . . . arterial streets, roads; keep legislative districts within large cities or include smaller cities completely within one district; include entire legislative districts within congressional districts. . . . Split as few legislative districts as possible.”

AURs: Undivided Glendale
 Undivided Peoria
 Undivided Sun Cities

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.