

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

Location: Tucson
Tucson Convention Center

Date: August 25, 2001
3:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Steve Lynn, Chairman
Daniel Elder

Commission Attorneys:

Jose Rivera

NDC Staff:

Alan Heslop

There were 134 persons in attendance at this meeting held at the Tucson Convention Center. Several speakers criticized the draft Congressional and Legislative districts as failing to provide for competition. Some said they had supported the Proposition primarily in order to assure competition. The basic purpose of Proposition 106, according to some of these speakers, was to assure greater electoral competition and, thereby, greater voter participation. Two speakers charged the Commission with gerrymandering to protect incumbents and to preserve the non-competitive status quo. One speaker, however, warned that minority representation was a goal that should have priority, both constitutionally and societally, over competition; and another speaker argued for giving communities priority over competitiveness.

Several speakers urged the Commission to return to the boundaries of existing Legislative district 10, which they said gave effective representation to the area, especially to the Hispanic community. They urged that Rita Ranch be separated from their area and that the district line be moved to Broadway. Two speakers, who are not from the south Tucson area, agreed with the idea of separating Rita Ranch from south Tucson.

The Broadmoor-Broadway Association was represented by two speakers, who insisted that Broadway Corridor is a community, that neighborhoods straddle Broadway, that Arroyo Chico is a gathering point, and that 22nd Street is an appropriate boundary.

There was a difference in opinion on the community of interest between Green Valley and Sahuarita: one speaker said that they should be put together as sister communities; but another speaker, noting the growth of Sahuarita to independent status, said that it need not be linked to Green Valley.

A speaker proposed a concept (and maps) for linking Cochise County, Santa Cruz County, and the Tohono O'odham Nation, arguing that this would create another majority-minority district, another Pima district and give strength to the border. He referred to a spontaneous effort in support of this concept, which he said would be further advanced at the meeting at Sierra Vista.

The specific recommendations of speakers included the following: unification of the Yaqui lands in a single district; adjustment of the boundary between draft Legislative districts AA and BB; Congressional district G to include Cochise County and bring the border communities together; adjustment of boundary lines to reflect different rates of growth; and reunification of the Marana School District in a single district.

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.