

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the Sierra Vista Library in Sierra Vista, AZ, August 27, 2001

1. Les Thompson, Chairman, Cochise County Board of Supervisors: "As Cochise County Supervisor, I have to tell you that the primary goal for me today is the same as it was the last time you were here, and that is keeping the entire of Cochise County in a single district.... We have 3 or 4 maps that we have agreed to present to you tonight. Three of them are on the wall here. The primary reason that we're looking toward this map in here as far as this supervisor is concerned is the fact that we are a very rural county. We are very heavily dependent on mining. We're dependent on ranching and agriculture. Our environmental issues are very close to the same as they are in Graham and Greenlee and eastern Pinal Counties. We serve with these folks continuously. Right now in Graham County, we are actually providing our health department is providing indigent health coverage in Graham County right now. Some of the other issues that we're dealing with in like issues is you know, water runoff. We deal constantly with flooding issues from north of us, and we're dealing with Graham and Greenlee County constantly on these."
2. Paul Newman: "I'm the Cochise County Supervisor from District 2. I used to be the state representative for three terms in the legislature from Nogales to Morenci. So I'm familiar with the alliances that we have with Cochise and Graham and Greenlee Counties. And they are real."
3. Paul Newman: "We also share a lot in common with Santa Cruz County. They have been our partners just like Graham and Greenlee has."
4. Paul Newman: "Arizona legislative district "Scenario five." This is a border district. It shares a lot of communities of interest not only at Greenlee but with the common border problems at the ports in Douglas, in Naco, in Nogales, and some of the ports over in Sells area on the O'odham reservation."
5. Paul Newman: "So this "Scenario five" includes only the Nogales portions of Santa Cruz County. It goes over onto the O'odham Nation all the way out. It's a beautiful district extending to the Chiricahuas to the Huachucas over to Baboquivari. And if you don't think that we're related, somebody should go out to Montezulas Point some time at the end of Coronado Pass because you just -- when you look out on the ridge, there area is Baboquivari. We are all here on the same place. We share the same border with the same problems, and it would be majority/minority district protecting people's rights."
6. Paul Newman: "Now, in terms of the other scenario, it's "Scenario four" as you can see. And it does do the goal that all of in the room want is to keep Cochise County intact. It takes all of Santa Cruz County, and the main proper area of the O'odham reservation."
7. Tom Hessler, Mayor of Sierra Vista: "One, Sierra Vista has much more in common with Cochise County than with its neighbors to the west, to include Tucson. The county

is a community of common interest. Two, Sierra Vista, together with Fort Huachuca, which is incorporated in the city, is the social center, commercial or economic driver, and work force center of Cochise County. Three, Sierra Vista has a long-standing informal relationship with all of the incorporated towns of Cochise County as well as the county government. Four, Sierra Vista has an extended array of various inter governmental agreements with many of those same entities. We have little in common with Tucson and no IDAs or other political ties with them except common membership, of course, in the native Arizona cities and towns. As the districts are now proposed, all Sierra Vista expansion through annexation will result in these new areas in part of a different district. This is very divisive to our new growth, and I know of no other city that would be so isolated. Huachuca City, although it's separately incorporated, is an integral part of Sierra Vista sphere of influence, which should be in the same district. County enclaves that are run by Sierra Vista are essentially part of Sierra Vista and should be in the same district regardless of the final redistricting. Nine, elected officials throughout the county and Sierra Vista wish to keep Sierra Vista in full association with the rest of Cochise County. And lastly, ten, the proposed district of Cochise County obviously violates the concept of gridlike districts. I would like my comments and the city resolution be made part of the Commission today, and the bottom line is put Sierra Vista back into Cochise County where we belong."

8. Dan Beshaw, Mayor of Bisbee: "Bisbee is a border community. We have a host of problems that we share with Douglas and with Sierra Vista with undocumented aliens, and that is a community of interest of sort that's not on your criteria but represents a major challenge to us."

9. Pat Call, Cochise County Supervisor: "I'm supervisor from District 1 in Cochise County. That includes Sierra Vista, Hereford, and Palominos. I'm here to speak specifically to the point that Sierra Vista must be part of Cochise County. The Sierra Vista area is the economic hub for 60,000 people in Cochise County. The Sierra Vista area is the single-most densely population portion of Cochise County, and the current scenario drives a wedge in the Sierra Vista community. If the current scenario is allowed to stand, half the population of this community will most likely be represented by the Foothills area of Tucson and the other half will most likely be represented by Apache Junction, Maricopa county in its population."

10. Pat Call, Cochise County Supervisor ""Scenario 2" is the one I would support.

11. Martin Easterhouse, Mayor of Willcox: "We too want Cochise County to remain in one unit. And whether it's with map four or with map two, however the scenario works out, as long as it includes all of Cochise County."

12. Casey Jones, Mayor Pro Tem, Sierra Vista: "Sierra Vista is a part of Cochise County and Cochise County is a part of Sierra Vista. For anybody to even consider separating that bond shows a total disregard for the sensibility of those who live here and those who try to govern here and bring a good life to our citizens. I think that the map, the scenario two map is ideal."

13. Jim Cogan: "The other thing we have with this other (Commission draft) district is if you go out and try to campaign, you have to use newspapers, radio, and TV. Well, our southern district, one of those two, or even the third one (Scenarios 2,4,& 5), we can resale with what's available here. If we have to start buying out of the Phoenix market, the rates in Phoenix for radio time, TV time, or newspaper time are 500 percent higher than the rate in Cochise County. We cannot afford to campaign up north to tell you the truth. It's just an unworkable situation."

14. Dan Anderson: "The only thing I would do is offer the solution. Map two is mine.... First off, I want to make it very simple, compact, contiguous, meet the provisions of Proposition 106 as absolutely closely as possible to make your job easier because I know it is very, very difficult."

15. Dan Anderson: "Having done that, we have this little area over here, which I call the Pinal insert, I had no intention of having it read any different. But here's how that came about. We know that we have 117,000 people in Cochise County. That's far short of 171,021 that you require for your legislative district. So we went out and got a requisite number of people that could be taken from Graham and Greenlee and still fit within the judicial constraints, and we came up with about 14,000 people short. And that is why this area here, I say approximately, is there."

16. Ed Cunningham: "Your proposed plan is contrary to both the letter and the spirit of Prop 106. It cuts the heart out of Cochise County to satisfy the hunger of Tucson for a fifth legislative district. And the Gerrymandering is a pointless and boundless legislative district that meanders for over 200 miles across Arizona to alleviate the fears of some eastern counties that are afraid you might do to them what it is you're proposing to do to us."

17. Ed Cunningham: "Put yourselves, if you will, in the position of someone running for state senator or representative from your proposed legislative district. Would you run on border issues? Would you run on economic issues? Would you run on I-10 corridor issues involving highways, railroads pipelines, tourism and all the other things? Would you run on mining issues? Would you run on ranching or farming issues? Would you run on civic issues involving schools, police, and fire protection, shared city and county growth and development matters? And if so, would you run on those which involve suburban Sierra Vista or would you run on those that involve Apache Junction? Would you run on property taxation issues when Cochise, Pima, Maricopa, and Pinal Counties are all involved? Would you run on Native American issues of concern to the four forgotten reservations in Pinal County that you somehow think being with us or without us as the case may be? What is even one single community of interest in this monument of political strangers."

18. Jim Horton: "How can I be the only person in the room who thinks our community of interest lies someplace besides Graham and Greenlee County. I got the Yellow Pages out. Grab our telephone book before you leave town and go to the Yellow Pages and open them up and they're may be an inch thick for Cochise County. And see how many

entries you find under mining in Cochise County. About two inches space out of the whole Yellow Pages. Find timber and logging in Cochise County. No entries in the Yellow Pages. Cattle companies, zero, zilch, zip. But look at it for tech. Look at those Yellow Pages and decide where our community of interest is."

19. Jim Tinney: "I'm going to address a couple of things that were talked about earlier by Mr. Newman and some of the other folks that were interested in number four and number five up there on the wall. They said that the one main reason you want to so that is because they needed all the border, all the areas along the border to be in one district so that you could have representation at the state level. Now, my question is if you take map two, you have another district that takes in Santa Cruz County and you have another district over by Yuma and another district in between, that's five, four to five representatives that are going to be in the state that are going to have to deal with the border issues. That is a much higher percentage of representation than one district. One big district is not going to have the authority or ability to affect what happens in the state legislature as four or five people having the same problems."

20. Gilbert Reeves: "I can look at these three maps up here, and I can see two that assures a reelection for a politician, and I can see one that represents the people. And that one is ("Scenario") number two."

21. Jerry Krusick: "Map number two, I knew about that, and I'm totally in favor of that map because of the actual community of interest between Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties. Those portions of those two counties that are not included in that proposed district are, as Ben Anderson said, the Indian reservations. There is no community of interest in Cochise County with those reservations."

22. Mark Suagee: "I favor maps four and five, but I think that if you do something other than what you've done and if you recognize Cochise County as a distinct political entity that has its place in the system, you're going to have avoided a lot of hostilities, and I think it's been said here tonight that you'll have done a much better service for all of us."

23. Matt Cook: "The wisdom of map number two is that other aspects of Cochise County, even going down to Douglas, connects well to Safford and connect well to other areas above Greenlee County and so forth. Willcox has real connections up that way. So it would look like map two would be an interesting thing to have, and that's something I would support."

24. Ruben Ortega: "So I would hope if you would look at it, consider some of the issues that will be involved in possible retrogression of what was a majority/minority district, a majority/minority district that has been elected a Hispanic Legislator and previously elected one, and at the same time when you start looking at all three scenarios, the Commission needs to look at racial block voting. I don't know if the Commission has looked at racial block voting in particular of the three maps that are being shown in front of us. But I think that's something that you have to consider because we have to remember that like it or not, there are some people out there just do not vote for someone

either for the color of their skin or their last name. That's unfortunate but we know because of demographic information, because of past election results, that that in fact does happen, and in fact it does happen in southeastern Arizona. I won't tell you I have a preference, but the three maps are a whole lot better than what the Commission proposed. I would like to see the demographics of map ("scenario") two, whether or not in fact we have close to the majority/minority numbers that we had 10 years ago."

25. Bob Carpenter: "I live in Sierra Vista, and a lot of the people you have heard here tonight do not but they live in Cochise County. There's been a political point effort which built itself up over the history of this area, and people that live here still think that Sierra Vista should be a part or should be a political part of Cochise County. I couldn't disagree more. I thought that the first map or that map, that preliminary map that you had there that split Sierra Vista away from Cochise County was a great idea. And the truth of the matter is that there is a cosmopolitan area. The population has grown. We have a lot more in common with the people in Tucson that we do with people that live along the border that concern themselves with the border issues, that concern themselves with mining, that concern themselves with agriculture."

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.

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