

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

**Location:** Bullhead City  
Bullhead City City Hall

**Date:** September 15, 2001  
3:00 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:** James Huntwork

**Commission Attorneys:**  
Jose Rivera

**NDC Staff:**  
Alan Heslop

Approximately 30 persons attended the meeting at Bullhead City City Hall and 12 of them addressed the Commission.

The unanimous theme of the testimony, joined in by representatives of both the Democratic and Republican Parties, was the great importance of keeping Bullhead City together with Havasu City and the other River communities. Noting their disappointment that the draft plans had diverged from the Grid maps displayed at the first hearings, speakers protested the division of Mohave County.

Several speakers commented on the lack of community between the River and the Northeastern areas of the State. One speaker charged that the linkage with the Navajo Nation would effectively "disenfranchise" both the River and the Navajo Reservation; and he quoted a Navajo representative to a similar effect. The strong preference of most speakers was for Mohave to be linked to La Paz County. If that proves impossible, a distinctly less favored option was linkage to rural areas of Maricopa County; but there were warnings of domination by Maricopa County and the emphasis was on strictly limiting any such linkage. One speaker suggested that an alternative secondary option could be linkage with northern Coconino County and like communities such as Page and Fredonia.

Testimony about the community needs and interests that would be served in a projected River district focused on problems of sewage, ground water, dam protection, and the overriding importance of maintaining an asset that is the source of drinking water for 20 million people. One speaker asserted that the River is more important than any county line. A resident of Bullhead City noted that, because of proximity to Loughlin, it has become a 24-hour community; and other speakers, also, commented on the River communities' rapid growth, both commercial and residential, which had made them distinctly different from eastern Arizona.

Democrats in Mohave County according to one speaker, need as level a playing field as possible; and representatives of Democratic organizations emphasized that neither the draft Congressional nor the Legislative districts are as competitive as they can and should be. The large size of draft Congressional district C, and the difficulty of representing it, attracted sharp criticism. In its defense, however, one speaker noted that several equally large districts elsewhere have provided effective representation.

**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.