

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the City Council Chambers, Prescott, AZ, September 5, 2001

1. Sanford Cohen: "First and foremost, you are, in this draft, you are putting together an area in Mohave County which has traditionally been separate representatively. In return, you are taking an area that has been united representatively and breaking it up. Secondly, if you were to look at the City of Flagstaff and the ability to divide that City, the advantage of that is the City of Flagstaff though divided would still have one central city government, and so there will be still some ability to manage the affairs in Flagstaff even though that district may be split up. In Yavapai County, however, specifically the Prescott Tri-City area, you have basically condemned us for the next ten years to being nothing more than an afterthought in state and federal affairs. The way in which we're divided up with Prescott being a small part of a very large Mohave County, Prescott Valley being in a very large Flagstaff district, places like Prescott Country Club and Dewey-Humboldt being swallowed up by Maricopa County, I can't tell you how much that scares me personally."

2. Supervisor Brownlow: "As you know, there's five or six AMAs in the state of Arizona. We are the only AMA that got slapped down with drawn-down water. As you all know, other AMAs have drawdown legislation, and they haven't jumped up and said that. That has pulled us together. If you look at a map of Prescott, the AMA, I think that would make a great district for us and keep us together to try to work through this AMA situation we're going through right now."

3. Mayor Rick Killingsworth: "With the Tri-City side, as you heard from the first two speakers, and you'll hear all through the night, we've worked so hard all through the years to bring about something in Yavapai County that has taken a long, long time. We're now at the threshold of really bringing that about. We hope you as Commissioners recognize the efforts we've put into it. It's the water, but not only the water. You'll find everything going on up here in the Tri-City areas is really groundbreaking from the state. People are coming from all over the state to find out how we do things in the Tri-City areas, not only do them, make them happen, and work for people in our area."

4. Sam Steiger, Mayor of Prescott: "But, you know, the tradition of Tucson hates Phoenix, Havasu hates Kingman, Verde hates Prescott, that's a given. The fact is, I know you'll find (it hard) to believe, Mayor Killingsworth and I have occasionally disagreed. But I will tell you absolutely that he hit the nail right on the head when he said, and you need to take this away with you if you don't take anything else, "The Tri-City area is a unit." It is truly a unit, a unit not only in the ways Mr. Brownlow shared with you, with communications, common transportation solutions, we're looking, we have a water advisory group that includes the Verde Valley in order to consult on water. This is a genuinely cohesive unit already. You really need to understand that."

5. Lou Smith: "As far as the Congressional District you've saddled us with, good heavens, it's worse than the gerrymandering in Georgia now. We know how horrible the

way that is. It isn't logical for a single individual to represent that massive geographic area.

6. Kenton Jones: "The issue of communities of interest astounds me in the notion you approve this Congressional District stating it met the requirement of 106 for communities of interest. Whatever in the world you were convinced of to think that the towns in the white mountains and the agricultural interests in the eastern part of the state in common with the river and cities retirement parts of the state is astounding to me. Those interests are disparate, different, different issues, different concerns."

7. Paul Pointer: "I'm submitting a map which much more closely meets the goals of 106, at least in my opinion, and combines 11 rural counties, six Legislative Districts, without any districts including any part of the Phoenix area. None are as ridiculously strung out as the Commission's A, from the Four Corners in the northeastern corner, through Nevada in the west. I've submitted the map. It does not divide communities of interest, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, and Maricopa."

8. Dawn Knight: "I'm sure when people voted for this Proposition 106, a lot of the people who voted yes for it voted thinking that it would be better districts and more competitive so people would have a chance to run for election and maybe get elected."

9. Malcolm Barrett: "I'll comment first on the Congressional District, some complaints on the district belong too, too big, being a relative term. States like Alaska, Wyoming, they have only one Congressman today. Although the largest CCs, this rural district is rural, keeping with the goals of Prop. 106, as much as practical. It is important to note this Congressional District is the most competitive of all the new districts. We have no problem with the Congressional District as it's configured now. I do, however, have great consternation with the Legislative maps which have split into the Prescott Tri-City community. One of the problems is not to use visible geographic features has had no application for this goal in establishing these maps. Tri-City is easily, I'd use, go to the topographical map, use the mountains East-West North-South to form the boundaries. The Verde Valley, Sedona community can be divided likewise in fashion. These distinctions result in a divided community relating to the Congress transportation water, schools. I urge the Commission to reconsider the break-up of the Prescott Tri-City community."

10. Lucy Mason: "We have many issues, as you well know, that bind us, not only economic, not only about transportation and roads, education, tourism, but they are about water. The AMA we have here in Prescott area is literally, if you take a geological circle that kind of follows the area, follows lines, geographical, geographical lines around our area, it's almost a circle. And it is geological in nature, almost a circle, and it closes in our Tri-City area."

11. Sidney Moglewer: "The results of the proposed redistricting by this Commission do not meet accepted standards of fairness. The Commission has not adequately recognized that redistricting is a tradeoff between the political interest and the public interest."

Instead, the preliminary maps show many safe districts that benefit the political interest at the expense of the public interest.... And envyfree means that neither Republicans nor Democrats feel they have been taken advantage of by the process. The Commission has focused on efficiency while protecting incumbents. They have failed on the other two measures of fairness."

12. Sidney Moglewer: "Attached is my suggestion for a more competitive alignment. There would be three rural districts that do not go into Maricopa County. All three of these districts are competitive. Only two counties outside of Maricopa would be split into more than one district, Pima and Pinal. This alignment would still meet the standards of efficiency and be more equitable than the Commission's proposal. Thus it would be fairer. Legislative Districts could be drawn from completely within these Congressional Districts and avoid the current abomination. This is the state of Arizona, not the State of Maricopa."

13. Don Johnson: "We have little or nothing in common with the Colorado River communities. They have next to nothing in common with Yavapai County.... The Eastern Arizona District was created at the expense of decimating Yavapai County which happens to be the fourth largest county in the state of Arizona. It's not acceptable to the 167,517 residents of Yavapai County the way it is presently constituted. The gerrymandering of Yavapai County in the LD map has the very probability that Yavapai County would not be in a position to elect a single Legislator for the next ten years. In all three proposed LDs, Yavapai County is overwhelmed by districts such as Mohave, Coconino, and Maricopa Counties. We'd become a very small part."

14. Mr. McKinney: "I'm afraid if you split this up, we're going to get someone who is somewhat schizophrenic. He's going to listen to our concerns in the north, but he also has concerns in the south, in the Maricopa County. How is he going to juggle those two areas with the needs and desires they have with ours as well?"

15. Pete Jorjensen: "C is competitive, with inclusion of Yavapai, it's growing rapidly Republican, this district will be Republican, this district needs to be changed so the Democratic voices in the state are more evenly represented. Either districts all need to be redrawn all competitive or we need to create more Democratic districts.... If you take a portion of Yavapai and add it to District A, it wouldn't change the composition of District A, which is already very heavily Republican. This portion of Republican would continue Republican, but it would give District C -- it would remain Democratic or have an opportunity to stay Democratic, move Democratic, instead of moving in the Republican direction, which it will do in the future given the current lines."

16 Beverly Jorjensen: "I would also like to suggest...moving Fort Mohave south of District C, right below Bullhead City, really contiguous to the district you've drawn, move Willcox, the area contiguous to District C, move those areas into District C so you are addressing communities of interest."

17. Rosemary Straub: "Ten years ago District Six was created as a minority district, but it grew rapidly into an overwhelmingly Republican District. It is now the largest district in the state. If growth continues in the same manner as it has in the past, District C will become less competitive as it grows more Republican."

18. Pam Ayras: "Has the Commission or its attorneys reviewed the intent documents submitted by the authors of 106 to see if listings A through F are indeed a listing under Section 14 in priority order? That may, that research may give the Commission guiding light in which to work its final presentation. Much work has been apparently concentrated on complying with 14D regarding community of interest and paragraph F, competitive districts. Perhaps these words have been given too much credence. The main thrust, as stipulated in Section 14, which we all voted into creation, was the equal population grid-like pattern across the state."

19. Pam Ayras: "From my experience with redistricting, again, in the past, in another state, but with the Department of Justice, it is that voting history numbers can clearly point out errors in those wonderfully drawn magical numbered to it to perhaps numbers that relate to population equality. My experience with the Department of Justice is they are willing to bend plus or minus two percent, two percent."

20. Representative Harry Camarot: "One, we want to respect Mohave County's view not to be joined with Yavapai. Mohave and Yavapai both agree they should be separated because of the difference of the community of interest, mainly surrounding around water. In that regard, let me note that the community of interest, when we talk about water, which you heard about, there's another factor. I'll avoid repetition. The Prescott AMA is the only AMA that is not in a safe yield as required by law. As a result, efforts are being made to correct that. We also have to work together in the Tri-City area, we have to work with contiguous properties surround us in the county. It's critical, I think, you leave us together. That leads me to the important factor. Most people believe it's critical that you leave Yavapai as intact as possible recognizing there may be some variations. We have approximately 160,000 population in Yavapai. Take away some, the question is where will you go? I think its clear most people do not like, from Yavapai, to be incorporated into Maricopa County. Perhaps in Wickenburg, perhaps rural burgs, certainly not Maricopa proper. The reason is simple. We'd be overshadowed by population there. That's something important."

21. Tony Reilly: "Yavapai County needs to remain whole. Verde Valley is part of Yavapai. Working with Verde Valley water, working with AMA, the Verde River originates up outside the AMA. The AMA impacts the Verde River."

22. Mike Flannery: "I know you want a rural district, I just do not feel people within that are going to be served by that large an area.... I do not believe anybody can service that area. I believe serviceability is one of the things you should hold as criteria."

23. Wanda Burkhardt: "Verde Valley is not part of the AMA. Prescott does own land in Paulden outside and north of the AMA with pumping rights. A huge, million dollar

water line is already in place to bring that water to the Tri-City area because of our exploding population. The Verde Valley says that's in our AMA and you are going to take our water. If the political representative for these two valleys was two different people, they would be obligated to fight for their area against the other one, and you would have a water war to end all water wars. But if one person represented both areas, which would happen if Yavapai County was kept intact, that one person would be obligated to get an amicable agreement about the situation."

24. Stan Turner: "Again, I'd like to have you go back, start over, come up with competitive districts. That's what the people of Arizona voted for. They didn't vote on all the side issues. They wanted competitive districts, to remove incumbents that had been locked in for 10 or 20 years, or a lifetime."

25. Stan Turner: "Five (percent registration difference) makes it competitive. 10 percent does not make a competitive district. The area up here assigned to us.... There is a slight Democratic advantage. I'd be happy. The rest of the state suffers. Revisit it as well. Take some from us, give it to them. Eight districts, four percent difference (statewide) voter registration, Democrats, Republicans. Six incumbents protected, depending on where Bob Stump lives. That's astounding."

26. Stan Turner: "We talk so much about communities of interest in the Tri-Cities. Let's be honest here. The Tri-Cities have been fighting each other for twenty years. There's some agreement here, some agreements there. For the most part, it's re-zoning where Prescott Valley and Prescott wanted to annex that. We fought the whole thing out. It's not so much community of interest, there are three communities of interest. Each wants to grow. Each wants to build on its own terms. Put anyway they want to, the developers' interests, the fact of the matter is this is not so much a community of interest problem. My point four, on the Republican scene, as we speak here today, some are running for office. Some high muck-a-muckers in the state party and county party, what I'm actually bringing up here, not water, community of interest, job security for the Republicans in the Legislature and state government."

27. Ms. Fisher: "I live in an unincorporated area known as Big Park, actually I'm President of the Big Park Regional Council formed with volunteer activity. There's a tremendous level of involvement throughout both the unincorporated areas and incorporated cities within Verde Valley. I'd not like to see us split up. I can appreciate what is being said this evening about the Tri-Cities area. We'd rather see us split into two rather than to be split up in the Verde Valley."

28. Senator Bennett: "We talked about the AMA, Prescott AMA. There is a boundary even more important than the Prescott AMA, that's the Verde watershed. The Verde watershed boundaries, if you look at it, are very much aligned with the majority of Yavapai County. I believe if you split Yavapai County into Legislative Districts based on Mingus Mountain, we will rip the county apart within five years, six years, probably based on one issue alone, that's water."

29. Senator Bennett: "It comes down more to quality of the candidates that run. Republican or Democrat can be elected almost anywhere in the state based on their own qualities."

30. Dan Main, Mayor of Chino: "If you split Verde Valley off the Tri-City area, you'll have problems.... Verde Valley, the mountain over here, Verde Valley understands the concepts Prescott has of a water budget. Prescott Valley has a water budget. Chino Valley is drawing one up. Verde Valley is starting to understand it. If you split us up, you'll set us back 10, 15 years. You'll not hurt us as much as the Verde Valley folks who are just now getting the concepts down with help on this side of the mountain to get what they need long-term to solve their growth problems as they are growing up. That's the water issue. The other issue is areas and communities. We literally have a mountain between us, no doubt about it. On the other side, they have dry land where you get up to Cornville, all those areas. The middle valley, as far as culture communities."

31. Lanny Lambert: "To divide the Tri-City area is to turn complicated accomplishments into unavoidable failures. We have or are solving problems of transportation, communications, borders, open space, and water, and more. We challenge the redistricting according to this grid. It puts us at the mercy of those whose interests, need and vision conflict with our own by the very nature of the geography and populations involved. There is no common ground."

32. Mike Bluff: "The water issue is really our key request for us in Verde Valley. I agree with what has been said completely about us and Verde Valley being a part of Prescott up here so we can solve that problem together. Splitting us apart doesn't solve that problem for us."

33. Terry Sapio: "Flying over the state of Arizona at night, there's many thousands of miles of blackness. With this Congressional District, you almost need an airline pilot with their own airplane, it's so big. 14 years ago, Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley were three distinct clumps of light. You could barely make out the lights of Dewey, Humboldt, and Mayer. Now when I fly over the areas at night, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino, Mayer, Dewey, in fact Chino and Paulden have grown together. Prescott Valley and Dewey lights have grown together. In fact, now flying over Arizona at night, I can make out the entire highway 69, Prescott all the way to the Interstate at Cordes Junction. I never could do that 14 years ago. In spite of that, that large growth in this area, this area has got a tremendous number of square miles of total blackness separating it from the valley in Phoenix, Maricopa County."

34. Mr. Bradshaw: "In recent weeks the Prescott Economic Council held a day-long retreat to revise and update a plan for economic development. One message came through loud and clear by the end of the day which was in order to be successful, we need to begin taking a more regional approach in many areas, such as available work force, job training opportunities, available land and housing, to mention just a few. Also, the new Census told us that the Tri-City area now has a population large enough to consider establishment of a metropolitan planning organization."

35. Robert Martinez: "Again, Dewey-Humboldt is so small, you had to stick us in two cities, urban cities, our legislative voice. There have been a lot of issues brought up tonight, water and everything else. If you think we have anything in common with the cities of Sun City, Buckeye, Glendale, all those other big urban communities, I know one thing about redistricting, it's supposed to help rural communities get a bigger voice. I didn't see that happen at all."

36. Mike Beisch: "Now, in the Tri-City area, you could not have the Tri-City area without the Chino Valley aquifer. If you split up the Tri-City area, the City of Prescott, the City of Prescott Valley, City of Chino Valley, possibly Dewey, all the cities will lose legislative control of the Chino Valley aquifer."

37. Lydia Chapman: "I'm also from Humboldt. We're unique in our culture. We're Hillbillies, hicks, mountain people. That's okay. We have wells, most of us, and septic. We're very concerned about water. It isn't just us, though, it's people in Dewey, people in Blue Hills, people in Cherry, in Orme, Spring Valley, and people in Cordes. When people talk about the Tri-Cities, we don't feel very represented. The AMA ends in Humboldt. It's very important to us to be part of the AMA. We depend on Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino for jobs, for our shopping, but we don't want to be forgotten. We don't feel that we would be represented by being in the North Phoenix area. We don't have interests in common with Sun City. We don't think someone would protect our water, our land, if they are involved with a municipality so far from us."

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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