ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

EXCEPRT OF PROCEEDINGS

November 5, 2011
3:30 p.m.

Location

City of Casa Grande
City Council Chambers
510 East Florence Boulevard
Casa Grande, Arizona 85211

Attending

Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist

PREPARED BY:

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COMMISSIONER STERTZ: The time is 3:30.

Welcome to the last in the series of 31 meetings -- outreach meetings for the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

My name is Rick Stertz. I am one of five commissioners on the Independent Redistricting Commission.

We are not live-streaming today. We do not have that capacity, but this is being recorded. So hello to my fellow commissioners that will be watching this after the fact.

A couple of introductions I wanted to make, but before I do that, I just wanted to say that this has been an emotionally-charged week.

There has been a lot that has been written and said about what has transpired, and I just wanted you all to know that we're going to appreciate all of the comments that you make.

So we want to try to capture the information that you have got so that we can place it into the record. And whether or not you have filled out a yellow sheet like this to speak or have
filled out a blue sheet like this to get it into testimony, all of the testimony, whether or not it's given in writing or given verbally or given online or mailed in, is all being accumulated and assimilated and collated for us -- for all of the commissioners to be reviewing so that we can create a bigger understanding and story about what your feelings are about the draft maps as they were published.

I want to introduce first some of our staff.

We've got Kristina Gomez, who is our deputy executive director in the back corner of the room.

If there's anything that you need, any paper that you need, any issues that you want to take up, Kristina will be able to assist you.

Also if you have any written comments you have already prepared that you will be reading into the record or maybe that the time frame may not -- you've got a lot that you want to place in, you might not get to it all verbally, make sure that you get those documents to Kristina and she'll place those into the record.

We've got Karen Herrman and Shane
Shields, both of our community outreach representatives are also in the back of the room. Our chief technology officer behind the large black box over here is Buck Forst. Taking our minutes is Michelle Elam. And if during the course of the meeting when you come up to give testimony, make sure that you spell your name and -- clearly so that -- before you start giving your testimony so that she can get that into the record.

We also have Andrew Drechsler from Strategic Telemetry who is going to be giving a presentation and will be able after the meeting to answer any questions.

And lastly we've got Carlos Reyes who will be our Spanish interpreter if any interpretation needs to be made.

But before we get started, let's all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

I always enjoy that part of the meeting.

It's just a great way to begin.

Before we get started with Andrew, I want to thank also the city of Casa Grande for hosting us
this evening and giving us the opportunity to be in
this beautiful location.

    I feel very distant from you being all
the way back here. I just did a meeting this
morning in Casa Grande (sic) and it was like
theater-in-the-round.

    So before we go with Andrew, if Carlos
Reyes -- would he be able to step up and in English
and Spanish give the introduction.

CARLOS REYES: Good afternoon,
Commissioner Stertz.

    Ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with
the Voting Rights Act, an interpreter will be
available at the public hearings in order to provide
interpreting services that might be needed for those
citizens needing interpreting services.

    Please contact the interpreter present at
the meeting so that he or she can assist you.

    And now I will read the script in Spanish
for the Spanish-speaking citizens.

    (Speaking in Spanish.)

Thank you very much, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Carlos.

And Carlos has been following us on the
tour as well.
This has been a very exciting last 30 days as we been traveling around the state. This is the 31st city that we have been in. We've literally collected thousands and thousands of pieces of testimony, maps, data, speeches, e-mails, letters that we're going to be going through.

Before we get started and turn it over to Andrew, we've got about 20, 25 comment cards for speeches. We'll probably use four minutes as the timing.

So if you'll look at your presentation and if you can think about whether or not you can make the presentation within that time frame, that gives us about two hours worth of presentation tonight.

I think that -- I'll try to -- when you hear the buzzer go off, try to wrap up your comments if you can, but we're here to collect testimony, not to cut you off.

So with no further adieu, I'm going to turn this over to Andrew Drechsler for a presentation on the redistricting process.

Andrew.

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much, Commissioner Stertz.
Before we get started today, we just wanted to give a quick presentation that goes over -- that gives an overview of the process and what we're doing before we get your comments tonight. I will also share the draft maps with you today.

So the Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the state's Constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the passage of Proposition 106. It stipulates that Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative lines districts to reflect the results of the most recent census.

Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a congressional seat. So we'll be going from eight congressional seats to nine congressional seats.

The state senate will remain at 30 and the house representatives will remain at 60 with two members of the house of representatives nested within each of the state senate seats.

What are the requirements of the state Constitution per Proposition 106?

And these are really the guidelines that the commissioners are using when they are making any of the considerations in drawing the lines and drawing the maps.
New district boundaries must, A, comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

B, be equal population.

Criteria A and B are federally mandated to the extent practicable, the districts must be C, compact and contiguous; D, respect communities of interest; E, use visible geographic features, city, town, county boundaries, and undivided census tract; and E -- I'm sorry, F, favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

We just wanted to do a quick overview of the Voting Rights Act.

Arizona's congressional and legislative districts must receive preclearance or approval from the Department of Justice or a federal court under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they can take effect.

To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate against minority voters in purpose or effect, which means that there can be no intentional or accidental discrimination.

Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans can be retrogressive. The plans cannot
weaken such or reduce minority voting rights.

The presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

And we actually have a short presentation on the Voting Rights Act as well, presentation by Bruce Adelson.

And, of course, on the 31st day of hearings we have to have technology difficulties.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Do you need five minutes of stand-up here?

ANDREW DRECHSLER: So we're going to listen to Bruce give this two-minute presentation. I apologize for the delay.

((Mr. Bruce Adelson's video presentation was played.)

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Okay. Next we want to do a quick overview of the redistricting process. And there's really -- we broke it down into six steps okay.

So the first step was setting up the Commission. So earlier this year basically what was created was a new state -- whole new state agency and the commissioners were appointed following a thorough screening process.
Each of the commissioners serve in a voluntarily, unpaid role for the Commission.

The second step was the first round of hearings.

Before a single line was drawn, the Commission held 23 public hearings around the state in July and August. We got input from members of the public about issues relevant to the redistricting such as geography, community of interest, minority voting rights and competitiveness.

Third step was the map.

Per Proposition 106, we needed to start with a clean slate. That means that we couldn't take into consideration where any incumbents lived or what any of the district lines looked like from the 2010 elections. So we had to wipe everything clean.

Next, we divided the state into equal population and compact-like grids.

Again, per Proposition 106, they asked us to create a grid map. This was approved on August 18th.

Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission has met over 25 times to consider
adjustments to the grid to accommodate all of the state constitutional criteria. During this time they received additional public comment and draft maps, so this was done at the end of August throughout September into October. Then we had the approval of the maps. On October 3rd, the Commission approved the draft congressional map that incorporated the changes based on the constitutional criteria and then the legislative map was adopted on October 10th.

Next is step four, the second round of hearings, which you are part of today. We're currently visiting 30 towns and cities around the state. Today is the very last meeting, as we mentioned, where we've received additional public input on the draft maps throughout October and into November. The next step is the final map, step five.

Upon completion of the public comment period, the Commission will adopt final maps. And then the final step is preclearance. Because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be
approved by the federal Department of Justice or a federal court in Washington, D.C., before they be used for Arizona's elections.

So before we show you the draft map, we just wanted to go over the process.

This map was the map that is currently -- was approved by the last Commission and most recently used in the 2010 elections.

Per Proposition 106, we started clean with a clean slate and then we built the grid map.

Again, the grid map only took into consideration two of the six criteria, equal population and compactness.

So once the grid map was considered, that's -- when approved on August 18th, this is where the commissioners met over 25 times at the end of August and September and October to make changes to the grid map, consider -- they took into consideration the six criteria and thousands of comments from the public. And here before you you see the draft map.

Some highlights of the draft map is it has two predominantly rural districts, three border districts, three districts in the Greater Tucson region, five districts that are entirely within
Maricopa County. It avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations, and two districts where the minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

The legislative map process followed a very similar process.

Again, this is the map that was approved by the last Commission and was most recently used in the 2010 elections.

Again, we started with a clean slate.

Per Proposition 106, we didn't take into consideration where any incumbent legislators lived and we didn't consider previous lines. And then we proceeded with a grid map that was approved on August 18th.

Like the congressional grid map, it only took into consideration two of the six criteria, equal population and compactness.

And from there, that's where the commissioners took in the other four criteria and came up with a draft map that you see here.

Some of the things that we wanted to point out about the draft map, in the districts that were shown that were used for the last -- for the 2010 elections -- the population of those districts
ranged from 155,000 to 378,000. So that's obviously
one reason we had to shift the lines around, is to
come up with the concept of one person, one vote.

The current draft map has roughly 207,000
to 215,000. Under the state Constitution, we have
the -- I think the deviance of up to 10 percent
deviation, and I think we're under 5 percent here.

For the congressional map, I just wanted
to point out that the congressional map has to be
down to one person. So all of the districts in the
congressional map are equal and one of the districts
I think has one additional person.

To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the
draft map includes ten districts where minority
voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of
their choice.

The draft map has three districts wholly
within Pima County and three additional Southern
Arizona districts, seventeen districts primarily
within Maricopa County, and nine primarily rural
districts.

We want your input. That's a big reason
why we're here today. If you haven't already, you
can fill out one of the yellow request to speaker
form -- request to speak forms and come up and
address your comments.

We want to hear what you like about the maps, what you might not like about the maps, what changes you would recommend. We would want to hear them. You can also comment on any of the additional constitutional criteria or give us comments on both the congressional and draft maps.

Besides speaking at today's hearing, in the packet of information you received there is a blue sheet at the back and you can either fill this out and hand it in today to one of the representatives. Alternatively, at the bottom of the sheet is the address. So if you wanted to mail this in or call, the phone number is on there, or you can visit us at www.azredistricting.org. There's a public comment section on there that you can fill out your comments as well.

And any of the comments, no matter what format you give to us, they will be recorded as part of the permanent record.

Here is just a screenshot of our home page. We just wanted to highlight a couple of different things.

On the top left you'll see an arrow that says "maps." If you click on there, there's -- you
can find the grid maps, you can find the draft maps, and you can also find -- during the period from the grid to the draft maps, there was a number of scenarios that the commissioners asked for. What we call the what-if maps, and you can click on there and see any of the what-if maps.

There's another arrow that points to the meetings. If you want to watch and see the how the commissioners came to the draft maps, all of the meetings are online. All of the transcripts are there so you can -- if you're bored tonight, you can go home and start watching a hundred-plus hours of the meetings, the 25 meetings took place at the end of August and September and October and see the development of how the maps went from the grid maps to the draft maps.

And the public comment section, if you click on there, you'll be able to give additional public comments. You may get home tonight, you may look at the maps and have some ideas, thoughts, suggestions, by all means, give public comments it to us there.

Down at the bottom there's another arrow that says "maps." And if you click on either of the two pictures of the maps that you see there, it will
take you to a page like this.

This page has a wealth of information. First of all, it has maps in a number of different formats that you can review the map.

There's a number of different reports. There's population tables on the maps, there's competitiveness tables, which show competitive measures. There's compactness measures, there's splits reports, and there's -- some of these reports show how the draft maps compare to the maps that were used in the 2010 elections.

So if you want to go in and compare the two, you would be able to do that.

One of the things that we have circled here is the ability to go look Google maps. If you click on here -- this is a feature that the public has really liked at the other meetings.

It will bring you to a page that looks like this. And basically it's a Google map that has the districts highlighted. This one shows the congressional districts.

And what you're able to do is you're able to scroll in and really zoom in and see what the boundaries of are your district or you can go to your neighboring districts -- neighbor's districts
and see what the boundaries are of their districts.

Here is just a quick screenshot that shows you some of the level of detail that you would be able to see when you zoom in. This is just a screenshot of Maricopa congressional districts. Four different congressional districts here and you can see down to the exact neighborhoods, you can have a map view or a satellite view if you wanted to see various geographic features as well.

Finally, we want you to stay connected. We encourage you to visit our website at www.azredistricting.org. As we mentioned, there's a wealth of information.

One of the features that we have on there is draw your own map. We have an online mapping program. You can follow any of the -- you can review any of the past meetings. And as we move into this stage where we're going to be finalizing the map, you can get information on meetings, you can watch -- most of our meetings are streamed online. So if you're not able to drive and be here in person, you can watch the proceedings online.

And you can also follow us on Twitter and friend us on Facebook.

I just want to thank you. We really look
forward to hearing what you have to say about the maps. I was as -- Commissioner Stertz mentioned, I'll be here after the meeting. So if anybody has any questions, by all means, feel free to come up and ask me and I will be happy to answer them.

Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Andrew.

As is customary with our meetings, we give preference to our leadership to speak first; our mayors, our representatives, and our boards of supervisors and then I take the rest of them in the order that they were received.

So without further adieu, what I'll also be doing is to list off the first three folks so that you'll know that you will be coming up, you'll be on deck or getting ready to speak so you can start to get your thoughts in order.

So let's go ahead and get started, and we'll start off first with the mayor of Casa Grande, mayor Bob Jackson.

BOB JACKSON: Thank you.

I'm sorry I didn't mean to blind you with that light. I was trying to make it a little darker during the PowerPoint presentation.

My name is Bob Jackson. I'm the mayor of
the city of Casa Grande.

Do you want me to spell it for you or are you okay?

THE COURT REPORTER: No.

BOB JACKSON: I'm here today not only as mayor of Casa Grande but I'm also the chairman of the Casa Grande -- or the Pinal County Alliance Legislative Committee.

And we had previously provided some suggested mapping to the IRC in hopes that we could help solve some of the dilemmas that you guys have at trying to put your maps together.

While I'm sure you know who the Alliance is, I'll just briefly tell you that it's a group of all of the Pinal County cities, the county, and many of the special districts.

We've been in existence over 20 years, and we typically meet quarterly and try to make sure that Pinal County's issues, whether they be congressional, legislative, local, have a forum where we can decide what's best for Pinal County.

I know that we had submitted back at one of your earlier meetings a suggested map. We have made some slight changes to that, and later on today you'll hear from Jill Kipness with Robert Lynch &
Associates and she'll go through the details of those maps for you.

I have provided a copy of this presentation in its entirety. I can only read a couple of highlight items in the interest of time, but I have provided a complete document to your staff.

The revised Alliance map that you will see from Jill today keeps all nine counties whole and keeps Pinal and Mohave counties mostly whole.

Certainly Maricopa and Pima County are split as is Yuma County and Coconino County, although they are only split once each.

We do think that it's important that this map be given some consideration because rural cities and counties -- rural cities and towns use the counties to communicate particularly with the federal government. The map that does not keep rural counties together, does not benefit the counties or the state as a whole.

Our proposed congressional map recognizes communities of interest. Pinal County Indian community, Gila River, Ak-Chin, Tohono O'odham should continue to be in the same congressional district.
Saddlebrooke located in southern --
Southeastern Pinal County, many of the residents
there have Tucson addresses and we more closely
align them with Tucson.

Marana, which is -- while it's in Pima
County, most of the -- much of the growth that's
going on in Marana is actually occurring in Pinal
County, and they are a member of the Pinal County
Alliance. And we have shown them as part of the
proposed congressional district for this area.

We also think that it protects and
enhances the majority-minority characteristics of
the districts. And like I said, Jill will get up
here later and give you specifics about that.

On the legislative side, much of the same
reasoning was used. We feel that Pinal County wants
to be -- remain whole, but much of the growth that
has occurred in Arizona has allowed us to have this
the additional congressional seat. It really
occurred in Pinal County and we feel that needs to
be recognized by the IRC.

Pinal County now has sufficient
population to have one full district and would need
approximately 52,000 people to create a second
district.
I know that there have been several public hearings in the past where there's been some question about whether Casa Grande is a rural county or rural city or not, and I just want to read the comment, our response to each one of those.

Rural county districts should be completely rural and include areas like the city of Maricopa or Apache Junction because they are not rural cities.

Our answer from the Alliance is that Maricopa and Apache Junction are full partners in Pinal County's economic and political efforts, and hence they actively participate in the Alliance.

Their future rests with Pinal County.

Second comment, cities of Maricopa and Casa Grande don't care about rural issues.

I got to tell you this can't be further from the truth on behalf of Casa Grande. Even our general plan, it really stresses the rural nature of our community.

The Alliance's response to that is that Maricopa and Casa Grande have major agricultural and rural neighbors of economic partners that thrust them into rural issues constantly. That necessary intersection is a major reason that the Alliance was
And so I think speaking on behalf of the Alliance, we would really like to see, number one on the congressional level, Pinal County be kept whole as much as possible. Our membership does include many of the mountain cities as well.

And on the legislative side, like I said, we would like to have at least one district that is wholly within Pinal County as much as possible and a second one where we would be a major voice in that.

So thank you, and I don't envy your day, but I'm glad it's the end of the day and the end of the road for you today.

So thank for your time.