

Minutes of Meeting

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

March 1, 2011

A meeting of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission was held at 1:00 p.m. on March 1, 2011 in the State Library Conference Room. The meeting was called to order by Secretary of State Ken Bennett, who would chair the meeting until a fifth member and chairman of the Commission was selected. Mr. Herrera led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present:

Richard Stertz, Commissioner	José M. Herrera, Commissioner
Scott D. Freeman, Commissioner	Linda McNulty, Commissioner

Secretary Bennett stated that the next order of business would be public comments. Mr. Herrera questioned the need to have public comments because that opportunity was available at the last meeting; however, he had no objection if someone wished to speak.

Marcia Busching thanked the Commission for allowing public input and stated that she was an applicant for the Commission and serves on the Clean Elections Commission. She stated that it is extremely important, as the Commission members decide on a chairman, to make that decision from the heart and do what's right for Arizona.

Steve Muratore, a blogger, expressed concern about what he considered veiled threats that were easily passed over in the last meeting. He specifically noted the comment that there may not be adequate money to do as thorough a job as the Commission would like to do. He added that he felt it would be important to have someone with constitutional expertise on the panel and voiced his support for Mr. Bender. Noting there is a lot of information available on the Internet, Mr. Muratore pointed out that the goal of the Commission is to create as many competitive legislative and congressional districts as possible, and he appreciated their efforts to make sure that happens.

Bart Turner congratulated the four Commission members stating that 12-15 years ago he was on the Board of Arizona Common Cause, one of the primary supporters of Proposition 106. A broad spectrum of Arizonans got behind the proposal and helped bring it to fruition. A lot of effort went into bringing balance to what is a political process, and people are both watchful and supportive of the Commission as you do your duty. He felt the first Commission did an excellent job getting information to the public and holding public meetings. There is different technology available today than they had 10 years ago and Mr. Turner urged the Commission to bring sunlight and transparency to the process.

Secretary Bennett stated the next agenda item would be selection of the fifth member of the Commission. Mr. Herrera made a motion, seconded by Mr. Freeman, to move to executive

session for the purpose of consulting with the attorney regarding personnel matters. The motion carried.

The public meeting recessed at 1:15 p.m.

The public meeting reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

Secretary Bennett called the meeting back to order and Ms. McNulty made a motion to appoint Colleen Mathis as chairman of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission by unanimous acclamation. Mr. Stertz seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, it was so ordered.

Secretary Bennett administered the oath of office to Ms. Mathis and turned over the gavel and the remainder of the meeting to her as the new chairman of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission. Ms. Mathis thanked the Commission members for their confidence and support and stated she looked forward to working with them and doing the best job possible.

Ms. McNulty noted that this was a very difficult decision. There were five very qualified candidates but the members went through the pros and cons for each one and felt Ms. Mathis' background would best benefit the Commission in its work.

There was a motion to have the Commission notify the Secretary of State, by written communication, to whom the voter registration database may be released for the purpose of Art. 4, part 2. Without objection, the motion carried.

There was a brief discussion of times and locations for future meetings. Ms. McNulty suggested finding a place to meet where they could sit around a table to begin their discussions. She also suggested they look at places in Tucson or Casa Grande for occasional meetings. Mr. Freeman stated that someone had mentioned office space available near the capitol. Jim Drake indicated he would inquire at Department of Administration about availability.

Mr. Stertz suggested each member supply the chairman with dates that will not be available. Ms. Mathis agreed that it would be helpful if everyone would e-mail her they schedules so they can begin to plan.

All business being completed, Ms. McNulty moved, seconded by Mr. Herrera that the meeting adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.