

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

Location: Apache Junction, Arizona

Date: June 20, 2001

In Attendance:

**Commissioners: Andrea Minkoff, Vice Chairman
 James Huntwork, Commissioner**

Commission Attorneys: Lisa Hauser

NDC Staff: Florence Adams

A minority representative noted that because of Voting Rights Act Concerns, Fort McDowell, Salt River Indian Reservation, and the PascuaYaqui Indians in Guadalupe, are currently part of the same district. Joining all of Apache Junction, Casa Grande and all of Pinal County in one legislative district, will impair compliance with the Voting Rights Act. Also, Pinal County represents varied interests: Eloy is not comparable with Gold Canyon; Coolidge is not like Saddlebrooke in the southern part of Pinal County north of Tucson. The main point was that Pinal County can be divided without violating a community of interest. Another minority community representative commented that the minority community is looking for an increase in the number of districts in which minorities are the majority. There are currently seven minority-majority districts and the minority community is looking for 10 minority-majority districts after redistricting.

Other speakers expressed concern that Apache Junction is in three different districts. They have to talk to three different Senators and six representatives. Apache Junction has common problems including transportation and should not be divided.

Contiguous areas should be in the same district: Gold Canyon, Apache Junction, East Mesa, Gilbert are all areas that are contiguous and have much in common.

Pinal County should be kept intact despite its diversity: Pinal County is mostly rural, even though there are some urban pockets. There is farming and ranching. Tourism and development are some of the biggest challenges. The Arizona Association of Governments, representing Pinal and Gila counties, distributes transportation dollars. There are also health issues and preservation efforts. Fifty percent of the County is state land. Pinal County is very proud of being diverse and would like to balance that diversity, including minorities, and still be able to speak with one voice.

AURs: A strong majority-minority district
 Apache Junction
 Pinal County

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.