

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

Location: Window Rock

Date: June 25, 2001

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Steven W. Lynn
Joshua M. Hall

Commission Attorneys:

Jose Rivera

NDC Staff:

Ralph A. Rossum

There were approximately 85 people in attendance and a total of 17 speakers addressed the Commission. All of the speakers spoke on behalf of a formal proposal of the Navajo Nation, submitted during the hearing to the Commission, for establishing a congressional district and a legislative district including the Navajo Nation.

The proposed congressional district would include all of Mohave, Yavapai, Coconino, Navajo and Apache Counties as well as Payson and the Tonto County Census Division of Gila County and the San Carlos Census County Division of Graham County. Its population would be .04% less than the "ideal" population number of 641,329, and would have a Native American population of 23.5%. It would include the Navajo Nation, Fort Apache, San Carlos, Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Kaibab Paiute, Camp Verde, Fort Mohave, Tonto Apache, and Yavapai-Prescott Reservations and the Zuni Pueblo.

The proposed legislative district would include all of Apache County, the portions of Graham, Gila, and Pinal Counties within the San Carlos Reservation, the portion of Navajo County within the Navajo Nation Reservation, the community of Holbrook within Navajo County, and the northern portion of Coconino County, including the portion within the Navajo Nation Reservation and the Kaibab and Hualapai County Census Divisions within Coconino County. Its population would be 1.1% more than the "ideal" population number of 171,021, and would have a Native American population of 78.1%.¹ It would include the entire Fort Apache, San Carlos, Navajo Nation, Hopi, and Havasupai Reservations and the Zuni Pueblo.

The proposed districts were supported by various presentations, including a lengthy legal presentation as complying with the six requirements of Proposition 106. They were supported for creating rural districts and, therefore, for keeping rural voters from being

¹ This high percentage was defended as necessary and appropriate, given the percentage of the Native American population under the voting age. See Reporter's Transcript of Proceedings, page52, lines 2-13.

overwhelmed by urban interests. And, they were supported as representing a community of interests. Several speakers stressed the common connection that all Native Americans have to the land and underscored the importance of keeping all Native Americans together in the same congressional and legislative districts.

Several speakers urged the Commission not to split the Navajo Nation, which they saw as diluting the voting power of the Navajo Nation and discouraging voter participation in federal and state elections.

Several speakers also urged the Commission not to place the Hopis in congressional and legislative districts separate from the Navajo Nation. They insisted that the Hopi and Navajo Nation share a community of interest; assured the Hopi that they would be fairly represented if a member of the Navajo Nation were elected to Congress or the state legislature from the districts that were being proposed; and anticipated that, if both the Hopi and Navajo Nation “would be forced to sit at the same table and forced to speak with one another,” they would be able to resolve many past difficulties. “If they have one congressional representative, that person might encourage mediation and more solutions to problems that exist.”

AURs: Navajo Nation maps

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.