

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

Location: Avondale

Date: June 26, 2001

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Andrea Minkoff

Commission Attorneys:

Lisa T. Hauser

NDC Staff:

Florence Adams

There were approximately 85 people in attendance and a total of 16 speakers addressed the Commission.

The dominant theme was that the Commission must draw legislative districts that take into account “ethnic backgrounds, median income, and education levels.”¹ Operating on that premise, ten speakers saw a community of interest among Surprise, Avondale, Tolleson, Cashion, South Phoenix, West Phoenix, and possibly as well Litchfield Park and Buckeye.

The Sun Cities and Peoria were understood by all but one speaker to be outside the community of interests of these other cities/areas. Also, one speaker was emphatic that Phoenix was not part of a community of interest with Tolleson and Cashion: “I would just like to see all of us in one, big group and away from Phoenix.” Evidence cited by the speakers that these cities/areas constituted a community of interest was their “many similarities, such as a high unemployment rate, a large percentage of AFDC recipients, low voter turnout, high minority population, [and] large high school dropout” rates. Other evidence cited of a community of interest was the common rapid growth these cities/areas were experiencing, along with resulting problems in the areas of transportation and education. Still other evidence cited was similar high rates of voter opposition in these cities/areas to Proposition 203, eliminating bilingual education.

Two speakers spoke of Luke Air Force Base, and the “military retirees” surrounding the base, as a community of interest. Four speakers mentioned specifically the importance of keeping in one legislative district the Isaac School District.

Three different speakers submitted draft maps to the Commission for its consideration.

¹Reporter’s Transcript of Proceedings, page 35, lines 5-6. There was only one explicit dissent to this point of view. See page 71, line 24.

AURs: Surprise, Avondale, Tolleson, Cashion, South Phoenix, West Phoenix (and possibly Litchfield Park and Buckeye)
Luke Airforce Base and surrounding “military retirees”
Isaac School District
Draft 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.