

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

**Location:** Holbrook

**Date:** June 27, 2001

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:**

Joshua Hall

**Commission Attorneys:**

Jose Rivera

**NDC Staff:**

Marguerite Mary Leoni

A total of 17 speakers addressed the Commission. All speakers stressed the importance of creating a rural congressional district and rural legislative districts in which rural voters would not be overshadowed by urban interests. "We are overshadowed or outvoted or just nullified due to the simple fact that although a city like Flagstaff will use our numbers of poverty, of low income, of homelessness, we do not benefit from any of the programs that they receive from Phoenix. It doesn't make it to the rural communities." Many addressed the fact that the interests of the urban centers were very different from those of rural Arizona. One interest mentioned was growth: In metropolitan areas, "they want to restrict growth, development. And in rural Arizona, it's just the opposite. We are here trying to make it grow. We want the growth. We want the population. We want the tax base." Another interest mentioned was habitat: "We have endangered species. . . . In metropolitan Phoenix, they don't worry about the spotted owl. They don't worry about lumbering, timber, cattle."

The speakers differed, however, concerning what should be the shape of the rural congressional district and the legislative districts. Six speakers endorsed the maps submitted by the Navajo Nation during the public hearing at Window Rock. They hoped for the creation of the first Native American congressional district in the United States. Three others clearly supported the resolutions of the Graham County Board of Supervisors and the Eastern Arizona Counties Organization calling for a rural legislative district that would include southern Apache and Navajo Counties and Greenlee, Graham, and Gila Counties. Another speaker supported the Hopis' request to remain in congressional and legislative districts separate from the Navajo Nation. Another asked that the Northern Arizona Vocation Institute be kept within one legislative district. Still another called for more meetings and more time before final plans are drawn, even if it meant missing the fall 2002 election deadlines.

AURs: Navajo Nation maps  
Southern Apache and Navajo counties together with Greenlee,  
Graham and Gila counties (proposed by Eastern Arizona  
Governments Association)  
Hopi Reservation  
Northern Arizona Vocation Institute

**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.