

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the Tucson Convention Center in Tucson, AZ: August 25, 2001

1. Validy Lundin: "And when I looked at these maps, one of the things that kind of stuck out was Rita Ranch. Rita Ranch the way it's drawn up really has no community of interest with the rest of the district. It has no cultural or traditional ties. It's a brand new development."

2. Alice Row: "So I would request that you put the line back to Campbell because there isn't a whole lot of population there. We really like to have them with us in this central 25 District BB."

3. Walker Smith (for Shirley Gallegos): "I appreciate your accommodation of our request that South Tucson be included in a district with communities of interest to our south and east. This is accomplished in District CC on the draft map under review today."

4. Mary Judge Ryan: "It is not a coincidence that each Congressional District that you have created in essence has only one incumbent in it and has a registration edge that favors that incumbent."

5. Mary Judge Ryan: "You must show us how creating competitive districts creates a significant detriment to the other goals. That's what the language of the statute requires. These are not competitive districts, and so we need that information."

6. Luis Gonzales: "You have completely ignored the Pascua Yaqui Indian Tribe and its people. What you've actually done with the current map that you have recently revealed or unveiled is that you have placed Pascua Yaqui people into four separate legislative districts. By way of a little bit of history here, you have a Pascua Yaqui Indian Nation reservation, which is off of west Valencia Road. That is, in fact, land is in trust acts. You have coupled that with the Tohono O'odham Nation in District Y. The old Pascua Yaqui Indian Village, which is Grant Road and 15th Avenue, is in District AA which is the old District 11. There are approximately 500 Yaqui people who live there. You have another community in the City of South Tucson, which is also a Yaqui community on 39th Street. You split that one over to the district across which currently District 10. You also have Pueblo, which is a community of about 100 Yaqui people who live in Marana right off of Moore Road."

7. Salomon Baldenegro: "District G, going back to District G, adding to the Cochise County area to the border would also enhance the Hispanic representation in that area. As you know, it's 44 percent Hispanic but that's a high figure because that includes, total population figures include the many undocumented workers who are here and their families. It also includes people who are housed in the INS holding facilities. And those people are counted for total in population, but obviously they are not viable political populations. So that 44 percent I think is artificially inflated, and to give a better cushion

and to be more compatible with Voting Right requirements, I think including Cochise County would serve that purpose."

8. Anne Murray: "And BB, which is the central city district, has the southern boundary at 22nd Street. We feel that that's appropriate. That the neighborhoods on the south side of Broadway but north of 22nd Street are part of the central city and we function together as Central City Leadership Network. We have a long history of doing so and to make any other kind of a division would be very disruptive and divide this cohesiveness that we have."

9. Dave Erchull: "Specifically, I would like to address direct Legislative District AA. There is a strip of homes in the northeast corner of that draft district between Camino Del Sero and Ina Road. It's a group that has more in common with Oro Valley, Casas Adobes, and Marana than with the rest of the draft district. Indeed in the congressional draft districts, we are lumped with those other groups in draft Congressional District H. While draft Legislative District AA is geographically contiguous, it is not demographically contiguous in that to the southwest of that strip between Camino Del Sero and Ina. There is nothing there but park. And then you get to a population, as I say, we have more in common with the population to the northwest of us than to the south or to the -- than the population to the southwest of us, more in common with the population to the northeast. My specific recommendation would be to move the boundary along Camino Del Sero west to the national park boundary. From there follow the trace of the National park boundary to the northwest until you've reached the northernmost point of the draft district. That would put that strip of residences in draft District Z, again, a population with which we have much more in common."

10. Pete Davis: "I am more concerned with being represented by a legislator or a congressman who shares my values than having a manufactured competitive race that impacts local communities and compact boundaries. Talking about all the communities with compact boundaries, I was shocked and surprised that the Committee had separated Green Valley and the City of Sahuarita. Actually those two communities have a tremendous amount in common, and I strongly urge the Committee to put the City of Sahuarita into the congressional and legislative districts along with Green Valley."

11. Paul Newman: "I'm proposing an alliance, a border district alliance between Cochise County, a good part of Santa Cruz County, including all the population of the Nogales, and it encompasses the O'odham Nation all the way over to the Pima County line."

12. Paul Newman: "I've personally spoken to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, and I believe that they will approve this plan. The Border Alliance Group of Tucson with Mr. Keene will support this plan. And I think it is a true solution to the quandary that the Commission is in now that it drew that very, very strange district that goes from Douglas all the way to Fountain Hills."

13. Bill Dupont: "I just want to reiterate that I would like to see the south end boundary of District BB to stay up 22nd. Street. As I did a presentation earlier last week, I have

told you that as an organizer of the Central City Leadership Network that I have worked with all these neighborhoods that are on the south side of Broadway as well as the north side of Broadway. We discuss such issues as the Broadway corridor, the Tip funding, the Rio Jueva corridor."

14. Pedro Gonzales: "But one of the things that I'm concerned is that the old district, the Legislative District 10, the old one, that's the one that benefits us. That's the reason why you know, Mr. Valadez and Mr. Sotero were elected because we have something in common, our tradition, our cultural traditions. I'm not sure about east, but it has to go to Broadway for us. Right now you have cut it off at 22nd, and I guess we are under AA, but, you know, Barrio Juevo is just, I mean, just one block from here, and the old district is the one we want to stay in because that represents us."

15. Angie Queros: "I lived for about two years in the east side of the proposed District CC, and I will tell you that the cultural and socioeconomic issues are different. They're quite different. I was not living my culture. We have traditionally and historically tied together through our deep rooted families, our institutions, my church, our schools in our current District 10 and have absolutely nothing in common with the far east of the proposed district. It will most definitely dilute the Hispanic vote, and I am proposing instead that the boundary be moved to Congress/Broadway on the north all the way east and cut off at Tucson Boulevard, 1-10 to the west."

16. Belinda Gillion: "Nogales, the south part of Tucson, and Sahuarita are communities of common interests and should be included in the same districts. I support the proposed congressional District G and I support the proposed Legislative District Y."

17. Ted Prezylski: "In the current districts, we have somewhere between two and five competitive districts depending on how you rate them. And I think in the current scheme, we have probably between two and five competitive districts, So I'm not sure if competitiveness was achieved or why it wasn't fully considered."

18. Evan Elstein: "The southern boundary of the Marana School District would be Ina Road. The northern boundary is pretty much Pinal County. The eastern boundary of the school district is around Shannon Road, and the way you have Congressional District G, the eastern boundary is right around Silverbell Road, which again technically it geographically divides the Marana School District right in half."

19. Octavio Bargelo: "As somewhat of a compromise perhaps, I also made a map to the Commissioners, I would like the Commissioners to consider moving the north boundary perhaps in my area on Melbourne Street to Arroyo Chico, which right now is a natural boundary in my neighborhood, the Broadmoor/Broadway Village neighborhood, which I'll say that I served as president for two years of that association and for the last seven years served on its executive board."

20. Roman Soltero: "Now, under the proposed new redistricting Rita Ranch has no community of interest with the rest of the district. There is no cultural or traditional ties

with the rest of the district. There never has been. There probably never will be. Demographically and socioeconomically, it is totally dissimilar with the rest of the district, the current District 10. Historically, there is no connection whatsoever to the rest of this district."

21. Rita Toland: "There are some in our neighborhood who identified with the proposed District CC. But it means that they have to split our neighborhood. Our neighborhood would be split to accommodate these few people, and I don't believe splitting a neighborhood is the right thing to do. It was mentioned that Arroyo Chico is a natural boundary and should be a dividing line. Arroyo Chico is a natural boundary but it's the central gathering point for our neighborhood."

22. Walker Smith: "And so we would suggest that you might change the boundaries there where BB and CC and DD meet, and extend BB a little kind of north of east boundary, east go up Broadway to Camino Seco, and then south on Camino Seco to Spanish Trail and then east along Spanish Trail. Then the piece of Pantano Wash would be a western boundary, Golf Links a southern boundary. There would be a little piece between Golf Links and Escalante and just east of Harrison that then would go from DD to CC."

23. Steve Davis: "And I am so happy that Rita Ranch has turned into offer. We will be happy to accept Rita Ranch in DD, believe me. We were very disturbed that it had been cut out. We thought there wasn't a chance that so many people were upset. That would be a line from Houghton Road north to Old Vail, Old Vail west of Valencia, then back east to Houghton Road again, and I will put a letter form to you, but we would be happy to accept them back in DD and Legislative District 9, which will be whatever number they name it later."

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.

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