

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at Amphitheater High School, Tucson, AZ, August 29, 2001**

1. Sally Ann Gonzales: "The Pasqua Yaqui Tribe objects to district maps, draft maps. The proposed alignment violates the spirit if not the word of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Specifically, the proposed maps divides the community of the tribe into four different districts, thus leaving the members of the tribe with less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect a representative of their own choice."

2. Jim McNulty: "For the last 10 years, Arizona has been entitled to six congressional seats. Five of the people who occupy those seats go to sleep every night in Maricopa County. That means five out of six are importantly influenced by Maricopa County. Or if you want it in percentages it means 88 percent of the delegation is affected by Maricopa. These numbers are not fair.... Enough competitive districts should be created so as to strike out a continuation of the current ill-adjusted numbers."

3. John Stair: "As I walked my district, or my precinct and try to get voters interested, the apathy that I encountered is tremendous. And I think the reason for this apathy is the fact that people are not being fairly represented at this time. We need fair representation and competitive elections in the future."

4. Roger Voelker: "First of all, we can see that most of the minorities and the Democrats are crammed into just two districts. That reduces the number of minorities and Democrats in most of the remaining districts, and that's a classic Gerrymandering technique as we know. What's wrong with creating all these safe districts? Well, it obviously disenfranchises members of the other quote/unquote party. And really, since the outcome is ordained from the moment that the district lines are drawn, it really has the effect of disenfranchising all of the voters, even the ones who are with the majority parties of those districts because their votes are not going to make a large difference in the outcome. That doesn't give people a lot of incentive to vote."

5. Maribelle McCorkle: "I would like you to take special note of these districts and perhaps look at the reconfiguration of BB, DD, and F. I've been looking at this area, and I truly believe that these districts are not competitive, and that BB and Z could be redrawn taking a little bit of DD and that would do the trick."

6. Ann Murray: "I am very pleased to see that the southern boundary of BB is 22nd Street, which is one of our major concerns."

7. Mark Osterlo: "Competitiveness was not put at the front of the list of criteria but it was put at the end of the criteria because it is most important. What the drafters wanted to do was make sure that the last thing that the Commission considered was competitiveness. The very last changes you make in the drawing of the lines are what are going to determine the final outcome of the lines."

8. Mark Osterlo: "You can cut back on those strong Hispanic districts with the ultimate idea that if you have competitiveness across the entire state, the interest of that community will be protected when you consider the whole state. If the Hispanic community is predominantly Democratic, if Democrats have a chance of winning across the entire state and have an opportunity to actually be a majority party, then the interest of those Hispanics will be guaranteed or more likely be represented in that particular situation. Whereas being a few guaranteed Hispanic legislators in a minority will not necessarily give them as much political clout ultimately. So in the bigger picture making that a little less overwhelming Hispanic may still benefit them when you consider the whole state in the drafting of all of the districts."

9. Mark Osterlo: "When you put the competitiveness in the front, it's going to be one of the other criteria, just like all the others being considered. When you set it aside as the last one to be concentrated on, it's given its importance proportional to what it needs. It is the preeminent criteria. It is the one that you have to consider last, and that's the last criteria is going to determine the final lines, and that's why it was put in that situation."

10. Ann Pattison: "You have the University, the line goes very close to the east of the University, and I don't know how the people in those neighborhoods would feel, but there's a lot of noise and traffic associated with University sports. And so one thing you might want to consider is bumping that western line there just a little bit west of the University because I think those neighborhoods work very closely with the University to try to keep noise and traffic and other problems associated with the sporting events at the University down."

11. Ted Poelstra: "The use of city boundary lines in Pima County is very misleading when you compare it to other counties. And it's because only 61 percent of Pima County is incorporated. Ninety-three percent plus is incorporated in Maricopa County. So when you use a city boundary line in Pima County, you are breaking up communities of interest... I would ask you to revise the map in this extent. Let me give you an example. DM Air Base you have in CC, but most of the residents that are on that property reside in either DD or BB. Very few will reside in CC. To put this into that particular area is not a community of interest issue. CC interest will be, and it will always be, I think in my lifetime anyway, the issue of a district that will always have representation with a Hispanic influence. You aren't going to change that. It will be a safe district, and it should be. But that district should extend much further to the west to have that community of interest."

12. Paul Mackey: "On the map that's before you and specifically one that's referred to as University area neighborhoods.... This little sliver here that runs roughly from Broadway and I'm not sure what street that is, possibly Lester there, that is Grant right there, but that particular sliver on the east side of Campbell Avenue makes absolutely no sense to us. This whole area here between Speedway and Broadway, east of Campbell is the Sam Hughes Neighborhood Association, it's between Campbell and Country Club. It's a square mile, one of the oldest neighborhood associations in the city. Very cohesive group. To split that and sliver them makes absolutely no sense to us whatever."

13. Paul Mackey: "Secondly, I suggest that the next area that you include, you go west of that (BB), include that area here over to roughly Oracle, Oracle/Stone in this area here."

14. Paul Mackey: "There are a lot of the areas here that relate to each other somehow were separated. You know, one can argue perhaps you can use I-10 if you wanted to, but I would say that if you didn't want to go that far, at least use the Oracle/Stone because many of the areas relate from that area there to the east in that sense. If you then had to trade off some areas in order to accomplish that, what I would suggest is on the far east side of that area there that possibly you use either Kolb or Pantano as the separation there."

15. Paul Mackey: "As far as where you would have like a southern boundary if you moved it a little to the west there, historically Tucson's development for this area has taken place north of the railroad as it runs through there. So if you had to find a common or find a boundary there, it would be roughly 6th Street as it runs towards the west there, but 6th Street until it hits the railroad tracks and then north of that. So that area or maybe a portion of that could be included. I think it would do a great deal in developing what is a particularly strong community of interest in this area, particularly to the areas around the University. I don't think they should be broken up and split."

16. Bill Yarnell: "Now, I think you need to look at competitiveness as an important issue. Right now I live in Rita Ranch area which is part of District 9. District 9 incorporates Green Valley and some other rural areas that have basically nothing in common with Rita Ranch. Now, you're talking about putting it into CC which will make it part of south Tucson, which we probably don't have anything in common with south Tucson. We went from being a strong Republican district...to a strong Democratic district where they're really not going to have to listen to us because they know they're going to get reelected."

17. Tomas Martinez: "I want to speak to the area of competitiveness. While I agree that congressional districts and legislative districts should be competitive, this competitiveness should not be at the expense of minority voters. The Voting Rights Act guards against the dilution of the minority vote. Proposition 106 speaks to this in goals A and F. I take offense to some suggestions that it is okay to dilute the minority or Hispanic vote because the Democratic is as good enough a representative for us being a minority or Hispanic regardless of race."

18. Tomas Martinez: "Essentially I think that moving, let's say district BB west into AA east of the interstate affects us in that there's a large Hispanic and minority population in AA. That particular area, which includes Mansfield Park, Old Pasqua, and some areas, it's a high minority population, and I think the proposal to move AA into BB would result in diluting the minority vote and would break up community interest. At least it would break up my interest."

19. Tom Bowen: "All your statistics that you present and most of what has been discussed is on the basis of Republican versus Democratic. Well, as being active in partisan politics, I of course would like to have safe districts in all the districts for my party, but that's not reflecting the realities of life. One of those realities today is there is a significant and growing number of voters who register other than in those parties. Your statistics don't reflect it. And a true evaluation of competitiveness where the difference between the two major party registrations is exceeded or closely to those people registered other than the two major parties. It truly is a competitive district, even though one party may have the advantage over the one just looking over the two parties, because in such a case the candidates have to go out and compete for those votes of the people registered other than in the two major parties, and those are real votes and those are real people and deserve real consideration. And I strongly recommend that that be considered as a major factor in looking at competitiveness."

20. Wayne Anderson: "I was pleased to see that the south district, or the south boundary of legislative district BB was unchanged and reflected 22nd Street, which in my opinion better reflects or best reflects the cohesiveness of the neighborhood straddling the Broadway corridor."

21. Stuart Gabel: "The elderly are composed of all different parties, all different races, nationalities, groups, and the one thing that will get the issues that they see in front of our legislatures is competitiveness where the representatives have to go back to their districts and ask what's going on and what those issues are."

22. Salomon Baldenegro: "Competitiveness should not be used as a cover to impact pejoratively the Voting Rights Act or the interest of redistricting areas that are impacted by the Voting Rights Act."

23. Salomon Baldenegro: "We're starting to become viable politically. By "we" I mean the people of color, and I think to truncate that, to stop that, to do things that would stop that momentum would be wrong politically, societally, and historically, and constitutionally would be wrong.... Also, when we talk about the so-called Hispanic population,...most populations are for the most part in many areas artificially inflated. They're artificially inflated. For example, people talk about district G, and I think that if I remember it's something like 54 percent Hispanic.... Now, that's a artificially high number because as you know, in that area district G are two populations that are not politically viable. One is the undocumented population and their families, which are pretty substantial. Now, that's a totally nonviable political population. And also we have some INS holding facilities in district G that has a lot of folks. And for census purposes, those people count towards the total population. So if you make the adjustments and take those variables into account, those districts that appear to be high Hispanic are really not when you look at the politically viable population. Also, we are a very young population as you know. So the 18 plus politically viable population is also smaller than what the raw numbers would suggest."

24. Senator Toni Hellon: "You've made some changes that I think make a lot of sense. Communities of interest changes including Saddlebrook in with the same district Sun City Vistosa is in. That certainly makes a lot of sense for those people in those areas, including Marana all in one district. I think that makes a great deal of sense. And a dividing line at this point, and I know it may change, of the river. And that, too, if you talk to anyone who's lived here a long time, they will tell you that that's sort of a natural boundary of communities of interest, the river itself."

25. H. R. Clark: "What I would suggest is going north and south with the Cochise County line going up and putting part of the mining industry that is in E back in W and take the bottom part of Cochise County and put it in E. Draw a line straight from the bottom of the Cochise County line straight north and take in rural Miami and come across there to Gila County there to make that a more rectangular area."

26. H. R. Clark: "Well, naturally it (community of interest) would be the mining industry areas, places like Miami, Globe, Superior, Hayden, Winkelman, and that whole copper valley.... Go right up 77. Sure. And to the south, when you talk about the mining industry, there's a mining industry that has historically been unionized and the other mining industry that has not been. In particular P.D., in other words. Clifton, Morenci, Douglas, and we just don't get along with each other. You know, and so that creates problems, too. So leaving Morenci in the other areas would be better than putting all the mining industry in one district."

27. Lela Aldrich: "And by competitiveness I mean some reasonable division of registration, much as Dr. Ostelo talked about, and because I think if you got that reasonableness in registrations amongst Democrats, Republicans that the people running don't feel safe so that they have to come out to communities and talk about your interests and how they relate to your interests and community interests, and I'm not talking about my interest personally."

**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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