

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

Location: Tucson
Amphitheatre High School

Date: August 29, 2001
6:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Commissioners:

Steve Lynn, Chairman
Andrea Minkoff, Vice Chairman
Daniel Elder
Joshua Hall
James Huntwork

Commission Attorneys:

Lisa T. Hauser
Jose Rivera

NDC Staff:

Alan Heslop
Marguerite Leoni
Doug Johnson

There were 140 persons in attendance at the meeting held at Amphitheatre High School in Tucson. The need to improve the competitiveness of both Congressional and Legislative districts was voiced by nine of the speakers. In making the case for increased competition, several factors were noted: the rise of voter apathy in safe districts; the need better to reflect the true partisan and ethnic character of the State in as many districts as possible; the advancement of issue concerns affecting schools, the elderly and of particular areas of the State; the need to make incumbents more responsive to their constituencies; and the anticipation by those who framed and supported Proposition 106 that competition would be given priority by the Commission. Some speakers, however, suggested that competitiveness should not be increased at the expense of the Hispanic community: one such speaker warned that competitiveness should not be used as a cover to undermine the Voter Rights Act, and he cautioned against the assumption that non-Hispanic Democrats could represent his community as well as Hispanics. Two other speakers noted that competitiveness should not be defined solely in terms of major party registration: increasing numbers of independent voters must be courted by candidates of both parties. A point was also made that if community of interest was used as a principal criterion, it will inevitably lead to the creation of safe districts.

Five speakers addressed the needs of the Broadway-Broadmoore Association, urging retention of 22nd Street as the southern boundary of draft Legislative district BB and urging against use of Arroyo Chico as a boundary. They characterized their area as a midtown neighborhood that

encompasses both sides of Broadway. Arroyo Chico is a gathering point for the community, they claimed, and they urged that neither the Arroyo nor Broadway be used as a boundary.

A statement was read by a member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe (who also commented as an individual) concerning the division of the Yaqui Tribal lands among four of the draft districts. The tribe will provide further information on the exact locations and numbers of persons involved.

Among other specific recommendations were proposals that: district CC should be moved west and south into the Drexel Heights area; draft legislative district BB should be extended to the west and northwest; the Broadway sliver on the east side of Campbell Avenue should be eliminated; lines should be redrawn to reflect the community of interest of areas around the University campus; draft Legislative district W should be redrawn on a north-south axis; and the Three Points area should be linked to Tucson rather than to Nogales. One speaker made the comment that the mining industry was not monolithic; but divided between unionized and non-unionized portions, which should be kept in separate districts. Two speakers gave specific support to the recommendation of "Scenario 5" for a Legislative district at the border.

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.