

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

**Location:** Prescott  
Prescott City Hall

**Date:** September 5, 2001  
6:30 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

**Commissioners:** Steve Lynn, Chairman  
Andrea Minkoff, Vice Chairman  
Daniel Elder  
Joshua Hall  
James R. Huntwork

**Commission Attorneys:**  
Lisa T. Hauser  
Jose Rivera

**NDC Staff:**  
Florence Adams  
Marguerite Leoni

A total of 420 persons attended the meeting at Prescott City Hall and \_\_\_ of them addressed the Commission.

The division by the draft legislative districts of the Tri-City area -- Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley -- was the focus of most testimony, with nearly all of the speakers protesting the division and urging the re-unification of the area in a single district. Two residents of Humboldt, noting their connecting ties with Prescott supported this view; and a resolution was read into the record of the governing board of Humboldt Unified School District to the same effect. Two residents of the Verde Valley spoke: one strongly supported its linkage to Prescott and the other, although open to such linkage, was concerned more about avoiding division of the Verde Valley.

The case for unifying the Tri-City area was based on several arguments: the need for strong representation in the Legislature; the progress made in achieving close cooperation among the three cities; the commuting interchange and interaction among the residents of the three cities; the rapid growth in population of the area (and its prospective MPO designation); the progress made in integrating governmental functions (fire, police, hospitals, roads, schools, community colleges); the lack of community with Mohave, Coconino and Maricopa counties (and the likelihood of being overwhelmed by them); the tendency of development to blur the distinctions between the three rapidly growing cities; and the needs of the Prescott Active Management Area (AMA) for water. Of these, water was clearly the dominant concern.

Several speakers, indicating that the Prescott AMA is not in safe yield, noting the dependence of the Tri-Cities on the Chino Valley Aquifer, and expressing a concern that "water wars" could develop, urged that Prescott and the Verde Valley be linked together in the same district. Most expressed support for "Scenario 3," a test-run presented by NDC to the Commission, which unites Yavapai County. The major argument for keeping the County together was put succinctly by one speaker: a legislator in representing both Prescott and the Verde Valley would be "obliged to get an amicable agreement" between the two communities over water. Nevertheless, a few speakers said that they could accept, if need be, "Scenario 4," another test-run that divides the Prescott area from the Verde Valley; and some expressed a sense that the Verde Valley might prefer such division.

Although most criticism focused on the draft Legislative map, several speakers complained about the draft Congressional district, criticizing its size, its unwieldiness, its lack of community of interest, and the impossibility of servicing it. Others asserting the priority of competitiveness, warned that future growth could quickly lead to Republican dominance. One speaker, dismissing the claims of Tri-City unity as a cover for the self interest of Republicans and developers, insisted that the division of Yavapai County could produce competition while also adding to the number of representatives for the area.

**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.