

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at Florence City Hall, Florence, AZ: September 8, 2001

1. Robert A. Revelas: "I believe that there is a way to improve the boundaries that are now in the present draft. First off, I think Pinal County deserves to be left intact. I think integrity of the county is very, very important. And I believe that the interests, the communities of interest, both geographically, geologically, economically and ethnically can be improved by simply adding those neighboring communities in Gila County that share geographic, geologic, and economic interests with us rather than keeping us tied in with the urban communities in Maricopa County."

2. Carol Kingsbury: "Please, don't try to placate us and don't just give us lip service. We in Pinal County are tired of being the pie from which every hungry, gluttonous district from Phoenix, Tucson, Maricopa, and Pima Counties grab a slice and leave us with the leftover crumbs. I urge all of the Commission members to look again at the map submitted for our county. Please listen to our elected officials, minority communities, and citizens of this county. Please rethink and redraw the Legislative and Congressional Districts to keep Pinal County whole. Pinal County in and of itself is a community of interest. We are friends, neighbors, and relatives."

3. Helen Neuharth, CEO Casa Grande Chamber Of Commerce: "Three things we're (Greater Casa Grande Chamber) working for: one, keeping Casa Grande in the same Congressional and Legislative District, two, Western Pinal County, three, all Pinal County. Now we're working on number 3 and encourage you to include all Pinal County in the same Congressional and Legislative Districts.... Just looking at the maps that are presented, Legislative maps, you can look down Santa Cruz area, maybe take some numbers out of the Legislative District maps, expand west and east into the rest of Pinal County. Also the possibility of -- I guess mainly, just looking down Santa Cruz area making up numbers up into the west eastern Pinal County area. I don't see any, don't have any problem going somewhat with Gila County also because of some of the communities of interest that are already there with our Central Arizona governmental alliance, Pinal the law tourism council, those types of alliances are already in place."

4. Tom Rankin, Florence Town Council member: "What Mr. Rios said about eastern Pinal County being associated with Gila County, I also think on the redistricting map, in the area down into Nogales area I believe is probably a high Hispanic area. I believe the eastern part of Pinal County, Dudleyville, Hayden, San Manuel, Mammoth, are high Hispanic population, I believe that kind of tradeoff there is pretty easy. Having lived in Florence, which at one time split into three supervisor redistricts, we've lived here before under the splits. The areas of Eastern Pinal with Western have nothing similar with Sonoita, Elgin, or Fort McDowell, no similarities except people. People. That's it."

5. Tom Rankin, Florence Town Council member: "In the map here, draft District Y, the majority of people in the Tohono O'odham live in Pima County not Pinal County. We would not lose that many people if you are going to go ahead, be taking a look at putting

the Tohono O'odham back over with Pima County, or over with Yuma, or however you want it. But Dudleyville, in my opinion, Dudleyville, Mammoth, San Manuel, we have nothing in common with Mammoth, San Manuel, putting Mammoth, Apache Junction, Gold Canyon, we all know Gold Canyon, people state the State of Maricopa. We deserve to be represented by people from Pinal County not Maricopa."

6. Ken Buchanan: "Had a map submitted from our group in June at the Casa Grande meeting. It indicated we try to hold, have as much of Pinal County as possible. No sitting between two elephants waiting for one to roll over on us, Phoenix or Tucson. We'll not get that wish. We're trying to cut our losses as best we can, keep all four corners of Pinal County in one community of interest. I know map drawing is going on. Throughout the process, I know from talking with -- Wednesday night, Mayor Ellis from Nogales, he indicated he'd like to see Nogales stay intact. The Southeastern Association of Governments, it talks about District E. District E seems to be the one not changes throughout the whole process, that's the one you can use to solve the southeastern area Santa Cruz County, Cochise County problems."

7. Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County Supervisor: "We have, right before this meeting, had a statewide meeting. Our coalition is composed of people from the Northern, Central, Southern Arizona entities. Pima and Maricopa came together with the central and decided because of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission's vote unanimously on Saturday, September 1st, 2001, to take into account competitiveness between districts. We will be submitting, on September 12th in Glendale, a new map, and in that map, we will be deciding to work with what we have already submitted, but we are going to create more competitive districts without adversely affecting communities of districts. I believe they keep complete the nine strong majority-minority competitive districts, keep Pinal as whole as possible."

8. Ben Cruz, Mayor of Eloy: "On the question you brought up about the Tohono reservation, I assume Tohono reservation would like to remain whole. If you have to give something away, probably be a good area to give away. I've had some feedback from Salt River community, Fort McDowell, Ak-Chin, they would like to be in Pinal County if at all possible. I support that. Put me in column to keep Pinal County as whole as possible."

9. Esther Duran Lumm: "I would just like to say, today, that the Arizona Hispanic community forum fully supports the maps that have been submitted by the minority Coalition for Fair Redistricting proposed maps feel very complete, we worked very hard with the coalition insuring cover fair redistricting interests, AURs, now competitiveness."

10. John Geib: "I suggests that the (Congressional) boundary might be more appropriate to coincide with the Legislative District boundary which goes straight out to Arizona Farms Road rather than making that little jog along that same corridor. I would just suggest you follow the boundaries of draft Legislative Y in that area as it skirts the northern edge of Florence."

11. Supervisor Sandie Smith: "If you started Pinal County first, we would be whole and then the slices would have to come somewhere else. I know I'm being very biased when I say that. We're very rural, have some urban pockets, but our funding is rural in nature. In Pinal County, one penny will give you \$70,000. In the Maricopa County area one penny gives you over two million dollars. Very much of a difference. Our funding comes also for that Central Association of Governments, infrastructure for roads, enterprise zone qualifies for, allows us to attract businesses into the area, Arizona long term care administered out of Pinal County. Pinal, Gila Counties, recently got that contract. So with Pinal County tourism coalition."

12. Daniel Froetscher: "Might make the suggestion that the Legislative arena consider adding the Ak-Chin reservation to that Legislative District, which probably would accomplish that by tweaking District L a little further south or a little further west, south or west of the Buckeye area into what is presently District Y, and also the population bases there."

13. Daniel Froetscher: "I beg you not to entertain the notion of encroaching into the western Pinal communities. Again, Eloy, Florence, Casa Grande, Coolidge, and the Maricopa area certainly represent communities of interest, certainly are integrated into approaches of many things, communitywise, economicwise, waterwise, and with their county, municipal organizations."

14. Jim Hartdegen: "What I'd like to do is resubmit the map of the greater Casa Grande area. It was, the City of Casa Grande, the Greater Chamber Bureau map submitted in the Casa Grande hearings, I'll resubmit that. I think it still has a lot of validity. The original map, the original thing we submitted did not have the Tohono in Pinal County. We smoothed out of it, and we did not have the Apache part in it, because no one lived there.... We have to tweak a little bit for the two urban communities, in the Indian communities."

15. Segurd Overgaard: "If we operate under the premise that the best way to run our country is with the strong two party system, then that system has to be made to work. And the reason the article was brought before the citizens to vote on creating this Commission was to try to eliminate some of the problems we have. And make it possible for everybody to participate in running our government and being a part of it. And politics is not a dirty word."

16. Councilman Joe Durbach: "And maybe then at that time, as do you have a little wiggling room there, add 451 residents (of Apache Junction) back into Pinal County for the district."

17. Lionel Ruiz, Pinal County Supervisor: "At one time this county was very fragmented. You know, people from the North Phoenix have ties in with the East Valley, people in Casa Grande, Saddle Park, with Tucson. But over, you know, the last few years, we've begun to be more cohesive, a lot of alliances deal not only with our county, also with Gila County."

18. John Klein: "Central Arizona College has the same boundaries as a county. I can tell you this last 10 years, working with 18 different legislators is both frustrating and time consuming, it's counter-productive."

19. Gayle Overgaard: "There's a community of interest in southern Gila County with Kearney and Dudleyville, that area. And those are families there, one town to another, they are in different counties. And that -- there is certainly a community of interest there that needs to be kept together. My supervisor would shoot me when I said this, but if you decide to take it to Pinal, that's your choice, but they should be together. The other thing I would like to suggest is that we (Gila County residents) have more of a commonality of interest with Pinal County than we do in the Congressional District with Mohave County or Yavapai. I, with all due respect, there's been a lot of publicity of this quote rural end quote district that you are creating, but it is totally -- I think it's fallacious.... What chance does a person in Gila County have for running for Congress against Flagstaff or against a Scottsdale person? It's just not possible. Plus the fact that that is -- that is a horrible size for any one to try to campaign in. You are talking about great distances, overnights these other Congressional Districts don't have to deal with."

20. Gayle Overgaard: "While supporting more competition in these districts and put us in with Pinal County, take Mohave and Yavapai away. You've got the numbers. That's my suggestion, because we (southern Gila County) have more in common with Pinal County than we do with the others."

21. Steve Owens: "What it (his proposed substitution for draft Congressional District C) does is simply add as much Yavapai County as makes sense to move into proposed Congress additional District A, with exception of Verde Valley. Verde Valley is more aligned with Flagstaff area than Prescott area in Yavapai County. Then simply coming into Maricopa County picking up population as needed to substitute for change in Yavapai County.... If you do this, it will make the district more compact, keep it competitive, keep more competitive than otherwise be for the next 10 years. I'm substituting the high growth area of Yavapai County for the area of Maricopa County is relatively stable. The proposed area of Maricopa County is very simple, basically that area in Maricopa area north of Salt River reservation east of Pima Road."

22. Steve Owens: "The area I proposed of Maricopa County, want a landlocked area. That area north of Salt River reservation east Pima River road communities mostly developed there, some development still taking place that's fairly minimal because of McDowell mountains there, to Indian Reservations, because recent decision state land develop set aside 13 acres presentation, national forest lands state park lands there, other geographic barriers to growth."

23. Jose Solarez: "We, again, want to reiterate we do support trying to keep as much of Pinal County together, our sister tribe Tohono O'odham we want as a whole community, intact, whatever the Legislative District does."

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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