

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

Location: Kingman
Kingman City Hall

Date: September 8, 2001
3:00 p.m.

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Joshua Hall

Commission Attorneys:
Jose Rivera

NDC Staff:
Marguerite Leoni

Approximately 125 persons attended the meeting at Kingman City Hall and 24 of them addressed the Commission.

The themes emerging from the hearing were nearly unanimous:

- Mohave County should not be divided.
- Mohave County should be united with the river communities of La Paz County and portions of Yuma as necessary to accumulate population.
- Draft Congressional District C is too large to facilitate effective representation and includes interests that are too diverse on issues such as water, transportation, and urbanization, among others.

Regarding the goal of creating one entirely rural district, several speakers commented that they did not view Mohave County or Kingman as “rural” given the explosive growth during the 1990s, the non-agricultural base of the economy and anticipated changes due to NAFTA. Some of the speakers stated that they believed that their interests had been well represented despite the fact that the Kingman area had been united with urban areas in Maricopa County. One speaker commented that uniting Mohave County with Wickenburg and environs was a good combination in Congressional districting.

Several speakers noted the lack of commonality of Mohave County issues (water, transportation, grazing rules, etc.) with those facing the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe and parts of the state to the east. It was felt that Winslow, Holbrook and Flagstaff would fit better in a district including the Navajo Nation.

A representative of Colorado City said that Colorado City should also be united with Mohave County in the same district and noted that in the test alternatives that were displayed, Colorado City was in a separate district from the rest of the county.

A representative of the Navajo Nation appeared and supported Mohave County in its desire to be united with the river communities and areas west. This representative noted that the Navajo Nation's proposal for a legislative district did not include Mohave County.

Some speakers addressed competitiveness and expressed the view that, if possible, in all districts there should be a registration spread of five percent between Democrats and Republicans. However, one speaker expressed the concern that to give equal representation to political parties within the districts will divide communities; and said that competitiveness was third in ranking of importance behind voting rights of minorities and keeping communities together.

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.