

Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission

**Thursday, August 4, 2011
6:21 p.m.**

Location

Buena Performing Arts Center, (Buena High School)
5225 Buena School Boulevard
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

Attending

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

Mary O'Grady, Counsel

Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:21 p.m. by Vice Chair Jose M. Herrera, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.
- Acknowledgement of legal counsel Mary O'Grady was expressed.

Presentation of Redistricting Process

- Andrew Drechsler of Strategic Telemetry gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Redistricting Process.

Call for Public Comment

- Vice Chair Herrera called for public comment. Any member of the public desiring to speak was requested to fill out a public comment form and submit it to the Commissioners.
- The following speakers presented to the Commissioners. Each speaker's full and complete verbatim presentation is available in the public meeting transcript:
 - Richard Lunt, Chairman of the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors, spoke in favor of the proposed redistricting plan for LD5 with the addition of Camp Verde in the redistricting process.
 - Drew John, Supervisor for Graham County, District 1, spoke on communities of interest.
 - Ann English, Supervisor for Cochise County, spoke on district lines being contiguous, will wait to see maps before further commenting on what is fair.
 - Gerald Eberwein, spoke on voter registration considerations, wants to see communities of interest be considered.
 - Gary Thrasher, spoke on being concerned primarily with Congressional districts and Legislative districts, and also concerned how the border will be split up.
 - Max Frye, spoke on rectifying the imbalance of our state districts and having competitive districts.
 - Molly Anderson, spoke on competitive districts being important.
 - Morris Farr, spoke on competitive districts and communities of interest.
 - Shirley Muney, spoke on Prop 106 and competitive districts.
 - George Cooper, spoke on rural characteristics being vital to his area, and competitive districts.

- Mark Lobner, spoke on competitiveness should be closer to the top for consideration in drawing districts.
- Bob Flaming, spoke on being concerned that the border would not be represented fairly with two districts, and would like to see fair and competitive representation for all cities.
- Elsa Obregon, spoke on being concerned that the Board's two attorneys have not disclosed who is behind Fair Trust, concerned with who Fair Trust represents.
- Susan Spikes Bickel, spoke on wanting to see two Congressional districts on the border, feels that LD25 is not compact, would like to see a competitive map that complies with the Voting Rights Act.
- Susan Breen, spoke on competitive districts, communities of interest, and districts being contiguous.
- Matthew Creegan, spoke on needing three Congressional districts along the border, Legislative Districts LD25 and 30, the Attorney General's Office preliminary investigation of allegations of violations of open meeting law, bid-rigging, and improper procurement matters.
- Robert Leach, spoke on Strategic Telemetry also working with Republicans in 2010 in multiple states, wants competitive districts.
- E. Kathryn Suagee, spoke on the last redistricting cut Cochise County in two as well as Sierra Vista, possibly mapping districts in a pie shape.
- Eduardo Delci, Chairman of the Santa Cruz County Democratic party, spoke on keeping the AIRC independent, feels that Sierra Vista is gerrymandered to the degree it is.
- Jim Behnke, spoke on not wanting to be in the same Congressional district as Tucson, wants to see three Congressional districts along the border, communities of interest.
- Sally Acevedo, spoke on Sierra Vista having a profound sense of community, feels pie-shaped districts are not a good idea, community came together during Monument fire, does not feel Tucson has same needs.
- Mary Frances Clinton, spoke on rural towns and rural communities remaining together.
- Fred Stickler, spoke on having three districts on the border, is concerned about the integrity of the Commission, wants commissioners to maintain integrity and honor.
- Robert Gent, spoke on voters wanting fairness, feels some counties don't have the proper numbers for districts.
- Don Simpson, spoke on being happy the commissioners were there, considering none of the commissioners are from a rural area, compactness and contiguous areas, that competitiveness should only be considered when it's not to the detriment of other criteria.
- Mark Stonebraker, spoke on being happy the IRC is in place, feels competitiveness is very important.
- Wanda Pike, spoke on being happy to see district changed out of Tucson, would like to see three districts across the border.
- Joanne Daley, spoke on communities of interest, feels the 2000 redistricting commission chose to ignore the county geographic lines and broke up smaller counties, would like to start from outlying areas and move inward when drawing district boundaries.
- Katie Miller, spoke on lines should be drawn strictly by population, wants more representation on the border, concerned about open meeting laws not being done properly/.
- Debbie Stoner, spoke on seeing Sierra Vista put in District 5, representation on the border, does not want parties looked at when redistricting.
- Linda Stewart, spoke on appreciation of the civility of the meeting, not happy with the attacks on the Commission, concerned with balanced districts, wants to have contiguous districts, wants competitiveness.
- Tricia Gerrodette, spoke on being a past judge for Arizona Competitive Districts Coalition, would like to encourage the Commission to think about adopting that mapping software as part of the public outreach tool.
- Mohur Sarah Sidhwa, spoke on democracy as an idea and that it needs to be protected, wants competitiveness.

- Judy Gignac, spoke on competitiveness and compactness being high on the list, does not want to see a Congressional River District, only wants two CDs along the border, feels the need for at least three competitive Congressional districts and at least ten competitive Legislative districts.
- Melinda Vaughn, spoke on communities of interest, wants three districts along the border.
- George Taylor, spoke on there being a problem with the public trust in government, wants issues with the Commission resolved with the Attorney General so they can focus on a finished product.
- James March, Second Vice Chair to the Pima County Libertarian party, spoke on wanting contiguous as possible a block shape set of districts as possible, feels there is an advantage if towns or counties or tribal areas are cut in half, feels voter registration data Strategic Telemetry is going to use is flawed.
- Joann Kiyabu, on behalf of David and Jere Fredenburgh., spoke on communities of interest.
- Fred Thomson, spoke on the importance of watching what our government does, concerned Democrats were given their choice of attorney and Republicans weren't, concerned about amount of time Commission spent in Executive Session versus open meetings.
- Kale Kiyabu, spoke on wanting all transcripts from the meetings be put on the website, feels that the view that two-thirds of the public's vote does not count is false, feels the vote by the Commissioners for legal counsel was not fair, unhappy with the choice of Strategic Telemetry.
- Sandra Engle, spoke on reminding people that our border is a national security issue, not just a southern Arizona issue.
- Iris Lynch, spoke on competitiveness not always working, feels we consider cohesiveness of interests more than competitiveness.
- Pat Fleming, spoke on Commission following guidelines and give all criteria equal consideration and the districts will work out, wants two Legislative and two Congressional districts along the border.
- Kelly Glenn-Kimbrow, spoke on being concerned about the border and care needs to be given when redistricting Arizona, feels it is crucial that we have Congressional representation that understand border needs. Read a letter on behalf of Bill McDonald.
- Mary Gresham, spoke on competitive districts being very important.
- Jerry Hatfield, spoke on wanting to see districts put together by compactness and whether they are contiguous or not.
- Toni Arena, spoke on communities of interest, is concerned about the irregularities of the IRC.
- James Speck, spoke on communities of interest, wants to see Cochise County kept together, wants three Congressional districts on the border, does not feel competitiveness should be a priority, unhappy with Commission's decision for mapping company and attorneys.
- Tom Crosby, feels that having two sectors in Arizona is absolutely irrelevant, unhappy with progressives and their beliefs.
- Casey Jones, does not want to see competitiveness considered when drawing the districts, three Legislative /Congressional districts on border would increase our clout, questioned Vice Chair Herrera about his claim of Legislative immunity.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.