

ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER Volume III

September 10, 2021

TOP STORY

Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission Grid Map and Mapping Software Go Live

The Release of the Grid Maps Begins the Next Phase of Redistricting

Phoenix, AZ- Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021, Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) is scheduled to make a decision on the initial maps in Arizona's 2021 legislative and congressional redistricting process. The Commission meets at 8 a.m. and is live-streamed at irc.az.gov.

The first maps are created into districts of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the state as required by the state constitution. The grid maps are an important first step in the process but are only a starting point. Arizona's citizens are encouraged to provide feedback on these initial maps.

The IRC is providing a free online mapping tool for residents to draw and submit their own proposed maps. Arizona residents will have access to the same, easy-to-use mapping tool and database utilized by the Commission. A live-streamed public training session on the mapping tool is scheduled for 10 a.m., Monday, Sept. 13, 2021. Individuals can watch the training at the following link: [Mapping Tool Training](#). The video recording of that session, and shorter step-by-step videos and other training materials, will be on the IRC website shortly after the system is live on September 14, 2021.

On the IRC website and at the upcoming public hearings, residents can review these initial grid maps along with all the maps the Commission receives from the public.

Public hearings will be scheduled for the last two weeks of September. An official announcement will be made in an additional upcoming press release.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



This week's publication features an interview with Arizona IRC Chair Vice Derrick Watchman.

What was your interest in volunteering to serve as one of Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commissioners? All of my work has been for the Native American communities locally here on the Navajo Reservation and with a national Native American non-profit organization. I wanted to expand my work in the State and noticed the IRC announcement. The rest is history and I am honored to serve.

What strengths do you have that adds value to the redistricting tasks? My strengths include my business knowledge as a former banker and gaming executive.

Do you have any other volunteer work? I work with the Diné (Navajo) Chamber of Commerce here on the Navajo Nation and Chair the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development board of directors, a national Native American business and economic development advocacy group.

Special hobbies? I like to travel (hopefully see all the Tribal Nations in our country) and mountain biking.

Vice Chair Watchman's professional bio and photo can be found on our website link: <https://irc.az.gov/content/derrick-watchman>

IN THE NEWS



Sahuarita, AZ , League of Arizona Cities and Towns Expo



Eagar, St. Johns and Showlow, League of Arizona Cities and Towns Expo



(LtoR) Actress representing old-time Tempe,
Corey Woods, Tempe
Mayor and Marie Chapple, Outreach
Coordinator.

Outreach and Networking

Outreach Coordinator Marie Chapple attended the September 2, 2021, League of Arizona Cities and Towns Expo. “The expo was the best place to be for Arizona IRC staff to connect city and town mayors, elected officials, managers and municipal staffers. We said hello to dozens of attendees and talked to them about the redistricting process. We also encouraged them to visit the IRC website where they can sign up for our informative newsletter and make public comments online,” said Chapple.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- ❖ Look for the upcoming Public Hearing schedule dates, times and location in the Vol IV AZIRC Newsletter September 17, 2021
- ❖ Public Mapping Software Training Session on September 13, 2021 at 10:00am. [View here.](#)
- ❖ Public Hearing meeting on September 14, 2021. Highlight: Commissioners make a decision on the first set of grid maps. [View here.](#)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Socioeconomic Story Map](#)
- [Socioeconomic Report Web App](#)
- [Community of Interest](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Public Meetings](#)
- [Newsroom](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Need free access to the internet to watch one of our public meetings or utilize our mapping tools? Here are two sites that can show you how to find a free wifi hotspot near you.

<https://connect-arizona.com/free-wi-fi-map>

<https://azland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=20dd52ea241e42f0932ac1a27580f3e0>

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MISSION: The Independent Redistricting Commission's mission is to redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census. The concept of one-person, one-vote dictates that districts should be roughly equal in population. Other factors to be considered are the federal Voting Rights Act, district shape, geographical features, respect for communities of interest and potential competitiveness. The state Constitution requires the commissioners – two Republicans, two Democrats and an independent chairperson – to start from scratch rather than redraw existing districts.

A new Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission was appointed in January 2021 to adopt new congressional and legislative districts for Arizona.



Read more on our website: <https://irc.az.gov/>

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