



**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES – November 30, 2021
8:01am**

In Attendance:

Location: Virtual via Google Meet

Chairwoman Erika Neuberg
Vice-Chair Derrick Watchman
Commissioner Shereen Lerner
Commissioner David Mehl
Commissioner Douglas York

Executive Director, Brian Schmitt
Deputy Director Lori Van Haren
Public Information Officer, Michele Crank
Community Outreach Coordinator, Marie Chapple

Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Danielle Arellano, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Brett Johnson, Esq. Snell & Wilmer
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer

Mark Flahan, Timmons
Doug Johnson, NDC Research
Ivy Bellar-Sakansky, NDC Research
Angela Miller, Transcriptionist

I. Call to Order and Roll Call *(N/A YouTube)*

- A. Call for Quorum
- B. Call for Notice

Present:

Chairwoman Neuberg
Vice-Chair Watchman
Commissioner Lerner
Commissioner Mehl
Commissioner York

A quorum is present.

Executive Assistant Valerie Neumann confirmed that the meeting agenda was properly posted at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

II. Approval of minutes from Nov. 16, 2021 *(N/A YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session

Vice Chair Watchman motioned to approve the General Session Minutes from Nov. 16, 2021, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. There were no Executive Session Minutes.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(N/A YouTube)*

At 8:04am Chairwoman Neuberg opened public comments and indicated that public comments would be open for a minimum of 30 minutes and would remain open until the adjournment of the meeting.

IV. Discussion on Public Comments received prior to the November 30, 2021, meeting. *(N/A YouTube)*

The Commissioners noted that the amount of public engagement coming in is very impressive and expressed how grateful they are for the input, which provides valuable insight.

V. Update from Mapping Team *(.30 YouTube)*

- A. Update on polarization data based on approved draft maps and potential related variations.
- B. Review of draft maps and opportunity for discussion regarding draft maps adherence to Article IV, pt. 2, §§ 1(14) and (15) of the Arizona Constitution.

Mark Flahan from Timmons/NDC provided an update that there are now over 200 published plans on the HUB, 72 Congressional Maps, 65 Legislative Maps, with the remainder being single district plans. To date, there are 1,420 public comments posted on the HUB, and they are all available for the public to view.

Doug Johnson from Timmons/NDC gave an overview of the polarization report data provided by Dr. Lisa Handley. *The report will be posted to the HUB and to the IRC website.*

Johnson provided the Commission a thorough review of Legislative Districts 21-30.

VI. Legal update concerning Arizona Constitution criteria, including the VRA, 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution, and competitiveness. [\(1:01:46 YouTube\)](#)

The legal team presented information to the Commission on Compliance with Federal Law regarding the Congressional and Legislative maps. Topics included vote dilution, racial gerrymandering and factors to consider when analyzing compliance with federal law.

Commissioner Lerner motioned to move into Executive Session to obtain legal advice regarding compliance with federal law. Vice Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

The legal team provided a district-by-district VRA legal analysis to the Commission.

VII. Discussion and possible action on public comment during the deliberation meetings. [\(3:20:17 YouTube\)](#)

The Commission agreed to accept electronic feedback during the deliberation meetings via the IRC Website portal.

VIII. Executive Director's Report [\(3:23:35 YouTube\)](#)

- A. Deliberation Meetings Update
- B. Update on Arizona Legislature recommendations status
- C. FY 2022-23 Budget Submission
- D. Public Records response update
- E. IRC Budget and Expenditure Report Update
- F. Status on electronic migration
- G. Update on community outreach and public comment period

Executive Director Schmitt provided an update on the IRC's current fiscal year expenditures. Schmitt also indicated that he will be working with the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Office of Strategic Planning and Budget on a budget for FY23. A proposed budget request will be \$2.6 million dollars but explains that this number will depend on what transpires in the next several months.

Deputy Director Lori Van Haren advised that in response to public feedback, a meeting in the east valley has been added on Dec. 2, 2021, at 6:00pm.

The Deliberation date meeting dates and locations were discussed and confirmed.

Van Haren advises that the IRC is fully migrated over to Microsoft which will be helpful with fulfilling public records requests moving forward.

Marie Chapple updated the Commission on the outreach activities. Upon the conclusion of this Listening Tour on Saturday, the IRC has held 61 in person public meetings throughout the state of Arizona. This does not include the virtual efforts, or any other online trainings that were conducted. The outreach team has made contact with over 350 individuals representing cities, towns, councils, tribes, voter groups and other organizations. From mid-October to the present, our Public Information Officer has over 33 print stories published about the redistricting process and has over 1500 subscribers to the IRC newsletter.

IX. Discussion of future agenda item requests *(3:44:29 YouTube)*

X. Announcements *(3:44:39 YouTube)*

Chair Neuberg advised the public of all the upcoming meeting locations and times being held this week.

XI. Next Meeting Date *(3:46:23 YouTube)*

The upcoming hearings were announced, and the business meeting date has not yet been determined.

XII. Closing of Public Comments *(3:46:36 YouTube)*

Public Comments closed at 11:52am.

X. Adjournment. *(3:47:04 YouTube)*

Commissioner York motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Vice-Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53am.

Minutes taken by Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant 11/30/21