



PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - OCTOBER 21, 2021
8:11am

In Attendance:

Location: Sheraton Crescent Hotel
2620 W. Dunlap Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85021

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 Arrelano, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Sean Sommers, Esq. Ballard Spahr
Brett Johnson, Esq. Snell & Wilmer
Eric Spencer, Esq. Snell & Wilmer
Kim Portik, Transcriptionist

Mark Flahan, Timmons
Brian Kingery, Timmons
Parker Bradshaw, Timmons
Doug Johnson, NDC Research
Ivy Bellar-Sakansky, NDC Research
Ken Chawkins, NDC Research

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

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 Oct. 20, 2021 *(N/A YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session, Session I and Session II

Commissioner York motioned to approve the General Session and Executive Session Minutes from Oct. 20, 2021, and Vice-Chair Watchman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

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

At 8:14am 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 Oct. 20, 2021 meeting. *(:43 YouTube)*

Vice-Chair Watchman updated the Commission regarding concerns and positions from several members from the Navajo Nation who appeared to speak during the mapping meeting. The Commission again thanked the public for all their comments, and that there were many concerns about the direction the maps were taking, and advised that there is still a long way to go. The Commission stated that the process has been transparent, which was evident with the guests in attendance today.

V. Draft Map decision discussion and possible action concerning revisions to the Grid Map.

(8:24 YouTube)

- A. Legislative Map Drawing
- B. Congressional Map Drawing

After Legislative maps were presented to the Commission with the requested changes, Commissioner Lerner motioned to approve Legislative map 6.1 as a starting point, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Commissioner York motioned to go into Executive Session to seek legal advice on the procedural issue with the Legislative maps. Vice-Chair Watchman second the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Chair Neuberg advised the public that the Commission obtained legal advice regarding a procedural issue with the Legislative map 6.3, and the order in which the maps were approved, they are no longer considering that map version.

Commissioner Lerner motioned to move into Executive Session, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion to obtain legal advice on a procedural issue with the Legislative maps.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Chair Neuberg advised the Commission obtained legal advice as it relates to their responsibility to honor the VRA, data provided by Timmons as it relates to district performance, and polarization requirements for minority/majority districts with Legislative maps.

The mapping team presented the updated Congressional maps to the Commission with the suggested changes.

Commissioner Lerner motioned to go into Executive Session to obtain legal advice with VRA Compliance and polarization with the Congressional maps, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Chair Neuberg advised the public that the Commission received advice from the legal team about honoring VRA compliance, understanding polarization data for minority communities in regard to the Congressional maps.

The mapping team showed the Commission the suggested changes to the Congressional map. Commissioner York motioned to adopt Congressional map 6.0 as a starting point. Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Moving back to the Legislative maps, Commissioner Mehl motioned to adopt Legislative Map 7.0 as a starting point, and Commissioner York seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

After the mapping team presented the requested changes to the Legislative map, Commissioner Mehl motioned to adopt Legislative map 8.0. Commissioner York seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

IX. Next Meeting Date *(6:58:45 YouTube)*

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021 at 8:00am, and another mapping meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 9:30am.

X. Closing of Public Comments *(6:49:42 YouTube)*

Public Comments closed at 3:19pm.

XI. Adjournment. *(7:00:09 YouTube)*

Vice-Chair Watchman motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19pm.

Minutes taken by Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant 10/21/21