



## PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES - AUGUST 3, 2021

### **In Attendance:**

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

Executive Director, Brian Schmitt  
Deputy Director Lori Van Haren  
Public Information Officer, Michelle Crank

Roy Herrera, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Jillian Andrews, Esq. Ballard Spahr  
Ryan Regula, Esq. Snell & Wilmer  
Mark Flahan, Timmons Group  
Doug Johnson, NDC Research  
Ivy Beller Sakansky, NDC Research  
Angla Miller, Transcriptionist

Dr. Moon Duchin, Director Metric Geometry & Gerrymandering Group Redist. Lab  
Dr. Eric McGhee, Public Policy Institute of CA, Board Member of Plan Score  
Dr. Samuel Wang, Director, Princeton Gerrymandering Project  
Adam Podowitz-Thomas, Legal Director, Princeton Gerrymandering Project

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call ([8:52 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 July 27, 2021 *(11:16 YouTube)*

- A. General Session
- B. Executive Session

Vice Chair Watchman motioned to approve the General Session and Executive Session Minutes from July 27, 2021, Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments *(12:41 YouTube)*

At 8:09am 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 July 19, 2021 meeting. *(13:29 YouTube)*

All the Commissioners stated how pleased they were with the level of engagement at all the Listening Tour meetings to date, and thanked the public for their comments, suggestions, and participation. The recordings of all the Listening Tour Meetings will be uploaded to the website soon.

V. Update from the mapping Consultants, Timmons/NDC. *(19:17 YouTube)*

- A. Travel schedule/meetings update
- B. Discussion on holding 2 or 3 Listening Tours
- C. Training Options
- D. Competitiveness/Grid Map Selection discussion
- E. Practical Voting Rights
- F. Competitiveness Speakers
  - i. Dr. Moon Duchin, Director, Metric Geometry & Gerrymandering Group  
Redistricting Lab (Tufts University)
  - ii. Dr. Eric McGhee, Public Policy Institute of California and Board Member of  
Plan Score
  - iii. Dr. Samuel Wang, Director, Princeton Gerrymandering Project
  - iv. Adam Podwitz-Thomas, Legal Director, Princeton Gerrymandering Project

v. Dr. Gary King, Harvard University (TBD)

Timmons/NDC invited several experts in competitiveness to speak to the Commissioners about the two key challenges with redistricting, what past elections to use when attempting to create the future competitiveness districts, and how to analyze those past elections in a productive manner.

Timmons/NDC advised the Commission that to date there have been 176 online Community of Interest submissions. The paper submissions received from the Listening Tour have not yet been processed. The deadline for online submissions is Aug 10, 2021 so the information can be processed and a Community of Interest report can be delivered to the Commission by Aug. 31, 2021.

Executive Director Schmitt informed the Commission that over 900 people attended the meetings in person so far, with over 300 people attending online, totaling approximately 1,150 people participating.

Timmons/NDC suggested that due to time constraints, the Commission should hold one more Listening Tour once the draft maps are produced. The Commission agreed that an aggressive outreach, social media effort should be made prior to the next tour.

The Commissioners are all ready for the training as soon as it is available. Timmons/NDC will put together training points, topics and a schedule.

Timmons/NDC gave a presentation on Competitiveness and grid map selection and approaches taken by the last two Commissions. *(This presentation has been posted to the IRC website.)*

VI. Discussion concerning Native American voting rights and interaction with other voting rights laws and Arizona redistricting process.. *(3:45:35 YouTube)*

Legal counsel provided a presentation on how the recent supreme court decisions on voting rights and how it relates to the Native American population in Arizona and how the tribes are a community of interest. *(This presentation has been posted on the IRC website.)*

VII. Rubric discussion and legal implications related to Arizona constitutional criteria and established process. *(4:28:02 YouTube)*

Vice Chair Watchman motioned to go into Executive Session, and Commissioner Mehl seconded the motion to discuss the legal questions related to the rubric topic. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.

Upon returning from Executive Session, the Commission advised that they felt embracing the rubric idea into the constitutional criteria would potentially invite legal challenges, and will not pursue that path.

VII. Executive Director's Report and discussion thereof. *(4:39:50 YouTube)*

- A. Discussion of proposed timeline for IT integration and migration
- B. Discussion and possible action on Community Outreach Coordinator
- D. Travel schedule/meetings update

Executive Director Schmitt advised the Commission that Human Resources was able to split the Community Outreach position into two six month term positions and are moving forward with expediting the hires.

VIII. Discussion of future agenda item requests. *(4:40:40 YouTube)*

A request was made for a budget report, interpretations of the Navajo speakers at the Window Rock Listening Tour location, the possibility of adding additional meetings to accommodate the additional future demands of the Commission, and a presentation on the common economic interests regarding the five "C's and how they relate to communities of interests.

IX. Announcements. *(4:54:40 YouTube)*

The Commission would like the public to attend a Listening Tour meeting.

X. Next Meeting Date. *(4:56:10 YouTube)*

The next business meeting is Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 8:00am.

XI. Closing of the Public Comments. *(4:56:36YouTube)*

Public Comments were closed at 12:53pm.

XII. Adjournment. *(4:57:10 YouTube)*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm. Commissioner Lerner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner York seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 5-0.