

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

EXCERPT OF PROCEEDINGS

November 5, 2011
3:30 p.m.

Location

City of Casa Grande
City Council Chambers
510 East Florence Boulevard
Casa Grande, Arizona 85211

Attending

Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist

PREPARED BY:

AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, CR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637

1 Casa Grande, Arizona
2 November 5, 2011
3 3:30 p.m.

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: The time is 3:30.

5 Welcome to the last in the series of 31
6 meetings -- outreach meetings for the Arizona
7 Independent Redistricting Commission.

8 My name is Rick Stertz. I am one of five
9 commissioners on the Independent Redistricting
10 Commission.

11 We are not live-streaming today. We do
12 not have that capacity, but this is being recorded.
13 So hello to my fellow commissioners that will be
14 watching this after the fact.

15 A couple of introductions I wanted to
16 make, but before I do that, I just wanted to say
17 that this has been an emotionally-charged week.

18 There has been a lot that has been
19 written and said about what has transpired, and I
20 just wanted you all to know that we're going to
21 appreciate all of the comments that you make.

22 So we want to try to capture the
23 information that you have got so that we can place
24 it into the record. And whether or not you have
25 filled out a yellow sheet like this to speak or have

1 filled out a blue sheet like this to get it into
2 testimony, all of the testimony, whether or not it's
3 given in writing or given verbally or given online
4 or mailed in, is all being accumulated and
5 assimilated and collated for us -- for all of the
6 commissioners to be reviewing so that we can create
7 a bigger understanding and story about what your
8 feelings are about the draft maps as they were
9 published.

10 I want to introduce first some of our
11 staff.

12 We've got Kristina Gomez, who is our
13 deputy executive director in the back corner of the
14 room.

15 If there's anything that you need, any
16 paper that you need, any issues that you want to
17 take up, Kristina will be able to assist you.

18 Also if you have any written comments you
19 have already prepared that you will be reading into
20 the record or maybe that the time frame may not --
21 you've got a lot that you want to place in, you
22 might not get to it all verbally, make sure that you
23 get those documents to Kristina and she'll place
24 those into the record.

25 We've got Karen Herrman and Shane

1 Shields, both of our community outreach
2 representatives are also in the back of the room.

3 Our chief technology officer behind the
4 large black box over here is Buck Forst.

5 Taking our minutes is Michelle Elam. And
6 if during the course of the meeting when you come up
7 to give testimony, make sure that you spell your
8 name and -- clearly so that -- before you start
9 giving your testimony so that she can get that into
10 the record.

11 We also have Andrew Drechsler from
12 Strategic Telemetry who is going to be giving a
13 presentation and will be able after the meeting to
14 answer any questions.

15 And lastly we've got Carlos Reyes who
16 will be our Spanish interpreter if any
17 interpretation needs to be made.

18 But before we get started, let's all
19 stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

20 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

22 I always enjoy that part of the meeting.
23 It's just a great way to begin.

24 Before we get started with Andrew, I want
25 to thank also the city of Casa Grande for hosting us

1 this evening and giving us the opportunity to be in
2 this beautiful location.

3 I feel very distant from you being all
4 the way back here. I just did a meeting this
5 morning in Casa Grande (sic) and it was like
6 theater-in-the-round.

7 So before we go with Andrew, if Carlos
8 Reyes -- would he be able to step up and in English
9 and Spanish give the introduction.

10 CARLOS REYES: Good afternoon,
11 Commissioner Stertz.

12 Ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with
13 the Voting Rights Act, an interpreter will be
14 available at the public hearings in order to provide
15 interpreting services that might be needed for those
16 citizens needing interpreting services.

17 Please contact the interpreter present at
18 the meeting so that he or she can assist you.

19 And now I will read the script in Spanish
20 for the Spanish-speaking citizens.

21 (Speaking in Spanish.)

22 Thank you very much, Commissioner.

23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Carlos.

24 And Carlos has been following us on the
25 tour as well.

1 This has been a very exciting last 30
2 days as we been traveling around the state. This is
3 the 31st city that we have been in. We've literally
4 collected thousands and thousands of pieces of
5 testimony, maps, data, speeches, e-mails, letters
6 that we're going to be going through.

7 Before we get started and turn it over to
8 Andrew, we've got about 20, 25 comment cards for
9 speeches. We'll probably use four minutes as the
10 timing.

11 So if you'll look at your presentation
12 and if you can think about whether or not you can
13 make the presentation within that time frame, that
14 gives us about two hours worth of presentation
15 tonight.

16 I think that -- I'll try to -- when you
17 hear the buzzer go off, try to wrap up your comments
18 if you can, but we're here to collect testimony, not
19 to cut you off.

20 So with no further adieu, I'm going to
21 turn this over to Andrew Drechsler for a
22 presentation on the redistricting process.

23 Andrew.

24 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much,
25 Commissioner Stertz.

1 Before we get started today, we just
2 wanted to give a quick presentation that goes over
3 -- that gives an overview of the process and what
4 we're doing before we get your comments tonight. I
5 will also share the draft maps with you today.

6 So the Arizona's redistricting process is
7 governed by the state's Constitution as amended by
8 voters in 2000 with the passage of Proposition 106.

9 It stipulates that Arizona's Independent
10 Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's
11 congressional and legislative lines districts to
12 reflect the results of the most recent census.

13 Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a
14 congressional seat. So we'll be going from eight
15 congressional seats to nine congressional seats.

16 The state senate will remain at 30 and
17 the house representatives will remain at 60 with two
18 members of the house of representatives nested
19 within each of the state senate seats.

20 What are the requirements of the state
21 Constitution per Proposition 106?

22 And these are really the guidelines that
23 the commissioners are using when they are making any
24 of the considerations in drawing the lines and
25 drawing the maps.

1 New district boundaries must, A, comply
2 with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights
3 Act.

4 B, be equal population.

5 Criteria A and B are federally mandated
6 to the extent practicable, the districts must be C,
7 compact and contiguous; D, respect communities of
8 interest; E, use visible geographic features, city,
9 town, county boundaries, and undivided census tract;
10 and E -- I'm sorry, F, favor competitive districts
11 where no significant detriment to other goals.

12 We just wanted to do a quick overview of
13 the Voting Rights Act.

14 Arizona's congressional and legislative
15 districts must receive preclearance or approval from
16 the Department of Justice or a federal court under
17 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they can
18 take effect.

19 To get preclearance, Arizona must
20 demonstrate that the new districts do not
21 discriminate against minority voters in purpose or
22 effect, which means that there can be no intentional
23 or accidental discrimination.

24 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting
25 plans can be retrogressive. The plans cannot

1 weakenfsuch or reduce minority voting rights.

2 The presence of discrimination can be
3 determined by analyzing population data and election
4 results.

5 And we actually have a short presentation
6 on the Voting Rights Act as well, presentation by
7 Bruce Adelson.

8 And, of course, on the 31st day of
9 hearings we have to have technology difficulties.

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Do you need five
11 minutes of stand-up here?

12 ANDREW DRECHSLER: So we're going to
13 listen to Bruce give this two-minute presentation.
14 I apologize for the delay.

15 ((Mr. Bruce Adelson's video presentation
16 was played.))

17 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Okay. Next we want to
18 do a quick overview of the redistricting process.
19 And there's really -- we broke it down into six
20 steps okay.

21 So the first step was setting up the
22 Commission. So earlier this year basically what was
23 created was a new state -- whole new state agency
24 and the commissioners were appointed following a
25 thorough screening process.

1 Each of the commissioners serve in a
2 voluntarily, unpaid role for the Commission.

3 The second step was the first round of
4 hearings.

5 Before a single line was drawn, the
6 Commission held 23 public hearings around the state
7 in July and August. We got input from members of
8 the public about issues relevant to the
9 redistricting such as geography, community of
10 interest, minority voting rights and
11 competitiveness.

12 Third step was the map.

13 Per Proposition 106, we needed to start
14 with a clean slate. That means that we couldn't
15 take into consideration where any incumbents lived
16 or what any of the district lines looked like from
17 the 2010 elections. So we had to wipe everything
18 clean.

19 Next, we divided the state into equal
20 population and compact-like grids.

21 Again, per Proposition 106, they asked us
22 to create a grid map. This was approved on August
23 18th.

24 Since adopting the grid maps, the
25 Commission has met over 25 times to consider

1 adjustments to the grid to accommodate all of the
2 state constitutional criteria.

3 During this time they received additional
4 public comment and draft maps, so this was done at
5 the end of August throughout September into October.

6 Then we had the approval of the maps.

7 On October 3rd, the Commission approved
8 the draft congressional map that incorporated the
9 changes based on the constitutional criteria and
10 then the legislative map was adopted on
11 October 10th.

12 Next is step four, the second round of
13 hearings, which you are part of today.

14 We're currently visiting 30 towns and
15 cities around the state. Today is the very last
16 meeting, as we mentioned, where we've received
17 additional public input on the draft maps throughout
18 October and into November.

19 The next step is the final map, step
20 five.

21 Upon completion of the public comment
22 period, the Commission will adopt final maps.

23 And then the final step is preclearance.
24 Because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the
25 Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be

1 approved by the federal Department of Justice or a
2 federal court in Washington, D.C., before they be
3 used for Arizona's elections.

4 So before we show you the draft map, we
5 just wanted to go over the process.

6 This map was the map that is currently --
7 was approved by the last Commission and most
8 recently used in the 2010 elections.

9 Per Proposition 106, we started clean
10 with a clean slate and then we built the grid map.

11 Again, the grid map only took into
12 consideration two of the six criteria, equal
13 population and compactness.

14 So once the grid map was considered,
15 that's -- when approved on August 18th, this is
16 where the commissioners met over 25 times at the end
17 of August and September and October to make changes
18 to the grid map, consider -- they took into
19 consideration the six criteria and thousands of
20 comments from the public. And here before you you
21 see the draft map.

22 Some highlights of the draft map is it
23 has two predominantly rural districts, three border
24 districts, three districts in the Greater Tucson
25 region, five districts that are entirely within

1 Maricopa County. It avoids splitting Arizona's
2 Indian reservations, and two districts where the
3 minority voters have the opportunity to elect a
4 candidate of their choice.

5 The legislative map process followed a
6 very similar process.

7 Again, this is the map that was approved
8 by the last Commission and was most recently used in
9 the 2010 elections.

10 Again, we started with a clean slate.
11 Per Proposition 106, we didn't take into
12 consideration where any incumbent legislators lived
13 and we didn't consider previous lines. And then we
14 proceeded with a grid map that was approved on
15 August 18th.

16 Like the congressional grid map, it only
17 took into consideration two of the six criteria,
18 equal population and compactness.

19 And from there, that's where the
20 commissioners took in the other four criteria and
21 came up with a draft map that you see here.

22 Some of the things that we wanted to
23 point out about the draft map, in the districts that
24 were shown that were used for the last -- for the
25 2010 elections -- the population of those districts

1 ranged from 155,000 to 378,000. So that's obviously
2 one reason we had to shift the lines around, is to
3 come up with the concept of one person, one vote.

4 The current draft map has roughly 207,000
5 to 215,000. Under the state Constitution, we have
6 the -- I think the deviance of up to 10 percent
7 deviation, and I think we're under 5 percent here.

8 For the congressional map, I just wanted
9 to point out that the congressional map has to be
10 down to one person. So all of the districts in the
11 congressional map are equal and one of the districts
12 I think has one additional person.

13 To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the
14 draft map includes ten districts where minority
15 voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of
16 their choice.

17 The draft map has three districts wholly
18 within Pima County and three additional Southern
19 Arizona districts, seventeen districts primarily
20 within Maricopa County, and nine primarily rural
21 districts.

22 We want your input. That's a big reason
23 why we're here today. If you haven't already, you
24 can fill out one of the yellow request to speaker
25 form -- request to speak forms and come up and

1 address your comments.

2 We want to hear what you like about the
3 maps, what you might not like about the maps, what
4 changes you would recommend. We would want to hear
5 them. You can also comment on any of the additional
6 constitutional criteria or give us comments on both
7 the congressional and draft maps.

8 Besides speaking at today's hearing, in
9 the packet of information you received there is a
10 blue sheet at the back and you can either fill this
11 out and hand it in today to one of the
12 representatives. Alternatively, at the bottom of
13 the sheet is the address. So if you wanted to mail
14 this in or call, the phone number is on there, or
15 you can visit us at www.azredistricting.org.
16 There's a public comment section on there that you
17 can fill out your comments as well.

18 And any of the comments, no matter what
19 format you give to us, they will be recorded as part
20 of the permanent record.

21 Here is just a screenshot of our home
22 page. We just wanted to highlight a couple of
23 different things.

24 On the top left you'll see an arrow that
25 says "maps." If you click on there, there's -- you

1 can find the grid maps, you can find the draft maps,
2 and you can also find -- during the period from the
3 grid to the draft maps, there was a number of
4 scenarios that the commissioners asked for. What we
5 call the what-if maps, and you can click on there
6 and see any of the what-if maps.

7 There's another arrow that points to the
8 meetings. If you want to watch and see the how the
9 commissioners came to the draft maps, all of the
10 meetings are online. All of the transcripts are
11 there so you can -- if you're bored tonight, you can
12 go home and start watching a hundred-plus hours of
13 the meetings, the 25 meetings took place at the end
14 of August and September and October and see the
15 development of how the maps went from the grid maps
16 to the draft maps.

17 And the public comment section, if you
18 click on there, you'll be able to give additional
19 public comments. You may get home tonight, you may
20 look at the maps and have some ideas, thoughts,
21 suggestions, by all means, give public comments it
22 to us there.

23 Down at the bottom there's another arrow
24 that says "maps." And if you click on either of the
25 two pictures of the maps that you see there, it will

1 take you to a page like this.

2 This page has a wealth of information.
3 First of all, it has maps in a number of different
4 formats that you can review the map.

5 There's a number of different reports.
6 There's population tables on the maps, there's
7 competitiveness tables, which show competitive
8 measures. There's compactness measures, there's
9 splits reports, and there's -- some of these reports
10 show how the draft maps compare to the maps that
11 were used in the 2010 elections.

12 So if you want to go in and compare the
13 two, you would be able to do that.

14 One of the things that we have circled
15 here is the ability to go look Google maps. If you
16 click on here -- this is a feature that the public
17 has really liked at the other meetings.

18 It will bring you to a page that looks
19 like this. And basically it's a Google map that has
20 the districts highlighted. This one shows the
21 congressional districts.

22 And what you're able to do is you're able
23 to scroll in and really zoom in and see what the
24 boundaries of are your district or you can go to
25 your neighboring districts -- neighbor's districts

1 and see what the boundaries are of their districts.

2 Here is just a quick screenshot that
3 shows you some of the level of detail that you would
4 be able to see when you zoom in. This is just a
5 screenshot of Maricopa congressional districts.
6 Four different congressional districts here and you
7 can see down to the exact neighborhoods, you can
8 have a map view or a satellite view if you wanted to
9 see various geographic features as well.

10 Finally, we want you to stay connected.
11 We encourage you to visit our website at
12 www.azredistricting.org. As we mentioned, there's a
13 wealth of information.

14 One of the features that we have on there
15 is draw your own map. We have an online mapping
16 program. You can follow any of the -- you can
17 review any of the past meetings. And as we move
18 into this stage where we're going to be finalizing
19 the map, you can get information on meetings, you
20 can watch -- most of our meetings are streamed
21 online. So if you're not able to drive and be here
22 in person, you can watch the proceedings online.

23 And you can also follow us on Twitter and
24 friend us on Facebook.

25 I just want to thank you. We really look

1 forward to hearing what you have to say about the
2 maps. I was as -- Commissioner Stertz mentioned,
3 I'll be here after the meeting. So if anybody has
4 any questions, by all means, feel free to come up
5 and ask me and I will be happy to answer them.

6 Thank you very much.

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Andrew.

8 As is customary with our meetings, we
9 give preference to our leadership to speak first;
10 our mayors, our representatives, and our boards of
11 supervisors and then I take the rest of them in the
12 order that they were received.

13 So without further adieu, what I'll also
14 be doing is to list off the first three folks so
15 that you'll know that you will be coming up, you'll
16 be on deck or getting ready to speak so you can
17 start to get your thoughts in order.

18 So let's go ahead and get started, and
19 we'll start off first with the mayor of Casa Grande,
20 mayor Bob Jackson.

21 BOB JACKSON: Thank you.

22 I'm sorry I didn't mean to blind you with
23 that light. I was trying to make it a little darker
24 during the PowerPoint presentation.

25 My name is Bob Jackson. I'm the mayor of

1 the city of Casa Grande.

2 Do you want me to spell it for you or are
3 you okay?

4 THE COURT REPORTER: No.

5 BOB JACKSON: I'm here today not only as
6 mayor of Casa Grande but I'm also the chairman of
7 the Casa Grande -- or the Pinal County Alliance
8 Legislative Committee.

9 And we had previously provided some
10 suggested mapping to the IRC in hopes that we could
11 help solve some of the dilemmas that you guys have
12 at trying to put your maps together.

13 While I'm sure you know who the Alliance
14 is, I'll just briefly tell you that it's a group of
15 all of the Pinal County cities, the county, and many
16 of the special districts.

17 We've been in existence over 20 years,
18 and we typically meet quarterly and try to make sure
19 that Pinal County's issues, whether they be
20 congressional, legislative, local, have a forum
21 where we can decide what's best for Pinal County.

22 I know that we had submitted back at one
23 of your earlier meetings a suggested map. We have
24 made some slight changes to that, and later on today
25 you'll hear from Jill Kipness with Robert Lynch &

1 Associates and she'll go through the details of
2 those maps for you.

3 I have provided a copy of this
4 presentation in its entirety. I can only read a
5 couple of highlight items in the interest of time,
6 but I have provided a complete document to your
7 staff.

8 The revised Alliance map that you will
9 see from Jill today keeps all nine counties whole
10 and keeps Pinal and Mohave counties mostly whole.

11 Certainly Maricopa and Pima County are
12 split as is Yuma County and Coconino County,
13 although they are only split once each.

14 We do think that it's important that this
15 map be given some consideration because rural cities
16 and counties -- rural cities and towns use the
17 counties to communicate particularly with the
18 federal government. The map that does not keep
19 rural counties together, does not benefit the
20 counties or the state as a whole.

21 Our proposed congressional map recognizes
22 communities of interest. Pinal County Indian
23 community, Gila River, Ak-Chin, Tohono O'odham
24 should continue to be in the same congressional
25 district.

1 Saddlebrooke located in southern --
2 Southeastern Pinal County, many of the residents
3 there have Tucson addresses and we more closely
4 align them with Tucson.

5 Marana, which is -- while it's in Pima
6 County, most of the -- much of the growth that's
7 going on in Marana is actually occurring in Pinal
8 County, and they are a member of the Pinal County
9 Alliance. And we have shown them as part of the
10 proposed congressional district for this area.

11 We also think that it protects and
12 enhances the majority-minority characteristics of
13 the districts. And like I said, Jill will get up
14 here later and give you specifics about that.

15 On the legislative side, much of the same
16 reasoning was used. We feel that Pinal County wants
17 to be -- remain whole, but much of the growth that
18 has occurred in Arizona has allowed us to have this
19 the additional congressional seat. It really
20 occurred in Pinal County and we feel that needs to
21 be recognized by the IRC.

22 Pinal County now has sufficient
23 population to have one full district and would need
24 approximately 52,000 people to create a second
25 district.

1 I know that there have been several
2 public hearings in the past where there's been some
3 question about whether Casa Grande is a rural county
4 or rural city or not, and I just want to read the
5 comment, our response to each one of those.

6 Rural county districts should be
7 completely rural and include areas like the city of
8 Maricopa or Apache Junction because they are not
9 rural cities.

10 Our answer from the Alliance is that
11 Maricopa and Apache Junction are full partners in
12 Pinal County's economic and political efforts, and
13 hence they actively participate in the Alliance.

14 Their future rests with Pinal County.

15 Second comment, cities of Maricopa and
16 Casa Grande don't care about rural issues.

17 I got to tell you this can't be further
18 from the truth on behalf of Casa Grande. Even our
19 general plan, it really stresses the rural nature of
20 our community.

21 The Alliance's response to that is that
22 Maricopa and Casa Grande have major agricultural and
23 rural neighbors of economic partners that thrust
24 them into rural issues constantly. That necessary
25 intersection is a major reason that the Alliance was

1 formed.

2 And so I think speaking on behalf of the
3 Alliance, we would really like to see, number one on
4 the congressional level, Pinal County be kept whole
5 as much as possible. Our membership does include
6 many of the mountain cities as well.

7 And on the legislative side, like I said,
8 we would like to have at least one district that is
9 wholly within Pinal County as much as possible and a
10 second one where we would be a major voice in that.

11 So thank you, and I don't envy your day,
12 but I'm glad it's the end of the day and the end of
13 the road for you today.

14 So thank for your time.

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25