

Steven and Joan Harris

Flagstaff, AZ 86005-7073

Telephone: [REDACTED]

November 10, 2021

Madam Chair Neuberger and Commissioners. First, we would like to thank you for your time and energy on this important redistricting task. The results of your efforts will have serious and lasting effects on Arizona for the next ten years and beyond. We welcome this opportunity to express our thoughts on this critical issue at this time.

The attached map combines all of Yavapai County with the counties of Coconino, Gila, Mojave and La Paz - all of whom have common rural communities of interest. However, the IRC in its most recent draft map combines Yavapai, Coconino, Apache and Navajo Counties and others into one CD instead. The IRC's current draft map breaks our long-standing rural communities of interest.

Yavapai county has no relationship with the communities of interest in Apache and Navajo counties. This map recognizes our shared communities of interest with Coconino, Gila, Mohave, and La Paz counties which include our Western heritage and culture, our rural industries of ranching, mining, forestry, and agriculture, our rural lifestyle, and our necessity for coping and dealing with growth and our scarcity of water. The eastern counties (specifically Navajo and Apache) have much more abundant water. Recently, one tribe has been reported selling water to Maricopa County for thirty million dollars this year to make up for Maricopa's reduction of water allocation from the Colorado River Central Arizona Project. The Arizona tribes have superior water rights. When the competition for water with the urban areas eventually occurs due to the large growth in the metropolitan areas and further water allocation reductions, the rural counties outside of Apache and Navajo Counties will have limited say given the IRC's current draft map.

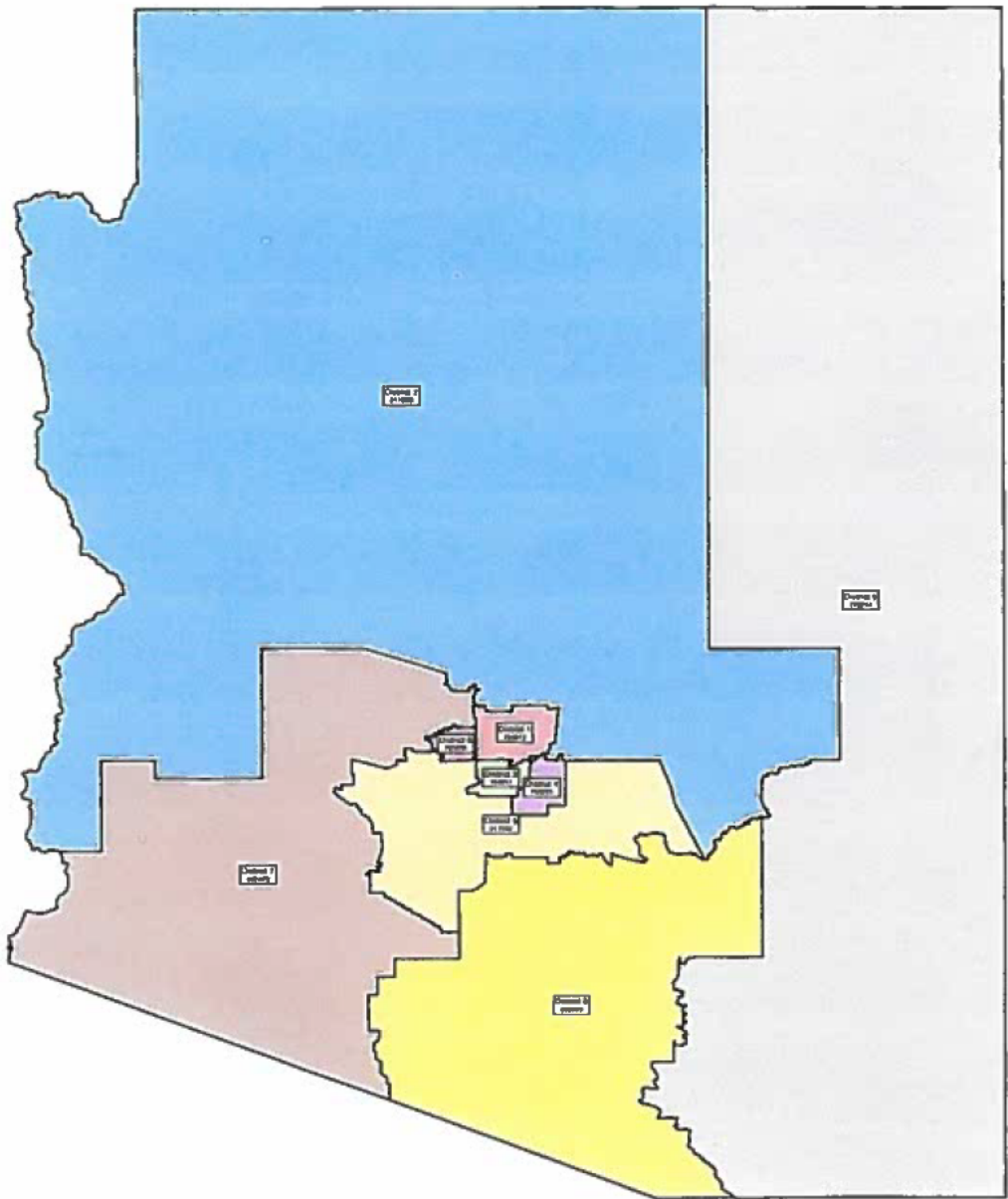
In addition, by combining Apache, Navajo, and the southeastern counties in this map, a "minority-majority" district could be created which aligns with the Voting Rights Act redistricting criteria. This district would provide for minority-majority representation in Congress not seen before in Arizona.

In summary, the current IRC draft map will dilute the rural areas' ability to effectively vote to maintain our rural communities of interest. It is for this reason this map was developed. It does maintain not only our rural communities of interest, but establishes a minority-majority district, and improves competitiveness in districts across the state.

Win-win!

Thank you,

Steven and Joan Harris



11/10/21

Good evening, Madam Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Harry Oberg, and I am a Supervisor in Yavapai County. I am here to comment on your recent draft Legislative District map, and in particular LD-5.

I fully concur with the current map which shows Yavapai County as its own Legislative District, LD-5. I find this appropriate since our county's population is very near the required target of 238,600 per district, and it is probably at or exceeds that number right now with our growth since the recent census. Also, this supports our long-standing communities of interest which include our Western rural heritage, culture, and lifestyle.

I hear that the Town of Sedona does not want to be split between two Legislative Districts. I agree. So, the only change I propose is to have the very small portion of the Town of Sedona in Coconino County be included with Yavapai County's LD-5.

This makes infinitely more sense than the recent proposed maps by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors which proposes to remove the Verde Valley, which is approximately 1/3 of my county's residents, and realign them with LD-7 based on the numbering of your current map. I find this effort highly unusual and disturbing that elected officials of another county wish to complicate the policy making and governing of our county and our relationship with our county citizens. We would never as a BOS meddle or violate Coconino County or any another county's sovereignty in dealing with their constituents.

So, in closing I appreciate your difficult position of trying to accommodate reasonable citizen input to your proposed maps. But I feel that keeping Yavapai as its own LD and including the entire Town of Sedona in LD-5 is fair and consistent with the constitutional principles that established the Independent Redistricting Commission.* Further, it is the intent of the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors to be inclusive in all our decisions in matters of policy and remove a perceived schism that has developed over time because of a mountain dividing our county. Removing the Verde Valley from the currently proposed LD-5 would greatly complicate our board's efforts.

Madam Chair, thank you for your time, and I look forward to your support in maintaining our county's sovereignty.

Statement to the IRC on Draft Map

11/10/21 in Flagstaff

Good Evening Madame Chair and Commissioners,

I'm Jeanna Tendall, a resident of Prescott in Yavapai County.

I would like to provide comments in support of a map that revises the IRC's draft CD map mainly in the rural areas of AZ. That map is reference number CD0021. This revised map seeks to establish rural congressional districts that better align rural communities of interest. The IRC's draft map primarily combines Yavapai County with Navajo, Apache, Gila, Coconino, and portions of Pinal and Graham counties. However, based on Yavapai County's long-standing communities of interest, and our western heritage and culture of ranching, mining, agriculture, and forestry, coupled with our rural lifestyle and fierce protection of our scarce water resources, combining our rural county with Apache and Navajo counties results in breaking these communities of interest. Yavapai County has few common interests with Apache and Navajo counties. They don't have the same water issues we do since the tribes have superior water rights in AZ. Our communities of interest lie more naturally with the rural counties of Coconino, Gila, Mohave, and La Paz. Map CD0021 proposes that these counties be combined with Yavapai into one CD to protect and preserve our interests and the water resources that sustain those interests.

But Map CD0021 doesn't fix one thing just to break another. Rather, this map also proposes that the counties of Navajo, Apache, Greenlee, Graham, Cochise, and a portion of Pima county, whose communities of interest align better with one another, become their own CD. Combining these eastern counties naturally establishes a minority-majority district, which would provide congressional representation specifically attuned to the unique Native American interests. BTW, all 9 CDs shown on Map CD0021 have been balanced to meet the population guidelines. So, this map could be your overall FIX! It has something for everyone!

I'd like to leave you with some thoughts on the scarcity of water in the rural areas. We see water as crucial to redistricting considerations. As growth continues in the metro areas of Phoenix and Tucson, water resources from the rural areas are at risk of being taken for that development. The rural areas need strong, dedicated congressional and legislative representation to protect water resources from accelerated metro development. The rural CDs outlined in Map CD0021 have a better chance of accomplishing that.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present this input.

11-10-2021

GOOD EVENING, MY NAME IS PETER ASENCIO

AND I LIVE IN YAVAPAI COUNTY, THE VERDE VALLEY &

RINIROCK.

FIRST OF ALL I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS WORK TO RETIRAW ARIZONA'S LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LINES.

THIS IS A DIFFICULT TASK TO BALANCE THE NUMEROUS CRITERIA AS SET FORTH IN OUR CONSTITUTION.

THERE ARE THREE POINTS THAT I THINK WOULD BE HELPFULL TO THE COMMISSION TO HEAR FROM

SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN THE VERDE VALLEY. FIRST

NEITHER THE FLAGSTAFF MAYOR NOR THE COCONINO

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPEAK FOR THE

VERDE VALLEY RESIDENTS. SECOND, THE SEDONA
 MAYOR DOES NOT SPEAK FOR THE REST OF THE VERDE
 VALLEY RESIDENTS. AND THIRD AND MOST IMPORTANT,
 THE CITY OF SEDONA IS A VERY SMALL PART OF THE VERDE
 VALLEY, AND THE COMMISSIONERS ARE HEARING FROM
 A SMALL FRACTION OF THE CITY RESIDENTS THAT ARE VERY
 VOCAL.

SEDONA AND THE VERDE VALLEY ALIGN CLOSELY AS
 COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST WITH PRESCOTT, THE
 YAVAPAI COUNTY SEAT AND NOT FLAGSTAFF.

THE YAVAPAI COLLEGE SEDONA CENTER IS LOCATED IN WEST
 SEDONA, THE YAVAPAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS LOCATED
 IN VILLAGE OF OAK CREEK, AND THE YAVAPAI COUNTY JAIL
 AND COURT ARE LOCATED IN CAMP VERDE.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE VERDE VALLEY'S PROPERTY TAX'S ARE PAID TO YAVAPAI COUNTY. THEREFORE, FOR SEDONA AND VERDE VALLEY RESIDENTS TO HAVE A VOICE WITH OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, WE MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE FINAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5 AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2 MAPS. THEREFORE, I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THE COMMISSION ADOPT THE PROPOSED AZ DRAFT 10.0 MAPS FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS 5 AND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2, WITHOUT CHANGE.

I SINCERELY THANK THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION FOR THEIR STEADFAST RESOLVE TO BALANCE THE SIX CRITERIA AS SET FORTH IN THE ARIZONA CONSTITUTION.

THANK YOU.

IRC Comments
November 10, 2021
Flagstaff, AZ

Thank you Chair and Commissioners for the opportunity to speak. I am Kathy Kinsella, a City Councilor for the City of Sedona.

I had intended to offer these remarks at the online town hall meeting this past Saturday, but as the bulk of speakers from northern Arizona were placed at the end of the speaking list seemingly based on region rather than by the date and time of their registration I was unable to stay on until the end.

The Sedona City Council has submitted previous statements to this commission. Each of these statements has asked that the City of Sedona be kept whole and not be spit into different districts, yet that is exactly what is on the proposed maps. We are a city of less than 10,000 people. Splitting us into two legislative districts would dilute our community voice in the legislative process.

The Sedona City Council unanimously voted in support of maps submitted by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors that propose keeping Sedona whole in a legislative district. I ask that you please consider and adopt these maps, LDF0050 and LDF0051.

These maps reflect the values Sedona has voiced in our previous comments to the AIRC and they meet the constitutional mandates of communities of interest, equal population, geographical compactness, and competitiveness.

Comments have been submitted in writing and in person to the AIRC by City representatives and also by many of our residents. Those statements included comments from our northern Arizona community advocating that the commission:

1. Keep cities whole, including the City of Sedona. We are a compact city, surrounded by Forest Service Land. It does not make sense to split neighbors apart from one another.
2. Keep communities of interest whole. Please keep the Sedona/Verde Valley community whole as a "community of interest" with Flagstaff. This would be reflective of the majority of testimony that you have already heard from residents of this area. You have heard numerous examples of how Sedona, Verde Valley, the Village of Oak Creek, and Flagstaff are joined economically for commerce, tourism, jobs, and housing, and by our topography and history, through our educational institutions from grade school through college, by our healthcare system's network of doctors and hospitals, and by transportation and transit corridors.