

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

A meeting of the Cochise County Redistricting Advisory Commission was held on Friday, September 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Rachel Gray, Commissioner; Tim Bowlby, Commissioner, telephonic; Pat Boyle, Commissioner; Rene Molina, Commissioner; Elizabeth Bernstein, Commissioner; Jerry Hatfield, Commissioner; Frank Molina, Commissioner; Cheryl Glenn, Commissioner

Absent: Yvonne Mayer, Commissioner; Cornelia Munoz, Commissioner; Nancy-Jean Welker, Commissioner

Staff Present: Richard G. Karwaczka, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board
Tim Mattix, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Attendees: David Stevens, County Recorder
Tom Mueller, GIS Manager
Terry Couchenour, GIS Analyst

Ms. Gilman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members of the Commission and County representatives introduced themselves.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

SELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Approve the nomination of a member of the Redistricting Advisory Commission (RAC) as Chair.

Commissioner Glenn made a motion to nominate Commissioners Jerry Hatfield and Pat Boyle as Cochairmen. Commissioner Bowlby seconded the motion and it carried 7-0 (Commissioner Gray not yet present; Commissioners Mayer, Munoz and Welker absent).

Chairman Hatfield chaired the remainder of the meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS

2. An overview of the duties and responsibilities of the Redistricting Advisory Commission, as charged by the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Gilman presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed constitutional and statutory requirements regarding redistricting, activities of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), the Redistricting Principles approved by the Cochise County Board of Supervisors, and keys to success in the redistricting process.

The Commission, Mr. Stevens and Ms. Gilman discussed the IRC and impacts of IRC actions, including the potential of precincts being split.

3. Presentation briefing Redistricting Advisory Commission (RAC) on Open Meeting Law.

Ms. Gilman presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed the purpose and history of the Arizona Open Meeting Law and noted that the RAC must follow the Open Meeting Law. She reviewed Open Meeting Law requirements and rules and guidance regarding electronic communications and attendance at social events and seminars.

ACTION ITEMS

4. Discussion and possible direction on the current district and precinct maps and the impact of the 2020 census on redistricting.

The Commission, Mr. Stevens, and staff held a detailed discussion on this agenda item. Areas of focused discussion included: precincts, potential changes to precinct boundaries and the timing of reviewing precincts; the 2020 Census, including there not being a need to redraw lines as a result of the population results, and census blocks not controlling district and precinct boundaries; and, staff highlighting areas of potential concern for the Commission at future meetings. The Commission and staff also discussed the importance of communities of interest and taking into consideration communities of minority population and not diluting the vote; and, being aware of changes that could create a competitive advantage.

The Commission, Mr. Stevens, and staff held a detailed discussion regarding Supervisor Districts, specifically the existing District 1 and 3 boundaries between Fort Huachuca and Sierra Vista. Throughout the discussion, Mr. Couchenour displayed various maps and data. The discussion included the County population statistics, the statutory requirement that each District have no more than a 10 percent population difference, and the potential impacts to other Supervisor Districts, cities and towns if lines are redrawn.

5. Approve the proposed redistricting process and public hearing timeline, and confirm hearing dates.

Ms. Gilman presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed the proposed timeline and explained reasons for it being expedited. The Commission, Mr. Stevens and Ms. Gilman discussed the impacts to the 2022 elections and candidates; the state has given Counties until July, 2022, to finalize Supervisor Districts as the elections will not be until 2024.

Commissioner Molina made a motion to adhere to the present timeline. Commissioner Glenn seconded the motion.

Chairman Hatfield called for the vote and it was approved 8-0 (Commissioners Mayer, Munoz and Welker absent).

The Commission discussed the next meeting date and time and agreed to meet on Friday, October 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. as Fridays at 9:00 a.m. works for the majority of Commissioners' schedules.

Chairman Hatfield adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

APPROVED:

Jerry Hatfield, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Clerk of the Board