

COCHISE COUNTY

Redistricting Advisory Commission

September 17, 2021

9:00 am, BOS Executive Conference Room



Public Programs...Personal Service

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Agenda Item 1: Selection of Officers – Chair of RAC



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Agenda Item 2: Presentation on Overview of Duties and Responsibilities



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Why is Redistricting Needed?

- In order to preserve the one-person, one vote requirement of the U.S. Constitution, must adjust the shapes of districts after every federal census to re-equalize population.
- Each district has equal population with no more than a 10 percent difference in population. (ARS 11 - 212)



Independent Redistricting Commission

- A new Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission was appointed in January 2021 to adopt new congressional and legislative districts for Arizona.
- <https://irc.az.gov/>



Redistricting Principles

as approved by BOS

- Representation of one person, one vote = similar number of people in each district
- District shapes must be compact and contiguous
- Must avoid dividing communities of interest
- Must use visible geographic features, city or town boundaries.
- Maintain the core of districts previously drawn, to extent possible.
- Favoring one party, incumbent or candidate over another is prohibited. Remain competitive.



Keys to Success = Transparency

- Show Your Work
- Create a Strong Record
- Utilize Objective Expertise – RAC feedback essential!



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Agenda Item 3: Presentation on Open Meeting Law



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What is the Open Meeting Law?

Set of laws that were intended to:

- Maximize public access to the governmental process.
- Open deliberations and proceedings to the public.
- Prevent public bodies from making decisions in secret.
- Found at A.R.S. §§ 38-431 through -431.09



Why RAC Must Comply?

“Public Bodies” – A.R.S. § 38-431(6)

- All councils, boards, commissions of the state or political subdivisions, ***including advisory committees appointed by the public body***
- Advisory Committees defined as ***for purpose of making a recommendation concerning a decision to be made or a course of conduct to be taken by the public body***



What Must a Public Body Do?

- Provide notice
- Have an agenda
- Meet in public
- Permit public to attend
 - Exception: authorized executive sessions
- Take all action in public
- Post meeting minutes or a recording.



What is a Meeting?

- A.R.S. § 38-431(4)
- “Meeting” is a gathering, in person or through technological devices, of a quorum of a public body to
 - Discuss
 - Propose
 - Deliberate
 - Take legal action



If it's not on the agenda...

- You cannot discuss it!
- New items must wait for a future meeting.



Electronic Communications

- Electronic communications are treated the same as any other form of communication between board members.
- Electronic communications exchanged among a quorum of the Board that involve discussion, deliberations, or taking legal action on matters that may come before the Board constitute a meeting and thus violate the open meeting law



Social Events & Seminars

- Members may attend social events where other members are present
- If this happens, Members must refrain from discussing RAC business
- If a quorum is present, member(s) should leave so that there is no longer a quorum.



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Action Item 4: Current District and Precinct Maps and Impact of 2020 Census



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GIS Analysis

- Board of Supervisor Districts

<https://cochise.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=845b26ce61d948b89c51a7a9d3bcc1e9>

- Cochise College Districts

<https://cochise.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b5a10cc023ee416ea7001cec78281c88>

- Justice of the Peace Precincts

<https://cochise.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e397fed3de584b21881ba9f618d3ef66>



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Action Item 5: Redistricting Timeline and Public Meetings



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Where to Start?

- 1. Review impact of Census 2020**
- 2. Set timeline** for public meetings on mapping criteria, solicit feedback, and draft plans
- 3. Dec 1, 2021** - Final Plan adopted – SB 1107, Sec 3, provided Counties with 7-month extension to divide supervisorial districts. Now due July 1, 2022.
 - Other local elections would be impacted by extension.



Proposed Timeline

- **August 2021**– Release of Census data
- **Sept-Oct** – RAC provides feedback to staff to develop draft maps
- **Nov 2021** – Public Hearings with draft maps, live and streaming broadcast
 - Nov 2 – Bisbee/Douglas
 - Nov 4 – Benson/Willcox
 - Nov 9 – Sierra Vista/Tombstone/Huachuca City
 - Nov 16 – RAC Meeting to vote on final recommendations
 - Nov 30 – BOS Public Hearing and vote for approval



Cochise County Redistricting Timeline



Next Meeting of RAC

- How often can RAC Meet?
- Days/Dates preferred?
- In person or virtual?

