

## Arizona Congressional and Legislative Districting Issue

Following the completion of the 2020 census, the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) is tasked with the responsibility to review each congressional and legislative district in the state to determine if boundaries are required to be re-aligned in accordance with the increase or decrease in population within the current districts and create new boundaries as required and mandated by law.

I believe it is important for people to understand the appointed committee is comprised of two Democrats and two Republicans. The four individuals select an independent person to serve as chairperson. The person serving in that position is Chairwoman Colleen Mathis. Each person is on leave from their employment and is serving in a voluntary capacity.

Certainly, we all recognize that the state has substantially grown in population within the prior decade. We know the suburbs surrounding the larger metropolitan areas have shown an increase in population while, perhaps, the outlying rural communities have experienced a decline in population. As stated above, the IRC must perform a thorough analysis and review of the changes in population in order to fairly and equitably determine how the districts must be changed to satisfy the equal balance of population throughout the state.

The IRC held a public hearing at The Vista Center for the Arts in Surprise on October 7, 2021. In addition, there were three facilities that held the zoom meetings in order for the entire state to have representation and the opportunity for their citizens to have an opportunity to speak in connection with the concerns related to their specific community. There were approximately 75 people who spoke over the 4 1/2 hour public hearing timeframe. (Unfortunately, the names were drawn at random and yours truly was in the last dozen to be drawn; I heard a lot of long speeches)

It is the responsibility of the IRC to have each congressional district serve 794,500 and each legislative district serve 238,000 people respectively.

There were three representatives who spoke in behalf of the local communities, Mayor Skip Hall, Surprise, General Manager Bill Cook, Sun City and I, Ralph Johnson, President SCW PORA, expressed our views and concerns related primarily to the proposed Congressional 7, 8 and 9 District issues.

I want to share the complexities of our three communities with you. Sun City is split in half for the community will be located in District 7 along with Peoria, Glendale and West Phoenix; the remaining half will go into district 8 which is compasses the south western portion of the state going down to Yuma, Surprise with half of the city going into district 8 to Yuma and the remainder going to district 9 toward Kingman.

Sun City West, Grand and Corte Bella are much more fortunate than Sun City or Surprise - at least the communities are not split. Attached are four maps - two for Congressional and two for State districts. Congressional district 9 for which a small portion of northwestern section of Maricopa County, which include our communities, is "carved out" and runs southward toward

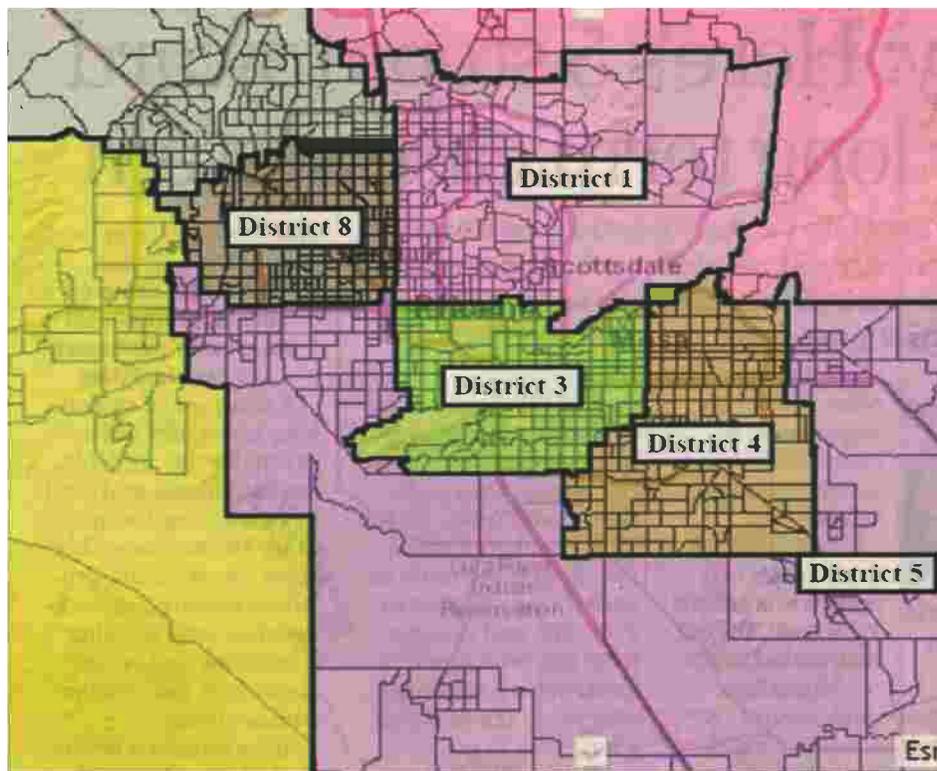
the Yuma area and all of the way along the western Arizona/California/ Nevada borders to the northwestern corner of the state and adjoins Utah on the north would become the new district for our communities instead of the current district 8 that has been in place at least for the past decade. Our area is certainly not alone by any means, as there are many complex issues throughout the state.

As I'm sure you can imagine, my colleagues, Mayor Hall, General Manager Cook and I were adamant about our respective concerns relative to the complex geographic expansion of each of our communities in the complex directions stated above. I was pleased there were three SCW residents and a few people from Surprise who were in attendance that expressed their views along the same lines as the three of us.

At the conclusion of the very long hearing, Chairwoman Mathes sought to assure those of us remaining in attendance that the process was "very much a work in progress" and that the project will continue for a "goodly period of time". We need to remain optimistic for a reasonable outcome. You can rest assured PORA will be present AND visible at all hearings in the near future and until there is a resolution!

Ralph Johnson  
President, PORA

# Current District Boundaries



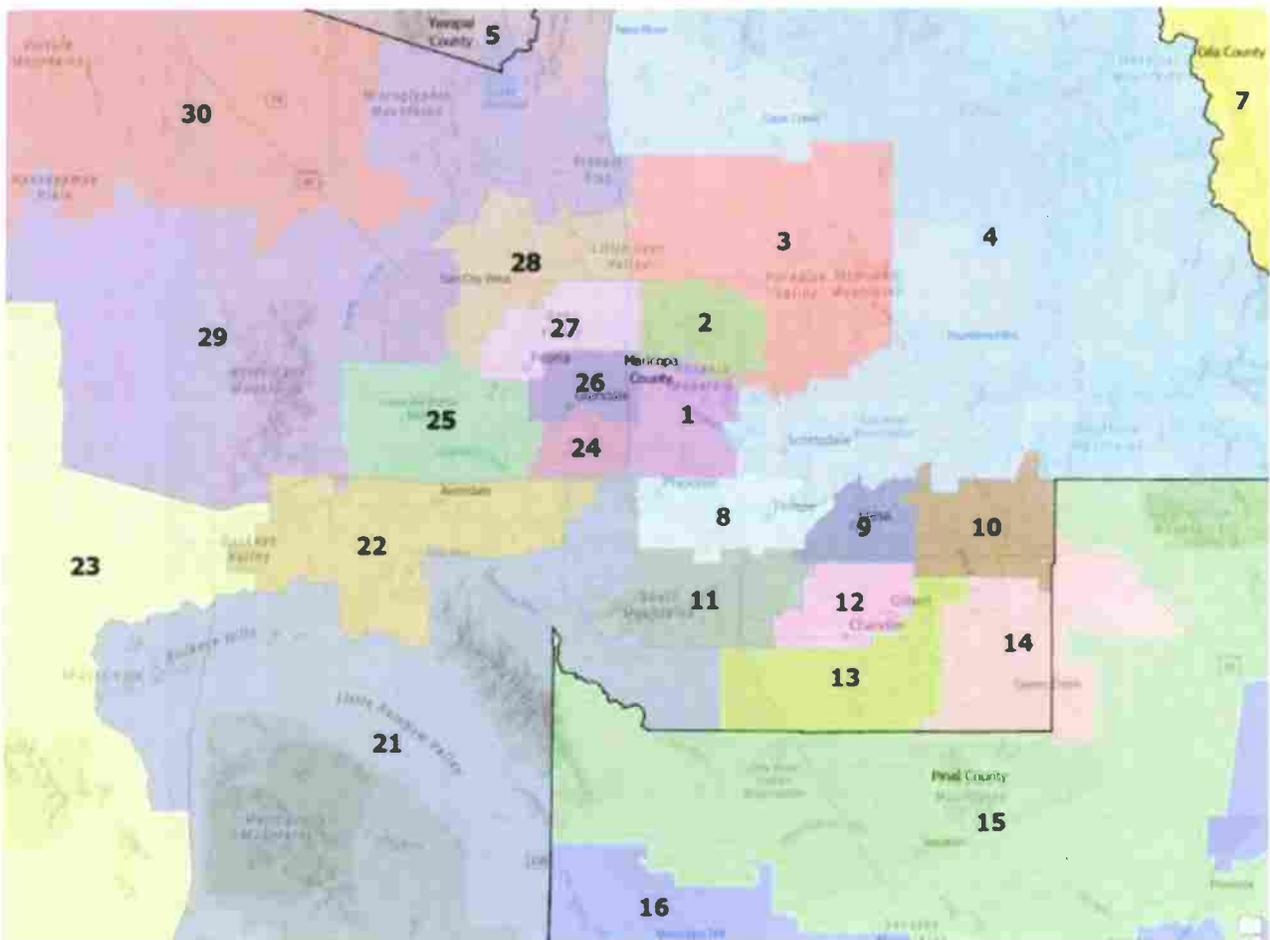
# Proposed Preliminary Boundaries

# ARIZONA

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

## Legislative Districts by Equal Populations Maricopa County close up

Districtos Legislativos  
por poblaciones iguales  
cerca del condado de Maricopa



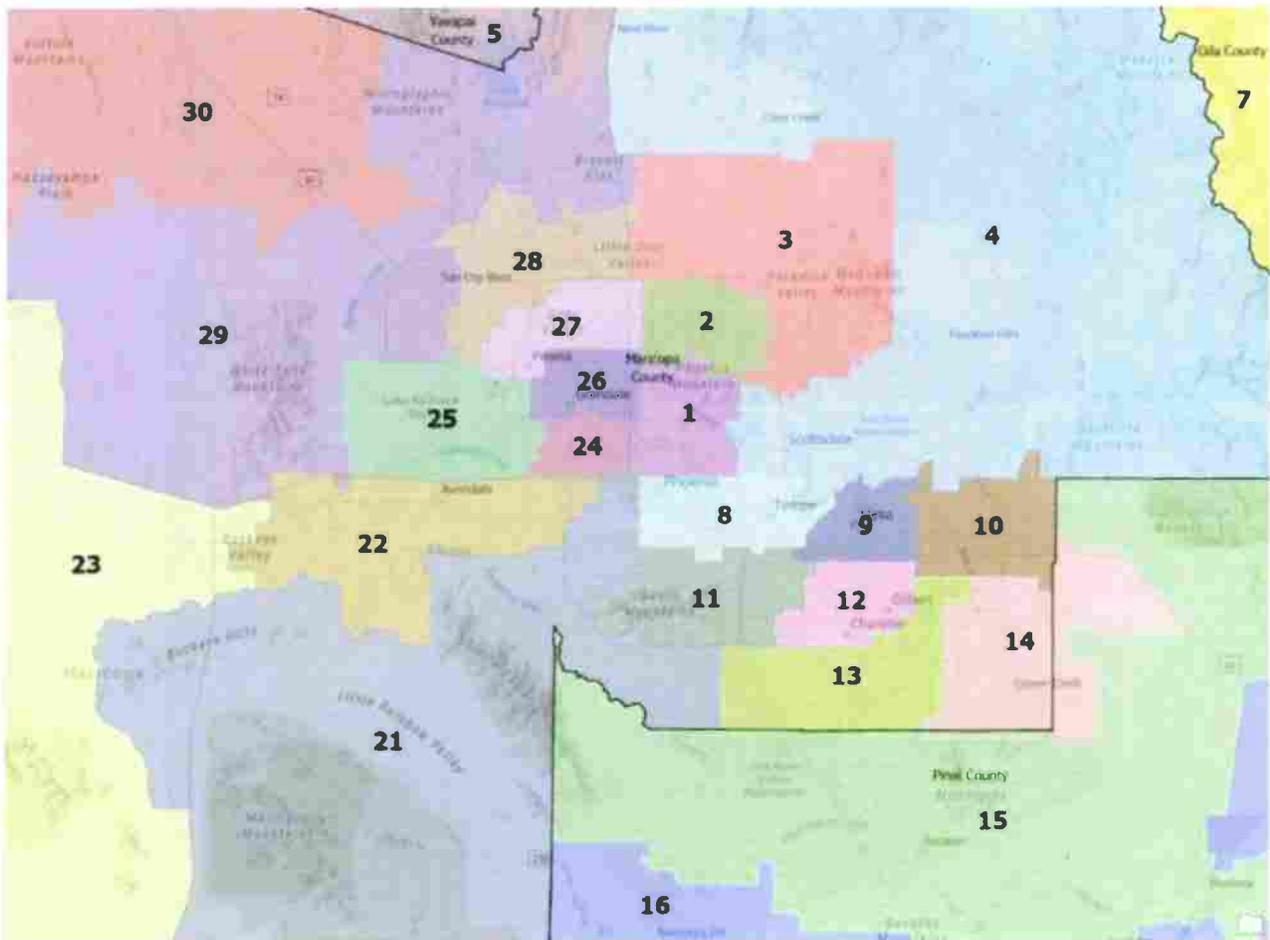
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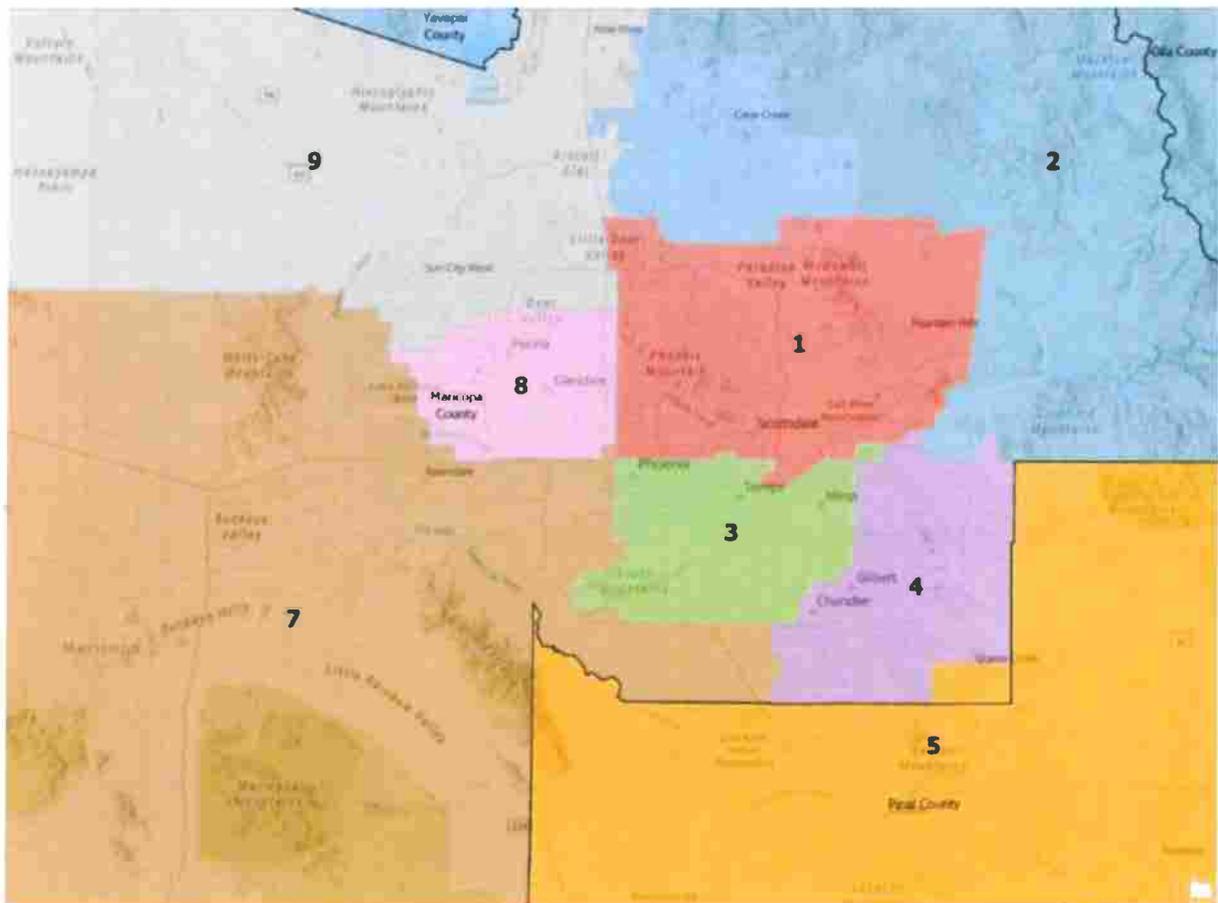
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