

Citizen Redistricting Committee
New Mexico Bar Association Center
1521 Masthead St. NE 2nd Floor
Albuquerque, NM 87109



Hon. Edward L. Chávez, Chair
Ryan Cangioli
Hon. Lisa Curtis
Robert Rhatigan
Joaquin Sanchez
Hon. Michael Sanchez
Christopher Saucedo

CITIZEN REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2021 | 3:00PM-7:00PM

Virtually Via Zoom

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[SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY COMMISSION]

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chávez. The roll was called; the following Committee Members were present:

- HON. EDWARD L. CHÁVEZ, CHAIR
- RYAN CANGIOLSI, MEMBER
- LISA CURTIS, MEMBER
- ROBERT RHATIGAN, MEMBER
- JOAQUIN SANCHEZ, MEMBER
- MICHAEL SANCHEZ, MEMBER
- CHRISTOPHER SAUCEDO, MEMBER

Justice Chávez briefly reviewed the creation of the CRC. The chair and members briefly presented biographies and appointments.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Chávez sought a motion to approve the agenda. Committee Member Curtis moved to approve the agenda; Committee Member Saucedo seconded. Hearing no discussion, Chair Chávez conducted a vote. All Committee Members voted in the affirmative, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

2. OPENING REMARKS ON CRC'S WORK AND MISSION

Chair Chávez made comments on the Committee's work and direction.

3. REDISTRICTING 101

Mr. Brian Sanderoff, of Research & Polling ("R&P), gave a brief presentation on redistricting in New Mexico. *See Attachment 1.*

4. PUBLIC INPUT ON REDISTRICTING AND DISTRICT MAPS

Chair Chávez invited comments from the public. The following members of the public offered comment:

1. Keegan King, Co-chair of the All-Indian Pueblo Council Redistricting Committee, questions for Mr Sanderoff and the CRC:
 - Q 1- How do you identify packing?
 - A-1- Case by case.
 - Q 2- What is the range for people of color?
 - A-2- 62% to 65+% but not over 80%, it varies across the 6 State House Districts and 3 Senate Districts

- Gary Martinez, ran for State House, concerned about gerrymandering and the 29,000 voters on the other side of the Mountain in District 40. Concerned about Raton being left out. Doesn't believe representation in San Miguel and Mora is what it needs to be in the House and sees different economic needs and conditions and different ranching and farming practices as well as water sources. Pulling more voters Clayton and Raton makes more sense.

- Paula Garcia, Resident of Mora who is a farmer, rancher, and Executive Director of NM Acequia Association, (NMAA), has served as a County Commissioner, and ran for the State House of Representatives. Ms. Garcia notes that the NMAA will be working to develop and submit mapping recommendations using the on-line public input portal. She expressed concerned about the composition of House District 40 and how it does not sufficiently acknowledge community of interest. His has concerning implications for voices to be heard in public policy and capital outlay efforts. People on the Eastern side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains are rural, land-based people, who share language and cultural foundations. Many are land grant families and communities as well as acequia communities. She also explained common challenges with aging infrastructure and being part of Rural Domestic Water Associations. Agriculture is a significant part of the economy in the district--\$18 M industry in Rio Arriba and \$12M in Mora annually. Ms. Garcia pointed on the map to other options that would be better configurations and more respectful of the communities of interest she identified. For example, there is more in common with Guadalupe County socially, culturally, and economically. She also noted that maintaining a northern US Congressional District is in keeping with an acknowledgement of the cultural and ethnic interests of Hispanics and other land-based people as well as the decades of relationship building within the northern CD to work collaboratively to influence federal public policy in a way that represents Norther NM interests. Don't dilute Hispanic Voting.
 - Member Curtis recommended that Ms. Garcia and those she is working with on mapping address in their comments how their recommended changes might impact neighboring districts. Ms. Garcia thanked member Curtis for the suggestion.
 - Member Sanchez acknowledged the position of trust that Ms. Garcia has established over her career for her honesty and integrity.

- John Lawrence, Santa Fe resident, worked in the US Congress for 35 years, served as Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the House. When it comes to US Congressional seats it's important NOT to make radical changes. It would be extremely disruptive to communities of interest and make it even harder for US Representatives to serve their entire district and have capacity for field offices, town halls, and constituent services. This is an equity issue. Without compelling demographic shifts, a significant change is problematic. The House of Representatives is the only place in Federal Government where minority voices are really heard.
- Martin Leger, is from San Miguel County. He has a background as the executive director of the San Miguel Chamber, worked in the State Film Office, was part of the advertising team in the NM Tourism Department that developed NM True. Mr. Leger acknowledged that NM is a diverse state geographically and culturally. He encouraged the CRC to preserve the US Congressional districts because of the cultural bonds and deep respect that exist within the district. He identified Las Vegas as a microcosm of the state with Hispanics, Anglos, and Native Americans. He discussed out-migration from Las Vegas to Rio Rancho and Albuquerque and suggested that part of the solution to district 40 would be adding Tucumcari and Raton to a district with Las Vegas. He also commented on District 70 that goes to Torrance County and leaves out some of San Miguel Roseada and Pecos. He suggested that of the 3rd US Congressional District needs population it might pull from Rio Rancho.
 - Mr. Sanderoff discussed the historical tradeoffs about population shifts in rural NM and how that has contributed to larger districts to make up population to compose a full district.
- Patricia Gallegos lives in Ribera New Mexico and her family is from Villanueva. Her family left to CO and returned home to NM. She has worked with eh Department of Health, Behavioral health Services, and CYFD as a licensed social worker. Her daughter lives in Cedar Crest and is also a licensed social worker. She talked about family always rerunning home to family, neighbors, and friends and the resilience that comes from knowing and taking care of each other. From economic development, and community re-entry programs, maintaining communities of interest allows people pull together to solve problems and develop resources to care for one another. She finalized her comments with a reminder about the importance of minority rights, the needs of Hispanics and Latinas/os, the values of working with neighbors, friends, and relatives, supporting the grassroots, and the value of farming and acequias.
 - Mr. Sanderoff's response: discussed status quo concept, does not mean CRC cannot take into account other principles.
- Anita Gonzales is the Deputy Director of the MESA Program, is a Commissioner on the local acequia, and has run for the State House of Representatives. She made comments in reference to House District 70 which is compact does not adequately address communities of interest and described that those in Torrence County may not have fair representation in this current district boundary. In terms of common geography and

culture, Mora and San Miguel have more in common with each other than Torrence County. They also share agricultural practices and similar economic issues. Recommends keeping San Miguel intact. Also, recommended a more compact configuration bases on communities of interest related to the Public Education Commission.

- Member Saucedo asked, If District 47 is moved up to 70, what would the impact be on District 63.
- Mr. Sanderoff discussed how District 63 is a protected district.
- Barbara Perea-Casey expressed concerns about the configuration of districts 70 and 58. Re: District 58- House of Representatives for district 58 for 12 years which included Chávez, Eddy, and a piece of Carlsbad. For many years the district had been racially gerrymandered where it was not possible for a Hispanic to be elected. She was the first Hispanic woman to serve in a district where the population was 64% Hispanic. She remains concerned about racial gerrymandering because Hispanics, African Americans, and Native Americans are underrepresented. Re: District 70- Running for the House was a whole new world in the Torrence County part of the district and it's important to make sure that people are represented.
- Eli Cuna brought forward interests of New Americans and discussed the significant population of Latinos and Hispanics that are deeply rooted in New Mexico including people who have recently established citizenship. She suggested that this is the time for bold change because in 20 years NM has changed. A slight change will not keep pace with who we are today and who we are becoming as a state. Consideration of migrants and field workers who play an important role in our communities should be considered. The CRC has an opportunity to look outside of the status quo and create a majority Hispanic voting age district. She also suggested that the CRC needs to provide interpretation at all meetings to reduce barriers to participation and welcome everyone into the process. It's hard to mobilize people without interpreters.
 - Chairmen Chávez acknowledged Ms. Cuna's concerns about interpretation and expressed a commitment to work on securing interpreters.
 - Member Saucedo asked is there a concept of communities of interest in SF, for example?
 - Ms. Cuna noted, there is a growing population of young people who are immigrants, Hispanic, and Latino throughout New Mexico, not just one particular community.
 - Member Saucedo talked about the importance of reaching out to Mr. Sanchez from Sanchez v King to see if he can present to the CRC In Roswell.
- Ms. Garcia asked Mr Sanderoff how a community/district establishes protected status.
 - Mr. Sanderoff explained a brief history of District 63.
- Gilbert Quintana joined via zoom and is a resident of Mora County. He's seen many redistricting plans and has voted for many years. He sees the current districts of CD 3 as favorable to all major political and cultural groups and ethnic backgrounds. Nortenos

want the configuration to stay as is. The Senate District with Senator Campos has been good in terms of economic and social issues. NE NM with Colfax, Mora, Harding and part of Guadalupe should be kept intact because there is more in common in terms of water, land, and forest services and drought, ranching, farming, and acequias. House District 40 and 70 haven't always been this way and aren't as representative of the eastern side of the Sangre de Cristos.

Chair Chávez asked if there were other questions, none were heard. Chair asked for a ten minute recess, Members assented. The Committee recessed, and resumed at 5:37 p.m. Chair Chávez then requested additional public comments.

- Gilbert Quintana, resident of Mora County, house and senate districts, does truly represent me as it is, northern New Mexico call each other Nortenos, no need for redistricting, diverse backgrounds, also includes mountains, and eastern (check with recording). communities, district 40, but Rio Arriba can outweigh those on east
 - Mr. Sanderoff explained shift to Rio Rancho because of population increase there.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION AND DIRECTIONS TO RESEARCH & POLLING REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL PLANS.

The Committee reviewed submissions on the District portal relating to congressional plans.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION AND DIRECTIONS TO RESEARCH & POLLING REGARDING STATE SENATE PLANS.

The Committee reviewed submissions on the District portal relating to state senate plans.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION AND DIRECTIONS TO RESEARCH & POLLING REGARDING STATE HOUSE PLANS.

The Committee reviewed submissions on the District portal relating to state house plans.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER DISCUSSION AND DIRECTIONS TO RESEARCH & POLLING FOR THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION (“PEC”) PLANS.

The Committee did not review any submissions on the District portal relating to PEC plans, because none were submitted.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Chávez sought a motion to adjourn. Committee Member Cangiolosi moved to adjourn; Committee Member Michael Sanchez seconded. Hearing no discussion Chair Chávez conducted a vote. All Committee Members voted in the affirmative, and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

[SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION BY COMMITTEE]

