

Minutes of the August 2, 2021, Meeting
Indivisible Tucson Action Alliance

Dana Offerman called the meeting to order at 3:35. Thirty-six people were in attendance including speakers and guests.

Dana introduced the speakers. Deborah Howard is the chair of the Indivisible Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) team. In brief comments, Deb told what her Indivisible team does and what the IRC does.

Bob Browlus-Root is an Indivisible member from Yuma and is observing our meeting.

Kendra Alvarez is the state organizer for All on the Line.

Victoria Grijalva is with Win Arizona which provides resources on redistricting and mobilizes people to be involved in redistricting throughout the state.

Others attending the group's meeting for the first time were Pat Kelly and Pat Scott, both of whom introduced themselves.

Dana then turned the meeting over to Deb Howard who gave a presentation on Arizona's Independent Redistricting Commission. She explained the development of the IRC in Arizona and noted that under the Arizona Constitution, the public is allowed input into the redistricting process for legislative and Congressional districts which occurs every 10 years. The current commission's timetable is as follows:

August 16 – Receive census data

September 14 – Grid maps to be presented

Twenty-three-day period after that for public to review grid maps

October – Draft maps to be presented

November – 30-day review of draft map. Members of the legislature may comment during this period, but they do not control the final maps.

December 9-17 – Public comment on draft maps

December 22 – Target date for presentation of final maps. The chief election officer for the Secretary of State's office has indicated that they need the maps by January 2, 2022, to prepare properly for the 2022 elections.

Deborah then gave short biographical data and observations about each of the 5 commissioners and described the process for choosing them.

She explained the criteria and process for making the maps that eventually will govern the legislative and Congressional districts in Arizona. Grid maps must be compact, contiguous, and approximately equal in population. There are six criteria which must be considered in making the final maps. The first two and most imperative are that the districts are approximately equal in population and that they comply with the federal Voting Rights Act. To

the extent practical, all districts must be contiguous and geographically compact. The commissioners must give consideration to communities of interest and must respect geographical features and boundaries (such as school districts cities and counties). Finally, competitiveness must be considered when it does not significantly detract from the other criteria.

Deb noted that the goal is fair and equitable districts for all Arizona. Communities of interest are subjective, and Indivisible members should speak up on these.

Victoria and Kendra added to Deb's presentation. Victoria stressed that when communicating with the commissioners we need to protect our minority/majority districts (those in which persons of a minority background are in the majority). We also need to work to get portions of Pima County included in as many districts as possible. She noted that when addressing the commissioners, you should personalize your remarks. Kendra suggested that in addressing the commissioners, you should recognize that your smaller district (or community of interest) is just part of a larger district, but you can advocate to keep your community of interest together and intact. When talking about your district, you might mention specific instances in which your representative was required to be responsive because he/she was in a competitive district and how he/she made it easy for you to access the representative of your district.

Dana raised a question about how to address the criteria of competitiveness. The speakers noted that Congressional Districts 1 and 2 are some of the most competitive and speakers addressing the commissioners should note how this helps those in this district. It is okay to say that you like your districts as they are.

If you wish to address the IRC in their listening tour, you just have to show up, fill out a card and make sure a staff member gets the card. The Tucson listening tours will be on August 7 & 8 at 10 a.m. A location has not been selected yet. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes.

It was also suggested that you fill out both the IRC survey and Representable survey. The Representable survey is aligned with One Arizona and the surveys done through Representable will be collated and presented to the IRC.

Links for information about the IRC:

- https://linktr.ee/Indivisibles_RedistrictAZ (Deb's working group)
- <https://www.mobilize.us/onearizona> (training on public testimony)
- <https://irc.az.gov/public-meetings/listening-tour-round-1> (IRC information on public hearings)
- <https://irc.az.gov/survey> (communities of interest survey)

Dana thanked the speakers.

Dana introduced the next topic: the various petitions circulating to get initiatives on the 2022 ballot. Three of the petitions address the voter suppression laws passed by the legislature. Three of them address the tax measures the legislature passed to overrule the

effect of Proposition 208 which increased funding for public schools. The seventh measure is to outlaw dark money. The three tax measures and the three voter suppression measures must gather 118,000 signatures by September 18, while the dark money petition is not due until next year. Misty shared a fact sheet giving details of the measures.

There are several efforts underway to gather signatures. There is an effort at the Oro Valley Library every Monday through Friday. You also can sign them at the Pima County Democratic Party headquarters. In addition, several people have organized house parties for their neighbors, and Dana and others are walking petitions around their neighborhoods. Dana told the members that if they couldn't get to a site to sign the petitions, they should email her at indivisibleucson@gmail.com and she will bring them to the person seeking help. In addition, we may set up a table in River Front Park in Oro Valley to gather signatures. The Farmer's Market appears to be unavailable. All locations for gathering signatures will be on our website (www.indivisibleucson.org) and on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179770817226870>).

A question was raised as to what happens if you sign a petition twice. It was noted that you should not sign a petition twice. If an innocent mistake is made, one of the signatures may be crossed off.

Dana then shared a recent study about the effectiveness of postcards with voters. The study indicated that the use of postcards to communicate messages about candidates had a statistically significant effect in influencing elections.

Reports from committees as follows:

- a. Membership: Sally Simmons reported that the committee hosted a new member orientation in late June. The committee hopes to have a happy hour in the fall if it is safe to do so.
- b. Federal: Jan Counts and Karen Hughes reported that the state Indivisible team on federal issues has had Senator Sinema cancel two meetings with the team.
- c. Letters to the Editor: Jackie reported that 48 letters from the team have been published since the start of the year. She invited all who want to join the team to email her.

Good of the order (members discussions and reports):

- a. Brenda Wexler hosted a house party to gather signatures on the various petitions from neighbors. She distributed a flyer to advertise it. She had a great response for signatures, and she also got 4 people to circulate the petitions. Arizona Ground Game has a complete list of instructions on how to organize a house party. Brenda emphasized that it is hard to do this by yourself. You need to be careful to make sure that everyone signs correctly (no post office boxes), and you should circulate all 7 petitions. Elizabeth Packard emphasized the help of Arizona Ground Game. Karen Hughes urged everyone to sign up for our Facebook group. To join an Arizona Ground Game

house signing event go to TAGG (The Arizona Ground Game) If you are interested in holding a petition signing event at your house/yard email indivisibleucson@gmail.com and we will get you connected.

- b. Shanna Leonard suggested that those of us who intend to speak at the IRC listening sessions should get together to coordinate. She will set up a time for such a meeting and let Dana know. Shanna also told the meeting of several training sessions about speaking to the IRC that are available. Misty Atkins will put the links to the Arizona Democrats trainings on the website.

Dana announced that because of Labor Day, our next meeting will be on September 13 at 3:30 pm by Zoom.