

TOWN *Of* **PARADISE VALLEY**



STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor Bien-Willner and Town Council Members

FROM: Jill Keimach, Town Manager
Doug Cole, High Ground
Duncan Miller, Town Clerk

DATE: September 23, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Town Manager

AGENDA TITLE: Discussion of Independent Redistricting Commission Grid Maps

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) was established in 2000 by a voter-approved constitutional amendment. The IRC is comprised of two Republicans, two Democrats, and one Independent who are charged with the responsibility of drawing boundaries for Arizona's 9 congressional districts and 30 legislative districts after each decennial census.

Article 4, Part 2, Section 1 of the Arizona Constitution sets forth the following criteria by which districts are to be drawn:

- Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution and the United States voting rights act;
- Congressional and legislative districts shall have equal population to the extent practicable;
- Districts shall be geographically compact and contiguous to the extent practicable;
- District boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable;
- District lines shall use visible geographic features, city, town and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts to the extent practicable;
- Competitive districts should be favored;
- Party registration and voting history data shall be excluded from the initial phase of the mapping process but may be used to test maps for compliance with the above goals. The places of residence of incumbents or candidates shall not be identified or considered.

The first step in the redistricting process is to create new congressional and legislative grid maps with contiguous/compact boundaries and roughly equal populations. This is to ensure that the IRC starts from scratch rather than simply modifying existing boundaries. The grid maps were approved by the IRC on September 14th and show

Paradise Valley in one congressional district but split into four legislative districts. Currently, the entire Town is located within Legislative District 28.

The next step is for the IRC to take public comment over the next four weeks and consider adjusting grid boundaries based on the feedback received and the constitutional criteria outlined above. It is anticipated that the IRC will adopt draft legislative and congressional district maps by October 27th. Those draft maps will then be subject to a constitutionally required thirty-day public comment period before final determination by the IRC.

Recommendation and Direction

This item has been scheduled for Council discussion and consultation with staff and the Town's public affairs consultant to consider the impact of splitting the Town into four legislative districts and of remaining in one congressional district. The Council may wish to direct staff to draft and deliver a letter to the IRC prior to their October 12th meeting recommending changes to the district boundaries impacting the Town.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- A. Staff Report
- B. Draft Congressional Boundary Map
<https://redistricting-irc-az.hub.arcgis.com/maps/irc-az::arizona-irc-redistricting-grid-map/explore?location=33.132658%2C-109.638582%2C5.50>
- C. Draft Legislative Boundary Map
<https://redistricting-irc-az.hub.arcgis.com/maps/irc-az::arizona-irc-redistricting-legislative-grid-map/explore?location=33.559446%2C-111.962012%2C11.00>