



City of Tucson Redistricting Advisory Committee

Legal Action Report

Monday, September 14, 2020

MEETING NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting was conducted using measures to protect public health. This meeting was held remotely through Microsoft Teams, and did not include any items that involved time set aside for public comments. Attendance was allowed by internet link or phone call as indicated on the meeting agenda.

1. Roll Call

The Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Chair Jonathan Rothschild.

Upon roll call, those present and absent were:

Present:

Charlene Mendoza, Vice Chair
Michael O'Connell
Marion Chubon
Glenn Perkins
Kelly Anne Canady
D. Grady Scott
Jonathan Rothschild, Chair

Appointor:

Mayor
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3 (arrived at 5:05 p.m.)
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6

Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Roger W. Randolph, City Clerk
Suzanne Mesich, Chief Deputy City Clerk
Maria Talamante, Assistant City Clerk
Yolanda Lozano, Assistant City Clerk
Shawna Lee, City Records Manager
Randy Hammel, Systems Analyst, City Clerk's Office
Dennis P. McLaughlin, Principal Assistant City Attorney
Jennifer Stash, Principal Assistant City Attorney

2. Consideration of Redistricting Proposals

Information was provided by Roger W. Randolph, City Clerk, regarding the population data being considered. He explained that incorrect formulas were found in the spreadsheet distributed for the previous meeting. When the formulas were corrected, the difference in population between Ward 5 and Ward 6 exceeded the 10% threshold for maximum population deviation (MPD).

Mr. Randolph said the supporting documents for this meeting contained two proposals to bring the MPD below 10%. Each proposal would reduce the MPD by moving one precinct from Ward 5 to Ward 6, without splitting any Neighborhood Associations across Wards, and without diluting the minority population in either Ward. Each proposal would also remedy an existing precinct split across wards.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposals, as well as other possible options to consider. Committee members requested various information for their consideration of those options, including a map of Neighborhood Associations, a map of current Ward boundaries and precincts, demographic information for each precinct, and the last four years of population data for each Ward.

Chair Rothschild explained that members should keep their appointors updated regarding any potential changes they might recommend.

Discussion ensued regarding the requirement that any changes not dilute the minority voting strength of any ward.

Dennis P. McLaughlin, Principal Assistant City Attorney, explained “minority voting strength” as whether the minority group is able to be a part of influencing the election, and have enough voting strength in a particular voting district that they can make their voice known.

Mr. Randolph said one of the difficulties was that precincts could be moved to put more minorities in one ward, but that could dilute the minority population of another ward.

Discussion continued regarding demographic information, and the timeline for making a recommendation to Mayor and Council. If the next meeting was held in one week, on September 21, 2020, then a Public Hearing could be scheduled for the following week, with the Committee making its recommendation to Mayor and Council before the due date of October 1, 2020.

Mr. Randolph said staff would provide population information for each precinct bordering Ward 6, so the Committee could see all available options.

An apparent consensus was reached that information was not needed for precincts in Wards 1 and 2 because shifting precincts from those Wards did not have the potential to yield the desired population balance. Precincts from Wards 3, 4, and 5 would be considered for potential changes.

3. Future Agenda Items

No future items were identified.

4. Next Meeting Date/Time

Discussion ensued regarding members' availability to meet the following week.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.