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Pinal County Redistricting 2011



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Supervisory Districts

- A.R.S. § 11-211(A) requires that counties with a population of 175,000 or more persons shall have a board of 5 supervisors
- According to official census data, Pinal County's population now stands at 375,770
- A.R.S. § 11-212 requires the county to re-draw its supervisory districts the same year the census data is officially released
- Districts cannot have more than 10% difference in population



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Voting Precincts

- Supervisorial districts should follow voting precinct lines
- Due to tremendous growth in Pinal County, new voting precincts need to be created
- Targeted areas: Maricopa, San Tan Valley, and Saddlebrooke/Oracle



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Voting Rights Act

- Federal Law, initially passed in 1965
- Renewed in 2006 for another 25 years, support was overwhelming (passed House 390-33, Senate 98-0 and signed into law by President Bush)
- Provides certain protections for minority voters with respect to their election franchise
- Law prohibits discriminatory voting practices on the basis of color or race.



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VRA – Section 5 (Preclearance)

- The entire state of Arizona is a “covered jurisdiction”
- Pinal County is covered individually
- Redistricting plan must be precleared through the Department of Justice before it takes effect
- The county must be able to demonstrate that the plan does not cause retrogression in the ability of members of racial and ethnic minority groups ability to elect candidates of their choice



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Redistricting Criteria

- Compactness & Contiguity
- Minority Voting Strength
- Communities of Interest
- Equal Representation (one person, one vote)



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Majority-Minority Districts

- Districts in which racial and ethnic minority voters can elect candidates of their choice
- Significant analysis must be performed in order to identify which districts are majority-minority districts; demographic data along with voting patterns must be considered
- Historically, two of Pinal County's three supervisorial districts have been majority-minority districts



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Preserving Communities of Interest

- To the extent possible, it is important that we do not separate groups of people living in an area that have similar interest
- Communities of Interest can be:
 - Municipalities
 - Urban Areas
 - Rural Areas
 - Neighborhoods
- Factors such as geographic regions, economic and social interests must be considered
- Public input is crucial for determining which areas need to be preserved



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Our Next Steps

1. Re-Draw Voting Precincts
2. Identify majority-minority districts and our communities of interest
3. Work with the Board of Supervisors and create several redistricting plans to present to the public and other stakeholders
4. Hold public meetings throughout the county in order to get input from our citizens regarding the various proposals



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Our Next Steps

(Continued)

5. Public input will be presented to the board of supervisors before their final determination is made
6. The board will adopt a final redistricting plan which will be submitted to the Department of Justice
7. Once the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission finalizes congressional and legislative districts, some voting precincts will have to be adjusted

