



COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES

August 16, 2011

The Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa met at the Country Inn and Suites, 6650 East Superstition Springs Boulevard, Mesa, Arizona on August 16, 2011 at 6:05 p.m.

| COMMISSION PRESENT | COMMISSION ABSENT | COUNCIL PRESENT | STAFF PRESENT |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Scott Higginson Brian Allen | Nancy Aposhian Terry Hines Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo | Scott Somers | Christopher Brady Carla Wagner Melissa Jones |

1. Welcome – Vice Mayor Somers.

Vice Mayor Somers welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the purpose of tonight's public hearing was to solicit comments from citizens regarding four Redistricting Preliminary Plans for the City of Mesa. He noted that between 2000 and 2010, District 6 has grown significantly and now has a population of more than 105,000 people, which represents nearly 25% of Mesa's entire population. Vice Mayor Somers said that in order to develop six Council districts that are close to equal in population, it will be necessary for District 6 to shrink in size.

Vice Mayor Somers further commented that in several of the Preliminary Plans, Superstition Springs Mall and the surrounding neighborhood were "fractured." He said that he has asked the Commission to ensure that the area remains intact in one district and that the Mall, which has zero population, is also included in the same district.

2. Remarks by Redistricting Commission Chairman Scott Higginson and other Redistricting Commission Members.

Chairman Scott Higginson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and introduced Commission Member Brian Allen.

Chairman Higginson displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and highlighted a chart (See Page 2 of Attachment 1) illustrating the current populations in Mesa's six Council districts, which total 439,041. He reported that the goal of the redistricting process was to have 73,174 persons in each district (i.e. ideal population equals total population divided by number of districts), while complying with various criteria. Chairman Higginson explained that the Department of Justice (DOJ) will review the final Recommended Plan and may allow a small

deviation (1% to 2%), but only if there was a justifiable reason for doing so. He added that due to the rapid growth in District 6, as referenced by Vice Mayor Somers, it will be necessary to move approximately 31% of its residents into another district.

Chairman Higginson also commented that in an effort to comply with DOJ requirements, the Commission began its redistricting process by first expanding the boundaries of District 4 in order to maintain as high a ratio of Hispanic population as possible. He said that the Commission selected areas surrounding District 4's current boundaries that had high Hispanic populations and moved them into District 4. Chairman Higginson advised that this resulted in the surrounding districts, which were already lagging in population balance, to lag even further behind.

Chairman Higginson further remarked that the Mesa City Charter requires that the redrawing of district boundary lines shall not remove the residence of an incumbent Councilmember from the district he/she was elected to represent during his/her term in that office. He noted that several Councilmembers reside near their current district boundaries, which prevented the Commission from expanding into certain areas. Chairman Higginson added that as the citizens view the Preliminary Plans, which are located at the back of the room, the blue stars illustrate the location of the incumbent Councilmembers' residences.

Chairman Higginson encouraged everyone to review the four plans and said that at the conclusion of the presentation, the consultant, the Commission Members and staff would be available to respond to any questions or concerns the public may have.

3. Presentation and discussion on process and schedule, including review of Citizen Kits and online mapping tool.

Sara Larsen, National Demographics Corporation (NDC) Senior Analyst, referred to the PowerPoint presentation and discussed the criteria approved by the Council Redistricting Commission to be used to guide the line-drawing process as follows: Equal Population; Voting Rights Act; Contiguous territory in as compact a form as possible; and Incumbents must remain in their districts. She also highlighted the Traditional Redistricting Goals used in the line-drawing process which include: Communities of Interest; Visible Boundaries; Compactness and Contiguity; Contiguity in Office; Population Growth; and Preserve the core of existing districts.

Ms. Larsen briefly referenced the Council Redistricting Commission's schedule of meetings (See Page 4 of Attachment 1) and noted that this was the third in a series of six public hearings. She stated that at the August 25th Commission meeting, the members would consider citizen input garnered during the public hearings, make recommendations on changes to the Preliminary Plans, and also make recommendations for a Final Redistricting Plan.

Ms. Larsen highlighted a map illustrating the Current Population Deviation by District (See Page 5 of Attachment 1) and stated that Districts 5 and 6 were overpopulated by 7.37% and 44.95% respectively, while the four remaining districts were underpopulated. She noted that the redistricting process would shift population from Districts 5 and 6 into the other districts.

Ms. Larsen also reviewed the Voting Rights Act Benchmarks (See Page 6 of Attachment 1) and explained that in District 4, it was important that the Hispanic Voting Age Population (HVAP) be maintained at 54.4% and the Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population (HCVAP) be maintained at

25.4%. She also highlighted the Current District Percentages (See Page 7 of Attachment 1) and said that each Preliminary Plan has a spreadsheet the public can compare to the current numbers.

4. Presentation and discussion on four draft plans for Mesa.

Ms. Larsen highlighted the boundary adjustments in Plan A (See Page 8 of Attachment 1) as follows: District 4 moves west and northeast to avoid retrogression; District 3 population is balanced by moving north; and Districts 1 and 2 shift to the east. She stated that on all of the Plans, the red line illustrates the current district boundaries and each of the proposed districts is depicted by a different color.

Ms. Larsen discussed the boundary adjustments in Plan B (See Page 9 of Attachment 1) which include: District 4 moves to the west and northeast; District 3 shifts to the east along the almost zero-population corridor south of US 60; and District 2 remains at its current northern point in the northeast and moves east of Val Vista Drive.

Ms. Larsen also reviewed the boundary adjustments in Plan C (See Page 10 of Attachment 1) and reported that there was no retrogression in District 4 by Total Population, Voting Age Population or Citizen Voting Age Population; that District 3 wraps around the north side of District 4; District 2 picks up most of the excess population in District 6; and Val Vista Drive becomes the border for Districts 1 and 5.

Ms. Larsen further spoke regarding the boundary adjustments in Plan D (See Page 11 of Attachment 1) and explained that District 3 moves around the west side of District 4; District 2 picks up most of the excess population in District 6; and Val Vista Drive becomes the border for Districts 1 and 5.

Ms. Larsen remarked that the four Preliminary Plans were created to generate citizen input and feedback. She invited the public to participate in the redistricting process either by obtaining a paper Citizen Kit or utilizing the Online Redistricting System. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1) She provided a brief demonstration of the website and said that computers were available at the back of the room for citizen use. Ms. Larsen added that she would be happy to respond to any questions or concerns citizens might have and also to assist individuals concerning how to use the Citizen Kit or the Online Redistricting System.

Responding to a question from a citizen, Chairman Higginson clarified that the Commission did not consider the location of City parks in drawing the proposed boundary lines.

In response to a question from a citizen, Vice Mayor Somers advised that in all of the Preliminary Plans, Monterey Park would remain in District 6.

5. Questions and Answers.

Chairman Higginson responded to questions and concerns from the public pertaining to the importance of the largest communities of interest (i.e., Lehi, Dobson Ranch, Red Mountain Ranch) being maintained within the same district, as opposed to an entire district being a community of interest; that it would be necessary to amend the Mesa City Charter in order to add or delete Council districts; the challenge in drawing the boundary lines in order to

accommodate the location of the incumbent Councilmembers' residences; and that the Commission did not consider the population in the County islands in drawing the boundaries of the four Preliminary Plans.

Vice Mayor Somers stated that in viewing the four Plans, most of the City's business areas would be attached to communities of interest (i.e. Falcon Field, Gateway area, Fiesta Mall) and maintained in their current districts. He noted that business districts tend to be zero-population corridors and said that attaching such areas with the surrounding neighborhoods would not impact the proposed boundary lines.

Chairman Higginson thanked everyone for their participation in the redistricting process.

6. Adjournment.

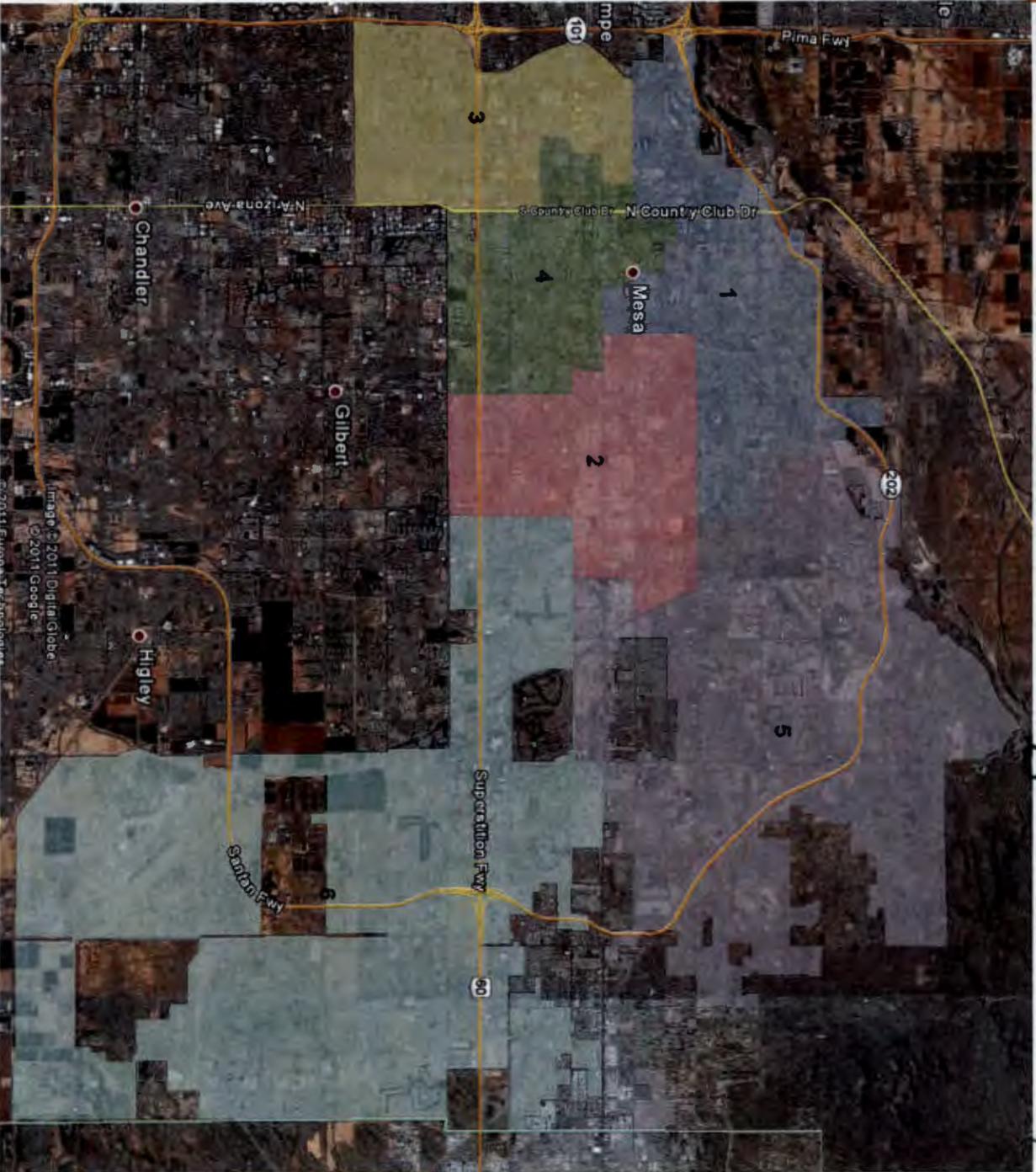
Without objection, the Council Redistricting Commission adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 16th day of August, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

pag
(attachment – 1)

Mesa 2011 Redistricting Preliminary Plans



Public Hearing on
Redistricting

Current District Populations

- Total Population: 439,041
- Ideal Pop. per District: 73,174
- District 1: 64,638
- District 2: 67,650
- District 3: 63,303
- District 4: 58,817
- District 5: 78,566
- District 6: 106,067

Line-drawing criteria

City, State & Federal Legal Requirements:

- Equal Population
- Voting Rights Act
- Contiguous territory in as compact form as possible *
- Incumbents must remain in their districts

Traditional Redistricting Goals:

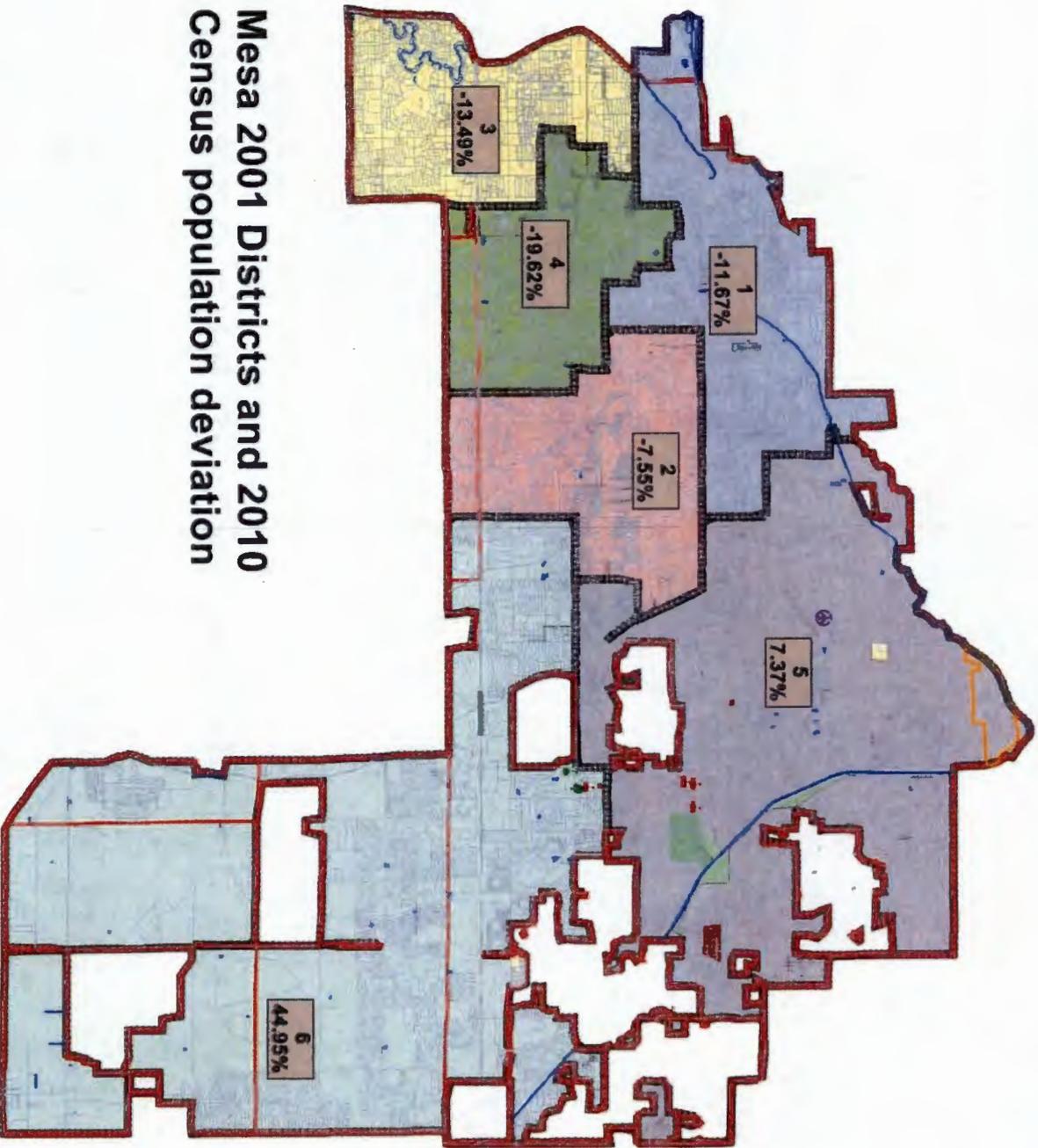
- Communities of interest
- Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- Compactness & contiguity
- Continuity in office
- Population growth
- Preserve Core of existing districts

* The degree to which this general law provision applies to charter cities such as Mesa is unclear.

Schedule

- April Appoint Commission
- May 2 Receive census data
- June 16, 23, 30 Commission Meetings
- July 7 Council Study Session: Review of draft plans
- August 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20
 Public Hearings (one in each district)
- August 25 Commission Meeting: Considers plans and public input
- September 1 Commission Meeting: Plan Selection
- September 8 Council Study Session: Hear/discuss final recommendations
- September 15 Commission Meeting (if needed)
- September 26 Regular Council Meeting: Adopt Resolution
- October Submittal to Department of Justice

Current Population Deviation by District



**Mesa 2001 Districts and 2010
Census population deviation**

Voting Rights Act Benchmarks

- **Hispanic Voting Age Population (HVAP): 54.4%**
 - HVAP = %H18+ Pop
- **Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population (HCVAP): 25.4%**
- **Regression:** The reduction of minority population percentage of a district to a level that will make it more difficult or impossible for minority voters to elect candidates of their choice.

Current District Percentages

| Dist | % NI1 | | % NI1 | | % NI1 | | % NI1 | | % NI1 | | % NI1 | |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| | % Hisp | Wh | DOJ | Blk |
| 1 | 26.2% | 62.9% | 4.0% | 3.9% | 2.0% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| 2 | 26.4% | 65.8% | 3.6% | 1.7% | 1.5% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |
| 3 | 20.7% | 54.3% | 6.5% | 4.5% | 3.6% | 0.6% | 0.2% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.6% |
| 4 | 61.0% | 31.3% | 3.3% | 2.3% | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| 5 | 11.7% | 82.3% | 2.2% | 1.0% | 2.2% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| 6 | 16.1% | 75.3% | 3.4% | 1.2% | 3.1% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| Total | 26.4% | 64.3% | 3.8% | 2.3% | 2.3% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% |

Abbreviations:
 Dev. = Deviation
 Hisp = Hispanic
 NH = "Non-Hispanic"
 Wh = White
 Blk = Black / African American
 Ind = Native American
 Asn = Asian American
 Haw or Hwn = Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
 Oth = Other
 OthMR or MR = Multi-Race
 Fil = Filipino
 "DOJ" = Aggregated according to U.S. Department of Justice
 CVAP = Citizen Voting Age Population

| Dist | % NI118+ | | % NI118+ | | % NI118+ | | % NI118+ | | % NI118+ | | % NI118+ | |
|-------|----------|-------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|----------|------|
| | % Pop | Wh | DOJ | Blk |
| 1 | 21.8% | 68.2% | 3.6% | 3.5% | 2.0% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| 2 | 21.6% | 71.3% | 3.2% | 1.5% | 1.6% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| 3 | 25.0% | 59.5% | 6.2% | 4.1% | 3.8% | 0.5% | 0.2% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 0.5% |
| 4 | 54.4% | 37.9% | 3.2% | 2.3% | 1.0% | 0.8% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| 5 | 9.2% | 85.6% | 1.8% | 0.9% | 2.0% | 0.2% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| 6 | 13.1% | 79.4% | 3.0% | 1.0% | 2.9% | 0.3% | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| Total | 21.8% | 69.7% | 3.4% | 2.1% | 2.3% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.3% |

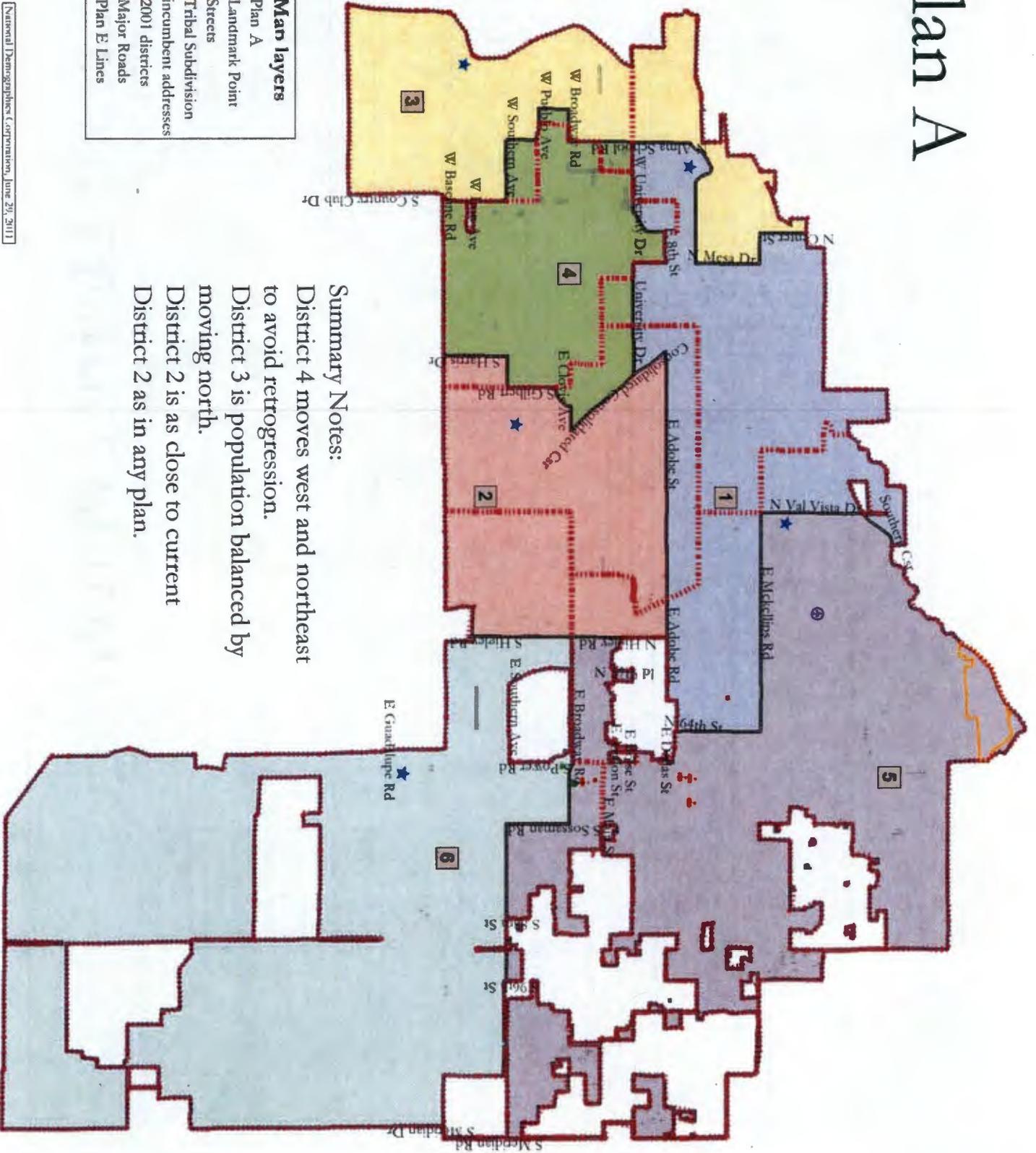
Red circles indicate key Voting Rights "retrogression" benchmarks.

| Dist | Special Tabulation | | | | | | | | | | | | American Community Survey (ACS) | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--|
| | % Total CVAP | % Hisp CVAP | % NI1 CVAP | % Total CVAP | % Hisp CVAP | % NI1 CVAP | |
| 1 | 88.5% | 11.9% | 80.4% | 2.1% | 1.2% | 3.2% | 0.0% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 87.8% | 11.9% | 80.3% | 2.2% | 1.1% | 3.2% | 0.0% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 4.0% | |
| 2 | 92.4% | 11.0% | 84.0% | 1.4% | 1.0% | 1.2% | 0.0% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 92.2% | 11.2% | 83.8% | 1.6% | 1.1% | 1.2% | 0.1% | 2.1% | 2.1% | 2.1% | 2.1% | 4.3% | |
| 3 | 85.0% | 17.0% | 70.0% | 5.2% | 2.2% | 4.6% | 0.1% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 85.0% | 17.4% | 69.7% | 5.1% | 2.3% | 4.9% | 0.2% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 1.4% | 4.5% | |
| 4 | 66.6% | 25.4% | 65.0% | 3.9% | 0.8% | 3.8% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.9% | 66.8% | 24.2% | 65.9% | 4.1% | 0.8% | 4.3% | 0.2% | 2.7% | 2.7% | 2.7% | 2.7% | 8.5% | |
| 5 | 97.8% | 8.1% | 87.1% | 1.6% | 1.3% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 1.3% | 95.9% | 8.4% | 86.5% | 1.7% | 1.4% | 0.5% | 0.1% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 3.5% | |
| 6 | 94.7% | 9.7% | 83.9% | 2.2% | 1.8% | 1.0% | 0.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 94.1% | 9.7% | 84.1% | 2.1% | 1.6% | 1.2% | 0.3% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 1.6% | 4.2% | |
| Total | 89.1% | 12.4% | 80.4% | 2.5% | 1.4% | 2.0% | 0.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 88.6% | 12.4% | 80.3% | 2.6% | 1.4% | 2.1% | 0.2% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 4.5% | |

Plan A

Map layers

-  Plan A
-  Landmark Point
-  Streets
-  Tribal Subdivision
-  incumbent addresses
-  2001 districts
-  Major Roads
-  Plan E Lines



Summary Notes:
 District 4 moves west and northeast to avoid retrogression.
 District 3 is population balanced by moving north.
 District 2 is as close to current District 2 as in any plan.

Online Redistricting System

■ <http://www.onlineredistricting.com/Mesa/Redist/>

The screenshot displays the online redistricting system interface. The main map shows six districts with the following data:

| District | Population | Deviation | % Deviation |
|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | 64,536 | -8,524 | -11.7% |
| 2 | 67,850 | -5,524 | -7.5% |
| 3 | 63,303 | -9,871 | -13.5% |
| 4 | 58,817 | -14,357 | -19.6% |
| 5 | 78,566 | 5,382 | 7.4% |
| 6 | 106,067 | 32,093 | 45.0% |

The interface also includes a 'Pending Changes (None)' table, a 'Map Legend' with 'Layers' and 'Themes' options, and a 'Redistricting Toolbox' with various tools like 'New District', 'Source All', and 'Census Block'.