



Redistricting: Impacts on the Navajo People in Arizona

Presentation by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission
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Outline of Presentation

The Navajo Nation's modern government is similar in structure to the Arizona State government:

- Legislative Branch consists of 24 legislators and several commissions.
- Executive Branch consists of the President, Vice President and several divisions.
- Judicial Branch consists of the Supreme Court & 10 district courts.

Navajo Nation & Redistricting

- The Navajo Nation lies in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and in Colorado.
- Of the 110 local governments, 57 are primarily on the Arizona side of the Navajo Nation.
- No clear numbers for the Navajo “voting age” population, etc., have been made available to the Navajo Nation.
- The Navajo Nation and its citizens have already encumbered detrimental impacts with the late release of census data.

Navajo Nation & Redistricting (Cont.)

- Arizona is a Section 5 State - The State was determined to have practiced measures of discrimination.
- Retrogression – Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act
 - The 2004 Final Legislative Plan is the only Native American majority minority district with 68 % total population with 62% voting age.
 - This is the standard for the 2011 redistricting plan.

2011 Redistricting Concerns

Section 2 of the Voter Rights Act

A minority group has the right to elect a person of their choosing to represent them.

- Navajo and other indigenous peoples and persons are protected classes under U.S. laws.
- The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission determined that each indigenous nation is a “community of interest.”

2011 Redistricting Concerns

Funding the Arizona Independent Redistricting for Commission

- A decade ago, AIRC received millions of dollars to carry out its mandates.
- In contrast this year, AIRC received half a million dollars. Transparency and accessibility could certainly be jeopardized with the significant funding loss.

2011 Redistricting Concerns

The Navajo Nation's priorities are compactness, community of interest, retrogression and dilution.

The Commission is eager to use the comprehensive data on how the 2010 U.S. Census impacts the Navajo people.

Conclusion



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