

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-45

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA, URGING THE ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER ITS DETERMINATION REGARDING PLACEMENT OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS ON THE "FINALIZED DRAFT 6" CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP.

WHEREAS, the Arizona Constitution requires the creation of a five-member Independent Redistricting Commission (the "IRC") to redraw Congressional and Legislative district boundaries to equalize district populations following each decennial U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, the IRC was charged with evaluating potential new Congressional districts against such factors as (i) the requirements of "one-person-one-vote," (ii) the federal Voting Rights Act, (iii) district shape, (iv) geographical features, (v) respect for communities of interest and (vi) potential competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2011, the IRC adopted a draft map of the nine Congressional districts commonly referred to as "Finalized Draft 6" (the "Draft Map"), which Draft Map assigned the Town of Fountain Hills (the "Town") to Congressional District 4 ("District 4"), while surrounding Communities of Interest including the City of Scottsdale ("Scottsdale"), the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation ("Fort McDowell"), the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community ("Salt River")(collectively, the "Surrounding Communities") are located in Congressional District 6 ("District 6"); and

WHEREAS, the Draft Map fails to (i) set forth a reasonable district shape, (ii) demonstrate that the geographical features of the area have been considered and (iii) respect the long-standing relationship of the Town and the Surrounding Communities as Communities of Interest; and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Surrounding Communities are Communities of Interest with strong ties to one another in many respects, including joint cooperation and coordination of fire and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Fort McDowell jointly promote and fund tourism efforts through a common tourism bureau and various other events, and the economies of the Town and Fort McDowell are inextricably linked; and

WHEREAS, the Town and Fort McDowell share a common school district, and the children of both communities share many of the same schools; and

WHEREAS, the Town and the Surrounding Communities often share common interests with respect to major infrastructure projects, which projects often require the communities to work cooperatively through regional and federal transportation agencies, which cooperation will be severely hampered if the Town is located in District 4; and

WHEREAS, the current boundary between District 4 and District 6 divides these tightly bound Communities of Interest into separate Congressional districts, splintering representation of the Town and aligning it with rural Arizona communities with whom it has very few common interests, and in some cases placing it at odds with communities in District 4 when urban/metro area interests collide with the interests of rural Arizona communities; and

WHEREAS, the shape and extremely diverse and remote geographical locations of the major population centers of the proposed District 4 creates substantial difficulties for a representative elected from one portion of the district to be familiar with, or even physically reach, the other areas of the district; and

WHEREAS, the unique physical land forms around the Town gives it a particularly intimate relationship with the Surrounding Communities, particularly with respect to their interconnected open space and recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of District 4 and District 6 on the Draft Map, if left unchanged with respect to the Town, may cause irreparable damage to the decades of cooperative efforts between the Town and the Surrounding Communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS as follows:

SECTION 1. The recitals above are hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and Town Council (the “Town Council”) hereby request that the IRC approve an amendment to the Draft Map to alter the boundary line between District 4 and District 6 to include the Town and its neighboring community of Rio Verde within the boundaries of District 6.

SECTION 3. The individual members of the Town Council, the Town Manager and any authorized designee of the Town Manager are hereby authorized and encouraged to take appropriate actions to urge the IRC to make the necessary changes to the Draft Map to move the Town from District 4 into District 6.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Fountain Hills, Arizona, October 20, 2011.

FOR THE TOWN OF FOUNTAIN HILLS:



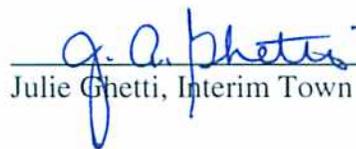
Jay T. Schlum, Mayor

ATTESTED TO:



Bevelyn J. Bender, Town Clerk

REVIEWED BY:



Julie Ghetti, Interim Town Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Andrew J. McGuire, Town Attorney

Commission Approved Congressional Draft Map

