



NAVAJO COUNTY

Administration

Hunter Moore

Governmental Affairs Director

"Proudly Serving, Continuously Improving"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Holbrook, AZ, December 19, 2011

NAVAJO COUNTY SUBMITS REDISTRICTING PLAN TO UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR APPROVAL, ENCOURAGES PUBLIC COMMENTS

On December 19, 2011, the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, acting through the Navajo County Attorney's Office, submitted its redistricting plan for the Navajo County Supervisorial Districts and Northland Pioneer Community College Precincts to the United States Department of Justice for its review and approval. It is anticipated that the proposed plan will be in effect for the 2012 election season.

The plans were adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 15, 2011 following approximately thirty (30) public meetings held in various locations around Navajo County in front of the Redistricting Advisory Committee and its members. The public may send any comments they have on the proposed plans to the Department of Justice.

The Department of Justice has sixty (60) days to react to the plan. If the Department does not object to the plan or request more information within that time, the plan is considered to be "precleared." It must be precleared before it can take effect because the State of Arizona and Navajo County are covered by Section 5 of the Federal Voting Rights Act. Section 5 and the preclearance process ensure that the plan does not have an adverse effect on voters who are members of racial or language minorities.

Redistricting was necessary because state law requires the Board to make all five districts/precincts the same size, or with no more than a 10% difference in population. The 2010 census provided the County information that its existing districts and precincts were not compliant with this law and needed to be adjusted to reflect demographic changes that occurred within the County over the last ten years. The proposed plan balances the County's population while preserving Native American voting strength in the northern districts that have traditionally elected Native Americans.

Copies of the materials being sent to the Department of Justice (some written and some in electronic form) may be obtained from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Melissa Buckley (928) 524-4000, at the County Governmental Center on South Highway 77 outside of Holbrook. A copy of the County written submission is also available on Navajo County's website at:

<http://www.navajocountyaz.gov/bos/redistricting/>

Citizens who have comments about the plan, whether favorable or unfavorable, are encouraged to send them to:

T. Christian Herren
Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Room 7254 - NWB
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Any comments should refer to the "Redistricting Plan for Navajo County's Supervisorial Districts and Northland Pioneer Community College District Precincts." The Department of Justice is particularly interested in hearing comments relating to the plan's positive or negative impact on racial or language minority groups.