Redistricting

- The process of redistricting only occurs once every ten years and with the population decrease in rural areas and large increases in the urban areas of the state it is in UNM’s best interest to monitor the process closely and to keep our constituents at the branch campuses in rural New Mexico and main campus in Albuquerque, informed of changes that may affect them.

Acoma, Gallup, and Farmington

- The first concepts of the State Legislative Redistricting Plan were unveiled at the Clovis hearing on July 18, 2011. All the concepts and data for the current Redistricting Plans can be found at http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/redcensus/.

US Congressional Districts

- The same presentation was given for the US Congressional Districts as was presented at the June 18th Santa Fe hearing, the information regarding the concepts can be found at http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/redcensus/.

- New Mexico Representatives
  - With Northwest New Mexico having a large population of Native Americans and bordering Colorado and Arizona, this area will have the fewest changes in House Districts for redistricting.
    - San Juan County had a large population growth compared to McKinley, Cibola, Rio Arriba, and part of Sandoval. The increase is large enough to offset the stagnant growth of the other counties.
    - With the population growth in Southeast Sandoval County and the west side of Albuquerque, some of the plans discussed have House Districts that border these areas picking up some precincts in Rio Rancho and Albuquerque’s Westside to accommodate for the population loss in their districts.
    - All of the plans call for an expansion of the rural House Districts and more compact districts in Farmington.
    - House Concepts E, G and F make some significant changes to two House Districts in northwest New Mexico:
      - The excess population in the Albuquerque Metro area is largely taken by HD 69 (Representative Martinez – Democrat Cibola, McKinley and San Juan County) in southwest Bernalillo County as it takes To’Hajiilee, Isleta, and the southwest mesa south of Pajarito Road
      - HD 9 (Representative Patricia Lundstrom – Democrat, McKinley and San Juan County) becomes a compact district in and near Gallup.
New Mexico Senate

- The New Mexico Senate districts in Northwest New Mexico will have similar challenges as the New Mexico House of Representatives. The rural areas lost population, but with the large growth in Farmington and other parts of San Juan County this can be offset.
- Senate Concept E makes some significant changes to the northwest quadrant of New Mexico.
  - SD 3 (Senator Pinto – Democrat McKinley and San Juan County) picks up precincts west of Gallup and near Farmington but gives up precincts in eastern San Juan County to SD 22 (Senator Lovejoy – Bernalillo, Cibola, Rio Ariba, McKinley and Sandoval County). The configuration of the precincts in Gallup between SD 3 and SD 4 (Senator Munoz – Democrat McKinley and Cibola County) is revised. SD 4 picks up needed population by expanding east and picking up a larger portion of Gallup.
- Senate Concept F pairs incumbents Senator John Pinto (SD 3) and Senator George Munoz (SD 4).
  - Gallup is entirely in SD 4.
  - SD 3 expands south but gives up precincts in eastern San Juan County to SD 22
- One of the consistent changes in all the concepts that were discussed is Senate District 22. Currently, SD 22 has a portion of Rio Rancho. With the large population growth in Rio Rancho SD 22 is 24% over the ideal population size of a Senate District and can recede towards the Zia Pueblo and remain a rural district.

The Navajo Nation Plan

- At the Gallup hearing, the Navajo Nation Tribe unveiled their plan for redistricting.
  - Congressional Plan
    - One of the major changes that they propose is that the Navajo Nation wants to be placed in all three Congressional Districts. Currently, they are in Congressional District 2, and Congressional District 3. The plan they proposed is for CD1 to represent Tohajiilee, CD2 to represent the Alamo Navajo Reservation, and for CD3 to represent the largest portions of the Navajo Reservation in Cibola, McKinley and San Juan County.
  - State House and Senate
    - The Navajo Nation did not have the plans ready to show the public for the State House and Senate.
  - An important piece of information that was discussed by the tribal representatives at the hearing was the fact that in 2001, when the judge finalized the redistricting plans, he incorporated the Navajo Nation’s plan into the final version that became law. This was the only change that the judge made to the plan that was passed by the legislature.

Public Comment

- In Acoma, every Tribe in New Mexico had a representative speak to the committee regarding better representation of Native Americans. The Native America population in New Mexico is around 9%, however, in the New Mexico Legislature Native Americans only account for 4% of the legislators. The tribes would like more Native American districts to try to equal their population percentage with their percentage of legislators.