

Untitled

Commission Meeting

Name

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Comments:

I support Comissioner Eichwald's redistricting map and don't support the Plan D alternative map for several reasons, none of which fall into the Republican vs. Democrat category.

At its best, local politics addresses hyperlocal issues in a bipartisan way by funding local roads projects, alerting law enforcers about unique security issues, providing services for underserved populations or finding ways to repurpose abandoned golf courses. If artificially drawn districts divide neighbors with common interests, their ability to lobby for equitable solutions is diminished.

Our Native American populations are especially at risk when their geographic and cultural similarities and differences aren't taken into account. The Navajo Chapter Houses and Jemez/Zia pueblos have more in common with other West County residents than with members of the Cochiti/San Felipe/Kewa pueblos, for example. Grouping them into one big tribal district does a disservice to them all, as well as a commissioner who must drive hundreds of miles to meet with constituents.

Maintaining the integrity of community politics -- made possible by using natural geographic boundaries rather than artificial divisions -- is the core mandate of local governing bodies. When we forget that, we open ourselves to accusations of gerrymandering, creating districts that benefit political parties rather than citizens who care less about (R) and (D) than keeping their neighborhoods and communities running smoothly.