



NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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NNHRC collaborates with AIRC to coordinate redistricting hearing for Navajo citizens

Redistricting hearing for Arizona set for July, 29, 2011 at Navajoland Inn & Suites

ST. MICHAELS, Ariz.—The Navajo human rights officials will attend the Arizona Independent Redistricting hearing on Friday, July 29, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. (Mountain Daylight) at the Navajoland Inn & Suites conference room in St. Michaels, Navajo Nation.

AIRC has hosted more than 5 hearings to date and has over 15 more hearings to conduct.

NNHRC proposed the hearing site on the Navajo Nation to the AIRC then collaborated with AIRC for the site arrangements in that endeavor.

“Navajo citizens have the right to participate in redistricting,” said Leonard Gorman, the executive director for NNHRC. “Navajo—large land based indigenous peoples, is a major input factor during elections but also in daily in surrounding areas for retail economy. The population dynamics are changing and as a land base people we are being diluted.”

Redistricting is a decennial initiative beyond the ballot.

Being part of the redistricting effort means to help restructure the voting district for legislative, congressional and county representation for improved Navajo representation.

Gorman explained that improving Navajo voting power is necessary for energy projects, economic development, jobs, education, and protecting Navajo human rights.

“Navajo’s have the right to vote for the candidate of their choice and that choice has often been a Navajo person on the general election ballot,” said Gorman. “We need to protect that opportunity.”

To learn more about redistricting, visit the NNHRC web site at www.nnhrc.navajo-nsn.gov and open the redistricting link for more information about terminology, the Navajo Nation’s redistricting goals, priorities, and links to Arizona, New Mexico and Utah redistricting information.

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