

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Redistricting Committee to Meet in Las Vegas and Santa Fe**

**SANTA FE** — The legislature's Redistricting Committee will conclude its series of public hearings on August 30 at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) in Las Vegas and August 31 at the State Capitol in Santa Fe. The committee is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. on August 30 in the Kennedy Lounge at NMHU and at 9 a.m. on August 31 in Room 307 of the State Capitol.

The committee, which is reviewing proposed new political districts for congressional, legislative and Public Regulation Commission districts, has already met in Clovis, Roswell, Las Cruces, the Pueblo of Acoma, Gallup, Farmington, Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. The legislature expects to meet in a special session in September to approve new districts.

"The dramatic population shifts that have occurred in New Mexico over the decade mean that some parts of the state will lose legislative seats and others will gain seats. It is important that New Mexicans let us know where those lines should be drawn and where new districts should be created," Representative Mary Helen Garcia, D-Las Cruces, said.

"The public testimony we've received so far has been very helpful and we look forward to hearing from the people of north central New Mexico when we meet in Las Vegas and Santa Fe,"

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Senator Linda M. Lopez, D-Albuquerque, said.

The committee's technical consultant, Brian Sanderoff, president of Research & Polling, Inc., will provide an overview of the redistricting process and discuss possibilities for the various districts at each meeting.

The task of redistricting is performed every 10 years following the census. It is necessary to ensure that the populations of the various political districts in the state are nearly equal. The legislature's redistricting web site (<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/redcensus/>) contains more information on state redistricting, including concepts that are under consideration, contact information for the committee members and staff, and demographic and political data.

Anyone wishing to speak at any of the meetings may contact Leslie Porter at [leslie.porter@nmlegis.gov](mailto:leslie.porter@nmlegis.gov) or at (505) 986-4600, or may simply attend any of the meetings.