

June 8, 2011

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**Redistricting Committee to Hold Its First Meeting in Santa Fe**

**SANTA FE** — The legislature's Redistricting Committee will conduct its first meeting on June 20, 2011 in Santa Fe. The committee is charged with recommending new political districts for congressional, legislative and Public Regulation Commission districts.

The Redistricting Committee will travel throughout the state this summer to take testimony from interested residents and groups on issues surrounding redistricting. The committee is scheduled to meet on June 20 in Room 307 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Representative Mary Helen Garcia, D-Las Cruces, and Senator Linda M. Lopez, D-Albuquerque, co-chairs of the committee, urged members of the public to attend the committee meetings and offer their opinions on redistricting possibilities for each area of the state.

"Redrawing congressional, legislative and other political districts after each census is important to ensure that every person is equally represented in Santa Fe and Washington, D.C.

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The public's involvement in this process is invaluable to the committee and the Legislature," Lopez and Garcia said in a joint statement.

At the committee's June meeting, the co-chairs will propose to the committee the following tentative itinerary:

July 18	Clovis
July 19	Roswell
July 20	Las Cruces
Aug. 4	Gallup
Aug. 5	Farmington
Aug. 15	Albuquerque
Aug. 16	Rio Rancho
Aug. 30-31	Santa Fe

As the committee travels, its technical consultants, Brian Sanderoff and Michael Sharp, president and vice president of Research & Polling, Inc., will attend each meeting and provide an overview of the redistricting process and discuss possibilities for the various districts. The meeting on June 20 will address the legal principles of redistricting and provide an introduction to the 2011 state and congressional redistricting process.

The public is invited to comment on all redistricting plans or other redistricting issues.

The task of redistricting is performed every 10 years following the census. It is necessary to ensure that the population of the various political districts in the state are nearly equal.

The legislature is expected to meet in September in a special session to consider and

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approve state redistricting plans.

The legislature's redistricting web site (<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/redcensus/>) contains more information on state redistricting as well as information on speaking at the meetings.

Anyone wishing to speak at the June 20 meeting or at future meetings may contact Leslie Porter at [leslie.porter@nmlegis.gov](mailto:leslie.porter@nmlegis.gov) or at (505) 986-4600.