



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Commission

1 message

Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 11:55 AM

To the members of the Commission:

Congratulations on your selection/appointment to this ground-breaking, important Commission.

I hope that you will seriously consider selecting a Commission chair who is not beholden to any partisan or political organization or side.

If a commissioner has contributed tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to state and local candidates and/or political parties or PACs, that commissioner would not generate much confidence from the voters of Virginia.

Chris DeRosa (she/her)
chris7307@gmail.com
571-422-6605 (cell)
2115 N. Hollister St.
Arlington, VA 22205



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Commission - member qualifications

1 message

Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 12:04 PM

To the members of the Commission:

As a long-time supporter of fair redistricting, I have followed developments, including "attending" and observing the two meetings of the Selection Committee. In general, I believe that the members of the Selection Committee took their roles and responsibilities seriously and deliberated with due diligence when selecting the 8 citizen commissioners.

Unfortunately, they were probably not aware of the racist, hateful comments made by Mr. Feliciano of Fredericksburg; thus they appointed/selected him without reservations.

Since his selection, we have become aware of the horrible statements made by Mr. Feliciano. I am horrified. As a woman I am angry. As a person of color, I am upset. His comments reflect a disdain of our democratic process - as well as misogyny and racism. I don't believe that there is a process by which a Commissioner can be removed without his/her consent. So I call on Mr. Feliciano to resign his position immediately - by remaining on the Commission he will taint the reputation of this body, and call into question whether his decisions, recommendations, or viewpoints are truly in the interest of all Virginians.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)
chris7307@gmail.com
571-422-6605 (cell)
2115 N. Hollister St.
Arlington, VA 22205

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Request of the Redistricting Commission

1 message

Shelynda Capers <scapers@dls.virginia.gov>
To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:01 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeffrey C. Jacobs** <NPVIC@timehorse.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021, 12:59 PM
Subject: Request of the Redistricting Commission
To: <scapers@dls.virginia.gov>

I, Jeffrey C. Jacobs, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do respectfully request that the Redistricting Commission establish the following 3 guiding principles when designing our new districts. I am aghast that no-one from the fastest-growing region of the Commonwealth, the Dulles Tech Corridor, is not on this committee so I hope my words can express what the silent voices of a forgotten region wish to express.

I wish for this committee to adapt 3 core principles that are of hierarchical importance:

1) Respect the Voting Rights Act:

Make sure areas of large minority communities have at least 55% representation in their district, such that the result is out of 100 districts (i.e. the House of Delegates) there be 19%–20% of seats be majority African-American and 4%–5% be Latino-American.

2) Political Efficiency

Make sure there are no wasted votes. Try to make as many districts as possible competitive. A 50%/50% district is an idea and a 60%/40% wastes 10% of votes since only 50% is needed to win a district and the other 10% could have just stayed home. Also, Districts, be they House, Senate, or Congress, should be efficient and represent the statewide will of the people. In analyzing the last twelve years of electoral data in the Commonwealth, we can clearly see a properly districted House of Delegates should expect to have 51% Democrats, 48% Republicans with one seat that could go to a third party or to either of the two major parties. I expect districts following the census to follow this 51/48 principle.

3) Compact

Mathematicians define a circle as the most compact region. It has the lowest perimeter for unit area of any shape. Obviously, not all districts can be circles. However, I would demand of my Redistricting Commission that they follow the simple $C/2\pi A$ metric, where the closer to 1 your districts are, the more compact they are. Thus, try to minimize the Compactness metric to keep all values as close to 1 as possible and to use an algorithm to maximize that metric.

All that said, I'm a software engineer, and I can tell you machine learning and game theory would be perfect to solve this problem, respect the VRA, maximize political efficiency, and be compact. I hope the commission will consider this route to make itself redundant and give ourselves the fairest districts possible!

Jeffrey C. Jacobs
[12522 Philmont Drive](#)
[Herndon, VA 20170](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

1st congressional district is unrealistic

1 message

William Shilton <wws.4026@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:21 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

The size of the 1st Congressional district was gerrymandered to favor one party over the other. The boundaries of this district must be changed to remedy that effect. Why not just divide Virginia districts into equal square mileage districts so they do not favor either party?



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Communications with the Commission

1 message

Bill Millhouser <bmillhouser2010@cox.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:40 PM

To members of the Commission,

Congratulations on your selection as a member of the Redistricting Commission. As the Commission begins its work in earnest, members of the public and others outside the Commission will be able to communicate their views on redistricting to the Commission and staff in the manner prescribed in implementing legislation. I ask that DLS staff point to the relevant sections of the Code of Virginia regulating such communication and explain these requirements at today's Commission meeting.

Thank you,

Bill Millhouser

Falls Church VA

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Commissioners' conflicts

1 message

Shelynda Capers <scapers@dls.virginia.gov>
To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>
Cc: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:39 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **CRAGG HINES** <cragghines@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021, 1:27 PM
Subject: Commissioners' conflicts
To: <scapers@dls.virginia.gov>

Thank you for your e-mail requesting the issue I wish to raise with the Redistricting Commission.

I ask — and urge — the Commission to disqualify Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Feliciano because of inherent conflicts of interests faced by each of them.

Mr. Feliciano's expression of such unbridled support for President Trump ("GREATEST PRESIDENT IN MODERN DAY HISTORY") and in Mr. Trump's unfounded assault on the results of the 2020 presidential election indicate he is incapable of rendering clear judgment untainted by partisan bias. His comments were part of his Twitter account which had been deleted but were reported by The Virginia Mercury on January 5.

Mr. Gilliam has, according to VPAP, donated \$927,019 to candidates — almost all to Republicans — over the years, including to more than 40 candidates for the General Assembly. That includes a total of \$33,500 to his current Delegate, Israel O'Quinn. Such personal investment in districts to be considered by the Commission create the appearance that Mr. Gilliam would be unable to participate fairly in redistricting of the General Assembly.

I would be happy to brief these issues at greater length for the Commission but believe the plain facts provide adequate grounds for the Commission to act on.

Sincerely,

Cragg Hines
[5100 Little Falls Rd.](#)
Arlington, VA 22207
C: 202-415-1434

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Questions for Redistricting Commission Meeting

1 message

Shelynda Capers <scapers@dls.virginia.gov>
To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>
Cc: Amigo Wade <awade@dls.virginia.gov>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:00 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Erin Corbett** <erincorbett202@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021, 2:57 PM
Subject: Questions for Redistricting Commission Meeting
To: <scapers@dls.virginia.gov>

Hello! Can we please address the following questions?

- 1) Will the commission create a website/newsletter/social media account to provide updates to the public?
- 2) When will we know which dates the commission hearings will take place?
- 3) Do we have an update on when the commission will receive census data?
- 4) How does the commission plan on representing demographics + regions fairly?
- 5) Will the chairperson be able to provide contact information for the public to communicate with him/her directly?
- 6) What key goals does the commission have in ensuring transparency in their processes and decisions?
- 7) Will public commentary be taken into decision regarding map development?
- 8) What criteria is the commission using to select the chairperson?
- 9) How does the chairperson reflect the diversity of the Commonwealth?
- 10) Does the chairperson have specific allegiance to any specific maps, regions or demographics?

Thank you!
Erin

--

Erin Corbett



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Concerns about Two Commission Members

1 message

Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:46 PM

To members of the Redistricting Commission -

I am looking forward to watching as the first Virginia Redistricting Commission to include citizens holds its first meeting this evening. I was very appreciative of the Selection Committee's deliberations in choosing these eight citizens and felt they were in general very careful to follow the requirements of the Statute to ensure the citizens were "as a whole, representative of the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the Commonwealth."

I do have concerns, however, about two of the citizen members that were selected. I understand the need to have a citizen from the large southwest region of Virginia, and that Mr. Gilliam was the only name on one of the lists that met this criteria. I also understand that contributions to a political party did not make him ineligible. His huge campaign contributions brought to light by VPAP, however, do not give us confidence that he will help to redistrict fairly with the needs of all Virginia in mind.

I also understand that Mr. Feliciano was chosen because he was the only Hispanic applicant from the lists sent to the Selection Committee and they were being very conscious of ethnic representation. I also understand they could not have known about his social media posts at that time and were relying on a recommendation by Del. Mark Cole. If there was a way in statute to remove a commissioner, that should certainly happen.

At this point, it would be to the benefit of this new Redistricting Commission if Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Feliciano would take it upon themselves to resign. New members could then be selected from Mr. Gilbert's and Mr. Norment's ;lists that would add to the number of females on the Commission. Six males and two females is certainly not gender balanced.

At the very least, neither Mr. Gilliam nor Mr. Feliciano should be considered for the position of Chairman.

Thank you for your service to Virginia!

Fran Larkins
Fredericksburg, VA

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Joan Kark <joank48@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:08 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Redistricting Commission:

I would like to urge you to include the city of Roanoke in the 9th District. Roanoke is the heart of southwest Virginia. Even its airport is named Roanoke-Blacksburg. The rest of Virginia identifies with Roanoke as a gateway to southwest Virginia. Roanoke County and Roanoke are surrounded by mountains so they seem to be the essence of southwest Virginia mountains.

Also, I urge you to draw districts that are contiguous. That is, the districts should include a whole county if possible rather than dividing up one county into too many Virginia delegate or senate districts. For instance, the 12th district House of Delegates included all of Giles County which was a good thing. But, the district only included part of Blacksburg, some precincts in Radford, Fairlawn, and Pulaski District. A more equitable 12th would include all of Blacksburg and then Giles County.

My reason for advocating for contiguous districts is so that constituents in each district should feel a community connection with each other. This connection is stronger if the district is defined by its community and not by arbitrary lines.

Some other recommendations:

1. If a district is too wildly configured into lines that go here and way over there or resemble wildly shaped creatures, you can conclude it does not define a community. So, please reject these type of districts.
2. The closer a district resembles simple shapes like ovals, circles, squares, or rectangles the better that district will be in representing a community.
3. A district should have some landmark or defining area that is at the core of a district. For instance, it makes sense that Virginia Tech would be the core of the 12th District House of Delegates with surrounding areas included (such as Giles County where so many VT employees live). It makes sense that Roanoke would be the landmark for the 9th U.S. Congressional District with the other landmark being Abington on the southwest Virginia border.

So my emphasis is on creating communities with districts. Thank you for your attention to these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Joan Kark

[809 Rye Hollow Rd, Pearisburg, VA 24134](mailto:joank48@gmail.com)

540 921-4055, 540 629-0451 (c)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Public Comment: Virginia Redistricting Commission -- Jose Feliciano, Jr.

1 message

Paul Hogarth <paul@dailykos.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 4:46 PM

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

On behalf of 48,477 members of the Daily Kos community — including **1,782 Virginia residents** — who have signed the following petition, we are requesting that Commissioner Jose Feliciano Jr. resign — and that his colleagues also request his resignation.

Jose Feliciano Jr. has used his personal Twitter account to claim the 2020 election was rigged, throw misogynistic insults at women, and question America's involvement in slavery. He lacks the temperament to objectively review facts and represent all Virginians on the commission, and must therefore resign.

Attached as a PDF document are the names of the 48,477 signatories of the petition — including 1,782 Virginian residents.

Below is the petition that our members have signed. You may also read it online at <https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/petitions/sign-the-petition-virginias-pro-trump-redistricting-commissioner-must-resign>

Sign the petition: Virginia's pro-Trump redistricting commissioner must resign

A commission to redraw Virginia's political boundaries for the next ten years will start meeting February 1st, but one appointee—Trump loyalist Jose Feliciano Jr.—is clearly unfit for the job.

Feliciano Jr. has **used his personal Twitter account** to claim the 2020 election was rigged, throw misogynistic insults at women, and question America's involvement in slavery. He lacks the temperament to objectively review facts and represent all Virginians on the commission.

Feliciano Jr. was appointed upon the recommendation of Virginia delegate Mark Cole, one of several Republican legislators who urged Vice President Mike Pence to overturn electoral votes for Joe Biden. He was then selected by House Minority Leader Todd Gilbert.

The redistricting commission will set boundaries for congressional & legislative seats in Virginia for the next decade. Any individual who baselessly questions the legitimacy of the 2020 election and berates political opponents is unfit to serve on a commission so crucial to our democracy.

Feliciano Jr.'s incendiary language on social media proves he cannot serve on this commission, and must resign. The other appointed commissioners must also demand his resignation.

Sign the petition: Jose Feliciano Jr. must resign from Virginia's redistricting commission, and his colleagues must demand his resignation as well.

Paul Hogarth, Campaign Director
Daily Kos Activism Team
paul@dailykos.com

1/21/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - Public Comment: Virginia Redistricting Commission -- Jose Feliciano, Jr.



20210121_DailyKospetition_NoFeliciano.pdf

6517K



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Commission Chairperson

1 message

Candace Butler <candy@edandcandy.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 5:05 PM

The Redistricting Commission would better reflect gender balance if a woman is elected chair person today.

Thank you,
Candace Butler
Annandale VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Public Comments: Citizen Members--Assert Yourselfs

1 message

Ankit Jain <ajankit92@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 5:35 PM

Hi,

I'm a Virginia voter who wants fair districts. If possible, I would like to offer spoken public comments during the 1/21 commission meeting. I am speaking to the citizen members in this email: I ask you to please assert yourselves throughout this process. You should not assume the politicians on this commission have the best interests of the citizens at heart. Politicians want to hold onto power. I hope to be proven wrong, but I expect the politicians will push you to adopt a bipartisan gerrymander. You, citizen members, represent all of us. Please do not shrink from your duties, and do not assume the politicians know best. I hope you will push back at any attempt to gerrymander and only vote for maps that are truly fair, with no poisonous partisanship.

Best,
Ankit Jain