

Caywood – Redistricting Hearing July 20

Good afternoon, I am Carolyn Caywood, a resident of Virginia Beach. First, you Commission members have my sympathy in that, due to the Census delay, the time commitment has not been what anyone expected, back when I applied to be on the Commission. I honor your dedication to the task. I have watched the Commission meetings online and I'm glad that citizens have a range of ways to be involved in the process.

Virginians who voted for the Redistricting Amendment want a fresh start, *not* just tweaks to old maps. Even though incumbent addresses were loaded into the CityGate software, neither they nor old district lines should be considered in drawing maps.

My community of interest is the city of Virginia Beach where I've lived and worked for 42 years. The city as a whole must plan for rising sea level, more frequent storms and heavier rainfall, as well as higher temperatures. Thus, I urge respect for jurisdictional boundaries whenever possible.

I feel strongly that the Commission needs to hire a redistricting professional to draw the maps and that the maps should be drawn without regard to existing districts, especially since many 2010 districts in Hampton Roads were already redrawn by court order. My own Congressional, state Senate, and House of Delegate districts have all been redrawn during the past decade.

I believe the Commission also needs to hire a professional to create the portal for public input on the website and to engage the public's interest in the opportunities for input. Content and especially public input need to be organized and readily find-able.

I also suggest the Commission schedule a state-wide virtual hearing for those organizations and individuals who have state-level information to present. And please, hereafter, schedule hearings at times when working people can attend. Thank you for taking these points into consideration.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION



Public Hearing

Written Public Comment Form

7/20/2021 Hampton Roads Nicholas Proffitt
Hearing Date / Location Your Name

Chesapeake
Your County or City of Residence

Please add comments below and return to staff, or submit by email to varedist@dls.virginia.gov or by mail to:
Virginia Redistricting Commission, 900 E. Main Street, Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219

Please consider communities of interest, compactness, and county/city boundaries where possible.

Incumbent Addresses are good to consider but don't necessarily have to be followed in every case if another way makes significantly more sense.

Please consider a person from Hampton Roads especially the South of the River for the Commission vacancy. It is the most underrepresented region on the Commission compared to population.

Suggested comment prompts:

- What bonds your community?
- What do you see as the common links in your community?
- Where is your community located? How do you define the boundaries of your community?
- Why should your community be kept together? Why should your community be kept separate from another community or area?

To: Virginia Redistricting Commission

Public Hearing, Old Dominion University, July 20, 2021

The work and the results of the Commission are crucial to our democracy. We have had high aspirations for decades that legislative districts in Virginia can be apportioned fairly. Now we have a state constitutional amendment to establish this process. We must succeed to endure.

Thank you for your service.

Considerations:

1. Respect local jurisdictional boundaries: important for practical governmental services and community decisions.
2. Avoid use of waterways as "connectors" for contiguity: undermines credibility.
3. Avoid splitting our university communities: avoid confusion for voters and enhance focus on the educational mission.
4. Avoid political bias and gamesmanship.

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