



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comment for Consideration at October 14 Commission Meeting

1 message

Joy Loving <jal_1998@yahoo.com>

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

This message is in lieu of making in person remarks at the Thursday session. I submitted a request to make such remarks but am instead offering these views.

I voted for the flawed constitutional amendment reluctantly, because I was concerned it would not yield the non-gerrymandered, non-partisan electoral maps I believe VA must have. I especially disliked the inclusion of incumbent legislators and their ability to accept/reject the commission's proposals. And, leaving the ultimate decisions to unelected VA Supreme Court justices was also most unappealing.

I always appreciated the magnitude and challenges with which commission members were faced. I have followed your deliberations and have become increasingly dismayed at the incumbent and party posturing and intransigence, on both sides of the aisle.

I have concluded, sadly, that you would collectively be abrogating a duty you volunteered for by not completing your mission, if you decide to do that. You can agree that you cannot agree. But you appear, in aggregate, not to have done enough to work collaboratively and to compromise where needed. The gamesmanship has been ugly and disheartening to watch; it has demeaned, and ultimately undermined, your own faith in your efforts--not to mention that of your fellow Virginians.

I ask you to reconsider your positions and finish the job you asked, and were appointed, to do. The result likely won't be perfect and won't please everyone, maybe not anyone, but at least we will have a result that Virginians can understand and, eventually if necessary, accept or reject through the legislative process.

This process has been expensive of time and money--yours and the taxpayers'. But I supported it, and you. You really have no acceptable excuse for wasting the opportunity when so much is at stake.

I urge you to reconsider your positions and move on with drawing the maps you are tasked with designing. This isn't about the Democrats and Republicans; it's about all Virginia voters and citizens.

Respectively submitted,
Joy Loving
Rockingham County, VA