

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION**

*October 18, 2021*

**TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 138**

DATE: 10/18/2021 9:37:25 AM

Name: Susan Leghart  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: susan.leghart@gmail.com  
Locality: Glen Allen, VA 23059  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

**COMMENTS:**

Hello-

I'd like it known that I am opposed to Henrico county being divided into yet another district. People choose there county to live in for many of the same reasons. There representatives in Congress should therefore be the same or they are not being resented equally throughout the county. I live in CD7 and I do not want it to be divided up .

Susan Leghart  
5417 Country Hills Ln  
Glen Allen, VA 23059

DATE: 10/18/2021 8:44:33 AM

Name: CMS  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: eientarukonpeki@gmail.com  
Locality: Charlottesville, VA  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

**COMMENTS:**

Dear Delegate Simon:

I am a Democratic voter from Charlottesville writing to express my deep concern and disappointment with the C1 map for Congress released by the redistricting commission last week. This is an obvious 6-5 Republican gerrymander, far out of proportion with their statewide support. I cannot understand how Democrats on the commission have employed a consultant who could contribute to such an obviously faulty result, and urge you to take prompt action to employ someone who will actually represent the interests of Democratic constituents.

Coming from Albemarle, I am particularly baffled as to how "Central Virginia" is a defined region on the commission's website yet appears nowhere on this proposed map. How are Democratic interests being represented by having Albemarle's vote diluted by a grouping to its west, with which it shares no cultural, economic, or community connections, rather than to its east to Richmond, with which it is closely intertwined? Why is embattled Congresswoman Spanberger facing a +20R shift in her district?

This map has both statewide and national implications, and I respectfully but strongly urge you to take prompt action to ensure that citizens receive the representation they deserve.

Best regards,  
CMS

DATE: 10/18/2021 12:26:03 AM

Name: Christopher B. Seaman  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: cbseaman@gmail.com

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Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: C1 Statewide CD

**COMMENTS:**

As background, I am a law professor who teaches Election Law at Washington and Lee University (these comments represent my own personal view, not those of my employer). This map is so deeply flawed that it is not suitable even as a starting point. For one thing, it is not VRA compliant, as CD-3 is not black majority, and black voting strength is unduly diluted in CD-4 as well. It also unnecessarily fragments Central Virginia into at least 5 different districts. It also unnecessarily includes Albemarle County and Charlottesville City in the 6th District, when a reasonable map could be drawn to include them into the 5th. There is no community of interest between Charlottesville and the Shenandoah Valley. Finally, the map does not comply with partisan fairness criteria, as it is essentially a bipartisan gerrymander than practically guarantees both Democrats and Republicans 5 districts each, with only 1 competitive district in the whole state. I have submitted what I believe a better plan (

DATE: 10/17/2021 11:47:39 PM

Name: Myra Pumphrey  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: mpumphrey@comcast.net  
Locality: Central, district 1  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on district 1  
Map: District 1  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Western Henrico County  
Community of interest description: A western suburb of the city of Richmond

**COMMENTS:**

I would be redistricted to district 1 under the new proposal. This district does not meet the criteria of a contiguous compact territory, does not maintain the integrity and priority of political subdivisions, and does not maintain a region which represents similar social, cultural and economic interests. The county of Henrico would be split into 3 separate congressional districts, I would move from CD7 to CD1 which runs from my community of a west-end suburb of Richmond all the way to the eastern shore. This switches a democrat leaning community to a solid republican-weighted district.

DATE: 10/17/2021 9:56:23 AM

Name: Sara Hudson  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: hmhuds@comcast.net  
Locality: Henrico  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: Map #21 Virginia Congressional (8-31-21)  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Suburban voters in VA-07

**COMMENTS:**

I currently live in the 7th Congressional District, which contains much of suburban Henrico and Chesterfield. This area of central version will be sliced and diced into a so many pieces that many of my neighbors will be in different

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districts. I understand that the lines have to be drawn somewhere, but dividing this area into 3 different districts smacks of partisanship gerrymandering. Taking a competitive district that has delivered sound leadership to Congress and breaking it up into tiny pieces is not what this process is supposed to be about. As a person who supported this Commission, I am sorely disappointed in the shoddy work done so far. It is an embarrassment to the Commonwealth and to the voters. Keep communities of interest together - including the suburban voters of Henrico and Chesterfield.

DATE: 10/17/2021 12:43:26 AM

Name: Grayson Horner  
Stakeholder Type: Other  
Email: graysonhorner@gmail.com  
Locality: Henrico (Tuckahoe Precinct)  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: C1 Congressional Map  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

I am particularly concerned with western henrico county and Charlottesville. These two areas are becoming more and more democratic, but I worry for their representation.  
I love how your map addresses northern Virginia and Norfolk, but the issue of what to do with current va-05 and va-07. And the best wisdom I have to offer is that if the Virginia map is going to be balanced, there ought to be a democratic leaning or swing district west of Richmond.  
Currently the 5th and 7th are competitive districts, in the new map neither are competitive and both are very republican.  
I suggest combining Charlottesville and western henrico and chesterfield in the 7th district.

DATE: 10/16/2021 1:32:13 PM

Name: CMS  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: eientarukonpeki@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: C 1  
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

I am appalled by the C1 map introduced last week. This is an obvious Republican gerrymander, and Democrats on the commission should be ashamed of having hired such an inept consultant to have contributed to this map, which clearly advantages the minority party. How do you explain that the very demographic regions on this internet form that I filled out are completely ignored in the actual map? And why is Albemarle county having its vote diluted by a grouping to its west, with which it shares not cultural or community connections, rather than its east to Richmond, with which it is closely intertwined? Why is the minority party being given a 6-5 map?

DATE: 10/15/2021 9:06:51 AM

Name: Elly Tucker  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: ellytucker@gmail.com  
Locality: Charlottesville VA, 22901

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Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topic(s) of interest: fair

#### COMMENTS:

Hello Commissioners,

First, I would like to thank you for all of the work that you have put into the commission to this point. I know it has been a frustrating experience, but one that is important. Virginia believed that we could do this in a bipartisan (or even better, a non partisan way). That was not to be. But what we have now is an opportunity to take the sadness, grief and misgivings that we have and turn them into a victory for Virginia. Start with the lowest hanging fruit, which for now is congressional districts. Please make sure that you fix District 5 that went from NC to the bedroom communities of DC. It could include Charlottesville, Albemarle, Greene, Fluvanna and Louisa and that would make it better.

For the commissioners that were in a hurry to push Ms. Harris out the door, there are a lot of citizens that would raise a fuss if you did that. She never resigned. She was trying to impart the fact that minorities in Virginia have never been given a fair shake and this is our chance to remedy that. For a commissioner to state that this was old news and that we should start from here, well, see where that got us. Maybe because starting from here displays the same lack of respect and knowledge of the law, regarding some citizens of our commonwealth that were ours historically.

We can fix this. We can make it better. But we have to come from a place of understanding our history. And it was not one to be proud of.

Let's turn this around and work to create FAIR maps that allow ALL citizens the chance to be a part of this redistricting effort.

I will be so proud of you all if we can really do this.

As a counselor, I know that groups go through various stages, as do individuals.

They are Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing and Adjourning.

The storming stage is where conflict and competition are at its greatest. This is NORMAL.

This is because now that group members have an understanding of the task and a general feel for who they are as a group and who group members are, they feel confident and begin to address some of the more important issues surrounding the group. This is where we are, but not where we need to remain.

If we can come together and work without diminishing those who count on us to be fair and draw fair maps, we will have been successful.

I hope we can get there.

Let's try.

Best,

Elly Tucker

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Elly Tucker

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Charlottesville VA 22901

phone: 434-293-3500

fax: 434-979-1800

[www.BeMovedDance.com](http://www.BeMovedDance.com)

DATE: 10/15/2021 9:04:33 AM

Name: Achsah Carrier  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: [achsah.carrier@gmail.com](mailto:achsah.carrier@gmail.com)

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Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topic(s) of interest: fair, non-gerrymandered

**COMMENTS:**

I can't believe the Commission is going to fail in their duty to Virginia. Please complete a fair, non-gerrymandered, non-partisan redistricting. We voted for this.

Thank you  
Achсах Carrier  
Albemarle County

DATE: 10/15/2021 9:03:21 AM

Name: Susan Kaufman  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: spk6657@comcast.net  
Locality: Charlottesville  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

**COMMENTS:**

We urge the Virginia Redistricting Commission to identify a path forward to reach consensus. We were reluctant to vote to empower the Commission in fear that the outcome would be a stalemate and the decision would be turned over to the courts. We were told to have faith. Now, sadly, we feel vindicated in our skepticism with this plan.

Please keep on your task until you can present the best and fairest plan for redistricting.

Susan Kaufman  
Peter Waldron  
Charlottesville

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:56:03 AM

Name: Anne Geraty  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: moss8350@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County; Crozet, VA  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Albemarle County  
Community of interest description: We previously submitted comments to you requesting that you recognize that Albemarle County is a community of interest with Charlottesville and any districts should reflect that fact. Please do not split Albemarle County into multiple districts, thus remo

**COMMENTS:**

I am Anne Geraty, resident of Albemarle County; Crozet, VA. Please find attached my written comment for the October 14 Full Commission Meeting:

Here is the comment. It is also attached as a Word document.

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We are residents of western Albemarle County, living in the community of Crozet. We previously submitted comments to you requesting that you recognize that Albemarle County is a community of interest with Charlottesville and any districts should reflect that fact. Please do not split Albemarle County into multiple districts, thus removing the voice of the citizens who have a common interest in how this community is governed. We are now very distraught that partisan infighting seems to have paralyzed the Commission, the very outcome that the citizens of this Commonwealth voted to end in creating an “independent” commission. You owe it to the citizens of this Commonwealth to find a way forward. You simply MUST find a way forward in order to fulfill your duties to the citizens who are relying upon you to do so! Come up with a viable and non-partisan map! Please!

Anne and Cooper Geraty  
Crozet, VA

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:39:28 AM

Name: Al Seim  
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer  
Organization: OneVirginia2021  
Email: rtusa1@verizon.net  
Locality: Henrico, VA  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality, incumbents

**COMMENTS:**

Hello –

The Redistricting Commission needs to do its job, which is to draw a sensible, nonpartisan set of legislative districts. Carrying water for the political parties and incumbents, generating a deadlock, is a complete abdication of that duty. Shame if this continues!

I volunteered and contributed money to OneVirginia2021 and lobbied the legislature for passage of redistricting reform. The naysayers at the time said that it was hopeless, that the commission would simply deadlock and send the job to the court. Please prove them wrong and do your jobs!

A gerrymandered Virginia benefits no one – politically drawn districts are safe districts, encouraging partisan divide. That’s what motivated me to work for reform.

The United States was founded on the idea of compromise, something that we seem to be losing sight of today.

Al Seim  
Henrico, Virginia

DATE: 10/14/2021 9:27:25 AM

Name: Michael F Karabinos  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: mongd66@gmail.com  
Locality: Chesterfield County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

**COMMENTS:**

The Behavior of the Republican members and their appointed members is in direct violation of the spirit of the commission.

In light of this obvious partisan attempt, The commission should employ a neutral map resource based on computer algorithm that holds ZERO regard for incumbent protection.

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DATE: 10/12/2021 8:23:52 AM

Name: Pete Costigan  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: ph.costigan@hotmail.com  
Locality: Ruckersville, Va. (Greene County)  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

**COMMENTS:**

Good-morning Commissioners. My name is Pete Costigan and I live in Greene County..  
In response to the unsettling events of Friday’s meeting, this morning I’ve decided to share some experiences of mine that may actually be encouraging.  
I’ve been advocating for redistricting reform on election days for the last five years. I started out in my own voting precinct in Greene County. Then I ventured into my county’s other four precincts and, finally, during last year’s extended voting period, to precincts in Charlottesville and surrounding Albemarle county to the south of Greene. I made a conscious decision to chat with voters in several different precincts. I wanted to interact with voters of all political leanings, of different racial backgrounds, of apparently varied economic backgrounds and, finally, of greater to lesser knowledge of or interest in redistricting reform. I reasoned that going to different precincts was a good way to achieve that diversity. It was.  
Over the years, I and many others have probably spoken to thousands of Virginians, first seeking their support of a yes vote from the General Assembly on the proposed amendment and, then, encouraging voters to vote yes on the ballot amendment in last November’s election.  
In many cases, I was preaching to the choir. But many others quickly became true believers once we discussed the democracy deadening effects of Gerrymandering. Based on my experiences with voters, I want to remind you of something you may already know well. Many Virginians are counting on you to fix this thing. They may not speak at meetings or comment on the maps posted but they are watching and hoping for a change. Maybe you should think of them as Virginia’s new silent majority. You should definitely think of them as Virginia’s majority.  
One final point. During your Friday, Oct 8th meeting, Meg Lamb posted HOD map B7 to the website. That map, B7, included changes that I and others had proposed to HOD map B6 during the central region’s virtual hearing on Weds. Oct 6h. Map B7 may also have included changes proposed by citizens during the two virtual hearings held on Thurs, Oct 7th. I urge the Commission to work from the maps that include the most current input from citizens.  
Pete Costigan,  
Ruckersville, Va. (Greene County

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:06:29 PM

Name: Nathan Alderman  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: nathan.alderman@gmail.com  
Locality: Crozet  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality  
Community of interest name: Albemarle County  
Community of interest description: We're ... a county. With a pretty big town in the middle and a lot of suburban and rural areas around it.

**COMMENTS:**

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I'm a true blue Democrat, and I could have sat back and cheered for Dems to draw their own maps, the same way the GOP did 10 years ago. But I know how maddening and unfair it is to live in a district that's been cut to silence your voice -- that's the case with both my current Congressional and House of Delegates districts -- and I wouldn't wish that on any American, however deeply I disagree with them. I took a stand on principle that politicians shouldn't pick their voters. I put my trust in you all to find a solution that might not make everyone happy, but wouldn't do anyone dirty. Now I hear you're ready to throw in the towel. Don't you dare. We chose you to do a job. You have a duty to Virginia and all its people, Democrats, Republicans, and independents, to do it right and do it fairly. Shirking that duty and passing the buck seems nothing short of cowardly.

DATE: 10/11/2021 3:12:05 PM

Name: Liz White  
Stakeholder Type: Organization staff  
Organization: OneVirginia2021  
Email: liz.white@onevirginia2021.org  
Locality: Richmond  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

#### COMMENTS:

In the strongest possible terms, OneVirginia2021 urges the Commission to find a viable path forward for their work. Failure to find consensus would fly in the face of what voters overwhelmingly supported last year. There is still time to get this right.

DATE: 10/11/2021 10:24:34 AM

Name: Natalie Detert  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: amesuredword@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

#### COMMENTS:

I urge the commission to conduct themselves in a non-partisan manner. You are to act in service of the public good not a party! I urge the commission as follows:

1) Don't divide Albemarle — I oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle.

2) Keep Albemarle (and Charlottesville) together as a community of interest. Everyone in Albemarle shares economic and cultural ties to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia.

The Democratic map shows that there is no need to divide Albemarle to get districts of equal population.

3) The better way to get the additional 12,000 people to complete Albemarle's second district is to go south to Nelson (route 20 and 29 corridors), southwest to Fluvanna (Lake Monticello), or north to Greene county (Rt 19).

Augusta is over the Blue Ridge and is much more connected to the communities west of the Blue ridge.

DATE: 10/10/2021 6:02:48 PM

Name: Stephanie Amy Lowenhaupt  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: slowenhaupt@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County



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Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

The drawing of maps for redistricting should be politically neutral. Members of the commission should work together and collaborate, decisions must be based only on the census data. The state delegate and senate districts must be reasonably drawn and reflective of the population in that area based on data and not include undue political influence.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:43:19 AM

Name: Mark Heinicke  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: markjheinicke@gmail.com  
Locality: Greene County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

My name is Mark Heinicke. I reside in Greene County and speak as a private citizen in the interests of Greene County.

The comments below form the basis of a shorter oral presentation I am to make at the Public Hearing of the Central Region on October 6. The oral presentation will meet the 3-minute time limit.

My subject is the configuration of the proposed Senate District 31, referencing both maps B4 STATEWIDE SD and A5 STATEWIDE SD.

Regarding Senate District 31, neither of these maps is satisfactory, but there is a simple way to combine them to make them more logical and reasonable, although it does require excluding one of the counties from the new District 31. That county, Buckingham, is currently included in the new District 31 in both maps, but does not logically belong to District 31 in either one.

**ARGUMENTS FOR MAKING SENATE DISTRICT 31 A COMPOSITE OF NELSON, ALBEMARLE, GREENE, AND FLUVANNA COUNTIES, AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, AND TO EXCLUDE THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM**

The arguments are as follows:

THE BASIS:

1. The four named counties and the city of Charlottesville are all in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. The purpose of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission is to “assist our local member governments, partners, and stakeholders with a variety of technical and program services.” Buckingham County, however, is not in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District.
2. Buckingham County is not in the Central Region of this Public Hearing, whereas the other counties and the city of Charlottesville are.
3. The counties of Greene, Albemarle, Nelson, and the city of Charlottesville are traversed north to south by U.S. Rte. 29, which connects them economically and facilitates cultural and recreational exchange. Geographically, all three join the eastern flank of the Blue Ridge Mountains with the Piedmont region.
4. The aggregate population of the five entities by the 2020 census is 221,175, with a deviation of just 2.5% above the Senate district target of 215,785.
5. Albemarle County (pop. ~ 111,000) and the City of Charlottesville (pop. ~ 47,000) account for about 70% of the total population of the five entities, and 44% of the total area (731 of 1,644 square miles).
6. The character of the five entities together represents a balance between rural and urban/suburban development, with Nelson and Fluvanna Counties mostly rural throughout, and Greene County largely rural except along the Rte. 29 corridor in the eastern part of the county where commercial and residential development has

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become highly active but is confined to the corridor by the Greene County Comprehensive Plan. The 29 corridor in Greene represents a northern extension of the kind of development found in eastern Albemarle County

7. 7. As one who has personally lived in Greene County for 11 years and in Nelson County for the previous 10 years, I strongly believe that the two counties are very similar in overall character culturally and demographically, and provide a psychological relief valve from the hustle and bustle of eastern Albemarle and the city of Charlottesville.

RELATIONSHIP OF SENATE DISTRICT 31 TO THE CURRENT STATEWIDE SENATE REDISTRICTING MAPS A5 AND B4

District 31 of the A5 Statewide Senate District map contains Nelson County but not Greene County, and District 31 or the B4 Statewide Senate District map contains Greene County but not Nelson County. In both maps Albemarle County dominates in population and commercial activity. Both maps currently contain Buckingham County, which has less in common with Albemarle than do either Nelson or Greene, as reflected by the composition of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission noted above.

Both Nelson and Greene have much stronger arguments in favor of belonging to a District 31 that is dominated by Albemarle County in population and commercial activity, than does Buckingham County.

Therefore it is logical and reasonable that District 31 should include both Nelson and Greene counties (as well as Albemarle County, Fluvanna County, and the city of Charlottesville), and exclude Buckingham County. Neither map A5 nor B4 accomplishes this. Buckingham County should be part of another Senate district.

IF, however, it is an either/or proposition that the choice is between the A5 map that excludes Greene from District 31 but includes Nelson, or the B4 map that includes Greene but excludes Nelson, then logic and reason argue in favor of the B4 map, putting Greene in District 31. The reason is clear to anyone who drives U.S. Route 29 across the three counties, because there is greater continuity between Albemarle County and Greene County than between Albemarle County and Nelson County, on account of differences in commercial and residential development along the Route 29 corridor.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:12:45 AM

Name: Susie Austin, Anna Bell, Cindi Cobbs, Deborah Diaz Granados, Erica Farrell, Jennifer Grogan, Lisa Haberstadt, Paige Hausberg, Mindy Loiselle, Susan Miller, Kathey Moore, Joan Oberle, Brook Rich, Mary-Helen Sullivan, Stephanie Theofanos

Stakeholder Type: Organization staff

Organization: RVActive

Email: n/a

Locality: Richmond

Region: **Central**

Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

All of you, acting as a group, have an amazing opportunity to show the entire country that partisanship does not have to mean gridlock. To lead the way in demonstrating that true leadership and strong government does not mean digging in one's heels and calling the other side names.

You have been tasked to draw new district lines based on a series of objective criteria: population, geographic compactness, racial and ethnic fairness, protection of communities of interest. You have been directed to draw a map that does not "unduly favor or disfavor any political party." The people of Virginia voted overwhelmingly for you to do this. We are asking only that you honor their decision.

So when you go back to discussing your proposed maps, please ask yourself whether you are making decisions consistent with the criteria required by Virginia's law and Constitution, or whether you are instead putting first the interests of a political party or political interest group. Yes, there has been and continues to be structural and systemic racism in Virginia and that should be considered, but it is not the only consideration. And yes, the changing demographics and socio-economic climate in Virginia seem to be shifting the balance of voters, very slightly, and in both directions— at least in the near term because demographics continue to change. But you are required to be fair: not to act with the overarching goal of maintaining or regaining power for your political party.

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So rather than looking through the lens of a political party, we ask you to look at your line-drawing through a lens of fairness and to follow the rules that have been established for your work.

If you have reached an impasse in specific areas, then consider stepping back and working together in smaller cross-party working groups to propose new alternatives, consistent with the guidelines and born of collaborative thinking.

We live in a society now where when people say, “I want to be heard,” what they often mean is “I want to be heard but I don’t want to truly listen to you.”

This state would be so grateful and proud if you could do better. You can do better. Please try. Please lead.

DATE: 10/6/2021 3:13:25 PM

Name: Charnel Williams  
Stakeholder Type: Organization staff  
Organization: Campus Vote Project  
Email: cjmj1354@gmail.com  
Region: **Central**

Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

Community of interest name: Virginia State University

Community of interest description: Hi, my name is Charnel Williams. I am a transfer and junior at Virginia State University. I have attended school at Virginia State university for two years, and have lived in the city of Petersburg for a full year. I am also participating in a college student Redistricting Fellowship with Campus Vote Project, an organization that is empowering college students to have a voice in their state’s redistricting process. In the Virginia State University community, we need representatives who will listen to, understand, and advocate for our needs.

Virginia State University and the surrounding community are diverse with a larger minority population in comparison to other communities throughout our state. Virginia State University students rent apartments and homes in areas neighboring our campus and, as such, the minority population in these communities is quite significant. With students finding a home at Virginia State University or in areas neighboring our campus, they also account for a significant amount of local employment such as: mall jobs, jobs on the Boulevard near campus, local grocery stores, and even some places as far as Richmond. The community also has many students who start their own businesses, providing a service or selling a product. This is a very affable community with many students that would like to make this their permanent home.

Although the community is close and tight-knit, our voting districts are not. While the State University community is well intact at the Congressional District level, I am concerned about where the current lines are drawn for our State Districts. While the physical boundaries of our campus community are intact within State House District 63 and State Senate District 16, a significant number of students who reside in the Colonial Heights area to the east are situated in State House District 66 and State Senate District 11. When students look to participate in elections, they are oftentimes confused about who is representing them. This is because our community is not yet considered a Community of Interest and kept in tact at all levels of government.

Virginia State University and the heavily student-populated surrounding areas should be considered a Community of Interest when redrawing our district lines as part of Virginia’s ongoing redistricting process. We as a community would benefit by being a part of the same district because, despite varying political views, we share similar political concerns.

In conclusion, I believe that as a community in the same district we would receive representation that better meets our needs. This is home for a lot of us, so proper representation is crucial to our livelihood. While some may just be here for school, there are others here that have already made this their permanent community or plan to in the future. We account for many jobs both on and off campus, and some begin their careers here as well. Adding the Colonial Heights area to the existing State Districts of Virginia State University would allow them to see proper representation. Thank you for considering Virginia State University and our community as a Community of Interest moving forward.

Thank you.

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DATE: 10/6/2021 11:13:22 AM

Name: Christopher B. Seaman  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: cbseaman@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: Map# 198 A7 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (10-3-21)  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Albemarle/Charlottesville  
Community of interest description: Albemarle County, Charlottesville City, and part/all of Nelson County

#### COMMENTS:

I am a Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University, where I teach Election Law. As an election law scholar and a citizen of Albemarle County, I strongly oppose the Republican-drawn map for House of Delegates, which divides Albemarle County into 3 pieces (HD-74, HD-75, and HD-76). The citizens of Albemarle County -- which have overwhelmingly voted Democratic in local, statewide, and federal elections -- have had our voices diluted in the VA House of Delegates for the past decade precisely because of this sort of pernicious partisan gerrymandering, where our county of approximately 110,000 was fragment into four separate districts. My own district, HD 25, currently runs from the Charlottesville bypass (US-29) to the West Virginia border, deliberately avoiding pockets of Democratic voters in Waynesboro, Staunton, and Harrisonburg to be a Republican gerrymander. The citizens of Albemarle deserve to be as unified as possible going forward. As a result, we should be in only 2 Districts. The first District should include Charlottesville and some portion of Albemarle County to reach optimal population. The second District could be the rest of Albemarle and our neighbor to the south, Nelson County, with whom we share a community of interest, as we share common newspapers, television stations, and commuting patterns. This would be a compact District that would keep the citizens of Albemarle together as much as possible while also addressing the concern raised by some members of this commission regarding the Democratic map crossing the mountains between Augusta and Albemarle.

DATE: 10/6/2021 7:51:10 AM

Name: Ken Chasin  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Organization: OneVirginia 2021  
Email: kenchasin1@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation  
Community of interest name: Urban versus Rural

#### COMMENTS:

Good afternoon. My name is Ken Chasin. I reside in Albemarle County which is located in Virginia's 5th Congressional District.  
I am requesting that the election map for Virginia's fifth congressional district be redrawn because the district has been severely gerrymandered and has resulted in the following situation:

1. The district is Virginia's largest U.S. congressional district with an area of 10,000 plus square miles and is larger in area than six US states (Vermont, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Hampshire).
2. The 5th District contains counties located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Region stretching vertically across the state from the Virginia-North Carolina Border going 250 miles up to in Northern Virginia, 40 miles southwest of Washington DC.

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3. As of 2019, the population of the district was approximately 736,00 residents which equates to just 72 residents per square mile and

4. The district is approximately 2/3 rural and 1/3 urban which tilts the playing field in favor of Republicans as rural voters almost invariably vote Republican.

In conclusion, the Virginia 5th congressional district must and needs to be redrawn to reduce its square miles and result in a more equitable voter distribution among rural and urban voters.

DATE: 10/5/2021 4:07:35 PM

Name: Mark Heinicke

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Organization: Self

Email: markjheinicke@gmail.com

Locality: Ruckersville Virginia, in Greene County

Region: **Central**

Type of comment: Comment on a map

Map: B4 Statewide SD (Map #189) and A5 Statewide SD (Map #197)

Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

Community of interest name: Greene County

Community of interest description: A largely rural county in central Virginia with commercial and dense residential development confined to a narrow corridor around a major artery.

#### COMMENTS:

ARGUMENTS FOR MAKING SENATE DISTRICT 31 A COMPOSITE OF NELSON, ALBEMARLE, GREENE, AND FLUVANNA COUNTIES, AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, AND TO EXCLUDE THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

The arguments are institutional, economic, geographical, and demographical, as follows.

THE BASIS:

1. The four counties and the city of Charlottesville are all in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission.

The purpose of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission is to “assist our local member governments, partners, and stakeholders with a variety of technical and program services.” Buckingham County, however, is not in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District.

2. Buckingham County is not in the Central Region of this Public Hearing, whereas the other counties and the city of Charlottesville are.

3. The counties of Greene, Albemarle, Nelson, and the city of Charlottesville are traversed north to south by U.S. Rte. 29, which connects them economically and facilitates cultural and recreational exchange. Geographically, all three join the eastern flank of the Blue Ridge Mountains with the Piedmont region.

4. The aggregate population of the five entities by the 2020 census is 221,175, with a deviation of just 2.5% above the Senate district target of 215,785.

5. Albemarle County (pop. ~ 111,000) and the City of Charlottesville (pop. ~ 47,000) account for about 70% of the total population of the five entities, and 44% of the total area (731 of 1,644 square miles).

6. The character of the five entities together represents a balance between rural and urban/suburban development, with Nelson and Fluvanna Counties mostly rural throughout, and Greene County largely rural except along the Rte. 29 corridor in the eastern part of the county where commercial and residential development has become highly active but is confined to the corridor by the Greene County Comprehensive Plan. The 29 corridor in Greene represents a northern extension of the kind of development found in eastern Albemarle County

7. As one who has personally lived in Greene County for 11 years and in Nelson County for the previous 10 years, I strongly believe that the two counties are very similar in overall character culturally and demographically, and provide a psychological relief valve from the hustle and bustle of eastern Albemarle and the city of Charlottesville.

RELATIONSHIP OF SENATE DISTRICT 31 TO THE STATEWIDE SENATE REDISTRICTING MAPS A5 AND B4

District 31 of the A5 Statewide Senate District map contains Nelson County but not Greene County, and the B4 Statewide Senate District map contains Greene County but not Nelson County. In both maps Albemarle County

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dominates in population and commercial activity. Both maps currently contain Buckingham County, which has less in common with Albemarle than do either Nelson or Greene, as reflected by the composition of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission noted above.

Both Nelson and Greene have much stronger arguments in favor of belonging to a District 31 that is dominated by Albemarle County in population and commercial activity, than does Buckingham County.

Therefore it is logical and reasonable that District 31 should include both Nelson and Greene counties, and exclude Buckingham County. Neither map A5 nor B4 accomplishes this.

IF, however, it is an either/or proposition that the choice is between the A5 map that excludes Greene from District 31 but includes Nelson, or the B4 map that includes Greene but excludes Nelson, then logic and reason argue in favor of the B4 map, putting Greene in District 31. The reason is clear to anyone who drives U.S. Route 29 across the three counties, because there is greater continuity between Albemarle County and Greene County than between Albemarle County and Nelson County, on account of differences in commercial and residential development along the Route 29 corridor.

DATE: 10/5/2021 2:15:23 PM

Name: Muriel Grim  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: msgrim2012@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: Map #155 A4 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (9-29-21)  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest, geographic boundaries

**COMMENTS:**

So that they can speak for the majority of their constituents it is very important that elected officials represent areas that are defined by a common physical, cultural, and economic identity. A map that divides Albemarle County disassociates the residents from an important common identity – residents of the Charlottesville area. Please produce a map that keeps Albemarle as whole as possible with the only possible requirement for breaking up the county being physical geography barriers.

DATE: 10/4/2021 3:22:50 PM

Name: Edward D Hess  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: hesse@darden.virginia.edu  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Redistricting MAP  
Map: 81  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Charlottesville- Albemarle

**COMMENTS:**

Don't divide Albemarle — I oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle.

DATE: 10/4/2021 10:31:23 AM

Name: Linda Seaman

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Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: lindaseaman24@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest description: Albemarle and Charlottesville

**COMMENTS:**

Albemarle and Charlottesville form a community of interest. The Democrats map reflects this. Please just 2 House Districts for Albemarle County.

DATE: 10/3/2021 4:48:31 PM

Name: James R Freeland  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: freelandj@darden.virginia.edu  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

**COMMENTS:**

I strongly support either of the two proposals by the Democrats. Albemarle and Charlottesville should be together as they have strong connections. I strongly oppose the Republican House of Delegates map. It makes no sense to think of the interests and communities of Greene County, Orange County, and Amherst as being similar to Albemarle County and Charlottesville. These are rural area with much different agendas.

DATE: 10/2/2021 7:23:17 PM

Name: Ellie Syverud  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: ellie7349@gmail.com  
Locality: Crozet VA  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

Don't divide Albemarle — oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle. Keep Albemarle (and Charlottesville) together as a community of interest. Everyone in Albemarle shares economic and cultural ties to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia. The Democratic map shows that there is no need to divide Albemarle to get districts of equal population. The better way to get the additional 12,000 people to complete Albemarle's second district is to go south to Nelson (route 20 and 29 corridors), southwest to Fluvanna (Lake Monticello), or north to Greene county (Rt 19). Augusta is over the Blue Ridge and is much more connected to the communities west of the Blue Ridge.

DATE: 10/2/2021 4:14:20 PM

Name: Steven J Brecker  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual



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October 18, 2021

Email: steven.brecker@gmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: 81st District  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality  
Community of interest name: Albemarle County, Charlottesville, University of Virginia  
Community of interest description: University of Virginia community

#### COMMENTS:

- Don't divide Albemarle — I oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle.
- Keep Albemarle (and Charlottesville) together as a community of interest. Everyone in Albemarle shares economic and cultural ties to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia.
- The Democratic map shows that there is no need to divide Albemarle to get districts of equal population.
- The better way to get the additional 12,000 people to complete Albemarle's second district is to go south to Nelson (route 20 and 29 corridors), southwest to Fluvanna (Lake Monticello), or north to Greene county (Rt 19). Augusta is over the Blue Ridge and is much more connected to the communities west of the Blue Ridge.

DATE: 10/2/2021 2:12:34 PM

Name: Sarah K Harris  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: sarahkeenan128@hotmail.com  
Locality: Central  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

#### COMMENTS:

I am a resident of Albemarle County and would like to voice my support for keeping Albemarle as unified as possible, not subdivided further than we already are. I would also like our district to be drawn to include communities that share our interests, values, and priorities more than we currently have in the 25th district. For example, the residents of Albemarle County have demonstrated overwhelming support for public health measures such as mask mandates in schools and vaccine requirements for teachers and other public service workers who work with high-risk communities. The same can not be said for residents in Augusta and Rockingham County. Similarly, the Albemarle County School Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Policy on the Treatment of Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students in Schools, sending a clear message to our most vulnerable students that they are free to exist openly and without fear or retribution in our schools. The Augusta County School Board voted unanimously AGAINST the policy, despite the fact that implementation of this policy is required by law. The Rockingham County School Board did not vote on the adoption of the policy; they simply sent out a press release saying they would not be adopting a new policy to protect transgender students. These are clear differences in values held by communities on either side of the mountain. While my heart breaks for the transgender and gender-expansive kids in the valley who were denied protections and affirmation in their schools, it also has become all the more clear to me that we need different representation in the Virginia House of Delegates here in Albemarle County than the one we currently share with voters in the western areas of our district.

DATE: 10/2/2021 9:41:33 AM



## VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 18, 2021

Name: Brittany Rose  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: BrittanyCRose@me.com  
Locality: Henrico County (suburb of Richmond)  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: House of Delegates maps A6 and B6  
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Western Henrico County/Three Chopt magisterial district  
Community of interest description: Suburban community experiencing growth and development with a significant Asian population

#### COMMENTS:

My portion of Henrico County is currently a part of HD56 with Louisa County and parts of Goochland and Spotsylvania counties. This area of Henrico is fully suburban and continues to experience significant growth and development. To be in a district with largely rural counties as we are now doesn't make sense - our proposed inclusion in district 56 as drawn in the B6 maps doesn't make any more sense. In fact, this map drawer has bundled Henrico with even more rural counties than their last 5 proposals! We would be included in a district with portions of Goochland, Hanover, and Caroline counties (all of which are largely rural). Further, the population in this area of Henrico is made up of 22% Asian residents. The A6 map keeps us in a district entirely composed of Henrico residents with 23% of those residents being Asian (A6 district 70). This B6 map carves out this area of Henrico and dilutes the percentage of Asian residents in HD56 even further to just under 8%. Even the adjacent district proposed on this map, HD65, will only have an Asian population of 18.8%. By putting this part of Henrico with Goochland, Hanover, and Caroline counties in HD56 you are carving out a small section of a highly suburban community and lumping it in with dissimilar rural communities while simultaneously diluting the Asian population in western Henrico.

DATE: 10/2/2021 9:35:00 AM

Name: David K Garth  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: david@oakshadefarm.com  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest, Political neutrality

#### COMMENTS:

Please keep Albemarle County and Charlottesville in the same district. Or, at least do not divide the city and county into more than two districts. Albemarle is very diverse in political viewpoints which balance each other. Charlottesville is the center of common interests for Albemarle. This community of interests for the city extends into Fluvanna to Lake Monticello, into Greene County at least to Stanardsville, and into Nelson County to Afton and Nellies Ford.

DATE: 10/2/2021 8:22:44 AM

Name: Deborah M. Garth  
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer  
Organization: Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention  
Email: Debby@oakshadefarm.com  
Locality: Charlottesville, Va  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map

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Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality  
Community of interest name: Deborah Garth

**COMMENTS:**

Each of us deserves to have our vote count!

DATE: 10/1/2021 7:25:02 PM

Name: Edwin Taylor  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: ETphHOM.5@comcast.net  
Locality: Central Region, Hanover County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Map: N/A  
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

The Politicians on the Committee are only concern about keeping their and other Party members in their own region so they don't won't be able to run. The Politicians should be kicked off the Committee and only private citizens on it. If any citizens shows a Party favor, they should be kicked off. It what's best for the Commonwealth and the People, not a DAMN PARTY. Thanks

DATE: 9/23/2021 8:41:16 AM

Name: Katherine e. Slaughter  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: katherineslaughter61@gmail.com  
Locality: Charlottesville  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: Map #23 Virginia House (8-31-21)  
Topics of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Central Va - Albemarle-Charlottesville  
Description: Albemarle and Charlottesville are the population center but the other counties in the Planning District - Greene, Nelson, Louisa and Fluvanna - share boundaries, and residents shop, visit, work and use health facilities within Albemarle Charlottesville.

**COMMENTS:**

I ask that you not split Albemarle County into a voting district including Augusta County, separated by the Blue Ridge Mountains, but instead that you utilize part of the Albemarle community of interest in adjacent counties of Greene, Fluvanna, Nelson, or Louisa, all of which are within its Planning District. People in these various communities work, shop, recreate, or study in Albemarle County or Charlottesville. They share similar social, cultural and economic interests. Crossing the Blue Ridge mountains for a district means that the interests of the area on the other side of the mountain will not be properly represented (or vice versa). Please work to avoid crossing major geographical boundaries when creating districts and to conserve communities of interest. The fact that the other counties are in the same planning district indicates that these communities work together on issues in common to rural, suburban and urban areas, including environmental issues, solid waste, transportation, employment and housing. Thank you. Sincerely, Kay Slaughter

DATE: 9/22/2021 11:22:19 PM

## VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

### PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 18, 2021

Name: Michael Kenneth Fox  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: mkfox7@gmail.com  
Locality: Crozet  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live  
Map: Map #23 Virginia House (8-31-21)  
Topics of interest: Communities of interest

#### COMMENTS:

I am a resident of Crozet in Albemarle County, and I am concerned about the proposed 76th District in map A3. Our county is currently split between four districts, and this map fails to fully rectify this senseless splintering. Albemarle is a culturally unique region of the commonwealth that fosters homogeneousness. We are home to the University of Virginia, and the estates of Presidents Jefferson and Monroe. Additionally, the Annexation and Revenue Sharing Agreement of 1982 between the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle prohibits the city from annexing county land, effectively in exchange for a transfer of county real estate tax revenue to the city according to a complex formula. There are also jointly-operated property and county property inside the city limits. Albemarle is also home to the town of Scottsville. Ideally, with a Albemarle-Charlottesville population of 159,000, one House district would serve the city and surrounding communities, and another district would serve the rest of the county. Splitting up the county into districts that extend into more rural counties dilutes the identity, needs and interests of our region; neither our community, nor ones two counties over, would be appropriately represented. I urge commissioners to recognize this as maps are being drafted.

**DATE:** 9/22/2021 5:32:58 AM

Name: James Calvin Pyles  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Organization: none  
Email: jcpyles44@gmail.com  
Locality: Crozet  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Map: Map #23 Virginia House (8-31-21)  
Topics of interest: Voting rights and political participation  
Community of interest name: Social, economic and cultural interests centering on the University of Virginia undergraduate, graduate and hospital facilities  
Community of interest description: Albemarle county and Charlottesville

#### COMMENTS:

Albemarle County and Charlottesville should be a single voting district because they have generally common social, cultural and economic interests and meet the requirement in the Constitution for "protecting communities of interest and respecting political boundaries".

**DATE:** 9/21/2021 2:32:37 PM

Name: Donna Price  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: donnapaulaprice@hotmail.com  
Locality: Albemarle County  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Topics of interest: My previous online comment

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

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*October 18, 2021*

Community of interest name: Albemarle County  
Community of interest description: Albemarle County

**COMMENTS:**

I am writing to clarify a couple of errors that I previously made in my comments: 1) Sunday, September 19th - when I first commented upon the Democratic HoD proposal that had Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville in Districts 80 and 81; it appeared to me that House District 81 was "NOT" limited to Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville; but was, rather connected with Fluvanna and other counties to the east of Albemarle County in proposed House District 76. That made no sense to me; and, that was my comment. The next day, Monday September 20th, upon realizing my error, I attempted on numerous occasions to make a new comment; however, either the VirginiaRedistricting.org website would not load; using Safari, Chrome, and Firefox I received notifications that it was a false website; and, when I finally was able to load the correct proposed map, the images blurred into a "Picasso-like" artwork making identification of the appropriate Districts impossible to see. In that correction I again erred, this time omitting District 76, instead referencing District 81. In sum: Of the four proposed maps affecting Albemarle County: House Proposed HOD violates the charter of the commission by dividing a contiguous community of interest - Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville - into 3 separate Districts (which, is better than the 4 we now have, but still wrong); while the other 3 proposed maps better maintain the contiguous community of Albemarle County within the proposed Districts (HoD and Senate). Albemarle County is, in many respects, different from the surrounding counties: by population (112,000 in the County plus 48,000 in Charlottesville; whereas, for example, Nelson County has about 14,000 people); in terms of development pressures (other surrounding counties may have one or, at most, two substantially smaller development areas); and, while rural Albemarle may be more like rural areas of other Counties, the County - as a whole - should be divided into as few a number of Districts as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to update/clarify my input.

**DATE:** 9/21/2021 11:54:29 AM

Name: Beau Cribbs  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: beaucribbs@gmail.com  
Locality: City of Richmond  
Region: **Central**  
Type of comment: Comment on a map  
Topics of interest: Communities of interest  
Community of interest name: Church Hill, Richmond

**COMMENTS:**

Church Hill should be kept with the rest of the City of Richmond, specifically the parts of the city north of the James River. I feel very strongly that District 62 in Proposal B3 does not accurately reflect Church Hill's "community of interest" in terms of simple geography -- not to mention socioeconomics, cultural resources and demographics.

In other words, Church Hill has very little similarities with Charles City County, for example, and has far more in common with the rest of the City of Richmond, which is in District 61 and 68. When edits are made to the preliminary maps, please consider including Church Hill in with the rest of the City of Richmond.

**DATE:** 9/21/2021 6:12:41 AM

Name: Faithea Flowers Foster  
Stakeholder Type: Private individual  
Email: faflowers@yahoo.com  
Locality: Richmond City 23220  
Region: **Central**

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION**

*October 18, 2021*

Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission  
Topics of interest: Political neutrality

**COMMENTS:**

Be fair and don't try to water down the black vote as done in the past.

**DATE SENT:** 9/21/2021 8:18:00 AM  
**EMAIL:** miketabony@yahoo.com  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** 24553, Gladstone  
**SUBJECT:** A map for your consideration.

**COMMENT:**

To whomever it applies,  
I am Michael Loga Tabony, a resident of Virginia living in area code 24553, Gladstone, VA, and have submitted the Congressional District Map linked to below for the commission's consideration. I attempted to retain communities of interest and equal population numbers but did not look at political or racial data while drawing. IMHO, we should all endeavor to FIRST be Americans and once we start considering other parameters we move away from that goal.  
Please see:  
[www.districtr.org/plan/48525](http://www.districtr.org/plan/48525)  
Thank you,  
Mike Tabony

**DATE SENT:** 9/15/2021 11:44:00 AM  
**EMAIL:** mlawless@scottsville.org  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Albemarle and Fluvanna  
**SUBJECT:** Scottsville Town Limits in Districting

**COMMENT:**

Good morning,  
  
Thank for all your hard work in the difficult process of redistricting. I see in Graham Moomaw's coverage of the Commission work, that county/city/town boundaries were discussed today, in the context of communities of interest.  
  
Let me please share a note on behalf of the Town of Scottsville, where I serve as town administrator. Our town boundaries straddle the county line of Albemarle and Fluvanna, with some residents in both counties. This is unfortunate given the state senate boundaries, in particular. In a town of only 600 residents, not everyone has the same representatives.  
  
Please be aware of the several towns in similar situations, and keep these geographic quirks as part of the complex work of the commission.  
  
Respectfully,  
  
Matt Lawless  
Scottsville Town Administrator  
Office: 434-286-9267

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION**

*October 18, 2021*

Web, Facebook, Twitter

**DATE SENT:** 9/13/2021 2:57:00 PM  
**EMAIL:** hchamber@richmond.edu  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond  
**SUBJECT:** Professor Chambers - Legal Analysis of Virginia Redistricting

**COMMENT:**

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission Members –

From 2011-2013, I served as a special assistant attorney general for Virginia for redistricting matters.

Today (September 13), you heard strong presentations regarding the legal strictures of redistricting. In the two attached articles which have been published in the last year – “Readying Virginia for Redistricting After a Decade of Election Law Upheaval” and “The Fight over the Virginia Redistricting Commission” – I provide a history and analysis of the legal requirements of redistricting in Virginia. The articles may help answer some of the questions you asked counsel today. I hope the articles are helpful when you analyze the maps you will soon begin to consider.

Of course, I am happy to talk with any commissioners or the commission as a whole.

-HLC

Henry L. Chambers, Jr.  
Austin E. Owen Research Scholar and Professor of Law  
University of Richmond School of Law  
203 Richmond Way  
Richmond, Va. 23173  
(804) 289-8199  
[hchamber@richmond.edu](mailto:hchamber@richmond.edu)

**DATE SENT:** 9/12/2021 11:15:10 PM  
**FROM:** From: Chris DeRosa <chris.lwv.222@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Greetings, members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission and DLS staff!

Once again, thank you for all of your dedicated efforts to bring #Fair Maps to reality to all Virginians, and for the opportunities you are

providing to Virginians to participate in the process.

I spoke before you in person, in Richmond, on August 23rd - my remarks, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Virginia, are

attached here so that they might be included in the compendium of comments that will be gathered and organized by the

Communications team. It is also for the benefit of the newest members of this Commission. My remarks are also copied below.

Thank you!

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION**

*October 18, 2021*

Chris DeRosa (she, her)  
Co-Coordinator, LWV-VA Redistricting Committee  
chris.lwv.222@gmail.com  
571-422-6605  
Remarks to the Virginia Redistricting Commission  
8/23/21  
Richmond, VA  
Good morning.

I'm Chris DeRosa. This morning I am here, representing the League of Women Voters of Virginia, including our President, Deb Wake, and over 2200 members of the League. We have worked hard for #Fair maps for many, many years, including helping to pass the Constitutional Amendment in November. Our position is that we want and need fair maps for the benefit of the voters of Virginia. Virginians want to elect representatives of their choice. The biggest improvement in the process, we believe, is transparency – we are watching and listening to all your discussions and votes with great interest. Pouring sunshine into the process is important. We ask you to be wary of going around FOIA and transparency by allowing any decisions to be made behind closed doors. Also, we fully support the establishment of other criteria for maps, especially the respect for Communities of Interest(COI) and the rights of ethnic, racial, and language minorities “to elect representatives of their choice”. Although we would have preferred a nonpartisan, all-citizen commission, we are hopeful that all of you on this commission, being balanced and bipartisan, will work for the benefit of all Virginians. We hope that you are listening to the voices of the people. We hope that you are reading all of the comments – nearly 400 written comments submitted by email, over 125 in the newest portal, (more than 3/4 of those submitted in the past 10 days). League members have read all comments and note that a few threads have been woven throughout the meetings and hearings. We've heard loudly and clearly that people want their communities kept together rather than split into 2 or more districts unnecessarily. Reunite them into one cohesive community. Secondly, another thread is that not one person who has submitted testimony has advised the Commissioners to begin with existing maps. Virginians do not want this to happen. Thank you to those of you who put aside partisanship today with your vote. These messages are from the people of Virginia. Hear their voices. Do what's right for the people, not what's right for the Ds or the Rs, not what's right for partisan interests. What's fair for the people, not for politicians. You are concerned with “landing this plane” and maps getting approval from members of the General Assembly. You might land the plane, but if the politicians are in the pilot seats and the cabin door is locked, you may not have the approval of the voters sitting in the passenger cabin. We hope that you will keep this in mind: draw maps that the residents of this Commonwealth will approve. You should work for us. And The League is here to work alongside with you.

**DATE RECEIVED:** 9/8/2021 8:19:43 AM  
**FROM:** From: Mindy Ring <mindyvt13@yahoo.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**  
Hello,  
I am a resident of Chesterfield County, also a Democrat. I would like to say that I do not care where an incumbent currently lives and whether or not they are drawn out of their district. I do not believe the address of the incumbent should factor into drawing a non-partisan district map that will stand for at least 10 years.

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

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*October 18, 2021*

Thank you,  
Mindy Ring

**DATE RECEIVED:** 9/7/2021 12:15:13 PM  
**FROM:** From: Earl Rogers <earl.rogers1661@icloud.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**  
I hope the commission will seriously consider the offer of Moon Duchin of tufts university to assist in your job.  
The commission must take the partisan politics out of this process, as the voters of Virginia expressed their desire.  
Respectfully submitted;  
Earl M. Rogers, M.S., P.D.  
LTC USAR ret  
North chesterfield Virginia

**DATE RECEIVED:** 9/11/2021 8:55:11 AM  
**FROM:** From: Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**  
On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 8:20 AM Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com> wrote:  
Hello,  
I would like to submit 2 maps for your consideration for the Charlottesville Community of Interest. Each of these is within the 2% deviation that we are looking for.  
Thank you for the work of the Commission.  
Elly Tucker  
--  
--  
Elly Tucker  
Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor  
111 Reynard Dr.  
Charlottesville VA 22901  
phone: 434-293-3500  
fax: 434-979-1800  
[www.BeMovedDance.com](http://www.BeMovedDance.com)  
--  
--  
Elly Tucker  
Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor  
111 Reynard Dr.  
Charlottesville VA 22901  
phone: 434-293-3500  
fax: 434-979-1800  
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**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION**

*October 18, 2021*

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 10:39:10 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Amy Wharton <amyannwharton@yahoo.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Albemarle

**COMMENT:**

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,  
Thank you for voting to start the redistricting process from a blank map. I support a fair and equitable mathematical approach to redistricting. As you know, the Virginia Constitution requires voting districts to be "compact and contiguous." We haven't had real compliance with that mandate for as long as I can remember. I support the creation of districts that comply with both the letter and the spirit of that mandate. Virginians must join their voices together with those of their neighbors, not strangers 100 miles or more away from them.  
Thank you all so much for your service to the people of Virginia.  
Best regards,  
Amy Wharton  
Albemarle County

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, July 12, 2021 8:40:26 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Angela Lynn <angelalynn54@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Albemarle'

**COMMENT:**

Dear Redistricting Commission Members,  
I have served on several boards, a Conservation Easement Authority and Criminal Justice Reform Commission in Albemarle County.  
We have had four House of Delegate districts divide us up since 2011 with two Senate representatives that live nowhere near Albemarle county along with other distant counties that have no interest in what we need for our people and resources to be properly represented in Richmond.  
I believe the reason we are so poorly drawn is to dilute our voice and give power to that one party that holds three of the representatives in House of Delegates seats and incumbent protection to the Senate seats.  
This drowns out the voice of the majority of people in Albemarle County.  
I respectfully request you no longer allow this to continue.  
We have no voice at the ballot box in my 25th House district with a ridiculous amount of people in Rockingham and Augusta County stepping over us with electing a representative from their areas who never needed to step foot in our county when he ran for office in 2019 much less worry about what this county needs .  
It should hold only two seats with local, familiar representatives and a more compact district rather than one that goes clear to the West Virginia border in order to control votes.  
Please do not allow Albemarle County to have the effects of gerrymandering so obviously dealt with four stretched out HoD districts and Senators from far away rather than compact districts that truly represent the people that it serves.  
Respectfully  
Angela Lynn  
Albemarle County  
--  
Albemarle County Criminal Justice Citizens Advisory Commission

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

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*October 18, 2021*

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:52:30 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Mary-Margaret <mmargcash@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Bon Air

**COMMENT:**

...to make this a non-partisan effort, based on math and communities of interest. An elected legislator's personal interest (i.e. preserving his/her district) should not be a factor in decision making. I am disappointed in the partisan wrangling over who should draw proposed maps. That very disagreement shows the ugly truth that some legislators have their own best interests in mind, rather than that of citizens.  
Mary-Margaret Cash  
Bon Air, Va.

**FROM:** Betty Tabony <btabony@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Hello,  
I am a retired teacher from the Nelson County Public Schools now living in Charlottesville. I also want to thank you for the invitation to the public to give testimony and respectfully request that one of the Redistricting Commission's public hearings be scheduled in Charlottesville.  
Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Tabony  
920 Henry Ave.  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
btabony@gmail.com  
434-942-2862  
On Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 12:34 PM Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com> wrote:  
Hello,  
I would like to thank you for the opportunity to give testimony. There are several of us in Charlottesville that would like to request that some of the hearings for the Redistricting Committee to be held in Charlottesville when you hold them in the Central Region. Before we got the data, there were many meetings held around the state, but none in Charlottesville when it was the Central region's turn. Please have Charlottesville be one of your sites. If you need help to secure a location, let me know and I will attempt to help find a location.  
Thank you,  
Elly Tucker  
--  
--  
Elly Tucker  
Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor  
111 Reynard Dr.  
Charlottesville VA 22901  
phone: 434-293-3500  
fax: 434-979-1800  
www.BeMovedDance.com

**FROM:** George Loper <gloper@gmail.com>

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION**

*October 18, 2021*

**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

I am writing to strongly encourage this commission to base redistricting on existing planning districts. I am likewise opposed to basing redistricting on existing seats. Our state has been gerrymandered enough! Within my own area, state districts range from over the mountains and then eastward toward Richmond (4th), as well as from nearly the top of the state to the bottom (5th). Please do your job and redistrict in a manner that represents communities of citizens instead of politically divided interests of existing domains.  
George Loper  
Charlottesville

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:03:39 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** KATHERINE HOFFMAN <kobbyhoffman@aol.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission members, Thank you for your recent vote to start from blank maps and for your transparency and public input consideration. To implement your mission and for the public good, looking forward to the commission's hiring of a non-partisan consultant to from the ground up to mathematically apply your criteria to create Virginia's Redistricting maps. Thank you.  
Regards,  
Katherine Hoffman  
112 Middlesex Drive  
Charlottesville VA 22901-2608  
434-295-2566

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 9:14:05 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** frances lee-vandell <fleevandell@yahoo.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

To the commissioners of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,  
You have an incredible chance to redraw the lines for voting districts using the best in technology. Our eyes are on you, while we applaud your decision to remake the lines. Virginia has Planning Districts that are compact, contiguous and historically join together for their grouped governmental grants and oversight. These boundaries also could be referred to as already shared and acceptable lines drawn for counties.  
Respectfully,  
Frances Lee-Vandell  
2860 Pea Ridge Road  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

**PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION**

*October 18, 2021*

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 9:37:02 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** cindy cartwright <cindycartwright@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,  
Thank you for voting today to start redrawing our voting districts from scratch. I trust you will continue, as a commission, to remain transparent and listen to public input.  
Please choose to hire a non-partisan, experienced consultant to apply a mathematical algorithm in the drawing of Virginia’s new voting districts. Math is a non-partisan subject that can insure each district is developed without bias.  
Thank you for the work you are doing to allow voters to choose their representation.  
Cindy Cartwright  
1404 East Market Street  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
VA Delegate District 57  
VA Senate District 25  
US Federal District 5  
Sent from my iPhone

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 6:20:07 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Thank you for the vote taken today to honor the wishes of the voters who voted for Question 1, praying that it would end the political gerrymandering that has characterized previous redistricting. Until today, I thought we had been deceived. The vote to start with a blank slate and work with the census data within the parameters of the law without consideration for how incumbent politicians would be effected restored credibility to the Commission.  
There are politicians on the commission who treat politics as a blood sport. Please don’t let them distract you. Stay on the trajectory you approved today, and make Virginians proud.  
Bob Wilson  
Robert D. Wilson  
949 Glenwood Station Ln #106  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
rdwilson837@gmail.com  
(434) 724-9068

**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 1:57:27 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Daniel Grogan <groganvision@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

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important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. Please do not start fr current Va districts which are atrocious. Rather start w a clean slate to keep communities of interest paramount. Compactness is even more important for the resulting congressional maps. I'm sure your task is much more challenging than most realize and will likely be a memorable but thankless job. It is so very vital to a vibrant democracy. I live several blocks fr the Cville city limits in Albemarle Co. We now have 4 delegates for the greater Cville area which is not good for cohesion and policy making. In the 80s, 90s and 00s we had only one delegate. Perhaps two is the best solution but not a district going to the WVa line as is now the case! For 6 years I've worked to realize this amendment and your commission so please make Va. fair and proud to have maps conducive to good government and competitive districts. Since gerrymandering started in Va ( 1788 Gov Patrick Henry drew maps purposely pitting Monroe vs Madison) we should be in the lead to tame this BEAST. Sincerely, Daniel Grogan 1612 Inglewood Dr Charlottesville, VA 22901-2649 groganvision@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, August 14, 2021 12:05:59 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** William Lankford <blankford2@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**  
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? The local community should NOT be the basis for political boundaries. They should be designed to give as many people as possible a chance to cast a meaningful vote. More difficult but worth while. Sincerely, Dr. William Lankford 1400 E Market St Charlottesville, VA 22902-5449 blankford2@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:11:38 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Donald and Akice Gross <aliceanddon@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**  
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? The fifth congressional district as now configured is a prime example of gerrymandering. It is by no means compact and definitely needs to be redrawn to include Charlottesville and as much as surrounding Albemarle County as possible.

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Sincerely,  
Alice and Donald Gross  
2600 Barracks Rd., Apt 220  
Charlottesville (Albemarle Coungy0  
Sincerely,  
Donald and Akice Gross  
2600 Barracks Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901-2121 aliceanddon@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 6, 2021 12:17:29 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

The Republican controlled Virginia General Assembly only allowed the Amendment creating the Independent Redistricting Commission to pass because they feared that the Democrats would win control in the upcoming election. If they retained control they could simply refuse to pass the Amendment the second time thereby killing it. The Democrats did win control, the Amendment passed, and the voters ratified it.

Many Democrat legislators opposed approving the Amendment the second time because of a couple of poison pills the Republicans placed in the Amendment at the last moment designed to make the Commission less Independent. The first and most serious was including current legislators on the Commission. The second was to permit two of the legislator members kill a redistricting plan that might make their districts or incumbent districts more competitive.

The Commission should recognize that the legislators on the Commission represent districts that the Republicans gerrymandered in 2011. By factoring in the current legislative districts, the Commission automatically destroys their credibility by starting with a map designed to provide Republican control of the Virginia General Assembly and the Congressional Delegation through 2021. They were remarkably effective, and only lost their majority when some of the districts had to be redrawn due to court decisions. Of course, there hasn't been a Republican elected to a statewide office since 2009. They couldn't gerrymander statewide offices.

The "Communities of Interest" in the districts drawn in 2009 were specifically drawn to support Republican interests. If legislative districts are drawn considering the address of any current member of the General Assembly, the Independent Commission's credibility will be compromised, and the voters who voted to end gerrymandering will have been deceived.

Robert D. Wilson  
949 Glenwood Station Ln #106  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
rdwilson837@gmail.com  
(434) 724-9068

**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 9:48:49 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Kay Ferguson <kay@kayzap.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

I am gerrymandered away from having a voice and a strong vote in my VA District 25 and my Congressional District 5.

My community of Charlottesville/Albemarle County has been carved up like a pig for the express purpose of canceling

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my progressive values.

I live just west of Charlottesville and my state District 25 is drawn to reach in for just a sliver of my community, divorce

it from the cultural center of Charlottesville and dilute it with far flung rural areas that are more traditionally conservative and whose needs concerns and challenges are utterly different from my own.

District 5 is drawn like a zipper to cancel my values and those of most of my community by including rural areas to the

north and south that are historically more conservative. There is nothing contiguous about either of these district maps.

The current maps make it almost impossible to conduct a viable campaign for a challenging candidate whose positions

reflect my own.

I hope you will lead well on the new maps that must be drawn so that I and other Virginians can choose elected officials

who represent, understand and serve us.

Kay Ferguson

Charlottesville, VA 22901

--

Kay Leigh Ferguson

Water Quilt Project

ARTivism Virginia

Water is life. Protect it.

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:11:14 AM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Loper, Ann B (abl2x) <abl2x@virginia.edu>

**REGION:** Central

**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

I am a citizen living in Charlottesville, and would like urge the commission to focus redistricting plans based on existing state planning districts. These district planning commissions have operated successfully for many years. By so doing, the new districts will have a focus on the particular economic, geographic, and cultural conditions of the contiguous area.

I am opposed to using existing legislative seats as a basis or starting point. This idea seems rather proposterous to me. The unwieldy size of congressional districts in our state means that in past election cycles my own elected officials have lived several hundred miles apart at different ends of the state! Using this year's seats as a marker for representation that will affect districts for possibly decades to come is ridiculous. This plan also seems antithetical to the goals of finding cohesive geographical areas.

I appreciate your considering these points in your important work.

Ann Loper

Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 7:36:47 AM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Katherine e. Slaughter <katherineslaughter61@everyactioncustom.com>

**REGION:** Central

**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most

## VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. Please do not use existing districts to draw your new map thus perpetuating the existing political division that split cities and counties, cross mountains and rivers to create political districts that satisfy the political status quo but violate the provision requiring communities of interest. Especially I ask citizen members to stand up to the legislative members on this and I hope at least some legislative members will vote NOT to protect party interests but to do the right thing. My suggestion is to use planning districts as the basis for redistricting and to work at drawing lines that might join some PDs or portions of PDs.

Sincerely,

Ms Katherine e. Slaughter

1503 Short 18Th St Charlottesville, VA 22902-5477 katherineslaughter61@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 3:56:51 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Susan McKinnon <susanmmckinnon@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

#### COMMENT:

To: Redistricting Commission

From: Susan McKinnon, Charlottesville Resident

Re: Redistricting Priorities

I have made my home in Charlottesville since 1984. During the 37 years I have lived in Charlottesville, my voting district has been outrageously gerrymandered, resulting in a subversion of the democratic process and of fair and equitable representation, and making it exceedingly difficult to meaningfully address pressing regional issues relating to economic development, jobs, housing, infrastructure, transportation, the environment, climate change, and healthcare.

I am excited that we now have a chance to redraw the district lines in a way that is NON-PARTISAN and that will thereby revitalize the democratic process, rather than secure the lopsided victory of the most extreme partisan candidates. I believe this gerrymandering has led to disastrous results not only in Virginia but across the country.

In order to achieve a non-partisan redistricting, I urge you to not to use political considerations in designing district boundaries. Instead, please prioritize the following criteria:

—districts should be compact and contiguous

—districts should be based on communities of interest—and the best way to achieve this is to adopt Planning Districts as a prototype for legislative and congressional districts. The 23 Planning Districts created by Virginia statute provide an excellent, non-partisan means for creating compact, contiguous communities of interest.

—districts should prioritize racial equity to counter the long history of disenfranchisement of racialized minorities in the state of Virginia

--redistricting should exclude political addresses and political considerations.

Thank you very much for your work to produce an equitable and vibrant democratic process in the state of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Susan McKinnon

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:45:22 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville



## VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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#### COMMENT:

The suggestion that the Independent (?) Redistricting Commission use the existing map as their base for redrawing the voting districts in the Virginia will taint your new map with the stench of corruption.

The Republican controlled Virginia General Assembly allowed the Constitutional Amendment creating the Independent Redistricting Commission to pass initially because they feared that the Democrats would win control in the upcoming election. If they retained control they could simply refuse to pass the Amendment the second time thereby killing it. The Democrats did win control, the General Assembly did pass the Amendment again, and the voters ratified it.

Many Democrat legislators opposed approving the Amendment the second time it had to pass before ratification because of last minute Republican poison pills inserted in the Amendment designed to make the Commission less Independent. The first and most serious pill was including current legislators on the Commission. The second was to permit two of the legislator members to kill a redistricting plan that might make their districts, or incumbent districts, more competitive.

The Commissioners should recognize that the legislators on the Commission represent districts that the Republicans gerrymandered in 2011. By using the current legislative districts as a base, the Commission automatically destroys their credibility by starting with a map designed to provide Republican control of the Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia Congressional Delegation through 2021. They were remarkably effective, and only lost their majority when some of the districts had to be redrawn due to court decisions. Of course, there hasn't been a Republican elected to a statewide office since 2009. They couldn't gerrymander statewide offices.

The "Communities of Interest" in the districts drawn in 2011 were specifically drawn to support the interests of Republicans (or their financial backers). If the legislative districts are drawn in 2021-2022 considering the address of any current member of the General Assembly, the Independent Redistricting Commission's credibility will be compromised, and the voters who voted to end gerrymandering will have been deceived.

The politicians campaigning for office now are campaigning in districts gerrymandered in 2011. In the computerized world we live in there is no reason to begin your work with a gerrymandered map. The whole concept of an Independent Redistricting Commission that the voters approve to end gerrymandering will either be confirmed or disproved by this Commission. Don't betray Virginia's voters by capitulating to the legislative members of the Commission.

Robert D. Wilson

949 Glenwood Station Ln #106

Charlottesville, VA 22901

rdwilson837@gmail.com

(434) 724-9068

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:37:51 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** F. Michael Ashby <fmashby@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

#### COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. I have been voting in the Woodbrook voting district for 30 years. I am an Independent and have

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voted for candidates from both of the major parties. Over that time, the General Assembly seats have often run unopposed, as has the 5th Congressional District. Initially, our district ran east to west for the Congressional Representative. Later it was changed to its present day north to south. As our district has recently voted more often for the Democratic candidate, we were changed such that our Republican representative in the General Assembly was redistricted out of our district (saying that the district was built for him, not the voters) such that he has run unopposed for years and we were placed in the Democratic representatives district, who also runs unopposed. Similarly, as our Congressional district voted for more Democratic candidates, the 5th district was changed such that the Democratic voters were diluted and overwhelmed by Republican voters in communities with little in common with ours. With the exception of Tom Perriello for 2 years, the 5th District has had a Republican Representative most of my voting life. Our present representative was chosen by a caucus, not a primary. Because of the way the District is drawn, the Republican caucus picked our representative, not the voters. I feel that this Representative in no way represents our Community's beliefs and I believe that our Community should have a representative, who does. I think that the voters, not a party caucus, should choose our representative.

Sincerely,

Dr. F. Michael Ashby

327 Dover Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901-1013 fmashby@comcast.net

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, July 19, 2021 2:23:00 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** M. Rick Turner <mrickt@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community.

What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community

The need for more racial diversity on the downtown mall and on W, Main St In Charlottesville  
Particularly, African American

Sincerely,

Dt M. Rick Turner

1663 Brandywine Dr Charlottesville, VA 22901-2801 mrickt@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, July 9, 2021 2:28:01 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Donald Gross <aliceanddon@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Redistricting Committee,

Please redo part of the highly gerrymandered 5th district to a compact, contiguous district including Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald and Alice Gross

2600 Barracks Rd, Apt 220

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Charlottesville, VA 22901

**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, July 17, 2021 11:53:08 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Fred Diehl <fad@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. My larger community is Charlottesville and my smaller is the neighborhood where I live. Most of us are enthusiastically in favor of redistricting in a fair manner but are frustrated at the well-funded efforts to block change. We feel our 5th VA district is a good example of how redistricting a progressive part of the state into a very conservative southern side blocks us from having equal representation. We support all efforts at FAIR redistricting and doing away with the current practices which tend to disenfranchise those of us in my area. Fred Diehl  
Sincerely,  
Dr. Fred Diehl  
104 Key West Dr Charlottesville, VA 22911-8427 fad@virginia.edu

**FROM:** VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 9:04 AM Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@gmail.com> wrote:  
Good morning. My name is Ken Chasin and I live in Charlottesville. I am a retired Information Technology professional and my areas of expertise are business intelligence solutions and data analysis. I would like to propose a strategy for redrawing Virginia's congressional district maps based on a hub-and-spoke architecture where the hubs are Virginia's 25 most-populated counties and the spokes are adjacent smaller populated counties. This map-drawing strategy is modeled after how the Virginia Association of Counties -Regions ("VACo") is organized which currently has thirteen designated state regions and a subset (80+) of all existing Virginia counties. Virginia's 25 most populated counties represent significant communities of interest and place and account for two-thirds of Virginia's total population. These counties can be used as the hubs for any new congressional districts because that is where:  
· Most people live in Virginia  
· Highest concentration of schools exists  
· Highest concentration of jobs and industries exist  
· Most major shopping centers are located  
· Where many major religious centers are located  
· And further they provide a wide-array of government products and services to their residents and neighboring smaller counties (e.g.; Police, Courts, Utilities, Election Polling Locations & Libraries).  
Each district hub will have attached to it adjacent smaller populated counties going out in wider arcs until a congressional district population of one-eleventh of the total state- population is achieved. Candidate adjacent counties must satisfy the following criteria:  
· Directly border on the congressional district hub and/or each other to be in compliance with the "contiguous" rule.

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- Should have similar demographics as regards:

- a) Race/Ethnicity
- b) Industries and Occupations
- c) Urban / Rural breakdown
- d) Education (Enrollment/Level of Educational Achievement)

--

Ken Chasin

Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:32:27 AM GMT-05:00  
**FROM:** katherine slaughter <katherineslaughter61@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commission:

I don't know where you are in the process of district re-drawing for districts of Virginia General Assembly or US Congress. However, I hope you will consider the use of Planning Districts as a basis for common interests. In general, these districts have a history in Virginia of bringing regions together to work on common problems, and thus there is not only a geographic rationale but a working relationship as communities with common interests and a history of working on these interests. I have attached more detailed comments.

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District (TJPDC) of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Greene, Louisa, Fluvanna demonstrates the current status of how split a common interest area may be. There are 9 legislators representing this "area" (5 delegates and 4 senators). Parts of TJPDC in the Central Piedmont share legislators from districts across the Blue Ridge (Avoli, Hanger and Deeds) and as far south as the Lynchburg area (Peake, Farriss) and as far east as Richmond (Carter) and to the north east, Spotsylvania (Reeves). See <https://tjpd.org/your-state-legislators/>

I have participated in the League of Women Voters' excellent mapmaking training, but I find the scale of districts of common interest too small as compared to size of congressional or legislative districts.

Our area is but one example where communities of interest have been split into many different districts that do not represent common interests or even common geography. I hope your map drawing will seek to make sure that lines are drawn based on true interests, rather than political parties, and of course include the other criteria as well.

Sincerely,

Kay Slaughter

Charlottesville, VA

--

Kay Slaughter

To: Legislative Staff and Redistricting Commission

From: Katherine Slaughter, Citizen of Charlottesville and a former chair, Thomas Jefferson Planning District

Re: Use of Virginia Planning Districts for Redistricting.

March 4, 2021

While drawing political district drawing challenges, like assembling a jigsaw puzzle, I propose for a start that you utilize the boundaries of Planning Districts (PDs) as a basis for creating communities of interest, combining PDs and/or portions of PDs to fit the needed population base for General Assembly districts and Congressional Districts.

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<https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/pdcs> Within their PDs, these communities have worked with each other and generally share common interests and certainly a common geography. The criteria for redistricting includes contiguous land “preserving communities of interest; ... contiguous territory; ... compact territory; ... does not unduly favor or disfavor any political party.” Important also are the requirements not to dilute the voting power of minority communities. For example, the Virginia Piedmont is one such “community of interest.” Planning districts of contiguous counties and cities have historically provided forums for the individual cities and counties to work together on issues of common interest, including housing, transportation, water quality, air quality, and other planning issues. Because the Planning Districts are creations of the state government, using their structure as a template with which to work on redistricting, including potentially combining areas such as or adjacent portions as Congressional districts or state legislative districts, seems appropriate.

For example, Charlottesville and Albemarle County are part of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District 10, which also includes Counties of Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, and Greene. The Rappahannock-Rapidan District 9 encompasses Madison, Orange, Culpeper, Rappahannock, and Fauquier. From past census, I understand 768,588 is the ideal size for congressional districts. Clearly for Congressional districts, each PDC alone is too small – TJPDC, 235,000; Rappahannock-Rapidan District, 164,209. But combined, they are almost 400,000. Possibly the two could be combined with another PD to the west or south.

TJPD 10 serves a broad community through Charlottesville’s University of Virginia, Piedmont Virginia Community College, the UVA Medical Complex, and a regional library system. To the North, the Rappahannock Rapidan District is served by Germanna Community College and local hospitals but many residents depend on the UVA Medical Complex for acute and critical care. PD 9 serves Madison, Orange, Culpeper, Fauquier, and Rappahannock. PD 9 and 10 (excepting Nelson County) are served by the Culpeper Transportation District. The metropolitan planning districts – utilized for federal funding -- are also developed by looking at the planning districts. Clearly, the current state legislative districting is awry when districts cross major barriers, like the mountains, and thus serve different issues. For example, while Charlottesville and Staunton are both cities, Charlottesville and the Central Virginia Piedmont face issues different from those of Staunton and the Shenandoah Valley communities.

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District (TJPDC) of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Greene, Louisa, Fluvanna demonstrates the current status of how split a common interest area may be. There are 9 legislators representing this "area" (5 delegates and 4 senators). Parts of TJPDC in the Central Piedmont share legislators from districts across the Blue Ridge (Avoli, Hanger and Deeds) and as far south as the Lynchburg area (Peake, Farriss) and as far east as Richmond (Carter) and to the north east, Spotsylvania (Reeves). See <https://tjpd.org/your-state-legislators/> As to Congressional districts, all TJPD except for Louisa is in a district that stretches from portions of Fauquier to the north to Danville and the North Carolina border. Louisa County is in the 7th Congressional District.

Because Planning Districts meet regularly, the members of various governing bodies have worked together on common issues. Members of the elected bodies know each other through this work which often includes infrastructure issues like transportation, water supply and thus water quality issues, air quality, land use management and planning, and conservation issues. What physical or manmade barriers should exclude the joining of land masses together in Districts? Lands that are adjacent but separated by mountains or bodies of water should not be joined. The Eastern Shore of Virginia because of population may need to be joined to a mainland area. Otherwise, keeping areas in Northern Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, Piedmont, Southside, near- and far-southwest Virginia should be practicable.

Thus, I urge the Commission to consider using the Planning Districts as the building blocks for General Assembly or Congressional districts.

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**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, March 29, 2021 9:09:35 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

My name is Ken Chasin and I live in Charlottesville. I am a retired Information Technology professional and my areas of expertise include business intelligence solutions and data analysis. These skills are very adaptable to analyzing demographic data and discovering demographic trends and patterns. I have developed a redistricting strategy proposal for Virginia's congressional districts which I emailed to the Commission last week. This proposal lays out seven (7) criteria for drawing Virginia's new congressional district maps and are in agreement with the criteria set forth by the Virginia Redistricting Commission, US Supreme Court rulings concerning redistricting/gerrymandering and criteria used by other states for redistricting. The seven criteria very briefly are:

1. Incorporate the concept of communities of interest/communities of place
2. Ensure that the congressional districts' land areas be contiguous and be of equal population as much as possible
3. Allow for racial fairness
4. Don't give a partisan edge
5. Preserve existing geographic boundaries of city, town, and counties
6. Reflect U.S. census data as concerns the number of congressional districts allocated to Virginia and
7. The land area chosen for each new congressional district map should be reflective of key demographics.

Finally, I would like to make you aware that over the last three months, I have been collecting demographic data pertaining to Virginia's existing eleven congressional districts and its 25 most populated counties which I have organized into a set of Microsoft Excel dashboards and charts. I emailed samples of the Excel dashboards and charts to the Commission last week. Let me know if you like me to share more of the demographic data with the Commission.

--  
Ken Chasin  
Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887

**FROM:** Ned Michie <nedmichie@aol.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

I was very very disappointed to read that your commission is looking to hire separate map consultants. It would be a horrible outcome if you end up creating as many safe seats as you can for each party even though such a map would have "bipartisan" support. The "partisan" part being the whole problem!! I was also very very disappointed to read that you will consider the home address of the person who happens to hold office now. It is not that individual's office. He or she is just the current occupant. The process should not at all be aimed at protecting any individual politicians.

I was then very glad to hear you voted to support starting the mapping from scratch and I certainly hope you will support having one non partisan outfit doing a math audit. If we end up with a "bi-partisan" map of safer seats -- you all have ENTIRELY FAILED in your mission.

I do very much thank you for taking on this thankless task that will not please everyone no matter what -- just make sure it is the PEOPLE you are aiming to please and NOT the politicians who happen to be holding the seats.

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*October 18, 2021*

Ned

Edmund R. Michie

Attorney at Law

PO Box 11

Charlottesville, VA 22902-0011

Ph# (434) 296-1198

This electronic message transmission contains information from Edmund R. Michie, Esq. Attorney at law. The information may be confidential and/or privileged and is intended to be only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you have received this electronic transmission in error, please notify us by telephone (434)-296-1198 or by electronic mail at NedMichie@aol.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 9:26:17 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Judy marie Johnson <renaissancewomyn@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville 22902 Zip Code

**COMMENT:**  
and fair..non-partisan! thanks, judy marie johnson 22902

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:27:31 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>  
**NAME:** Sheila M McMillen  
**EMAIL:** smcmillenx@gmail.com  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville, Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, Greene  
**SUBJECT:** Keep areas compact

**COMMENT:**  
I live in Charlottesville. Currently this District is incredibly elongated, running through areas both rural and urban which have few issues in common. I urge the Commission to consider that Charlottesville and Albemarle County are part of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District 10, which also includes Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, and Greene. Keeping these groups together and keeping the District compact, passed on Planning District 10, would make much more sense than the current districting, which seems to have no other intent than to dilute and erase the concerns shared by the citizens in my area.

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 7:09:56 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Connie Porter <connieportertemp@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Charlotteville

**COMMENT:**  
I support the use of a nonpartisan mathematical audit as part of the redistricting committee's process for creating an optimum, explainable plan for new voting districts in Virginia.  
Constance Porter  
Resident

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Charlottesville, Virginia

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 7:25:21 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** John Surr <jvsurr@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville

**COMMENT:**

In proceeding with the redistricting, I hope that you'll hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any redistricting maps that are considered. That will help the public feel confident about the objectivity of your results.

John Surr  
jvsurr@gmail.com  
250 Pantops Mtn. Rd., Apt. 7504  
Charlottesville, VA 22911-8720  
phone (434) 972-2854

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 6:07:52 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Lois Sandy <ljsandy@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville, Albemarle

**COMMENT:**

I add my congratulations to the 12-4 voting tally that directed you to begin the nonpartisan process for setting up congressional voting districts in Virginia. I know the lead-up has been contentious, but your hard work demonstrates the hopes of most Virginians to have fairer elections for the next decade.

Now, I trust whatever is presented to the GA will demonstrate their strongest support. This is one Virginia citizen who sends her heartfelt gratitude for your accomplishment! Best wishes for the hard work ahead!

Lois Sandy  
Charlottesville/Albemarle County

**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, August 28, 2021 10:56:08 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** Zeke Crater  
**EMAIL:** varedistricting.hq@recursor.net  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Charlottesville, Albemarle, Orange, Louisa

**SUBJECT:** Keep me with my community

**COMMENT:**

I live just outside Charlottesville, which is my community. My current congressional district reaches from North Carolina to almost Maryland. Both are wonderful areas of Virginia, but both are outside my community of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Orange, and Louisa counties. My 25th state senate district and my 25th state house district both reach West Virginia. In my tiny church, my fellow parishioners are divided into four separate state house districts. My own 25th house district separates me from my Charlottesville community. Please redistrict Virginia so that I may share the same representative as my community.



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This comment has not been reviewed and is not available for viewing by the public (if public viewing settings have been enabled). You may click APPROVE on this email to approve it for public viewing.

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, July 16, 2021 5:05:08 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Herbert Loveless <herbert\_loveless@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Chester

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. I am a member of the Richmond Environmental Film Festival. We are concerned about maintaining the benefits of our environment and preventing the damage to the local area from climate change. While it is extremely unlikely that Virginia will suffer heat domes like that that occurred in the Pacific northwest or the upcoming one in the upper Rockies. Or massive forest fires that are taking place in California. Or the mega drought effecting Arizona, Nevada and Utah, Virginia will suffer from excess rain fall, flooding along the coast line in Virginia Beach and along inland river, and lower agricultural productivity. The people who are in this community of concern are in Chester like myself and my wife and in the Midlothian, west Henrico, Goochland and Culpepper Co. areas. While this might not meet the standard definition of community, we have many of the same concerns which I believe makes us a community.  
Sincerely,  
Dr. Herbert Loveless  
3817 Seasigh Ct Chester, VA 23831-7324 herbert\_loveless@yahoo.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 6:42:49 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Anne Geraty <moss8350@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Crozet

**COMMENT:**

The independent redistricting committee received overwhelming citizen support because of its purpose to take partisan politics out of the drawing of districts. Please move forward with a plan to hire a NON-PARTISAN consultant to evaluate the maps. This committee is no place for partisan politics!  
Thank you!  
Anne Geraty  
Crozet, VA 22932

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, July 9, 2021 12:33:19 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Teresa Spigle <tsvande@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Crozet

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most

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important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? Crozet is a booming community. I love the variety of restaurants here, the library, small shops and services available. SMALL is the keyword. I've lived in Crozet off and on since 1985 when I met my first husband. We watched large tracks of acreage change from beautiful rolling farmland to Old Trail, Highlands, Gray Rock etc.. on and on with the development. Now there is a walking mall proposed. This must be the end of the development or our SMALL town will no longer be SMALL and class sizes will be more overwhelming. My son attended Brownsville Elementary, Henley Middle and Western Albemarle and each location had children attending classes in trailers, walking outdoors to get to class, often, in less than ideal weather conditions. Please limit the growth in Crozet to keep it SMALL and manageable for the limited resources we have, including water, affordable housing and schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice concerns. Teresa Spigle, CCM, RN, MSN, BSBA

Sincerely,

Ms. Teresa Spigle

5911 McComb St Crozet, VA 22932-3023

tsvande@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:39:01 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Jennifer Moseley <jennifer.moseley2@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Glen Allen

**COMMENT:**

Thank you for volunteering your time and brains to the Virginia Redistricting Commission. All of us have worked so hard to pass redistricting reform in Virginia and your role is essential in drawing fair maps. The best way to ensure that districts are not gerrymandered for political and racial reasons is to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered by the redistricting commission.

Please vote yes to a nonpartisan mathematical audit.

Thank you,

Jennifer

--

Jennifer Moseley

10700 Purcell Road

Glen Allen, VA 23060

(804) 539-9856

**DATE RECEIVED:** Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:42:46 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>  
**NAME:** Tina Winkler  
**EMAIL:** twinkler11@me.com  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Goochland

**SUBJECT:** Redistricting keeping communities together

**COMMENT:**

I would like to advocate that Goochland County be kept together in the redistricting process. Currently, we are divided between the 56th and 65th HoD Districts, while all of

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Goochland is in the 22nd Senate District and in the 7th Congressional District. In addition, there are a couple of split precincts as well. The goal of redistricting should be keeping communities of interest together. Furthermore, all districts should be drawn to be competitive, not guaranteed to one party or another. All the voters in Goochland, especially and including minority voters who too often are rendered voiceless, should have a voice at the ballot box. I am disappointed I can't speak to the Commission in person, but I wanted to be sure that you heard my thoughts on the process. Thank you for your time in reading this message. Sincerely, Tina Winkler Goochland

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 9:10:11 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** Rebecca Phillips  
**EMAIL:** rebflips@hotmail.com  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Greene County  
  
**SUBJECT:** Redistricting

**COMMENT:**

As a Greene County citizen of the 5th District, I find the current district lines WAY out of bounds. And I'm sure the citizens of Danville would agree! Districts should be configured to be representative of the area in which we live. This benefits both the citizen and the elected representative. How can one person truly represent the interests of a gerrymandered district? Help restore democracy by fair voting districts and effective representation.

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 8:07:59 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** Bonnie Price Lofton  
**EMAIL:** bonnie.lofton@gmail.com  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Greene County, Franklin County, Rappahannock  
  
**SUBJECT:** Redistricting

**COMMENT:**

I live in Greene County. My mother lives in Rappahannock County. My son lives in Franklin County. We are many hours' drive apart. Yet we are all currently in the same voting district! This gerrymandering has to stop. It makes our democratic system look like some kind of mafia setup. Please draw the districts in a sensible contiguous manner that any reasonable voter can recognize to be fair. That means not purposely drawing lines to reduce the voting impact of certain liberal-collegiate cities or to maintain the voting power of majority black areas. It also means keeping districts within decent driving distance (like 90 minutes in any direction) to make it reasonably accessible for candidates who need to campaign or meet with constituents. Thank you!

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 13, 2021 10:48:50 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>  
**NAME:** Jeffrey Katz  
**EMAIL:** jakatz@live.com  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Hanover

**VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

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**SUBJECT:** Hanover

**COMMENT:**

It is my sincere belief that any redistricting proposals respect the rural nature of Hanover County.

**DATE RECEIVED:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:23:16 AM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Mary Horne <mary1852@me.com>

**REGION:** **Central**

**LOCALITY:** Henrico

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioners,

Please hire a non-political, neutral organization to apply mathematical analysis of proposed maps for redistricting.

I am very interested in the Commission accomplishing the drawing of competitive districts in a non-partisan fashion prior to the deadline. I do not think we've come this far to end up with the Virginia Supreme Court having to draw maps.

Please carry on and do good, impartial work for Virginia and it's democracy.

Thank you,

Mary Horne

Henrico, Virginia

mary1852@me.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:39:56 AM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Ann McMillan <annhmcmillan@gmail.com>

**REGION:** **Central**

**LOCALITY:** Henrico

**COMMENT:**

I'm one of the many who volunteered with OneVirginia 2021 over several years. I went to polling places and talked to voters about how both parties gerrymander - enabling those in power to choose their voters and not the other way around. Only one person out of hundreds ever told me they favored gerrymandering! When my party came into power and some wanted to go through the process all over again, I urged my legislators not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. And so I care a lot that good should come out of this. Please - adopt the fairest model of drawing district lines that is out there. Help Virginia model the democratic process for the rest of the nation. We are counting on you.

Ann McMillan

23238 Henrico voter

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 20, 2021 4:42:18 PM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Hoogakker, John <jhoogakker@wlu.edu>

**REGION:** **Central**

**LOCALITY:** Henrico

**COMMENT:**

I write to help dispel the notion recently promulgated that there is limited citizen interest in the work of your Commission. It is my observation, backed-up the the voter referendum that interest

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and expectations are high in improving delineation of electoral districts. Please don't confuse limited participation at early meetings, undoubtedly influenced by the pandemic with lower enthusiasm. Virginia is interested - and watching! John Hoogakker, Henrico, Virginia  
Sent from my iPad

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 4:00:51 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Bray, Catherine <BRA150@henrico.us>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Henrico

**COMMENT:**  
Hello,  
My name is Cate Bray, and I am a planner working on magisterial district reapportionment for Henrico County. Could you provide a date of release for the adjusted population data that will be developed after reallocation of prison populations?  
Thank you for any information you're able to provide as we plan our reapportionment process.  
Regards,  
Cate Bray  
County Planner II, Henrico County Planning Department  
4301 East Parham Road, Henrico, VA 23228  
Phone (804) 501-4645, Fax (804) 501-4379  
bra150@henrico.us

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:32:38 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Jeffrey Clark <jlbclark@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Henrico

**COMMENT:**  
I am a concerned citizen who voted for a new system to establish the political maps in Virginia. I am asking that you start from scratch in drawing new maps rather than make modifications to the existing maps.  
The current maps have all kinds of problems including that they were among the worst in the nation, needed to be modified through court order which put a band-aid on the problems of racial gerrymandering, and many current districts cut through communities of interest, Therefore, I am urging you to start over and create new maps rather than make changes to existing maps. To do otherwise will cause people to doubt the integrity of your final product.  
Thanks.  
Jeffrey Clark  
1501 Bronwyn Rd, Richmond, VA 23238  
--  
Jeffrey Clark  
1501 Bronwyn Rd.  
Apt. 203  
Henrico, VA 23238  
jlbclark@gmail.com

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**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 3:54:46 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Jackson, Barbara Alice (baj) <baj@virginia.edu>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Keswick

**COMMENT:**

Virginia Senator district 58

I live in Albemarle county and identify with the county and Charlottesville. My state senator (Mr. Reeves) is from Spotsylvania Co.

I don't think he has ever been to my little corner of Albemarle County. I would like by senator to be the same as the one that represents the rest of Albemarle and Charlottesville. Could the Senatorial districts be based on the Virginia Health Districts? The Blue Ridge Health District cover Albemarle, Geen, Louisa, Fluvanna and Nelson Counties. About 250,000 people.

My second issue is with the 5th congressional district for the US Congress. The rural areas seem to have the advantage. I would like to see less of southern Virginia in this district.

Thank you.

Barbara Jackson  
1017 Holly Ridge Rd  
Keswick, VA 22947  
baj@virginia.edu

**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 3:16:36 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Mark Hergott <m.hergott87@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Lakeside zip 23228

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Mark and I am a resident of Lakeside (zip: 23228). I am writing to provide written comment on VA redistricting. I believe it is very important that VA have multiple majority minority districts given the state's racial diversity. I also believe it is important that VA have competitive districts. I have drawn a proposal based on these priorities. Under this map, 5 districts would be competitive and 4 would be majority minority. Additionally, this map tries to follow municipal and county lines where possible while still maintaining roughly equal population. Here is the link to the map: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/5cd0b205-7c2d-404c-9bc4-8d6a654dfe8b>.

Sincerely,  
Mark

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 7:17:51 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Gmail <joanna.hickman11@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Louisa

**COMMENT:**

People deserve representation for their districts, not preservation of the status quo. Please vote for an unbiased mathematical analysis of redistricting.

Joanna Hickman  
Louisa VA

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**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, August 7, 2021 10:02:12 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Samuel Perry <sperry2@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Midlothian

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community?  
My community is the Midlothian/Robious Road area. I define the boundaries of my community as the area from Bon Air to Rt. 288 and the Midlothian/Rt. 60 area. The community should be kept together because of geography, availability of shopping, medical care, restaurants and transportation issues. I would like to see the Redistricting Commission consider also including some adjacent areas which reflect more racial and economic diversity.  
Sincerely,  
Dr. Samuel Perry  
3537 Kendal Crossing Ter Midlothian, VA 23113-3614 sperry2@richmond.edu

**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, July 17, 2021 6:54:34 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** W. Kathleen Swarthout <wkbs23117@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Mineral

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? Louisa County is a rural county where a lot of the people know each other. we have the "Mineral Farmers' Market" where vendors and customers meet not only to sell and buy homemade foods and crafts items but to converse and enjoy meeting and greeting all. There is no racial tension. The Louisa Arts Center has entertainment and classes. This summer, they had several day "camps" for children to explore various art forms. At the end of each camp, there was a graduation performance where the students exhibited what they had learned in camp. The local Rotary Club sponsored the camps with a grant, there were other grants, and there were two funds that provided scholarships so that all the children who wanted to attend could attend without concern for finances.  
We enjoy the slower tempo of rural living but want to have the internet speed and communications available in the "city". Our Fire and Emergency Services are quite good, but the County is large and the coverage is spread thin. It may take 30 minutes to get a response to a 911 call and transportation to the nearest hospital takes almost an hour. One area, around Lake Anna, has gotten together to fund a Fire and Rescue Squad site and would like to have an Urgent Care Facility, too. the Board of Supervisors is aware and is facilitating this endeavor. From what I have observed, most of the county is fiscally conservative and socially outgoing to help others in need, when the need is known. Local farmers and gardeners contribute produce to the Resource Center (Food Bank) to be distributed. Church groups regularly contribute gallons of fresh milk to the Resource Center.

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Although Louisa has many people whose financial status is below the poverty line, there is a helping hand available.

Louisa county should be treated as one entity when drawing voting districts. We have districts within the county and supervisors responsible for that district. People choose where they wish to live, for the most part, so they should be able to vote within their district and county, in a convenient place, or by requesting a mail-in ballot.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. Kathleen Swarthout

4849 Indian Creek Rd Mineral, VA 23117-3329 wkbs23117@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 10:32:58 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** Heywood Greenberg  
**EMAIL:** greenberg@lynchburg.edu  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Nelson County  
  
**SUBJECT:** Unify House of Delegate Districts Along County Boundaries

**COMMENT:**

Nelson County was split into two House of Delegate districts in 2010. This resulted in a dilution of the county's influence on our representatives to the point that we have rarely seen or received communications from our two Delegates. Reunifying the county into a single House district would give the citizens more influence on their delegate and cause him or her to pay more attention to the county's needs, regardless of which party the delegate is in.

**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** North Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**

Speaker Filler -Corn  
Delegate Adams  
Senator Chase  
Please see the below editorial in the Friday, August 20, 2021, Washington Post.  
You are my elected officials representing me in the Virginia Legislation.  
I need yall to encourage our Virginia Redistricting Commission to DO THEIR JOB!  
This is ridiculous and is petty and juvenile, and must stop.  
If our Redistricting Commission cannot get their act together and do the right thing for Virginia (and not their respective party);  
then PLEASE WORK TO REVERSE OR CANCEL THIS LAW  
and we will go back to the bad ole days of Gerrymandering!!  
Or reconstruct the Redistricting law to OMIT our legislators and appoint only non-partisan, non-legislator civilians. They can not do any worse!!  
I had such high hopes (as so many Virginians had) for this commission to develop rational , non partisan legislative districts , so it is particularly painful for me (and Virginia) to see it devolve into such a petty , partisan ploy.  
Feel free to share this with all 16 Redistricting commission members. Maybe such criticism will spur them to DO THE RIGHT THING AND SERVE VIRGINIA FIRST.  
Respectfully;  
Your constituent:  
Earl M. Rogers, M.S.,P.D



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Northern Chesterfield Virginia

**FROM:** Earl Rogers <earl.rogers@comcast.net>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** North Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission:  
The Virginia voters have spoken and formed the VRC, AND DEMAND A FAIR, EQUITABLE, NON PARTISAN Redistricting process of our legislative districts.  
PLEASE DO YOUR JOB.  
Respectfully;  
Earl M.Rogers , M.S.,P.D.  
LTC USAR ret  
North chesterfield Virginia

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 8:37:24 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Gayle <gturn52@yahoo.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** North Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commission Members,  
I am writing to advocate support and to request your commitment to ensuring transparency and fairness by securing the services of a non-partisan mathematical audit contractor for any/all proposed district maps as soon as possible.  
This non-partisan contractor should apply an algorithm based solely upon our State's criteria to all considered maps moving forward. Thank you.  
Respectfully,  
Gayle Turner  
Resident North Chesterfield, VA

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 6:07:07 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Lwaddill <lwaddill@aol.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** North Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**

A good decision today. Thanks.  
Lorraine Waddill  
North Chesterfield, 23236

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, July 8, 2021 3:23:48 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** brianna adams <b.adams15380@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** North Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most

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important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? I hate to say it but numbers say it all these days. Looking at the districts it's not very fair and I would go as far to say some even have the upper hand. Although race doesn't matter it simply needs to be more fair and more competitive even if that means redrawing the lines not to benefit any one party but to allow them to have an equal chance. Without redrawing the lines it's unfair to areas like where I live we are simply out numbered please help us by fixing the lines.

Sincerely,

Miss brianna adams

15380 Greenwood Church Rd Montpelier, VA 23192-2924 b.adams15380@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, July 9, 2021 1:09:14 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** EARL Rogers <earl.rogers1661@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** North Chesterfield

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? I live in Smoketree subdivision , near Monacan HS, in north chesterfield county. This community wants a FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRICT. One that we voters get to pick their delegate and senator, rather than a district that is unfairly drawn to favor one party over the other. DRAW A FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRICT.  
EARL ROGERS  
Sincerely,  
Dr. EARL Rogers  
11524 Stillbrook Rd North Chesterfield, VA 23236-2408 earl.rogers1661@yahoo.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:23:45 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Matthew Wilson <matthewcarterwilson@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** North Garden

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,  
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. My state-wide community of educated younger-adult Virginians, in the suburbs and even scattered out here in Albemarle farm country, values being challenged and held accountable for our limited worldviews. We don't live by our defensiveness and insecurities, nor do we sit around feeling sorry for ourselves and make-believing how "culturally marginalized" we are for doing nothing whatsoever to understand the outside world like today's republican voters. When the smart girls challenged me as a racist apologist, I had to put the work into getting over myself to understand and engage with the civilized world that understood things in a depth and context I did not. We don't shy away from confronting ourselves like republican voters, nor feel the need to construct elaborate psychological defense mechanisms where we pretend to be "real

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Americans."

We are not trapped in a state of perpetual rebellious adolescence like republican voters. And if fascism comes to America as it has been, we will defend our country from becoming another Hungary or Russia, as republican voters have shown us they want. My generation will never listen to another fake Christian, fake "hardworking," fake "patriot" word out of a republican mouth again.

My broader community of educated Virginians pay most of the taxes and contribute most of our state's expenses to cover those rural reactionary temper tantrums over juvenile cultural issues, and we find that absolutely unacceptable. We don't hide from the world and pretend everything is a big game, like republican voters. We put the traumatic and difficult work into becoming the more intelligent, more evolved, harder working, secular future--no matter how scared and defensive that makes republican voters trapped in a mythological past. We support gun control wholeheartedly, but also maintain my own guns and ammo in fear of the fascist conditions brought about by the same scowling-faced garbage people who claim to be "defending against tyranny." We will not let a raging reactionary republican minority of isolated, violent adult children destroy our once proud society. -a lifelong Virginian, JMU grad, proud American, former and never again republican voter

Sincerely,

Matthew Wilson

2742 Southern Hills Ct North Garden, VA 22959-1639 matthewcarterwilson@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 16, 2021 12:33:43 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** James Baylor Blackford Jr  
**EMAIL:** prairiegates@hotmail.com  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**SUBJECT:** Does the Commission Want to Be Seen as a Scheme to Protect Incumbents?

**COMMENT:**  
My name is James Baylor Blackford Jr. I reside in Richmond VA, where I voted yes on Amendment One. I ask that commissioners move to implement the so-called "Start from Scratch" guidelines for drawing new Virginia electoral maps. The citizens that I talk to place great importance on a commission that values independence & that does not move to solidify the re-election chances of incumbents. Using the present electoral maps as the starting point indicates to us that the commission has chosen the goal of protecting incumbents. I do not fault the lawmakers for seeking that outcome. If I was a lawmaker, I might well support that move. But I plead with commissioners to safeguard the larger interests of the Commonwealth when it implements a "Start From Scratch" model that more greatly empowers Virginia voters. Yours, James B Blackford Jr. 310 S Cherry St Richmond, VA 23220

**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 6:33:04 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** Richard Hagen  
**EMAIL:** rhagen12@verizon.net  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**SUBJECT:** Virginians care about redistricting

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**COMMENT:**

I would like to comment on meeting attendance. I was able to attend the public meeting in Norfolk and listened in on several others. I and many other concerned Virginians would like to attend all your meetings but often cannot. Many of your meetings are at times and locations where it is difficult to attend. For example your 8 am meeting in Richmond is difficult for someone in Virginia Beach to get there. Also, the ongoing Covid crisis is another road block to face to face meetings. If you add in work, children, medical conditions, etc. many of us cannot be physically present. We must depend on online comments and emails to present our opinions and views. I hope someone is reviewing the emails and tallying the opinions. I urge you to NOT see the lack of bodies at your meetings to mean that we are not interested and don't care. Remember the large percent of voters who passed the Amendment. Look at the number of emails and comments you receive. We are watching and hope you use our input to draw fair maps. Thank you for taking on this vital project.

**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 7:25:20 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** Gerald Swerling  
**EMAIL:** jerry.swerling@gmail.com  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**SUBJECT:** We are watching you politicize the process

**COMMENT:**

Contrary to what was said in a recent meeting, lots of people are watching your actions, and are appalled at the obvious attempts to politicize the process and ignore the will of the voters who approved it in the first place. Gerald Swerling Richmond

**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Greetings Commissioners:  
My name is James B Blackford Jr. I reside in Richmond VA, where I voted yes on Amendment One. I ask that commissioners move to implement the so-called "Start from Scratch" guidelines for drawing new Virginia electoral maps. The citizens that I talk to place great importance on a commission that values independence & that does not move to solidify the re-election chances of incumbents. Using the present electoral maps as the starting point indicates to us that the commission has chosen the goal of protecting incumbents. I do not fault the lawmakers for seeking that outcome. If I was a lawmaker, I might well support that move. But I plead with commissioners to safeguard the larger interests of the Commonwealth when it implements a "Start From Scratch" model that more greatly empowers Virginia voters.  
Yours,  
James B Blackford Jr.  
310 S Cherry St  
Richmond, VA 2322-

**DATE RECEIVED:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 3:13:37 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Pam O'Rourke <pam.orourke@indoff.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

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**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioners:

As members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission you will soon be making a decision about the map drawing process.

This should not be a partisan fight. If you feel you cannot cast unbiased votes, and are influenced by your political party, then I suggest you resign for the good of our Commonwealth.

I support hiring a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.

Thank you.

Pam O'Rourke

Marketing Consultant | Indoff

o: 804-330-3713

c: 804-338-6947

p: pam.orourke@indoff.com

8138 Grimsby Road

Richmond, VA 23235

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**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 8:34:17 PM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Susan Miller <susan.miller1417@gmail.com>

**REGION:** **Central**

**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

To Virginia Redistricting Commission; I am following the redistricting process with interest and great hopes for a non-partisan, transparent and fair result. Thank you for voting to start with a blank map. Now please choose a non-partisan consultant to apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria.

Susan A Miller MD

susan.miller1417@gmail.com

1417 Grove Ave Richmond, VA 23220

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:33:12 AM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** holt edmunds <holtedmunds@yahoo.com>

**REGION:** **Central**

**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

My understanding is your commission will draw lines regardless of existing districts. And this is a good thing.

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Please do a good, non-partisan job. So many voters are cynical about how laws and districts and patronage and revolving door government works. It will be a tribute to your decency and patriotism to redistrict in an equitable, non partisan way.

Holt Edmunds  
Richmond

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 23, 2021 8:48:08 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** egkirstein@aol.com  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

I commend the Virginia Redistricting Commission’s bipartisan vote to start mapmaking from a blank slate. As Board President Sharron Kitchen Miller said, “An overwhelming majority of Virginians voted for a redistricting process with

unprecedented levels of transparency and public input, and today’s vote embodied this mandate.”

Please continue to ensure the redistricting is done in a transparent way beginning with a mathematical, non-partisan audit.

Edward Kirstein  
7000 W Grace St  
Richmond, VA 23226

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 20, 2021 6:16:05 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Jacqueline Roberts <j2302r@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? I live in Eastern Henrico sandwiched between Laburnum Ave, Cedar Fork road, Creighton Road and Nine Mile Road. Pleased with the support of the school board ( Henrico), Real Estate value, programs for citizens, etc.

Jacqueline L. Roberts

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jacqueline Roberts

5103 Bending Branch Ct Richmond, VA 23223-3362 j2302r@verizon.net

**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:39:54 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Jerry Swerling <jerry.swerling@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Contrary to what was said in a recent meeting, lots of people are watching your actions, and are appalled at the obvious attempts to politicize the process and ignore the will of the voters who approved it in the first place.

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Gerald Swerling

Richmond

--

Jerry

Jerry Swerling

Professor Emeritus, University of Southern California

Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

310-430-8689

jerry.swerling@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 20, 2021 2:40:42 PM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Barbara Anderson <iowabja@gmail.com>

**REGION:** **Central**

**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

I was very pleased and hopeful when the Redistricting Commission Amendment was passed overwhelmingly in last year's election. Virginia voters sent a clear message that we wanted the decennial redistricting process taken out of the hands of a partisan state legislature and into the hands of a more evenly represented bipartisan group of legislators and citizens. By a 2-to-1 majority, Virginia voters said that they no longer wanted redistricting to be a partisan process. It is distressing and infuriating to observe that you are still functioning in a partisan fashion, rather than as an even-handed, collaborative group with a common goal of establishing congressional districts as objectively and fairly as possible.

Please try harder to demonstrate your commitment to working together as a group rather than competing factions working against each other. We will all benefit from knowing that such a thing is still possible in Virginia, and we will all benefit from the product of a collaborative rather than a competitive commission.

Sincerely,

Barbara Anderson

3109 Stony Point Road, Apt. C

Richmond, VA 23235

**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, August 21, 2021 12:48:45 AM GMT-04:00

**FROM:** Jeffrey Elhai <elhaij@vcu.edu>

**REGION:** **Central**

**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Hello VA Redistricting Commission members,

We can all feel Chair Greta Harris's despair near the end of last Tuesday's meeting (Aug 17). A split vote effectively sent back to counsel the task of finding a map-drawing entity. "We just made our lives a lot more complicated", she sighed. It looks like counsel will not be able to find a single map-drawing entity acceptable to the Commission. How will the Commission deal with two?

There is a way, inspired by our common experience.

Suppose you and I agree to share one doughnut. We both want as much of it as possible. What procedure can we adopt to ensure that the portions are equitable? "I'll cut the doughnut!" "No, I will!"

The solution is simple. One person cuts the doughnut, and the other person chooses which piece to eat. It doesn't matter who cuts and who chooses. Either way, the incentives are in place to get as close to 50:50 as possible.

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This insight has been adapted to redistricting, most recently by Palmer, Schmeer, and DePalma, 1921 (I've attached a copy of the paper). In brief, the authors simulate two opposing partisans redistricting various states (including Virginia). One side starts by creating a map that defines \*twice\* the number of districts (e.g. 80 Senate districts). Then the other side combines two adjacent districts to make one. Using this procedure -- called Define-Combine -- it makes little difference which side makes the initial map. The predicted electoral outcome is about the same. If you get two map-drawing entities from the two sets of counsels, then let them play Define-Combine (of course limited by the guidance provided by the Commission). The map or maps made by this process can serve as the starting point for the commission to move forward.

I propose this as a possible way out of the quagmire of two separate map drawers, but I'm not enamored with the idea. The model presumes that the only motivation is partisan advantage, clearly not the case in Virginia, where Democrats have worked with Republicans to preserve the status quo. Still, at this point, Define-Combine or something like it may be the least bad choice left.

If you're willing to bend, then I think you'd get better results, and better optics, from starter maps that are computer-generated based on well-defined priorities composed by the Commission (as has been suggested many times in previous e-mails).

Jeff Elhai

Palmer M, Schmeer B, DeLuca K (2021). Working paper. A Partisan Solution to Partisan Gerrymandering: The Define-Combine Procedure.

[[https://maxwellpalmer.com/research/Palmer\\_Schmeer\\_DeLuca\\_Define\\_Combine\\_Procedure.pdf](https://maxwellpalmer.com/research/Palmer_Schmeer_DeLuca_Define_Combine_Procedure.pdf)]

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Jeff Elhai

Richmond, VA 23229

E-mail: [ElhaiJ@VCU.Edu](mailto:ElhaiJ@VCU.Edu)

**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:59:02 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Jeffrey Elhai <[elhaij@vcu.edu](mailto:elhaij@vcu.edu)>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

#### COMMENT:

Virginia voted 66% in favor of the redistricting amendment, almost twice as many in favor as opposed. Many voted with the phrase ringing in their ears, "voters should choose their representatives rather than representatives choose their voters". The commission voted to defy this sentiment and subvert the spirit of the amendment by permitting the addresses of incumbents to be considered in the drawing of legislative boundaries.

The context was how to flesh out the requirement that a map, considered on a statewide basis, may not unduly favor or disfavor any political party. One commissioner presented a hypothetical outcome: ten Democrat incumbents put in the same district to compete with each other while Republican incumbents remained solitary. Would this scenario disfavor a party on a statewide basis? On the face of it, the outcome would disfavor individual incumbents. Perhaps packing incumbents of one party would lead to a statewide loss of seats. Maybe, maybe not. Political data and projected electoral outcomes would seem to be a more direct measure of party rather than individual disfavoring. But regardless, the argument rests on the assumption that the status quo occupies a privileged position, one that is to be the standard for determining favored' and 'disfavored'. Needless to say, if the electorate supported the status quo, they would not have voted overwhelmingly to replace the redistricting process that brought it into being.

Some commissioners argued that the tight schedule makes it impractical to draw a map without incumbent addresses only to revise the map later when this information is available. True, but as Commissioner Simon pointed out, there is no loss of time if addresses are not used at all.

Some worried that a map with incumbent clashes will not pass the General Assembly. The amendment



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indeed gives the General Assembly veto power over the map. But only you can give it the additional power to determine where the lines are drawn. You do this by abdicating your mandate and drawing lines on their behalf. Commissioner Abrenio said it well: the job of the Commission is to draw a map as apolitically as possible. If members of the General Assembly choose to thwart the work of the Commission, then let them face electoral consequences.

Nothing says 'representatives choosing their voters' so vividly as a process that protects incumbency. You can best serve Virginia by listening to the millions of citizens who voted this Commission into existence and barring the use of incumbent addresses.

Jeff Elhai

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Jeff Elhai

Richmond, VA 23229

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BioBIKE: <http://biobike.csbc.vcu.edu>

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 13, 2021 3:01:44 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Jonathan Greenberg <MostalAlchemist@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** Central  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

#### COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community?

My community is a suburban working and retired community. There are families who need to stay safe even while there are many visitors to the Wetlands, Pony Pasture and other aspects of the James River Park System in this area.

Common links between me and my neighbors are environmental stewardship, continued access to our local businesses in nearby shopping centers, recycling efforts, water reclamation efforts and most importantly, improving education in our public schools to make up for the interruption in learning caused by covid.

That means, living in the vicinity of both the Granite Hills and the Stratford Hills shopping centers plus Huguenot HS along the fall of the James River is our microcosm within the greater Richmond area. We have put up with a lot of flat tires from pot holes and road construction, destruction of precious trees that used to live here. That is why the main street was named Forest Hill Ave. However, it could be renamed "Tree Murder Alley" after what I've seen take place over the past 10 years.

I see a large community with shared political interests comprised of residents who live along the river and going west from the end of Manchester, past Forest Hill Park through Bon Air, Stoney Point plus Powhatan and south past Midlothian Turnpike (Rte 60).

Matters regarding the fall of the James River and resources in this area, affect residents equally. Common highway exits from the Chippenham and the Powwhite keep us coming and going together. We have retail centers plus farms and other agricultural resource production enterprises that sustain us. We've been working together for so long, it would be a shame to break up our societal success story. I think that as development continues westward through Moseley and Powhatan, we will continue to share the same interests and requirements as we do now.

Downtown/Urban living and business to the northeast is a different community. Rural areas that

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are west of Cumberland are also a different community, so I see the residents from Manchester to Powhatan and south to Hull Street Road (360) as being mostly suburban and sharing the same resources. Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jonathan Greenberg

2956 Hathaway Rd Richmond, VA 23225-1724 MostalAlchemist@aol.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 13, 2021 8:56:03 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Ali Faruk <farukam@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. I'm tired of elected officials drawing themselves into safe seats so they can insulate themselves from challenges. often I have worked hard to engage communities and involve them in the political process only to see them cut out of districts and marginalized even further.

Sincerely,

Mr Ali Faruk

2811 Griffin Ave Richmond, VA 23222-3628 farukam@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 7:55:03 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Carol Parke <cparkerva@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Commissioners:

My name is Carol Parke, and I am following Virginia's redistricting process with great interest. With this email I wish to state my hope for an honest and fair redistricting process. The stakes are immense.

I am a former academic library administrator living in Westover Hills, Richmond since 2004 and newly retired from the Syracuse University Library. Mid-career, I spent eight years at the VCU Library, and earlier I was in charge of Government Publications at the Yale University Library. There I had the privilege of working with faculty, students and ordinary townspeople who needed to find information the government produces and distributes, and to help them understand its content and context. I often needed to clarify the differing roles of the three branches of government, whose actions and publications truly document our priorities and our progress (or not) as a nation. Year after year, the Congress, and Congressional documents, were among our most heavily requested sources of needed information.

The fair assignment of Congressional districts according to law is one of the most important components of good government, and, it seems, one of the easiest to be compromised. We've seen that again and again. Fair and transparent redistricting that permits us to govern according to the needs and wants of all Americans – not just the powerful, not just insiders – is more crucial than ever this year. In the wake of January 6th at the Capitol, we must not lose this rare opportunity we have been given!

It is not so common to see congressional districts fairly-drawn – but a critical mass of citizens here in Virginia seems to have awakened to the reality that the evils of Jim Crow are still with us, and gerrymandering is still rampant. (Covid-like, powerful, swiftly adapting, those evils have had no trouble clothing themselves in newer realities. They have always had their followers, and still do.) Too many of us have not understood how pervasive and tenacious the old, discredited ways of operating can be, and in this, I believe we've been naïve. All eligible

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voters need to have the same opportunity to vote, and their Congressional districts drawn to make all of their votes count.

Fair and legal redistricting is a foundational component of good government, a first step on which nearly everything else will build. It can rectify old evils, give those who have been silenced a voice, advance the dreams of so many, make a better Virginia for all Virginians, and model for the less enlightened how good governance can work for the good of all. In Virginia we've made a start, but we must not flinch. Done well, redistricting will move us toward a more equal state and nation. Without it? Just look around you. Without it, I am truly afraid.

Respectfully,  
Carol Parke  
cparkerva@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:34:10 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Melissa Ferrell <mwferrell3@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioners:

I have volunteered with OneVirginia2021, which has collected troves of information and much wisdom in its years working on fair districting in our fair state.

I realize your tight schedule, but encourage you strongly to go beyond starting with current districts, and seek a compromise to move the process with a fresh approach. Please consider alternatives.

Many thanks for your willingness to take on this vital project and your work that lies ahead.

Very truly yours,

Melissa

Melissa Wimbish Ferrell

511 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd, Apt.7

Richmond, VA 23220

"We must use our time and our space on this little planet that we call Earth to make a lasting contribution, to leave it a little better than we found it, and now that need is greater than ever before."

John Lewis, 2020

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 5, 2021 2:31:53 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>  
**NAME:** Joyce Hillstrom  
**EMAIL:** joycehillstrom@gmail.com  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Richmond, Charlottesville

**SUBJECT:** Keep districts compact.

**COMMENT:**

Please redraw the districts so that they are able to send representatives to Richmond and to Washington who represent many or even most of the citizens within them. I live in Charlottesville where our Congressional district stretches from northern Virginia to the North Carolina line. How can any one person fairly represent such a long area? Most of us feel not only not represented but humiliated.

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**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:03:43 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Marcia McDuffie <secondwind@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Roseland

**COMMENT:**

To the board: I thank you for deciding to begin anew from the census data in drawing voting districts. The current districts have skewed local and regional state elections to a remarkable degree, not only by diluting the votes of targeted groups but also in encouraging the emergence of more radical candidates in many districts such as mine (Congressional 5th district). I appreciate your dedication to service in Virginia and will follow your deliberations with intense interest.  
Marcia McDuffie  
1936 Emblys Gap Rd.  
Roseland, VA 22967

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 16, 2021 12:22:34 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Mark Heinicke <markjheinicke@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Ruckersville

**COMMENT:**

Dear members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:  
Thank you for the hard work you have already done, and best wishes for performing the even harder task ahead of you.  
I beg you to create new legislative district boundaries by starting from the ground up. To use existing boundaries as the basis for drawing new ones is a bit like using Rube Goldberg contraptions as a basis for designing a new car. The process ought to be guided by fairness, logic, and facts, and not by tinkering with maps that were shaped by old biases and political power struggles.  
Thank you for your consideration of my views, and good luck!  
Sincerely,  
Mark Heinicke  
Ruckersville, Virginia

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:48:38 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Pete Costigan <ph.costigan@hotmail.com>  
**NAME:**  
**EMAIL:**  
**REGION:** **Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Ruckersville

**SUBJECT:**

**COMMENT:**

Dear Commissioners:  
The possibility of using existing district maps as a starting point for drawing new maps was introduced at your August 3rd meeting. My understanding is that the Commission will vote on that possibility at its August 16th

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meeting.

Given the daunting and time constrained map-drawing task you face, I fully understand the temptation to use existing maps as a starting point. However, I urge you to resist that temptation in favor of another option.

In the four most recent elections, I advocated at the polls for the passage of an amendment creating the Commission on which you now serve. Having spoken several hundred voters in both progressive and more conservative districts who have long supported redistricting reform, I was gratified but not surprised when in Nov. 2020, 67% of Virginians voted for the amendment.

Attached is one of the handouts I distributed during those conversations with voters. It shows the boundaries of two blatantly gerrymandered districts: one drawn by Democrats for a senator's seat and other drawn by Republicans for a house delegate's seat. While neither of these gerrymanders were anomalies, both gave voters more than sufficient proof to conclude that Virginia must scrape entirely all past map drawing methods in favor of one that produces more competitive and representative. Responsibility for implementing that new method is now in your hands.

An alternative to starting with existing maps is starting with computer generated maps using an algorithm based on the legally mandated criteria that each district must meet. I believe the Commission is aware of the work of Moon Duchin of the Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts. She has the expertise and experience to quickly and easily create such maps that then could be used as starting maps.

After having "zoomed in" on ten of the Commission's meetings, a few Sub-commission meetings, the Richmond-based public hearing and having read much of the content posted to the redistricting website maintained by DLS, I have developed high respect and appreciation for your efforts. I suspect that the 45 days allotted to produce the maps could be stressful for you all. However, I can't see how starting with existing maps when alternatives are available will reduce that stress. I do see how it might disappoint the many Virginia voters who have pushed for redistricting reform for so long. Thanks for all you do.

Pete Costigan,  
Ruckersville, Va.