

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – HAMPTON ROADS REGION
October 18, 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 64

DATE: 10/18/2021 10:33:35 AM

Name: Carolyn Caywood
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: cacaywood@cox.net
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

There is a simple answer to the question of neither unduly favoring or disfavoring a political party. As we have been repeatedly reminded, the Commission is bi-partisan. And in order to pass a map, it must have bi-partisan support. Therefore, any map that passes must, by definition, neither unduly favor or disfavor a political party. Thus I urge you to quit discussing this and work toward a map that satisfies your other criteria. If you can draw that map, and get bi-partisan support for it, you will have satisfied the unduly favor or disfavor criterion.

DATE: 10/18/2021 9:44:03 AM

Name: Mike Joseph
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Retired
Email: mjoseph@tni.net
Locality: James City County
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: Maps 358 and 359
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: James City County
Community of interest description: James City County

COMMENTS:

Reference Map No. 358 - A4 Statewide CD By all means this map properly recognizes the Community of Interest boundaries for James City County. This map includes Ford's Colony and Kingsmill in the 1st Congressional District. Ford's Colony and Kingsmill makes up a significant part of James City County. Both areas are of similar population make up and share the the same cultural interest. These areas help to define our community just as Bush Gardens. Please adopt the boundaries of Map No. 358 - A4 Statewide CD showing Ford's Colony and Kingsmill as part of the 1st Congressional District.

The alternative Map No. 359- B4 Statewide CD splits Ford's Colony in half between the 1st and 2nd Congressional Districts and show all of Kingsmill in the 2nd Congressional District. This alternative is contrary to the Commission's criteria to not split counties and cities. This alternative significantly splits James City County.

Once again please adopt the boundaries for Map No. 358- A4 Statewide CD that shows James City County whole.

DATE: 10/15/2021 9:16:30 AM

Name: Andrea Burford
Stakeholder Type: Other
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
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October 18, 2021

Email: momma2alexia@gmail.com
Locality: Chesapeake, VA 23323
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

October 7, 2021

Delegate Marcus B. Simon

Falls Church, VA

Subject: Virginia 2021 Redistricting

Dear Delegate Simon:

I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. a private, non-partisan organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs; a resident of the City of Chesapeake and a voting member in District 003.

We are aware that a lot of factors go into redistricting. We want the following key items taken into consideration:

- Maps reflect fairness for voting.
- Ensure localities are not split up.
- Maps represent communities of interest.
- No gerrymandering.
- No racial packing in districts.
- The overall representation of racial minorities should reflect the latest Census data - the legislature should look like the Commonwealth.

As the Virginia Redistricting Commission draws the maps, we hope that they will keep our top considerations in mind. Redistricting issues are very important to us and to our community of interest. Please support common sense redistricting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Burford

3113 Camelot Blvd.

Chesapeake, VA 23323

cc: Portsmouth Alumnae Chapter – Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:46:33 AM

Name: Anne Brennan
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: annieb810@hotmail.com
Locality: Williamsburg, VA 23185
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

Dear Commissioners:

After years of study, hearings, reviews and considerations, the Commission is now established with the purpose of drawing district maps for all Virginia voters. Fair voting districts are imperative for a just, democratic society. The State has worked hard to lift itself to better standards of inclusion and notions of fairness. It is the Commission's responsibility to continue that journey by coming to consensus on fair district divisions for voters and legislators. You have been chosen for specific reasons and now it is time for your considered decision on an issue Virginia voters overwhelmingly supported and what the Commission is charged to do .

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I do not want the decision passed on to the State Supreme Court because relying on a decision by the Court belittles all the reasons as to why you were chosen as Commissioners. Each of you has made difficult decisions in the past. Play your part in the decision for fair and just voter districts. Do your job.

Sincerely,
Anne Brennan
159 Lakewood Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:44:00 AM

Name: Mary Flaherty
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: flahertym444@gmail.com
Locality: Yorktown, VA
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

To Whom It May Concern, because it sure makes me concerned!
The citizens of Virginia voted for this, now make it happen. COMPROMISE means everybody gets something, no one gets everything. The idea that after all this time you are going to throw up your hands and just say "oh well?" Unacceptable. Get this process done.

Respectfully,
Mary Flaherty
100 Pocomoke Run, Yorktown, VA

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:42:09 AM

Name: Bob West
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: bobwestva@gmail.com
Locality: Norfolk, VA
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: fair map, Princeton Gerrymandering

COMMENTS:

Please see my attached letter

Virginia Senate Plans 10/3/21
Compiled by Bob West
bobwestva @ gmail.com
Data from <https://davesredistricting.org/>

022-Virginia Senate
101-A3 Statewide SD
103-B3 Statewide SD
116-Chase Tuck's State Senate Plan
119-Senate w Extra African American District

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137-BobSenate20210924B
 138-C2 Statewide SD
 149-Chase Tuck's State Senate Plan Two
 175-New Virginia Majority -State Senate
 188-A4 Statewide SD
 189-B4 Statewide SD
 193-bennetts virginia senate
 197-A5 Statewide SD

Plan #	Dev	%	Dem Safe	Dem Compete	Rep Safe	Rep Compete	Black Majority	Black Access	Asian Access	Reock	Polsby
022	103,611	55.31	20	6	12	7	5	2	0	0.2521	0.1628
101	10,901	4.97	18	9	12	9	3	5	1	0.3775	0.3134
103	8,743	4.06	18	10	12	8	5	3	1	0.3688	0.3224
116	6,076	2.82	21	7	11	7	2	8	2	0.3744	0.2866
119	12,316	5.72	20	5	15	3	3	5	1	0.3619	0.2715
137	12,807	5.75	16	10	12	11	5	1	1	0.3961	0.3098
138	16,420	7.63	19	8	12	8	3	5	1	0.3838	0.3306
149	7,464	3.44	21	6	12	6	2	6	2	0.3712	0.3012
175	20,473	9.78	21	5	10	8	3	7	1	0.3612	0.2749
188	19,403	9.02	18	7	12	9	5	2	1	0.3757	0.3058
189	16,420	7.63	19	8	12	7	3	5	1	0.3766	0.3205
193	14,116	6.49	17	10	12	8	3	5	1	0.3939	0.3182
197	24,648	11.45	17	10	13	9	5	2	1	0.3765	0.3109

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Virginia House Plans 10/3/21
 Compiled by Bob West
 bobwestva @ gmail.com
 Data from <https://davesredistricting.org/>

- 023-Virginia House
- 100-A3 Statewide HOD
- 102-B3 Statewide HOD
- 120-Chase Tuck's House of Delegates Plan
- 131-VACIR HoD Map
- 154-B4 Statewide HOD
- 155-A4 Statewide HOD
- 157-Chase Tuck's House of Delegate Plan Two
- 162-BobStatewideHOD20210929C
- 173-New Virginia Majority - House of Delegates
- 180-A5 Statewide HOD
- 185-A6 Statewide HOD
- 186-B6 Statewide HOD
- 198-A7 Statewide HOD

Plan #	Dev	%	Dem Safe	Dem Compete	Rep Safe	Rep Compete	Black Majority	Black Access	Asian Access	Reock	Polsby
023	6,530	7.59	47	17	31	20	10	11	3	0.4036	0.3341
100	6,530	7.59	47	17	31	20	10	11	3	0.4036	0.3341
102	6,530	7.59	47	17	31	20	10	11	3	0.4036	0.3341
120	6,138	7.01	48	22	26	21	6	17	3	0.3798	0.3292
131	4,366	5.00	48	21	26	21	6	19	2	0.3848	0.3043
154	90,617	108.73	46	20	32	19	9	13	2	0.3937	0.335
155	8,580	10.29	46	21	27	25	10	14	3	0.389	0.3203
157	7,967	9.08	47	22	26	20	7	15	4	0.3823	0.3248
162	4,288	4.88	43	26	26	29	11	12	3	0.394	0.3249

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173	8,876	10.54	48	21	28	17	7	14	2	0.389	0.3
180	8,314	9.98	46	21	28	24	11	13	3	0.390 2	0.326 1
185	8,434	10.12	46	20	28	24	11	13	3	0.385 7	0.324 7
186	8,185	9.82	49	17	31	17	10	14	2	0.397 5	0.327 9
198	8,752	10.50	46	21	28	24	11	13	3	0.384 7	0.324 5

Bob West
7515 Evelyn T Butts Ave
Norfolk VA, 23513
757-529-1629
bobwestva@gmail.com

DATE: 10/9/2021 5:17:39 PM

Name: Carolyn Caywood
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: cacaywood@cox.net
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

As I watched the Commission meeting Friday afternoon, I shared the sorrow and frustration I heard. It is clear that there are structural problems with the design of the Commission. Nevertheless, I took Mr. Feliciano's comment as an injunction to look at the new maps.

Today as I did so, I found that there is a second structural problem in how they are presented. The colors are distracting and the disjointed numbering hides the fact that many districts are nearly identical because that's what the demographics dictate. I believe that if you could arrange for map overlays, without colors and numbers, this would become visible. Then it would be possible to make adjustments until the result was one map. That draft could then be tested for compliance with the criteria and further adjusted.

I suppose the mapping platform was not really intended for duelling maps, but I believe it has done you a real disservice and exacerbated tensions.

DATE: 10/9/2021 4:56:01 PM

Name: Carolyn Caywood
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: cacaywood@cox.net
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation

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COMMENTS:

I have done my best to compare A7 and B7 for Hampton Roads. They are not that far apart and many districts are almost identical. This is obscured by the colors and mismatched numbering. There are slight advantages to minority voters in Hampton Roads with map A7 but I think it would be relatively easy to bring the two maps into alignment without sacrificing minority voting strength, in this part of the state.

DATE: 10/9/2021 2:32:06 PM

Name: Amy Birdsong
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: abirdsong@nsacademy.org
Locality: Suffolk
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

When I read on 9/28-21 in the Virginian Pilot that a map had been created with an even 20-20 split in terms of which party holds an advantage, I was excited about the possibility. Most people, the majority of people, are moderates who are alarmed by the extreme views and actions by people on both sides of the political divide. If a map was accepted that is evenly balanced- than the actual issues could be the deciding factor, and politicians would have to answer for their actions (or actual lack of). PLEASE SUGGEST A BALANCED MAP! You are our only hope.

DATE: 10/9/2021 12:13:54 PM

Name: Kari Buchanan
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: kab1125@gmail.com
Locality: Norfolk
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map# 198 A7 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (10-3-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Minority Representation

COMMENTS:

In reviewing various sets of maps, I get the feeling that some districts were drawn to pack minority voters. For example, in the A7 map, Norfolk has three house districts, number 45, 46, and 47. The percentage of Black voters in the districts are 24%, 50% and 52% respectively. For House District 45, if the Hispanic population (arguably a very different voting block from the black population) is added to the black population, you have 38% minorities. 38% is just shy of the percent population needed to elect minority representation. Could the margins around the proposed A7 map for House Districts 45, 46, and 47 be adjusted to maintain the Black voting power in 46 and 47, while creating a minority opportunity district in 45?

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:30:27 AM

Name: Richard Zimermann, Jr
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: richardzimermann@verizon.net
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live

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Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I am 72, a fifty-year voter in Virginia including a homeowner in Harrisonburg for seven years. I travelled Rockingham County as a Public School Visiting Teacher investigating truancy and child abuse for a year, then I taught at Elkton in the 1970s High School there. For the next decade I pursued a construction career and completed an MBA at James Madison University, working pro bono with small businesses as a course requirement. I returned to teaching in Fairfax County, retiring to Chesapeake, Virginia. I am deeply appreciative of the public service performed by Redistricting Commissioners. Thank you one and all.

I would like to get a bit granular regarding ONE Rockingham County delegate district lying just south of Harrisonburg, including populations that I got to know working with administrators in their High Schools, Middle Schools, and Elementary Schools, and visiting the homes of children with extended school absences, whether that was from skipping school, long term illness, or public school avoidance. For the most part they included homes those with a single large leather-bound King James Bible on the coffee table, or those with a dozen movie magazines lying around, or those without any reading material at all in the home.

This delegate district, as the experts will tell you, is population-centered on the English-ethnic settlement about the high school named for the Confederate General Turner Ashby who had a famous victory within the district boundary, just below Massanutten Mountain.

In the 2011 Delegate District, for a decade the English-Southern Baptist ethnics maintained a voting majority by enjoying a curling crescent gerrymander that was NOT compact. It sliced off half of the Bridgewater Elementary attendance zone of German-Anabaptists of Mennonites and Brethren who are largely anti-war, separating them from the ethnic

Russian settlement at Mount Crawford, and then it stretched across the entire county east past Massanutten Mountain, to capture half of the Elkton Elementary attendance zone made up of heritage free-blacks. They are largely Democratic voters; the gerrymander separated them from the Elkton settlement of Northern-born Union members who relocate there to work at the Merck Chemical Plant in the Page Valley. The black settlement is made up of Methodists and Free Will Baptists, that is, they are NOT Southern Baptists of the English-Ethnic district gerrymandered majority settled against the Appalachians around Confederate General Turner Ashby High School. Virginia social historians will recall this south-west corner of Rockingham County as the site of the World War I era lynching of a German-speaking resident within the Turner Ashby school zone.

I am sure both Commission contractor mapping experts A and B have provided comparable backstories in each district map documentation for their newly drawn, compact Delegate districts that do NOT break up local neighborhoods in PreK-5 school attendance zones. The public should have transparent access to those mapping contractor rationales provided for each district, besides just the maps take-it-or-leave-it.

After all, those zones are drawn by our respected localities, and those neighborhoods are freely chosen by Virginia residents to educate their children, and they are bound together by political compact according to conservative Edmund Burke, or alternatively, they are bound together by social contract according to liberal John Locke. BOTH kinds of choices are more important than any partisan interests that Commission contractors might otherwise bring to the table.

I am confident, as the Virginia public must be, that the Commission will choose redistricting maps wisely in a way that both (a) respect the locality neighborhood school boundaries, and at the same time, (b) respect the free choice of Virginia families who relocate into those neighborhoods to educate their children in the public schools.

DATE: 10/7/2021 2:50:34 PM

Name: Alan J Stein

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: alan.stein.as@gmail.com

Locality: Virginia Beach

Region: **Hampton Roads**

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

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Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I would like to have representation that does not have "gerrymandering".

DATE: 10/7/2021 10:41:36 AM

Name: BillFleming
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Terras LLC
Email: wwflaming@hotmail.com
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
My name is Bill Fleming, and I have lived in Virginia Beach, VA since 1994. Previously I live in Petersburg, VA and Alexandria, VA. I am writing to raise what I feel is an important metric regarding the redistricting process. Since the Redistricting Commission is getting maps from partisan sources I strongly recommending that an independent nonpartisan non-Virginian organization be given the final opportunity to provide an alternative redistricting solution. The organization about which I am most familiar is MGGG Redistricting Lab (<https://mggg.org/>) which was recently covered in the Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/virginia-redistricting-gerrymandering-math-geometry/2021/09/03/8003790e-0b4c-11ec-aea1-42a8138f132a_story.html?fbclid=IwAR1TTWv2I-3ze_Ax4nx4XSeK5DotfRaMjmJn39UotdIOFvYamF3B4JSun8Q)

DATE: 10/7/2021 10:30:54 AM

Name: Bill Fleming
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Terras LLC
Email: wwflaming@hotmail.com
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: District compactness criteria

COMMENTS:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
My name is Bill Fleming, and I have lived in Virginia Beach, VA since 1994. Previously I live in Petersburg, VA and Alexandria, VA. I am writing to raise what I feel is an important metric regarding the redistricting process. One of the frequent characteristics of Gerrymandering is that the gerrymandered districts are long non-compact. These districts have large perimeters compared to the area of the district. For example, If a district were a square with width of 4 miles and length of 4 miles, the perimeter would be $4 \times 4 = 16$ miles while the area would be $4 \times 4 = 16$ square miles. However, if the district were a rectangle of 16 mile long and 1 mile wide, the perimeter would be $16 + 16 + 1 + 1 = 34$ miles while the area would still be 16 square miles ($16 \times 1 = 16$). In the first case of a compact square, the ratio of perimeter to area is $P/A = 16/16 = 1$. In the case of the long rectangle, $P/A = 34/16 = 2.125$. Thus, the ratio of perimeter to area (P/A) is an indicator of a non-compact district. Therefore, I recommend that you use

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the P/A number for all districts as an indicator of a district not being compact. I would suggest setting a threshold of this ratio to be the point that should not be passed. An upper threshold of 1.3 is probably reasonable.

DATE: 10/7/2021 8:33:22 AM

Name: Suzan Griffin
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: sjgriffin@widomaker.com
Locality: james city county
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I would like to see maps drawn that make it things equitable but also easier for people to know what district they are in. I would like representatives to be able to serve districts that do not extend for miles and miles. In that situation, the constituents have so many divergent views that it is hard to serve all the interests.

DATE: 10/5/2021 6:20:19 PM

Name: Bob West
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: Bobwestva@gmail.com
Locality: Norfolk
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

I wrote a program to compare all the different plans. I think when you look at the numbers you have to agree the 2 plans that were submitted under my name are superior to the other plans. I am hoping you can get this comparison to the members of the Commission. I am thinking of sending out this analysis to all the House and Senate members.
<https://davesredistricting.org/>

DATE: 10/5/2021 1:04:36 PM

Name: Carl Anderson
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Republican Party of Hampton
Email: hydro4u@aol.com
Locality: Hampton
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Senate C2
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Hampton
Community of interest description: Hampton

COMMENTS:

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The House B6 Proposal is UNACCEPTABLE primarily because is SPLITS TWO PRECINCTS in Hampton. It also SEPARATES THREE PRECINCTS from York County.
The House A7 Proposal is ACCEPTABLE in that is does not split any precincts and is compact and continuous in the area of Hampton and Newport News.
The Senate C2 Proposal is ACCEPTABLE even though it separates 16 Precincts from Norfolk, separates 20 Precincts from Hampton, and separates 13 Precincts from Newport News, no precincts are split and significant portions of the three communities of interest are kept intact.

DATE: 10/5/2021 1:02:23 PM

Name: Carl Anderson
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Republican Party of Hampton
Email: hydro4u@aol.com
Locality: Hampton
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #186 B6 Statewide HOD -- Citizen plan (10-2-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Hampton
Community of interest description: Hampton

COMMENTS:

The House B6 Proposal is UNACCEPTABLE primarily because is SPLITS TWO PRECINCTS in Hampton. It also SEPARATES THREE PRECINCTS from York County.
The House A7 Proposal is ACCEPTABLE in that is does not split any precincts and is compact and continuous in the area of Hampton and Newport News.
The Senate C2 Proposal is ACCEPTABLE even though it separates 16 Precincts from Norfolk, separates 20 Precincts from Hampton, and separates 13 Precincts from Newport News, no precincts are split and significant portions of the three communities of interest are kept intact.

DATE: 10/5/2021 1:00:15 PM

Name: Carl Anderson
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Republican Party of Hampton
Email: hydro4u@aol.com
Locality: Hampton
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #186 B6 Statewide HOD -- Citizen plan (10-2-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Hampton
Community of interest description: Hampton

COMMENTS:

The House B6 Proposal is UNACCEPTABLE primarily because is SPLITS TWO PRECINCTS in Hampton. It also SEPARATES THREE PRECINCTS from York County.

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The House A7 Proposal is ACCEPTABLE in that it does not split any precincts and is compact and continuous in the area of Hampton and Newport News.

The Senate C2 Proposal is ACCEPTABLE even though it separates 16 Precincts from Norfolk, separates 20 Precincts from Hampton, and separates 13 Precincts from Newport News, no precincts are split and significant portions of the three communities of interest are kept intact.

DATE: 10/4/2021 9:52:22 AM

Name: Santiel J Creekmore
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: Santielcreekmore77@gmail.com
Locality: Newport News
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: Newport News Northern district
Community of interest description: People of Newport News Northern District

COMMENTS:

It seems the city of northern Newport News has been grouped with the people of Williamsburg as if we share a community of interest. Nothing could be further from the truth. Williamsburg interest are distinct from those of the people of Northern Newport News. Different schools, different demographics, different needs, and different concerns. The people of Williamsburg have no clear understanding of life in Northern Newport News. Maps the group the two groups will disenfranchise the people of Northern Newport News by cracking into a significant part of concentrated minority population living in Newport News.

DATE: 9-28-21
Name: Del. Shelly Simonds
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Email: shelly@simondsfordelegate.com
Locality: Newport News
Region: **Hampton Roads**

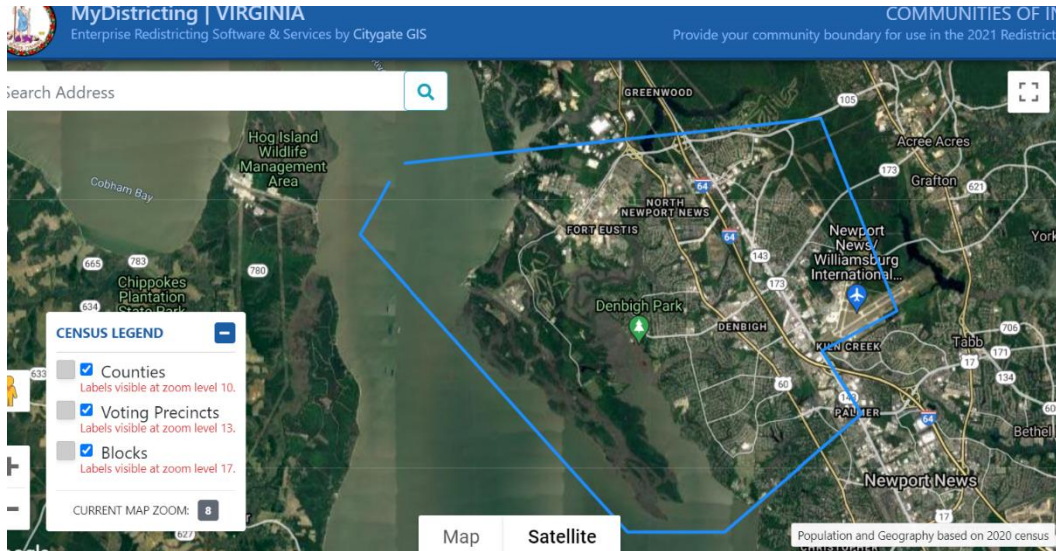
Type of comment: Community of Interest
Community of interest name: Denbigh Community
Community of interest description: The Denbigh area of Northern Newport News is a community of interest that should be kept together in re-districting. Before 2019, the Denbigh community was divided between multiple Delegate districts diluting their political influence but the recent court mandated redraw protected their representation and should be maintained. The Denbigh Community has strong ties to Fort Eustis with many Army veterans retiring to the Denbigh suburbs built in the 1960s. It also has many Korean-owned businesses and prominent African American Churches such as First Baptist Denbigh, First Baptist Church Morrison and New Beech Grove Baptist Church. These church members, the Denbigh High School marching band and the Denbigh Kiwanis club have always come together for the annual Denbigh Day parade which is a major civic event for the area.

COMMENTS:

Hi, I tried to add a community of interest using the website tool last night and there appears to be a problem with the website. When I submit the community of interest it gets hung up on "processing" and this happened on two different computers both last night and this morning. I'm hoping someone

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can fix this problem. In the meantime, I wanted to submit this public comment for a "community of interest" to be added:



DATE: 9/27/2021 11:28:55 PM

Name: Nicholas Proffitt
 Stakeholder Type: Private individual
 Email: nproffitt712@gmail.com
 Locality: Chesapeake
 Region: **Hampton Roads**
 Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
 Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

I was fairly pleased with the way that the C2 map handled the Hampton Roads districts. When I was watching the granular map drawing of Hampton Roads today though, I was disheartened by both proposals from the map drawers. They both split Chesapeake and Portsmouth in ways that did not make sense in order to make Hampton whole. They also removed large sections of Chesapeake from Sen. Spruill's district to make it an overwhelmingly Norfolk focused district. These proposals minimize the political influence of both Republicans and Democrats in Chesapeake, despite its growth over the last decade. Hampton is currently split into 3 Senate districts and I agree that may be excessive. But, you can keep Hampton split 2 ways or even make Hampton whole with Northern parts of Norfolk and make Newport News whole with Northern Suffolk while keeping Portsmouth and Suffolk together with the Western Branch section of Chesapeake only. This approach would minimize the number of locality splits and would not require redrawing every district in Hampton Roads to accomplish the goals set by the Commission.

DATE: 9/28/2021 11:29:41 AM

Name: Janet Moore Ross
 Stakeholder Type: Private individual
 Email: ajross31@hotmail.com
 Locality: James city County Hampton Roads
 Region: **Hampton Roads**
 Type of comment: Comment on a map
 Map: A3 and C2
 Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

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Community of interest name: James City County and Williamsburg
Community of interest description: We are a small town, college town, suburban and a little rural. Why is Newport News included with us? Why is Eastern Shore with us in some maps? We should be placed with Williamsburg, JCC and York areas!!!

COMMENTS:

The A3 Senate districts maps for District 17 was very good with All of James City County together with Williamsburg. The B3 maps for the Senate were awful James City County divided and joined with Eastern Shore in district 26. Then district 19 with Williamsburg, part of JCC and 5 partial counties included without communities of Interest.

Map C2 districts 17 and 18 are disconcerting. Williamsburg and lower JCC with with a lot of Newport News. What does Williamsburg and NN have in common??? Then upper JCC is placed with Areas down near the beach. Please try to correct these maps!!!

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:19:54 PM

Name: Bob West
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: bobwestva@gmail.com
Locality: Norfolk
Region: **Hampton Roads**
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:

I was on the staff of the Florida House of Representatives. I was the non-partisan Staff Director of the Reapportionment Committee and Policy Chief of the Redistricting Committee during different times. I designed and helped build the online program called MyDistrictBuilder that allowed all the House Members and anyone else in the world to build districts online and submit them to the legislature for consideration. We had the most open Redistricting process possible. I also coordinated with the counties for the Census LUCA, VTD and Complete Count programs.

Today I will be comparing the Senate Plan I submitted to the commission BobSenateVA to the commission plan C2 Statewide SD. Most of the statistics come from the mapdrawing tool on <https://davesredistricting.org/>.

Favor or disfavor any political party

The plan BobSenateVA has 16 safe districts that have a greater than a 5% Democratic electoral advantage. These are districts (2,5,9,16,18,25,29-37,39)

The plan C2 Statewide SD has 19 safe districts that have a greater than a 5% Democratic electoral advantage. These are districts (1-11,18-20,24,26-28,31)

The plan BobSenateVA has 13 districts that are competitive, within plus or minus 5% for one side or the other depending on the third party vote. These are districts (1,6-8,10-14,19,22,28,)

The plan C2 Statewide SD has 9 districts that are competitive, within plus or minus 5% for one side or the other depending on the third party vote. These are districts (12,14,21-23,25,29,30,37)

The plan BobSenateVA has 12 districts that have a Republican advantage of 5% or greater. These are districts (3,4,15,17,20,21,23,24,38,39)

The plan C2 Statewide SD has 12 districts that have a Republican advantage of 5% or greater. These are districts (13,15-17,32-36,38-40)

Under Virginia Code "A map of districts shall not, when considered an a

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statewide base, unduly favor or disfavor any political party." VA Code Ann 24.2-304.04(8)

C2 Statewide SD seems to unduly violate this statute in that it has 4 less competitive districts than BobSenateVA. C2 Statewide SD has 3 more Democratic safe districts. Both plans have the same number of safe Republican districts.

Minority majority-black seats

In *Thornburg v. Gingles* a 3 part test is set up to determine violation of section 2 of the Voting Rights Act due to dilution. Section 2 prohibits voting practices that deny groups of citizens an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice and must show (a) that the minority group at issue is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single member district, (b) that the minority group is a political cohesive and (c) that the surrounding majority group usually votes as a bloc to defeat the minority's preferred candidate.

The plan BobSenateVA has 5 minority majority-black seats. These are seats that the black minority should be able to elect a candidate of their choice. These are districts (2,5,9,16,18) District 15 is a black minority access seat. None of these seats were packed to have higher than a 51.98% black population.

The plan C2 Statewide SD has only 3 minority majority-black seats. These are seats that the black minority should be able to elect a candidate of their choice. These are districts (20,26,27) District 10,18,19,24,25 are black minority access seat where the Black population has been dispersed so that they do not reach the 50% plus 1 person generally thought to meet the standards of the voting rights act in *Gingles*. They will probably be challenged in an expensive law suit that I believe if the state loses then the tax payer will have to pay the millions in legal fees for both sides of the legal challenge. This is not good stewardship of public funds.

BobSenateVA District 2 is a compact district with 51.17% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.38 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.4043. Bigger number is better. The district does not split any county lines. Very important to anyone in Hampton roads is you do not have to go through the tunnel to get to different ends of the district as district 19 does. District 19 is a minority access district but does not meet the threshold of 50% to make it a true Majority minority district.

C2 Statewide SD District 19 is a minority access district. It does not reach 50% black minority population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district only a Reock of 0.3371 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.20. Bigger numbers are better. The district is split between Hampton and Norfolk by the tunnel.

BobSenateVA District 18 is district with 50.10% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.3868 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.3057. Bigger number is better. The district does split 3 county lines.

BobSenateVA District 5 is district with 51.42% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.4008 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.2572. Bigger number is better. The district does split 3 county lines.

C2 Statewide SD District 20 is a district with 51.61% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.2766 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.1697. This is a Reock 0.1102 lower than the plan BobSenateVA District 18 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.136 lower. This is a Reock 0.1242 lower than the plan BobSenateVA District 5 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.0875 lower. Bigger number is better in these numbers. The district does split county 2 lines.

C2 Statewide SD District 20 is the only majority minority district where BobSenateVA has 3 districts 2, 5 and 18.

BobSenateVA District 16 is district with 50.18% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.3810 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.2231. Bigger number is

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better. The district does split 6 county lines.

BobSenateVA District 9 is district with 51.48% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.4964 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.3321. Bigger number is better. The district does split 2 county lines.

C2 Statewide SD District 26 is a district with 52.03% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.2945 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.1109.

This is a Reock 0.2019 lower than the plan BobSenateVA District 9 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.2212 lower. Bigger number is better in these numbers. The district does split county 5 county lines.

C2 Statewide SD District 27 is a district with 52.36% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.2231 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.1756.

This is a Reock 0.1579 lower than the plan BobSenateVA District 16 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.0475 lower. Bigger number is better in these numbers. The district does split county 3 county lines.

DATE: 9/24/2021 12:27:59 PM

Name: Nicholas Proffitt

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: nproffitt712@gmail.com

Locality: Chesapeake

Region: **Hampton Roads**

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

Topics of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

While I don't believe that the Commission must be sure to lump no incumbents together into the same district, I do believe that in the effort of political fairness, the Commission should not allow any district that lumps 3 or more incumbents together and should minimize the number of districts where incumbents of the same party are lumped together.

DATE: 9/24/2021 12:22:52 PM

Name: Nicholas Proffitt

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: nproffitt712@gmail.com

Locality: Chesapeake

Region: **Hampton Roads**

Type of comment: Comment on a map

Topics of interest: Communities of interest, Political neutrality

Community of interest name: Great Bridge/Hickory

Community of interest description: Most of current Southeastern and Central parts of House District 78

COMMENTS:

House Map B3 splits Chesapeake in such a way that it does not make sense. It splits the Great Bridge/Hickory parts of Chesapeake into 3 Delegate Districts. In doing so, it creates a district with 3 incumbents of both parties and an open district with no incumbent.

DATE: 9/23/2021 9:25:17 PM

Name: Richard Hagen

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: rhagen12@verizon.net

Locality: Virginia Beach

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Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topics of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Thank you for all your hard work on such a short time frame and late census data. I listened in on the Monday, Sept 19 th meeting. It was a real challenge to follow all the details. I do not like the fact that the Commission had two Partisan map drawers draw separate maps. I realize it is very hard to be altruistic and to share power. It is obvious that incumbent protection is the priority for some Commission members. In the Wednesday, Sept 21 Virginia Pilot I read an AP article entitled “Bipartisan redistricting panel set to draw new boundaries starts with partisan maps” that summarized your draft maps. It pointed out that the Democratic maps gave the Democrats an advantage and the Republican maps gave Republicans an advantage. While this is not surprising, I hope now you will get a more neutral map drawer who does not have a political agenda. Thanks again for the hard work. Please be Citizens first and politicians second.

DATE: 9/23/2021 2:45:16 PM

Name: Mike Joseph
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: mjoseph@tni.net
Locality: Williamsburg, VA
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topics of interest: Numbering of districts for HOD, Senate, and Congressional

COMMENTS:

In the final maps please retain the current numbering of the HOD, Senate, and Congressional districts. As an example currently the 94th HOD district is centered in Newport News; however, in one iteration of the redistricted draft maps the 94th HOD district is centered around Blacksburg. We need to keep continuity of future districts with the pass numbering of similar districts. It will be easier and more meaningful to maintain continuity thus enabling us to link historical data of pass districts to the new districts.

DATE: 9/23/2021 9:39:41 AM

Name: Judith Kyle
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: richylvb@hotmail.com
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topics of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

So tired of weird district lines. Let’s go with non-political, straight up, neutral. Every eligible voter gets a vote. Let the chips (votes) fall where they may. This is our chance for Virginia to show the country fairness can be achieved.

DATE: 9/21/2021 11:45:07 AM

Name: Mike Joseph
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: mjoseph@tni.net
Locality: Williamsburg, Virginia
Region: **Hampton Roads**

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Type of comment: Comment on a map
 Topics of interest: Numbering HOD, State Senate, and Congressional Districts

COMMENTS:

When you present the final maps, please keep the current HOD, State Senate, and Congressional district numbers as they are now. That is keep the 94th HOD centered in Newport News as it is now and not centered in Blacksburg (Map A3 HOD) nor Alleghany Springs (Map B3 HOD). The intent is to maintain the continuity of the historical numbering system with the new district numbers.

DATE RECEIVED: 9/9/2021 6:08:32 AM
FROM: From: Richard Mr Zimermann <richardzimermann@verizon.net>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Chesapeake

COMMENT:

“Nesting Scheme” Statewide population calculations for redistricting.
 Virginia = 11 CDs = 100 DDs = 40 SDs
 Virginia population = 8.536 million =
 11 CDs = smallest 760,480 to largest 791,520 (calculate: ave. 776,000 ea, +/- 2%* range) =
 100 DDs = smallest 76,048 to largest 79,152 (calculate: ave. 85,360 ea with a +/- 2%* range) =
 40 SDs = smallest 209,135 to largest 217,665 (calculate: ave. 213,400 ea with a +/- 2%* range).
 On average, in each "nesting scheme" CD there will be 9.1 DDs.
 It turns out, that 99 of 100 DDs can be nested with 10 CDs comprised of 9 DDs each,
 and only 1 small CD = 10 small DDs
 (see calculations graphed below).
 Assumption: Northern Virginia will have the largest population growth over the 2020 –
 2030 decade, so of the eleven congressional districts, one CD in Northern Virginia should
 have the smallest 2020 census congressional district with 10 of the smallest delegate
 districts.
 Every 1 CD + 1 DD = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (except 1 smallest CD = 10 smallest DDs, see bold above)
 calculation graphed:
 nesting scheme redistricting | = 1 CD
 (----- 1 congressional district -----) = 9 DDS
 |
 (2 DDs + 1 DD + 2 DDs + 2 DDs + 1 DD + 1 DD) = 9 DDs
 _____ |
 (2 DDs) + (0.5 DD + 0.5 DD) + 2 DDs + (2 DDs) + (0.5 DD + 0.5 DD) + (1 DD) + (1DD) = 10 DDs
 _____ |
 (1 SD) + (1 SD) + (1 SD) + (1 SD) = 4 SDs
 Sincerely,
 Richard G. Zimermann, Jr.
 1226 Brookside Landing
 Chesapeake VA 23320
 cell: 703-946-7543

DATE RECEIVED: 9/8/2021 8:04:06 PM
FROM: From: Richard Mr Zimermann <richardzimermann@verizon.net>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Chesapeake

COMMENT:

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I. Four (4) redistricting guides as provided by law and good public policy:

- GUIDE #1: Draw districts compact and contiguous.
- GUIDE #2: Draw districts “equal” in population, where “equal” is by law a range of 5%, or smallest (average – 2.5%) to largest (average + 2.5%)
* in the DRAFT “Nesting Scheme” examples, use a range of +/- 2.0% : smallest CD = 760,480 & smallest DD = 76,048.
- GUIDE #3: Draw districts by “communities of interest”: by policy aggregate “communities of interest” by how the citizens reside in elementary PK-5 school zones, whether those “communities of interest” are found by aggregating like cultural & social, commercial & economic, or geographic & historical settlement population characteristics.
- GUIDE #4: Draw districts to clarify and unify neighborhood communities represented in each district: (a) respect locality boundaries wherever possible and (b) nest smaller districts within larger, so that
 - (i) most neighborhoods attending the same PK-5 schools are within the same delegate, state senate & congressional district.
 - (ii) most living in the densest settlements are within the same delegate, state senate & congressional district, and
 - (iii) most residents in their neighborhoods within the largest population localities, reside within the same nested delegate, state senate, and congressional district, even when the very largest localities must be apportioned to draw districts of equal populations.

II. Assumption for applying redistricting guidelines: In a democratic republic, the voting people in their in their political communities are themselves a “community of interest”,

- NOT as self-interested organizations for self-serving partisan interests,
- but AS NEIGHBORS in a common social contract that they enter into by geographic proximity within districts that are:
 - (i) contiguous (as resolved by the 1842 Jacksonian Democrats in Congress),
 - (ii) in compact (as resolved by the 1872 Lincoln-Republicans in Congress), and
 - (iii) of equal population (as resolved by the 1911 Progressives in Congress [in a coalition of Teddy Roosevelt-Republicans & Grover Cleveland-Democrats]).

III. Using the “Nesting Schema” as proposed, all delegate districts will be nested entirely within a congressional district (9 per district for 10 districts, the smallest CD with 10 smallest DDs). That will leave generally only 1-2 delegate districts in each congressional district apportioned into a senate district straddling two adjacent congressional districts.

- HOWEVER, those delegate districts in senate districts within two congressional districts will intentionally be drawn within the same economic-residential SMA (Standard Metropolitan Area) in each case, so as to provide a continuous economic, commercial and commuting “community of interest” for those residing in neighborhoods of the same PK-5 school zones whenever the “straddling” senate district is drawn.

Sincerely,
Richard G. Zimmermann, Jr.
1226 Brookside Landing
Chesapeake VA 23320
cell: 703-946-7543

DATE SENT: 9/18/2021 8:15:00 AM
EMAIL: richardzimmermann@verizon.net
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Chesapeake

SUBJECT: Va SENATE districts

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COMMENT:

Commission:

SENATE DISTRICTS, must not arbitrarily atomize Virginia localities with the most people merely because they are densely settled.

- In previous redistricting, several slices of densely populated areas were dispersed into voiceless district-minorities surrounding their city under the apology that 'only one' locality was carved up 'to respect local boundaries'. At the same time, 400 year-old remnant places with only a few hundreds were counted as 'respected boundaries' of places instead an urban government peopled in the thousands.

- CENTER each senate district on dense settlement 'hubs' first, then add sparser populations to avoid 'rotten boroughs', the previous senate districts of urban settlement made into a district-minorities in an urban-majority state.

Sincerely, Richard G. Zimmermann, Jr., 1226 Brookside Landing, Chesapeake VA 23320, cell: 703-946-7543.

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, September 3, 2021 10:15:46 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Bryce Leonardo
EMAIL: Bryce.leonardo@gmail.com
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Chesapeake

SUBJECT: Chesapeake and the 4th Congressional District

COMMENT:

I have only lived in Chesapeake for a year now after leaving for 9 years to live in NC and now returning. Never have a I ever seen anything worse then the 4th US Congressional District of VA. Having a district that starts in Richmond heads south to the border of VA and NC and then loops around several cities to divide Chesapeake in half. How anyone could have drawn a district like this to represent 3 completely different geographical areas with people who's concerns for not only themselves but for VA as a whole do not relate is mind blowing. How can what happens in Richmond, VA some 90+ miles away from Chesapeake, VA be anywhere remotely in common. One area is very well mixed culturally, economically and socially and bares the weight of incoming and outgoing military members and families on a constant basis. To divide one of the largest cities in the state of VA and pair it with one that is not even in the same geographical area with similar geographical needs is ridiculous. The other glaring issue is that the nearest office of the 4th Congressional District Representative Mr. McEachin, The Hampton Roads Office, is in the heart of Suffolk not anywhere near where the majority of the Congressman's constituents live in Chesapeake. It is situations like this one and others that I hope that the commission takes a hard look at the redistricting of all Districts both for state office positions and federal office positions our Representatives should represent the people of the district they serve not just half. And we should not cut cities in half and merge them with others just to hurt their "Political party affiliation" being able to have representation at all levels of Government. We must restore the American Idea of a "Government of the People, By the People, For the People." otherwise we will truly lose this great experiment call the American Republic.

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 5, 2021 11:22:44 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Richard Mr Zimmermann <richardzimmermann@verizon.net>
REGION: Hampton Roads

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LOCALITY: Chesapeake

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners:

Attached is a PDF showing my proposed OUTLINE of eleven Congressional Districts for Virginia. The “Hub and Spoke” organization was suggested by a citizen at one of the first two panel presentations.

I adopted the principle, and for each numbered district, I have listed an index of the “population hub” for each district. Dotted lines indicate the locality boundaries at the edges of proposed compact districts.

Whenever districts cross the locality boundaries that are remote from population centers, the priority should be to embrace the “community of interest” which is the social and cultural attendance district for a local public primary school. An overlay of Census BLOCKS can be used to closely approximate the numbers of residents in each elementary school district.

Please let me know if there are any clarifications or extensions I can provide to make this submittal more useful to the Commission.

Thanks. Rick Zimmermann

Richard Zimmermann

1226 Brookside Landing

Chesapeake VA 23320

cell phone: 703-946-7543

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 31, 2021 10:51:50 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: John Stone <john.stone344@gmail.com>

REGION: Hampton Roads

LOCALITY: Chesapeake

COMMENT:

Commission Staff:

Attached are my comments with regard to the legislative redistricting process. I had intended to deliver them personally at your Hampton Roads public hearing but was unable to attend.

Thank you for receiving them now.

John Stone

757-630-7472

Virginia Redistricting Commission July 31,2021

Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor

900 E. Main Street

Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Members of the Commission:

My name is John Stone. I have lived in Chesapeake, Virginia, for nearly forty years now and have been represented over that time in the State Senate and the House of Delegates by members of both major political parties. My family and I live in a community which is really made up of parts of the cities of Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Suffolk in Hampton Roads.

It became obvious to me and to many other Virginians some years ago that partisan redistricting/gerrymandering was beginning to make it much more difficult to solve the problems that we have and have had in the Commonwealth. Every time either party had control of the redistricting process, the House and Senate districts were drawn deliberately to keep that party in power. This in turn led to more extreme positions being taken by many of our delegates and senators and a reluctance to compromise on various important issues.

It also led to noncompetitive elections. Since 2003, I have lived in both the 18th and 14th State Senatorial districts. In the 18th District, the incumbent has been unopposed in four out of five

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elections and won with 70% of the vote in 2003. The incumbent in the 14th District has been unopposed in three of five elections and won the other two with 71% and 60% of the vote. Democracy is always stronger when the voters have a meaningful choice. Because of all this, I enlisted 15 years ago in the long and exhausting fight to make Virginia's redistricting process bi-partisan or non-partisan. (I am proud to be a member of the OneVirginia2021 Foundation Board of Directors). I believed strongly that we should have an independent citizen-controlled commission to draw the new lines every 10 years. While that's not exactly what has happened, I believe we have the means to make the process more equitable and more transparent. And I salute all of you on the Virginia Redistricting Commission for agreeing to take on arguably the most important task in recent history in our state. Chapter 1265 of the Virginia Acts of Assembly (SB 717 in the 2020 Legislative Session) requires the commission on which you serve to draw lines that: do not discriminate against racial and ethnic minorities; that preserve communities of interest; that provide for compact and contiguous districts; and that do not "when considered on a statewide basis, unduly favor or disfavor any political party." Those are all important. I would also urge that you-to the extent possible- respect jurisdictional boundaries. Currently, the incumbent in the 14th State Senatorial district represents portions of seven different cities and counties, some of them obviously with conflicting interests. The incumbent in the 18th district represents all of or parts of twelve jurisdictions. This does not allow for effective representation, no matter how many hours the senator works or how many miles they must drive. In addition, the city of Chesapeake is currently represented by three senators and six delegates. That seems like a few too many for me, although it's not as bad as Fairfax County- represented by nine senators and eighteen delegates. Of Chesapeake's nine legislators, just four actually live there. The city of Suffolk is represented by six legislators, only one of whom lives in Suffolk. I do not subscribe to the argument that redistricting is necessarily a political task which can be done only by politicians. That narrative puts our legislators in a difficult position in which they are perceived as working to advance their own political interests. I do believe strongly that every seat in the Virginia Senate, the House of Delegates, and the United States House of Representatives belongs not to the elected official who might currently hold it; every seat belongs to the people of Virginia, who have a vested interest in seeing that those seats are held by the individual- Republican or Democrat, male or female-most capable of doing the job. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and thank you for your commitment to this great state of Virginia.

Sincerely,
John T. Stone
John.stone344@gmail.com
757-630-7472

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 17, 2021 6:34:53 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Vic nicholls <nichollsvi2@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Chesapeake

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?

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Greenbrier is the downtown of Chesapeake, Va. We work hard for the money and all we see is nothing in the way of improvements and no one to answer anything on why that is. We want the kids to be educated in the sciences and they're not getting it. We need to create more jobs and businesses (small) but we can't do that with the high taxation and \$3 a gallon gas when less than a year ago I was getting it for \$1.78.

We highly value freedoms, especially of speech, and that's not getting served here. We have more and more crime, where is the protection from the state that we pay higher and higher taxes to? Our community needs leadership that reflects our concerns on the future with proven ways of fixing those problems. We need more than a half baked leadership that only sends us flyers on OUR taxpayer dime at election time.

Chesapeake is known as a bedroom community because we can't get business started here. The commission needs to make it so leadership is responsive to us. We all share wanting to move ahead, so start redistricting back to where we had that in the past but it was redistricted to reflect people who do not have the same goals as the upper middle class has.

Sincerely,

Vic nicholls

1124 Mill Lake Quarter Chesapeake, VA 23320-2760 nichollsvi2@gmail.com

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Chesapeake

COMMENT:

On Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 3:40 PM Richard Mr Zimermann <richardzimermann@verizon.net> wrote:

Commissioners:

- Each WATERSHED is a 'community of interest' by its geography:
for (1) colonial county boundaries for Rs, and (2) 21st century climate change for Ds.
- VA-09 The 'Fighting Ninth' CAN BE the Southwest counties draining into the New River.
- VA-05 CAN BE anchored on the 'hubs' of Roanoke, Lynchburg & Danville.
- Watershed: all but L'hbg-part drain into the ROANOKE-DAN RIVER.
- Planning: all are in contiguous Planning Districts 4-5-11-12.
- SMA: the Roanoke SMA crosses the Blue Ridge SE following the Roanoke River.
- Highways: north-south by US-220 (ROA-DAN) & US-29 (LYH-DAN);
- Highways: east-west by US 460 (LYH-ROA) & US-58 (DAN).

Sincerely,

Richard Zimermann, 1226 Brookside Landing, Chesapeake VA 23320.

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 4:17:30 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Richard Mr Zimermann <richardzimermann@verizon.net>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Chesapeake

COMMENT:

Commissioners:

There is an intersection of the two citizen comments from the April 26 meeting by KEN CHASIN emphasizing "hub-center" public services in a planning district and STEPHEN MARTIN emphasizing common regional geographies. The shared 'community of interest' is in the water shed serving the populations in each region.

Mostly nesting three kinds of districts by water shed can reflect the political community's common interest in (a) waste water treatment and water reclamation in droughts, and (b) runoff

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management from parking lots & fields for flood and pollution control. --
Just a suggestion to try out in a What-if-Scenario in the mapping process, using "water shed" as one of the layers for a "community of interest". --- Watersheds for each county and city are mapped in Virginia Planning District reports.

Sincerely,
Rick Zimmermann
1226 Brookside Landing
Chesapeake VA 23320

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:14:41 AM GMT-05:00
FROM: SWells679 <itswells@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Hampton

COMMENT:
1) Thanks to all the volunteers and nominees.
2) I would recommend, starting now, districts be drawn without regard to race. If we, as a country, are ever going to move forward, we can't keep thinking skin color makes a difference. It doesn't. Take a stand.
3) I would advise everyone on the committee to have good, updated contact information for Senator M. Locke. I pray she'll maintain better contact with this committee than she does her constituents.
V/r
Scott A. Wells
Hampton

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 2:04:10 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: hydro4u@aol.com
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Hampton

COMMENT:
Commissioners,
I consider the following to be most important for your consideration.
Rule 1. Compact and Contiguous – Cities and Counties should not be divided. In legislative or congressional districts, not more than two cities or counties may be split and not more than two precincts may be split in any district.
Rule 2. Districts and Precincts shall be as equal in population as practicable (within 2 percent).
Rule 3. Demographics (including age, race, gender, religion, and political party) shall not be considered until after Rule 1 and 2 have been completed.
Carl Anderson
Hampton, Virginia
P.S. It can be done.

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 8:38:16 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Denise Koch
EMAIL: dwkoch3@gmail.com
REGION: **Hampton Roads**

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LOCALITY: James City

SUBJECT: Redistricting

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners I am a citizen of James city county and a member of the League of Women Voters who is following this process I would like to advocate for creating completely new maps and using non partisan map makers such as our university students to create maps that would be fair to all Commonwealth voters Sincerely Denise Koch James City

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:21:07 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

NAME: VDenise Harrington

EMAIL: Dharrington1619@gmail.com

REGION: Hampton Roads

LOCALITY: James City County

SUBJECT: My District

COMMENT:

Dear Commission, I live in Williamsburg James City County and my district is evenly split between at the congressional level Republicans and Democrats(Luria&Whitman). That is the same for the General Assembly. I am deeply concerned by Senator Parker's comments regarding 10% of African-Americans and moving them someplace with no political clout. Given Virginia's history that is already a troubling comment. As an African American I would hate to be part of that 10% that would never have any political clout. Moreover I like my district just the way it is. Thank you VDenise Harrington

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 6:51:57 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: Sharron Kitchen Miller <skitchenmiller@yahoo.com>

REGION: Hampton Roads

LOCALITY: Newport News

COMMENT:

August 11, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Sharron Kitchen Miller, and for the past three years I have served as President of the Board of Directors for the OneVirginia2021 Foundation. As you know, we are a nonpartisan organization that has been instrumental in educating voters across Virginia since 2013 about the need to reform our broken system of redistricting in the Commonwealth.

On behalf of our Boards, staff, and supporters, I write to express my appreciation for all of the work that has been done thus far. The leadership shown by Co-Chairs Babichinko and Harris has enabled the process to be thorough, collaborative, and transparent.

Last week marked the 18th meeting of the full commission - each of which has given members of the public an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns. It is of particular note that the vast majority of speakers have expressed views regarding jurisdictional boundaries and communities of interests so I trust that these areas will be thoroughly discussed and considered. The "sunlight" process achieved to date has been historic and solidifies the foundation for what I genuinely believe is possible for significant reform.

With the release of the U.S. Census data, a new phase of your work is about to begin. Our organization will continue to encourage public participation regarding all aspects of fair and balanced reform through the many

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educational tools we have assembled and share with all who are engaged in this process.
On behalf of our volunteer base of tens of thousands who reside in every corner of Virginia, I respectfully ask that your members remain mindful that an overwhelming majority of voters supported the creation of this commission in full agreement that all want fair electoral maps - regardless of political party. We have often said that the notion of "fairness" is not about right vs. left, it is about right vs. wrong. Please keep this in mind as you enter the next stage of the critically important work with which you have been tasked.
Thank you again for your efforts thus far and we stand at the ready to assist in whatever way we may be of help.
Sincerely,
Sharron Kitchen Miller
Newport News VA
Sharron Kitchen Miller, OneVirginia2021 Foundation Board President
onevirginia2021foundation.org
skitchernmiller@yahoo.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:21:21 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Mary Barhydt <barhydt@cox.net>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Norfolk

COMMENT:
Thank you for deciding to start with a blank slate. I feel a little better about your work. Now, could you take the next step and choose a nonpartisan consultant for the audit? I am a little confused by your stance that you 'could not' find nonpartisan experts in other areas of your work. How hard did you look? Did you ask University resources for suggestions?
Mary Louise Barhydt
5555 Lakewood Drive
Norfolk, VA 23509
757-855-1440
barhydt@cox.net
Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;
It's about learning to dance in the rain.

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:30:21 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Thomas Van Tiem <dtvantiem@gmail.com>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Norfolk

COMMENT:
I urge you to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any redistricting maps that are considered.
Thomas Van Tiem
9541 12th Bay St
Norfolk, VA 23518

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 21, 2021 11:48:55 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Mary Barhydt <barhydt@cox.net>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Norfolk

COMMENT:

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To: all members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission
From: a concerned citizen

I poured a lot of my life into the work that led to the creation of this commission. Now, I am 83 and unable to attend your meetings, but I watch and listen and am extraordinarily disappointed by your partisan behavior. While I am disappointed in the work of the Commission as a whole, my disappointment is strongest when listening to the elected officers of the government, both Democratic and Republican. While you posture and blame each other, you each need to reread the "raison d'etra" for the this commission. But you appear to be so busy worrying about your side losing in the elections following your work, that you are sabotaging the will of the people who voted for this commission. We wished to have you represent us and our communities, not protect currently elected officials.

It is equally disappointing that some of the citizen commissioners follow along with you, but it is your lack of bipartisan leadership that is setting the example for them. Please remember why you really are there, and do the work of the people of Virginia.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mary Louise Antieau Barhydt
5555 Lakewood Drive
Norfolk, VA 23509
757-855-1440
barhydt@cox.net

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;
It's about learning to dance in the rain.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 16, 2021 3:38:32 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Kari Buchanan
EMAIL: kab1125@gmail.com
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Norfolk, Eastern Shore

SUBJECT: Start from scratch redistricting

COMMENT:
Starting with the old maps will bias areas to remain in their old district. My area of Norfolk is districted with the Eastern Shore. My area is underserved with that alignment

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:54:39 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Chris Anderson
EMAIL: candersonmail5@gmail.com
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach

SUBJECT: The public IS interested - the commission doesn't know

COMMENT:
In light of recent comments from a commission member (along lines of the public not paying attention to the topic of mapping in Virginia) ,I'd like to request that the commission reject that false assumption. Perhaps the system designed to elicit comments from the public - on the complex topic of mapping and voting - is problematic? My experience is that once people understand the stakes involved, regardless of their party affiliation, they are shocked by the

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thought of districts that have been gerrymandered by politicians. Here is a link to an editorial I submitted to the Washington Post, which was printed in the Sunday edition on August 22, 2021: https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/the-virginia-redistricting-commission-is-moving-in-the-wrong-direction/2021/08/20/cacfb22c-fbac-11eb-911c-524bc8b68f17_story.html I'd also like to share the words of an award-winning song I wrote about gerrymandering (and a link, should you care to listen.) It has been performed in front of very receptive live audiences in Virginia, and used in a documentary and podcast which aired in Virginia: <https://chris-anderson.info/chris-anderson-just-change-the-boundary/> My point is this: would you know about my interest in redistricting if I had not filled out this online form? The public participation in your mapping process may be low, but that does NOT mean the public is uninterested in having free and fair elections. It only means they don't feel like mapping experts. We, the people, do NOT want political party considerations included - in any form - when drawing maps for the purpose of electing representatives. Please have actual experts design fair maps based on logic - and leave out the politics. Sincerely, Chris Anderson P.O. Box 56546 Virginia Beach, VA 23456 Email: candersonmail5@gmail.com Phone: 571-308-8637

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 10:10:09 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Bertha G. Myrick
EMAIL: berthamryick@gmail.com
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach

SUBJECT: Redistricting Virginia Beach

COMMENT:
I respectfully urge the use of blank maps as a starting point for drawing district lines. Please start afresh. It is imperative that communities of interest be preserved when drawing new legislative district maps. In order to prosper, Virginia Beach needs to be unified, not divided. Please hire map drawers to help draw new maps. Thank you.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:35:52 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Richard Hagen
EMAIL: rhagen12@verizon.net
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach

SUBJECT: August 23rd meeting

COMMENT:
I drove up from Virginia Beach to attend this morning's meeting. I was very pleased to see that the majority of Commission members voted to start from a blank slate and not bother wasting time with the old maps. This will help the 'Plane land sooner'. I was struck by the portrait of Thomas Jefferson over looking the proceedings. It reminded me of how our Founders, while not perfect, usually put patrician politics aside for the good of the people and to uphold their new revolutionary principals as listed in our founding documents. I would ask each member of the Commission to do the same. While working on the very important process of redistricting, please put aside your Political affiliation and think of yourself as a US and Virginia citizen only. Do not consider what the General Assembly will do. Ask your self what would Washington and

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Jefferson do. Thank you for indulging my little sermon and for the good work today. Be Well

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 1:13:51 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Patricia Johnson <pavj1025@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach

COMMENT:
Hello, I am concerned that the state committee consider the following points when drawing the new voter district maps:
District maps should start from scratch, without regard to prior district lines
Hire professional map makers to draw maps
Disregard incumbent legislators addresses when drawing maps.
Using these guidelines will assure that Virginia's voting districts give all citizens an equal chance to cast their votes and that our elected officials best represent ALL voters. I vote for fair, unbiased elections without gerrymandering!
Thank you,
Patricia A Johnson
Virginia Beach, VA
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 10:38:11 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Gianna Miles <giannamiles@comcast.net>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach

COMMENT:
To Whom It May Concern?
It is vital that district lines be drawn by a TOTALLY non-partisan body in a TOTALLY non-partisan manner. Districts MUST be drawn for the good of the people and the state and not for ANY partisan group or advantage. I urge in the strongest terms that this be the case.
Thank you,
Georgianna Miles
Virginia Beach

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach

COMMENT:
Received, thank you! It will be included with all other written comments submitted to the Commission.
Virginia Redistricting Support Staff
Division of Legislative Services
On Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 1:50 PM Teresa Stanley <teresastanleyobx@gmail.com> wrote:
Will you please let me know that you received this comment below and that it will reach the Commission?
Please redistrict with common sense and try to maintain contiguous government jurisdictions as much as you can. Follow jurisdiction boundaries as much as possible.

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Respectfully, Teresa Stanley, Virginia Beach

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:11:10 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Richard Hagen <rhagen12@verizon.net>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach

COMMENT:

Hi Folks,
I read a Op Ed in the Sunday July 11
th Virginia Pilot on the challenges you must face in drawing our maps. It
is a daunting task and thank you for taking it on. I have been volunteering with OneVirginia 2021 for the
last 4-5 years. I am sure you know that we wanted a 100% non-patrician Commission made of up of only
Political unaffiliated Citizens. The Virginia Legislature would not allow that so we have the current
commission structure, which far better that what we had before.
One thing I read in the Pilot OpEd that was very disturbing. The Pilot reported that in June the commission
decided to allow Democrats and Republicans to hire separate patrician law firms. Why would you do that
unless each side is planning to draw patrician maps? It would be much better to let the 8 Citizen members
hire an non-patrician law firm. For that matter why do you need a 'law firm'? Shouldn't you be hiring a
group who knows the science and has experience drawing fair district maps? They should have NO
connection to Virginia at all. There are plenty of states and universities with experience drawing fair maps.
This move has already tainted my and others trust in the Commission. Please try to put all political loyalties
aside. For the purpose of this Commission none of you should think of yourself as Democrat, Republican or
any other political party. You are simply Virginians.
Please step back and think how important this is for the welfare of every Virginian.
Thank you for your time
Richard Hagen
Virginia Beach, VA
757-343-5678

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:08:20 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Jack Bengtsson
EMAIL: jackbengtsson@sbcglobal.net
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Chesapeake

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting

COMMENT:

I have attached a link to congressional map below. I created it one day, just for the
heck of it, on Dave's Redistricting app. I should let you know that I belong to no political
organization. Therefore, there is no intended political bias to this map. The only criteria I used
was population, geographic commonality (which inevitably includes some cultural and economic
commonality as well), with allowances for minority commonality and representation. I think
you'll find it a little more regional than the current maps. There is some incumbent displacement
associated with this map, but I doubt that is part of criteria anyway. The result of that is that,
perhaps, it opens up a couple other parts of the State to some representation that it didn't have
before. For example, in this map, there is now a district in the North Central area. Prince William
County and surrounding area now has it's own district. And, as I separated Norfolk from Virginia
Beach, the SE corner has it's own district, Va. Beach, Suffolk, Chesapeake. Do with it what you

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will. Perhaps it'll give you some ideas. I drew it, I might as well share it. Good Luck
<https://davesredistricting.org/join/d70c52be-a8fe-47ed-81ed-dabec3d5cffc>
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, August 20, 2021 9:38:23 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: stuart dopp <stuardopp75@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Williamsburg

COMMENT:
Having participated in One VA 2021 campaigns both at the polls and in other ways, I am distressed to see the politicization of this redistricting process. I live in one of the most gerrymandered districts in the Commonwealth, a ridiculous configuration that snakes through the country side from Jamestown to above Fredericksburg with no rhyme or reason other than the ambitions of politicians. This kind of selfishness is a disgrace to our democracy and an affront to those who have worked so hard to bring a more fair and rational approach to this sticky wicket.
I cannot be in Richmond on Monday morning, but will be there in spirit.
Thank you for serving and for, hopefully, honoring the best interests of all of us,
Virginia Stuart Dopp
5182 Rollison Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188

FROM: Sarah Dixon <sbirdwd@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Williamsburg

COMMENT:
Dear Committee,
I am a very concerned citizen (along with MANY others) that wants to have fair elections in Virginia. My district was unfairly sliced up during the last "drawing of the lines" and it goes from Tidewater to Fredericksburg.
PLEASE work together to allow ALL Virginians to have their voices heard and let every vote count. STOP Gerrymandering and show the rest of America how fair elections can be held in our state. Let the lines be drawn by a non-partisan committee.
WE DO CARE.
Thank you.
Sarah Dixon
104 Kathryn Court
Williamsburg, VA 23185

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:55:40 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Les Solomon <les.solomon@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Williamsburg

COMMENT:
I came from Williamsburg today for your meeting. Though I didn't speak, I was so pleased to see the important work you are doing. As a strong supporter for the values associated with the LWV,

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OneVirginia2021, Unitarian Universalists, VICPP, etc., today's session was the best one I ever attended in Richmond!!

Thanks to the Commission and its staff for keeping transparency at the front of the work.

Les Solomon

--

Solomons, 113 Wetherburn La Williamsburg, VA 23188

Cell phone:

Les (he, him) 757 202-1909

Jo (she, her) 757 470-9510 josolomon65@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:45:53 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Gates, Ernie <erngat@cox.net>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Williamsburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

I understand what a challenging task you have, and what a tight deadline, but please do not yield to the temptation to begin our historic redistricting by using the existing districts. Your work represents a watershed opportunity to refresh our legislative maps, not merely

tweak them. Time pressure may not allow you to start from a blank page, which would be ideal, but there must be something in

between. I know OneVirginia2021 will offer some constructive alternatives.

To begin with the existing boundaries would be like intending to remodel a house but settling for redecorating. A paint job and some

new shrubs won't do. Please take a step back and knock down a few walls.

Very respectfully,

Ernie Gates

Williamsburg

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 19, 2021 1:19:08 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Anne Brennan <annieb810@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Williamsburg

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.

Dear Commissioners:

There are many wonderful features about Williamsburg besides the history, beauty, educational opportunities and activities here. I particularly like the various neighborhoods. Both the City and the County do a particularly good job of land-use planning. The neighborhoods are attractive, fairly well varied, and well-populated. I like the variation in ages of residents and the good public lands.

We have several ways in which to connect in this area that I enjoy: the Osher Institute for continuing education is very popular and well attended; we have social events once a month to connect with neighbors in many different interest areas; and the James River is a beautiful

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waterway for relaxation and kyacks. The campus of William and Mary is open, beautiful, and full of ways to learn and contribute. The young adult population adds much to the environment of the city. Realizing that I am walking the very streets that Thomas Jefferson walked is thrilling. Though our community can be quite crowded during tourist season, the city works with foundations and the public to make it a city for everyone. Williamsburg and James City County are popular places to live and our population is growing. Many people do not appreciate apartment buildings going up or the fact that recent building does not fit the "colonial" sType of the past, but I appreciate that we must move on as creatively as possible and that is what I enjoy here. People are open, smart, eager to act, participate in public life, and help each other. This is an easy-going area that needs greater racial diversity and opportunity for Black and brown people. Real estate prices are rising and fewer young families can afford to live here. Our population is aging and that calls for additional and different services and housing now. I feel fortunate to live here. I see redistricting as an important way to ensure that everyone's voice can be heard and that each of us is counted as an important part of the whole. That is why gerrymandering is so destructive to our democracy. Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts and please accept my encouragement in making our communities, districts, and state a model for democratic ideals put into action.

Sincerely,
Anne Brennan
159 Lakewood Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Sincerely,
Anne Brennan
159 Lakewood Dr Williamsburg, VA 23185-3176 annieb810@hotmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:03:57 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Janet Ross <ajross31@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Williamsburg

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 find it quite disconcerting that we cannot see the commission members during commission meetings. At the very least, members should be introduced at each meeting. Also how many commission members have completed the training for Citygate ? This is very important to the process !
Dr Janet Moore Ross
Williamsburg, Va.
Sincerely,
Dr. Janet Ross
117 Roffinghams Way Williamsburg, VA 23185-8915 ajross31@hotmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:39:24 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Geo.Allen Johnston <geoallenjohnston@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: York County

COMMENT:

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Thanks for the super majority vote in favor of drawing district lines from scratch.
As part of the process, it's imperative to have independent expert 'number crunchers, to make a 'more perfect' set of new maps. Let the numbers and the criteria steer the process and the rest will fall into place .

George Allen Johnston
York County Voter
571.451.9757
Sent from my iPad

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:59:03 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Eric Johnson <ericejohn@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads/Central**
LOCALITY: Chesapeake, Petersburg

COMMENT:
I just got word that the commission may soon decide to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on our expected criteria to any maps considered. YES! Please move forward with this plan. My current (HoD) district runs from Chesapeake through rural Virginia up to Petersburg. There is nothing binding by this district. Keep up the good work.
Eric Johnson