

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

October 18, 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 277

DATE: 10/13/2021 5:46:56 PM
Name: Chris DeRosa
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: chris7307@gmail.com
Locality: arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: website

COMMENTS:

The last public comments posted on the website are dated October 7th. Have there been no comments submitted after October 7th? This website should be updated continuously - or at least every day.

DATE: 10/11/2021 8:05:07 AM
Name: Fran Larkins
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: OneVirginia2021 and League of Women Voters of Virginia
Email: franlarkins40@gmail.com
Locality: Stafford County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Where are the received emails?
Map: Senate A5 and B4, House A7 and B6
Topic(s) of interest: Problem with Website

COMMENTS:

The over 500 pages of emails received by the Commission seem to have disappeared from the Commission web site. The "Comments" are there, but not the more lengthy emails. Could they please be made available again?

DATE: 10/7/2021 5:43:13 PM
Name: Rosa Carrascal
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: Carrascalrosa83@gmail.com
Locality: fairfax county
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #224 Virginia counts coalition

COMMENTS:

My name is Rosa Carrascal and I live in Falls Church Fairfax Virginia. I would like to articulate my firm support for map plan #224 submitted to you by the Virginia Counts Coalition. I believe that this map best represents myself and my local neighborhood, and allows our ethnically and culturally diverse communities to be represented in a fair and equal manner.
As you decide on the future of our electoral maps for the next ten years, I implore you to heed the voices of the people that are asking for your support for fair maps. Please consider map #224 in your decision-making. Thank you.

DATE: 10/16/2021 12:45:57 AM
Name: Chris DeRosa
Stakeholder Type: Private individual

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Email: chris7307@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: communications

COMMENTS:

We are in the midst of crucial discussions about fair maps for Virginia. I am extremely disappointed* in the lack of outreach and information to the public. No public comments have been posted on the website since October 7th. Such comments should be uploaded at least once a day. How are the Commissioners (and the public) supposed to be informed if comments are not posted for over a week? - I also have received almost NO email notifications from the Commission (On the other hand, I have received dozens of detailed emails from the Michigan Redistricting Commission). - And again, please provide information about Spanish translation IN SPANISH (verbally during the meetings and hearings - as well as written on the website). (*disappointed is a mild synonym for my actual feelings : anger, frustration are probably more accurate)

DATE: 10/7/2021 9:53:55 PM

Name: Maria Alejandra Ponciano
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Dream Mothers in Action
Email: marialeponciano@gmail.com
Locality: Manassas VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: Map #224 Virginia Counts Coalition's
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality
Community of interest name: Multicultural
Community of interest description: Es una comunidad diversa que necesita ser representada con justicia y equidad

COMMENTS:

My name is Maria Alejandra Ponciano and I live in Manassas Virginia . I would like to articulate my firm support for map plan #224 submitted to you by the Virginia Counts Coalition. I believe that this map best represents myself and my local neighborhood, and allows our ethnically and culturally diverse communities to be represented in a fair and equal manner.
As you decide on the future of our electoral maps for the next ten years, I implore you to heed the voices of the people that are asking for your support for fair maps. Please consider map #224 in your decision-making. Thank you.

DATE: 10/18/2021 9:34:19 AM

Name: Chris DeRosa
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: chris7307@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington, VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

Dear Commissioners and DLS staff,
Many of us are very frustrated at the lack of outreach and communications from the Commission, despite the hiring of a Communications team.
Several of us have submitted a public comment about this frustration through the Commission portal, but they have not been posted.

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(1) "Public Comments Submitted" has not been updated since October 7th - that's 10 days ago. This is unacceptable. You (and we) are in the midst of an extremely busy, demanding and crucial time during this redistricting process. Public comments should be updated and posted at least once every day.

(2) I have received only a handful of emails from the Commission. Almost nothing, in fact. I have to search through the website frequently to find information about maps and meetings. This is disappointing and unacceptable. Not everyone is on social media, so the failure to send timely emails is hindering public engagement. (By comparison, I am receiving many more emails from the Michigan Redistricting Commission than from Virginia. One email is attached for your perusal) Emails should be sent frequently to announce meetings and hearings including date, time, live streaming links (since these change every meeting). Clear message about live streaming vs commenting links might help to reduce the number of no-shows during live public comment periods.

(3) When providing information about Spanish (or other) translation services, the instructions should be provided in the target language. Those who do not understand English or speak it fluently will be "lost" when the instructions are given in English only. This is true for social media as well as verbally on livestream. I recall that one commissioner made this request several weeks ago.

(4) When the email with the zoom link for public comments is distributed to speakers, you may want to include information such as:

- this zoom link is for those who wish to make a public comment only. If you would like to view the meeting, but not make a comment, use this link for livestreaming. Ask the folks to contact you if they wish to cancel their sign-up to speak.
- public comments will be received at the beginning of each Commission meeting. This meeting will begin at -- a.m./p.m.

(5) Please post agendas and meeting materials in a more timely manner. It is now after 10 pm on Sunday night; the Commission meeting begins in ten hours. Nothing is posted yet.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)
chris7307@gmail.com
571-422-6605 (cell)
Arlington VA

DATE: 10/18/2021 8:47:30 AM

Name: Kripa Patwardhan
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: Patwardhan.K.M@gmail.com
Locality: Frying Pan Precinct
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #392 Virginia Senate (10-18-2021)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

I notice that Frying Pan precinct is separated from Herndon and Reston and from Herndon-Monroe Park & Ride. This fails to reflect that fact that Frying Pan precinct is part and parcel of the silver line corridor. Fix it.

DATE: 10/18/2021 8:33:32 AM

Name: Dr. Jun Cho
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: juncho7989@everyactioncustom.com juncho7989@naver.com
Locality: Washington, D.C.
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

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COMMENTS:

Subject: I am writing to you today regarding a very important issue

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

My name is [INSERT NAME] and I'm from [CITY/TOWN], Virginia.

I am writing to document my input about redistricting in Virginia. These maps will be the basis for representation for the next decade and it's important that the maps fairly reflect our communities.

I believe that in order to reflect and represent our communities, the maps must intentionally keep communities together. This means not "packing" and "cracking" communities of color in southeastern and Northern Virginia, reducing splits in the districts in Northern Virginia, ensuring CD-03 and CD-04 remain similar to the current court-drawn districts, and also anchoring districts around areas with strong community ties like the University of Virginia and in Norfolk County.

I want to share a bit about my community and the shared interests that unite us, like my public policy concerns and notable local geography.

First, while there are many interests that unite my community, one important shared interest is [[INSERT SHARED INTEREST]].

Secondly, a major public policy concern of my community is [[INSERT A PUBLIC POLICY CONCERN]].

Lastly, the local geographic boundaries that should inform our district lines are [[geographic boundaries of your community of interest]].

I believe the next district lines should be drawn in a manner that adequately reflects and fairly represents my community's interests.

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jun Cho

Washington, DC 20001

juncho7989@naver.com

DATE: 10/15/2021 3:33:55 PM

Name: Ron Page

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: pagegolfer@comcast.net

Locality: Gainesville, VA

Region: **Northern**

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

Topic(s) of interest: gerrymandering

COMMENTS:

For too long Virginia has kept many of its citizens from seeing their candidates kept out of office through gerrymandering of legislative districts. It is time for unbiased drawing of voting districts. We are almost there.

Please don't drop the ball at this point., It is time!

Sincerely,

Ron and Lois Page

6136 Beton Court

Gainesvillr, VA 20155

DATE: 10/15/2021 9:12:18 AM

Name: Candace Butler

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

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Email: candy@edandcandy.com
Locality: Annandale, VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

Virginians are watching. Voters are watching. All of us expect that we should actually be able to govern ourselves successfully. Compromise and reason - and thinking beyond party-driven philosophies - is essential. We, the citizens of Virginia, need a simple majority to move forward to consideration of one map for the House of Delegates and one map for the State Senate. Get that done and start working on those maps, please! When you start to focus on one HOD map and one Senate map, then also start working with each other to get to that supermajority. Please keep working. Please find a way. With great respect for all of your efforts,
Candace Butler
Annandale VA

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:49:34 AM

Name: Bill Millhouser
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: bmillhouser2010@cox.net
Locality: Fairfax, VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

Co-Chairs Harris and Babichenko.
Thank you both for your tireless effort to forward the work of the Commission
I am writing regarding the urgent need to improve the information of the VRC website and social media platforms as soon as possible. A visitor to either the VRC's current website or Face Book page can find no information on the current status of map drawing efforts for either the State House of Delegate and Senate Districts or the Congressional Districts.
You have two weeks to draw the CD maps; please provide the public a clear description of how the public can provide the most useful input, including during the next two days prior to the Thursday Commission meeting. I urge the Commission to provide a cogent description of current status of the work of the Commission on all of it outreach platforms as soon as possible. This message should include:
- A statement that the Commission was not able to agree on new House of Delegate and Senate maps by the legal deadline of October 10, and that these maps will now be drawn by the Supreme Court of Virginia, pursuant to the Virginia Constitution and VA Code.
- That the Commission is now focused on completing new maps for the Virginia's 11 Congressional Districts by the deadline of October 25, and is planning to meet on the dates on listed on the website
- And that the Commission is now seeking public input only on the existing and proposed Congressional Distinct maps. (the maps links on the website landing page should only link to the CD maps)
In addition, I and other members of the public would greatly appreciate the posting of the meeting agenda and materials for the upcoming meeting at least two days before the meeting so that we actually have the opportunity to provide meaningful comments on the agenda items.
Thank you,
Bill Millhouser
Fairfax

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DATE: 10/15/2021 8:47:38 AM

Name: Steven Steiner
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: ssteiner9@verizon.net
Locality: Reston, VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

I am writing in regard to the apparent severe problems you are having with redistricting. I strongly urge you to find a way to a non-partisan plan that provides equal representation for all Virginians. That is why you were elected/appointed to the Commission. Please do not pass this responsibility on to the Supreme Court. Thank you.
Steven H. Steiner
Reston, VA

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:36:02 AM

Name: Fran Larkins
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: franlarkins40@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg, VA 22406
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map Option#1 on page 23 of the report of the Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting from April 2011
Topic(s) of interest: Competitive district

COMMENTS:

If you are going to move on to Congressional Districts, I would like to suggest Map Option#1 on page 23 of the report of the Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting from April 2011.
https://statchatva.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Redistricting-Commission-Final-Report_04_04_2011.pdf
I realize this ten year old map does not include the two majority-minority districts that you want to preserve going forward, but it does offer a viable option for the districts in the northern part of Virginia. They are drawn in concentric semi-circles moving outward from Washington, DC.
District 7 in that map would include Stafford County, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania County in a Congressional District that is more oriented toward Northern Virginia. Stafford County no longer belongs in a more rural Congressional district that stretches all the way to Williamsburg.
Please give us a competitive district! Right now, I feel like we have no representation at all and no chance of being heard in Washington.
Thank you!
Fran Larkins
40 Battery Point Dr.
Fredericksburg, VA 22406
franlarkins40@gmail.com
703-517-9032

DATE: 10/15/2021 8:26:01 AM

Name: Jim Call

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Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jcall4472@gmail.com
Locality: Alexandria, VA 22301
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, draw congressional districts

COMMENTS:

Good luck with your meeting Thursday. I think it is important that the commission go ahead and draw congressional districts, even if it decides to turn over state districting to the Virginia Supreme Court. It would help immensely if the commission can agree on just one map drawer.
In addition, I think it is important to revisit the equal population criteria that the commission set for itself. Allowing small deviations in population to avoid splitting precincts is permissible and could be very helpful to the task whether completed by the commission or the court. See Tennant v Jefferson County Commission referenced in my last email.

DATE: 10/13/2021 3:47:25 PM

Name: Joseph Clark
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: joeclark771@gmail.com
Locality: Stafford, VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

The most equitable solution would be to commission a computer program to divide the state into voting districts which are geographically evenly distributed. This would eliminate the taint of politics in the process.

DATE: 10/12/2021 2:14:28 PM

Name: Virginia D. Sivigny
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: gingesivigny@verizon.net
Locality: Burke
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I am profoundly disappointed at the potential failure of the Commission to accomplish its mission of creating new House and Senate districts. I was concerned when the legislators jettisoned the originally proposed nonpartisan commission and replaced it with a bipartisan one. But I still had hope of a good outcome. I was dismayed at the decision to use partisan legal counsel and map makers, but still wanted to believe in the integrity of those commissioned to serve for the good of the voters of Virginia. Having watched several of the meetings, I now must admit that the whole process was hijacked from the beginning by people whose agenda was not fair redistricting, but a determination to obstruct the work of the commission PRECISELY to turn it over to the Supreme Court. Given that the Supreme Court justices are appointed by the General Assembly, which for many years was controlled by the GOP, it is now glaringly apparent that in Virginia, Republican politicians are not giving up the current practice of "legislators choosing their voters, not voters electing their legislators." This angers me, even as it makes me very,

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very sad. I believe you still have a few days to get this right. Please use those days well for the good of this Commonwealth.

DATE: 10/12/2021 9:54:04 AM

Name: Elsa Cecilia Galvan
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Dmia
Email: elsaribles22@yahoo.com
Locality: Lorton VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #147 Multicultural Community Center HoD Map NoVA -- Citizen submitted (9-27-21)

COMMENTS:

Buenos días!! Mi nombre es Elsa vivo en Lorton VA desde hace 20 años. Les doy las gracias por el firme apoyo al plan del mapa 147 que le presento la organización Multicultural, ya que el mismo otorga la mejor representación a todo mi vecindario., y decide el mejor futuro para estos próximos 10 años. Muchas gracias.

DATE: 10/12/2021 1:00:23 AM

Name: Chris DeRosa
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: chris7307@gmail.com
Locality: arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: House of Delegates map for Arlington County
Map: submitting a map
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name:
Community of interest description:

COMMENTS:

Here is a suggestion for Arlington County : 2 districts entirely within Arlington County; 1 district mostly in Arlington Co with a few precincts from neighboring Fairfax County. One district encompasses north Arlington as defined in COI; another reflects comments about the Columbia Pike corridor which is south of Rt 50/Arlington Blvd. Also shows 2 districts for City of Alexandria. <https://davesredistricting.org/join/09d01f98-afae-4d3c-8159-c926c3748b65>

DATE: 10/11/2021 11:09:57 PM

Name: Terrence Wayne Modglin
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Terry Modglin for Delegate 2021
Email: terry.modglin@gmail.com
Locality: Falls Church
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Need to come to a resolution on redistricting
Community of interest name: Seven Corners
Community of interest description: A community diverse in national origin, color, and religion; a mix of families and singles; commercial and residential center.

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COMMENTS:

As a citizen and a four-time candidate for state office, I have always supported a mechanism to take redistricting out of the hands of the legislature to a commission that would be nonpartisan or less partisan. I am very disappointed that the Commission seems to be stuck in getting to a final resolution in redistricting. It reflects badly on both parties. Let's get back to the basic principles of contiguity, continuity, and communities of interest.

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:15:05 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Caroline's Community
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62328>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:13:38 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Washington and Lee University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62321>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:11:58 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Virginia State University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62316>

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COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:10:16 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Southern Virginia University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62310>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:08:47 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Regent University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62307>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:06:59 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Old Dominion University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62293>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:05:41 PM

Name: Callie Jordan

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Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Norfolk State University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62288>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:03:56 PM
Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Hampton University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62217>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:02:12 PM
Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Hampden-Sydney College
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62202>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 9:00:16 PM
Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**

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Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Bridgewater College
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62188>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 8:58:12 PM
Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Averett University
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/62184>

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/11/2021 7:35:37 PM
Name: Robert Keith Thomas
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: rkthomas2@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Fredericksburg
Community of interest description: This community needs to be whole and undivided.

COMMENTS:

It is unforgivable that politics has ruined redistricting. Get back to work.

DATE: 10/9/2021 8:56:29 AM
Name: Christopher Buchheit
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: buchheitcjc@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

The Commission ought to be ashamed by this outcome, particularly the Republicans who couldn't take a fair compromise. It's a disgrace and a national embarrassment.

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DATE: 10/8/2021 2:22:49 PM

Name: Christopher Buchheit
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: buchheitcjc@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

COMMENTS:

I am once again writing to the commission because it currently seems incapable of agreeing to maps that are apolitical.
Once again - we, the citizens who voted this commission into existence, are paying attention to this process, and we will hold politicians accountable in the next elections who try to dismantle this process or leverage it for political purposes.
Please - for the love of God and for the strength of our democracy - put your political stakes behind you and represent Virginians as fairly as possible with no regard to who maintains a majority.

DATE: 10/8/2021 12:00:55 PM

Name: Peter Evans
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: riverswork@yahoo.com
Locality: Arlington VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Commission efficiency

COMMENTS:

To the CoChairs -Please delegate this spreadsheet exercise to the DLS staff, you're killing your own schedule by letting them do data entry and quality control while the whole commission and all the citizens twiddle their thumbs

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:59:05 AM

Name: Meth Rhinehart
Stakeholder Type: Organization staff
Organization: Bristol Chamber of Commerce
Email: brhinehart@bristolchamber.org
Locality: Bristol
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

Thank you for your work on this extremely important matter of redefining our districts across the Commonwealth of Virginia. As you continue your work, I am sending some thoughts for consideration and I am happy to discuss further upon your request.
The SWVA districts are relatively compact but there are a few instances where "communities of interest" have been improperly and unnaturally divided.
The most obvious example is proposed House districts 97, 98 and 99. While the proposals vary, it is

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important to keep in mind that the I-81 corridor and the coalfields are very separate communities of interest. They always have been and anyone in either region would agree with that statement. For instance, Bristol, Washington and Smyth are natural links while adding Russell County to any one of those is not.

Russell County is located within the Virginia Coalfield Economic Authority (VCEDA) and Cumberland Plateau planning district footprint and logically belongs with Buchanan and Tazewell Counties, while Bristol, Washington and Smyth are in the Mount Rogers planning district footprint and fit nicely together. Both examples are important to each region. A good example of the importance of this is proposed House district 100 where the district almost exclusively encompasses the LENOWISCO planning district footprint. District 100 has been nicely drawn.

The current makeup of the 5th and 6th House districts is actually a very natural and logical way to split Smyth County. Smyth has historically been the connector from Bristol and Washington to Wythe, Bland, etc.

The western portion of Smyth County is within the Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) footprint, while the eastern portion of the county is within the Wytheville Community College (WCC) footprint. VHCC also serves Bristol and Washington while WCC serves Wythe, Bland, Grayson, Galax and Carroll.

Smyth, Wythe and Bland have also shared a library system over the years. Additionally, the high school athletic districts naturally group most schools in Bristol, Washington and Smyth together, while also grouping most schools in the coalfields region together. Smyth and Washington also share and Industrial Facilities Authority with one another.

The proposed districts can be easily changed to accommodate these communities of interest. The proposed 99th could encompass Bristol, Washington and the western half of Smyth. The proposed 98th could then encompass all or most of Russell, which makes geographical sense. The proposed 97th could then add Bland to what is being proposed. There will be almost no change in the partisan makeup of the districts, but they will be much more in line with what folks in the region know, love, and expect.

20 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol, Tennessee 37620 P O Box 519, Bristol, Virginia, 24203-0519 p. 423.989.4850 f. 423.989.4867 www.bristolchamber.org

The biggest disappointment, of course, is loss of a delegate seat. No region would ever advocate for diminished representation, but the population loss is a tough reality to confront and something we are desperately trying to reverse through a number of economic initiatives that highlight all our region has to offer.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and feedback, and for your continued commitment to making this process as positive as possible for all Virginians.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:56:23 AM

Name: David Meyer
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Organization: City of Fairfax
Email: david.meyer@fairfaxva.gov
Locality: Fairfax
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

These same precincts even share Fairfax postal addresses which end at the VRE railroad tracks, where Fairfax becomes Burke.

In conclusion, please keep the Route 123 Core Community together. The precincts are linked economically, socially and physically and should stay together in redistricting.

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DATE: 10/8/2021 10:55:16 AM

Name: Darlene Faltz
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Email: d.tfaltz@yahoo.com
Locality: Herndon
Region: **Northern**
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:

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 in Fairfax County and a voting member in the Hunter Mill District.

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.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:54:04 AM

Name: Lori Lataillade
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Email: lmlatai@gmail.com
Locality: Alexandria
Region: **Northern**
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

COMMENTS:

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 in the City of Alexandria and a voting member in district 46.

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.

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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.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:49:21 AM

Name: Malcolm Scott Jr
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: stuscott703@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I don't mind losing Rip Sullivan as my delegate, although I will regret it. I very much mind his having difficulty remaining in the GA after redistricting.
I probably don't understand the proposed maps, but it appears that Del Sullivan may be cut away from most of his current constituents. While he lives in McLean, most of District 48 lies in Arlington. My county has fully embraced this 'outsider' with its support since he won a special election to succeed Bob Brink.
In my opinion, Sullivan has been one of the most effective delegates and one of those most responsible for getting the Democrats to a majority.
Redistricting is not nonpartisan as you wished and worked for it to be. Given that this process is bipartisan, ignoring the impact of proposed maps on incumbents may not be a virtue. As a strong supporter of Sullivan, I feel it IS a mistake if it adversely impacts Sullivan. It seems to me it should be possible to form a compact district including his part of McLean which expands the portion in Fairfax and reduces the portion in Arlington.
How is it fair for Northern Virginia to gain more representation due to population gain, but form districts which force incumbents to run against each other?

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:38:05 AM

Name: Louise Epstein
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: lkepstein@gmail.com
Locality: McLean
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

I live in McLean, Virginia, which is at the northern end of Fairfax County. I have volunteered with local PTAs, my neighborhood association and other local groups for years. I am writing about the proposed maps for Fairfax County state senate and state delegate districts, after reviewing the "communities of interest" factors on your web site.
State Senate Proposed Maps
The good news is that Maps A5 and B4 both keep McLean in one state senate district. The maps differ, however, in which neighborhoods they combine with McLean (22101 and 22102).
I don't know if your commission looked at the boundary maps for local high schools in Fairfax County, or the boundaries for the McLean Community Center (which is funded by a local surtax on property owners).
As a practical matter, Fairfax County Public School boundaries and McLean Community Center boundaries define "Greater McLean." This includes 22043 and parts of 22042 (Falls Church) and 22182 (Vienna).

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Map A5 would be better if it added the City of Falls Church and more of zip code 22182 to District 4 (which includes McLean), and did not include Reston and areas west of Fairfax City in Map 4.

Map B4 would be better if it added the City of Falls Church and more of zip code 22182 to District 6, and moved the Town of herndon and Reston into District 7.

State Delegate Proposed Maps

Maps A7 and B6 are the proposed delegate maps for Northern Virginia.

Map A7 is terrible in terms of keeping similar communities together - it splits greater McLean into at least three districts.

Map B6 does a better job with McLean (although it excludes some areas that are part of "Greater McLean"), but it splits Great Falls into two delegate districts. In addition, Map B6 looks horribly gerrymandered, with a lot of unwarranted zigs and zags all over the county.

A better map would keep Great Falls together, and also keep Greater McLean together, probably in two separate districts, and would have fewer districts that look gerrymandered.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:34:07 AM

Name: Deborah Campbell
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Email: beesoup@aol.com
Locality: Dumfries
Region: **Northern**

Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I am a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. a private, nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programs; a resident in Prince William County and a voting member in district 31.

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.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:27:49 AM

Name: Jean Monroe
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Email: jfmonroe18@gmail.com
Locality: Woodbridge
Region: **Northern**

Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

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COMMENTS:

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 in Woodbridge, VA/Prince William County and a voting member in [District-CONG 11, SEN 029].

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.

DATE: 10/8/2021 10:16:00 AM

Name: Fran Larkins
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: franlarkins40@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Maps A5, B4, A7, B6
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

Senate maps A5, B4 –

Both Senate maps combine the entirety of Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg - but - with King George County. We have nothing in common with rural King George. Our interests are best met with District 13 in the earlier B3 Senate map. This follows the I-95 transportation corridor and keeps southern Stafford County, the City of Fredericksburg, and northern Spotsylvania County together. Fredericksburg is one of Virginia's smaller cities and many with the Fredericksburg address are connected - economically, socially, and historically. Perhaps a shared state Senator could also improve our ability to work together?

House maps A7, B6 –

Thanks for keeping Fredericksburg whole. My home and community are actually in south Stafford so I'm asking you to take a better look at Stafford County.

Thank you Del. Ransone for pointing out that Stafford is divided into 3 districts. It's like we're the Heinz 57 where the map drawers put the left-over population from Northern Virginia. Both A7 and B6 do this.

I live in a Del Webb active adult development in South Stafford, and we share many concerns with a "sister" Del Webb community just over two miles away. Ever since the two developments were built, however, we have had different Delegates to the Virginia House. B6 and District 33 would put us together but still divides Stafford County into 3 with District 31 ranging all the way to Middleburg!

A7 doesn't include a piece of Stafford County with Middleburg but does split our Del Webb "community of interest" in south Stafford. The "arm" (muzzle of the dog?) extends too far south toward Route 17. An easy fix would be to divide Districts 33 and 34 slightly more north at that point, perhaps following Truslow Road or Potomac Creek.

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That said, the Commission seems to be in a pickle. As one of the many volunteers to end gerrymandering in Virginia, I have watched the Commission with high hopes at every turn. Perhaps our expectations were too high? I don't believe so!

What would I do, if I were on the Commission?

1. If needed, take advantage of the 14-day extension. You may only need a few additional days. It's not admitting failure. It's wise!
2. Get rid of the "A" and "B" designations – AND the party map drawers. It has been too tempting for them to protect incumbents and the party's own interest. They should no longer have a seat at this table. Don't just try to hide an obvious incumbent protection. The bumps may be a signal and there should be a really good reason if you're giving them priority. Incumbents who live in these areas might be voted out in the next election. You may be splitting neighbors. Why keep their districts like this for the next 10 years. Elevate incumbency last!
3. Trust nonpartisan organizations such as the Princeton Gerrymandering Project and mathematician Moon Duchin with Tufts University to help analyze partisan fairness. They CAN help analyze partisan fairness.
4. Get rid of the lawyers! You've heard them. At this point, they are only sowing confusion and wasting precious time. In our hearts, you know it's time to provide as much opportunity as possible for African Americans and other minorities to election candidates of their choice.
5. Don't quibble over the numbers. Ask Sen. Locke and Del. McQuinn what they feel is truly needed to take a historic step forward. I trust their very thoughtful input. Republicans, if you're concerned, they are thinking too much like Democrats, again, look to the math experts.
6. The more compact districts and keeping communities of interest together should tremendously improve representation. It will "lift all boats" – for all minority communities and all who are "just" asking for an opportunity to elect a Virginia Senator, Representative or Congressman of our choice – not theirs.

DATE: 10/7/2021 4:36:56 PM

Name: Kim Jacoby
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: 1fpnva@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
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: Greater Fredericksburg area
Community of interest description:

COMMENTS:

Please Do Not adopt proposed House Map B6. It unfairly divides the Greater Fredericksburg area Community of Interest & places my home/immediate community in a district that is widely divergent geographically, economically, and culturally. It will adversely affect my family, friends, & neighbors. The proposed House Map A7 is significantly superior.

DATE: 10/7/2021 4:25:15 PM

Name: Kim Jacoby
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: 1fpnva@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
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: Greater Fredericksburg area

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COMMENTS:

I support House Map A7, as it mostly preserves the Greater Fredericksburg area Community of Interest. It is far superior to the proposed House B6 Map.

DATE: 10/7/2021 4:20:59 PM

Name: Kim Jacoby
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: 1fpnva@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #102 B3 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (9-18-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Greater Fredericksburg area

COMMENTS:

I support Senate Map B3, as it most closely preserves the significant Community of Interest of the greater Fredericksburg area. It is far superior to the proposed Senate A5 & B4 Maps.

DATE: 10/7/2021 4:11:23 PM

Name: Kim Jacoby
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: 1fpnva@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #180 A5 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (10-1-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Greater Fredericksburg area

COMMENTS:

Please Do Not adopt Senate A5 plan (or B4 Plan). It unfairly splits the greater Fredericksburg area Community of Interest & would significantly adversely affect our community.

DATE: 10/7/2021 1:39:39 PM

Name: Karina Flores
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: likflor33@yahoo.com
Locality: Prince William County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #131 VACIR HoD Map -- Citizen submitted (9-24-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: immigrant community, latino community

COMMENTS:

My name is Karina Flores and I live in western Prince William County. I would like to articulate my firm support for map plan #131 submitted to you by the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights. I believe that this map best

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represents myself and my local neighborhood, and allows our ethnically and culturally diverse communities to be represented in a fair and equal manner. As you decide on the future of our electoral maps for the next ten years, I implore you to heed the voices of the people that are asking for your support for fair maps. Please consider map #131 in your decision making. Thank you.

DATE: 10/6/2021 12:03:25 PM

Name: Sue Smyth
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: suzi.smyth@gmail.com
Locality: Northern - Mt. Vernon
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Community of interest name: Mt. Veron

COMMENTS:

I am a resident of Mount Vernon and I do not believe my district should be considered as part of Alexandria city. Route 1/Mount Vernon is a distinct community of interest and district lines should not cut out and separate communities on either side. The fact that parts of Mount Vernon and Lee Districts have an Alexandria postal address already creates confusion. Don't compound the confusion. Putting Fairfax County residents in an Alexandria district or vice versa creates much confusion about which elected officials represent whom. Mount Vernon is a magisterial district of Fairfax County, with a natural boundary of Cameron Run and Hunting Creek. Counties and cities are different and are treated differently under state law.

DATE: 10/5/2021 6:35:58 PM

Name: Linda J. Colbert
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Organization: Mayor of the Town of Vienna
Email: mayor@viennava.gov
Locality: Vienna
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Town of Vienna and City of Fairfax
Community of interest description: Mentioned above

COMMENTS:

I am writing to you today as Mayor of the Town of Vienna to advocate two things. The first is to include the entire Town of Vienna in one district and the second is to keep the Town of Vienna and the City of Fairfax together in the same State Senate district in the plans you are drawing now. While we have not been in the same State House districts before, our communities have typically been connected in the same Senate district, and the Town of Vienna requests that you continue that precedence. Any plan that separates these communities into different districts limits the ability for our common interests to be wholly represented in Richmond.

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The City of Fairfax and the Town of Vienna are two of the oldest jurisdictions in Northern Virginia and their cultural and economic ties are as strong now as they have been for more than a century. These social, historic and cultural ties constitute a community of interest as defined by the Virginia Code, and I believe that justifies preserving those connections in our new district maps.

In addition to the important connections I have already mentioned, the City of Fairfax and the Town of Vienna are connected by physical infrastructure. The two communities share U.S. Route 123, which borders a key regional Interstate highway, I-66. The two communities co-host a METRO station (Vienna), have local historic societies and downtown districts and share a common identity as small jurisdictions just outside the Beltway. Additionally, the City of Fairfax runs an independent bus service that connects George Mason University and neighboring Fairfax County communities near Route 123 to the Vienna METRO. Route 123 in central Fairfax County is a distinct community that has survived for generations.

As you make your final district decisions, please understand that keeping Vienna together and in the same district as the City of Fairfax are our top priorities. The Town of Vienna shares more common interests with the City of Fairfax than it does with Great Falls, Falls Church, and McLean areas, which have been drawn in some of the Commission’s proposed maps. It is crucial we have a representative that can advocate for this community as a whole for our interests to be wholly represented in Richmond.

DATE: 10/5/2021 4:56:47 PM

Name: Nancy L Collins
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: One VA 2021
Email: nancycollins555@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg City
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

Entire City of Fredericksburg WITH Northern Spotsylvania - for HOD and Senate maps

DATE: 10/5/2021 4:52:04 PM

Name: Nancy L Collins
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: One VA 2021
Email: nancycollins555@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #102 B3 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (9-18-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: City of Fredericksburg and related neighborhoods

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COMMENTS:

Strong support for HD-34 as drawn on Map B5 (Keep Entire Fred'bg City with norther Spotsylvania)

DATE: 10/5/2021 10:04:14 AM

Name: Wendy Fox-Grage
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: wendy.foxgrage@gmail.com
Locality: Fairfax County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Senate A5 & B4, House A7 & B6
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Vienna, VA
Community of interest description: See above

COMMENTS:

I live in Hunters Valley neighborhood in Vienna, VA. The Commissions maps -- Senate A5 & B4, House A7 & B6 -- place my neighborhood in District 10. However, our Community of Interest is in District 16 which includes our children's schools in Vienna and Oakton. Our neighborhood is right off Hunter Mill Road, but Districts 10 and 16 split up this Hunter Mill corridor. My ask is for the Commission to look at District 10 and keep our Community of Interest together in District 16.

DATE: 10/4/2021 2:51:15 PM

Name: Diane S. Shea
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: shea.sullivan70@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #180 A5 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (10-1-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: see above.

COMMENTS:

Senate District map A5 and it's identical twin, B4 combine into a new District 14 the City of Fredericksburg, large portions of Stafford County and all of King George County. In no way can this configuration approach a "community of interest." All of Fredericksburg, and most of Stafford County are arguably urban or urbanizing, dependent upon I-95 to reach jobs in Washington, DC or northern Virginia counties, share a multi-county/city regional library system, shop in downtown Fredericksburg and it's Central Park shopping mall and utilize cultural and recreational facilities that are within 30 minute drives from almost any point in Stafford County or Fredericksburg.

None of these characteristics apply to King George County. It is primarily rural, its residents only infrequently commute north, shop, recreate or take part in cultural activities in Fredericksburg or Stafford. A large portion of its population works in the far eastern portion of the county, and area that is the economic center of the county. Very few connections exist between King George and the counties to the west. There is no logical reason for it to be combined in the same Senate district as Fredericksburg and Stafford County.

While not perfect, the draft map B3, from 09/18/2021 is far superior in capturing Fredericksburg and some of its suburbs in Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties into a single Senate district. A more reasonable community of interest exists in the B3 map and I urge you to select it as your recommended choice. Thank you for your consideration.

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DATE: 10/4/2021 2:13:55 PM

Name: Chris DeRosa
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: chris7307@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington - VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

It would be helpful if the co-chair or presiding member would call a speaker and then say the name(s) of the next person(s) in line to speak. That would allow participants to be ready to activate their mic and video when called on. Hearings may run more smoothly with this practice. Thank you.

DATE: 10/4/2021 8:59:07 AM

Name: Amy Tryon
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: amytryon@gmail.com
Locality: Fairfax County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

COMMENTS:

I heard that the Commission is considering combining the Mt. Vernon part of Fairfax County with Alexandria City in a single district. I want to urge that this not happen, since the city and county are distinct communities with different needs. Thanks for considering my comment.

DATE: 10/3/2021 10:07:57 PM

Name: Harrison Premen
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: hpremen@gmail.com
Locality: Fauquier
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map #: Map # 198 A7 Statewide HOD (2021-10-03)
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality, Not splitting Fauquier

COMMENTS:

Fauquier can easily fit within a single district. By dividing the county using the current precincts selected in Southern Fauquier, it creates a very jagged edge that is confusing and creates illogical peninsulas between the two districts.

DATE: 10/3/2021 6:34:23 PM

Name: Martt Harding
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: (not applicable)
Email: marttharding@gmail.com
Locality: Springfield VA 22150
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Question about voting history

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Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality
Community of interest name: Not applicable to my comment
Community of interest description: Not applicable to my comment

COMMENTS:

This redistricting process could in my opinion be made more productive and useful if there were information available about voting history (at a relatively high level). Geographic and constituent info is useful, but the purpose of redistricting is to make it possible for different viewpoints to be expressed at the ballot box. "Safe districts" are often, but not necessarily, an indication of gerrymandering to choose a desired electorate. Please make available information such as how red/blue by % the current districts have historically voted.

DATE: 10/3/2021 11:45:48 AM

Name: Kenny Boddye
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Organization: Prince William County Board of Supervisors
Email: kenboddye@gmail.com
Locality: Prince William County
Region: Northern
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

COMMENTS:

Thank you for your work thus far, and for allowing residents from across the Commonwealth to weigh in on the redistricting process. As an elected official in local government, and a representative of Virginia's most diverse - and second most populated - county, I am writing today to submit my feedback on the most updated maps as well as the commission more generally.

Map A4 is probably the worst offender of all the current versions of the proposed maps. It is essentially what a GOP-led legislature would draw if left to their own devices with a set criteria. It gives the Republican Party a large majority in the State Senate, disrupts the representation of people of color, and concentrates as many Democratic areas of Prince William County as possible into just two districts.

Map B4 is significantly better, but still has its issues. It provides for a much fairer partisan split and does a much better job with properly representing communities of interest in Prince William County. It essentially creates 3 PWC-centric State Senate districts which makes sense given our county's population.

A6 is a decent map, but is still engineered to provide Republican Delegates an advantage. It also creates a split district in Mid Prince William County shared with Fairfax which is unnecessary and does not preserve a community of interest being kept together. Overall, however, it does cut down on the total number of inter-county districts we have.

B6 is a good map, but it could use a bit more consideration toward proper representation for people of color. It largely keeps communities together, and minimizes the amount of inter-county connections to keep representation fair. It is my hope that this map is largely the basis that makes it to the final considerations. More generally, it is my hope that as we shift to the last stages of the redistricting process, the citizen members of the commission be given a much larger, leadership-focused role. I do not believe that legislator members should be able to propose their own maps - especially at this phase - and that they should largely be advisory as opposed to driving decisions. The purpose of this commission was to take as much legislator influence out of this process as possible, and giving the citizen members the driver's seat will get us closer to that ideal.

DATE: 10/2/2021 3:26:20 PM

Name: Elaine Braverman
Stakeholder Type: Private individual

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Organization: Age Group
Email: elaine_braverman@msn.com
Locality: Arlington, VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I have followed most of the meetings of the Commission, and continue to have concerns similar to those expressed throughout the Oct. 2 session. 2 specific items:

1. While Commission members have done an excellent job reading/listening to public comments, it appeared that today is the first day suggestions were made to include maps submitted by the public. I hope i am wrong, but I had understood that citizen-submitted maps were being considered by the map drawers as part of their process. Otherwise, what was the purpose of soliciting maps? I would appreciate the Commission clarifying this.
2. The criteria and guidelines adopted by the Commission listed the priority order of those guidelines. Incumbency was # 4 of 5, and the Commission's discussions in developing criteria were quite clear. Instead, incumbency increasingly appears to be closer to the top (if not at the top) of mapmaking considerations. There was discussion at the Oct. 2 meeting that differences in map districts were "at the edges" - - exactly where many of the incumbents seemed to be placed and highlighted by map drawers and Commissioners. I continue to be extremely disappointed that conducting the redistricting process in sunshine hasn't brought much light in.

DATE: 10/2/2021 12:27:58 PM

Name: Mike Katchmeric
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Gainesville Dems
Email: miekatchmeric@yahoo.com
Locality: Prince William County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

The districts should be as compact as possible and should use existing jurisdiction lines. By having specific formulas it would reduce the number of options that can be used to draw district boundaries and would counter packing and cracking techniques. My proposal would be draw one set of maps using only mathematical standards. My proposal would start with total VA population divided by 100 which would give you the population target per house district (PTPHD) which each district needs to come in at plus or minus 1 per cent of that number for equal representation. Then ever jurisdiction in the Commonwealth would receive a fraction score (jurisdiction population divided by the PTPHD.) For example if Arlington had the population for 2 house seats the most that they could have within their borders is 3 seats and these would have to be drawn based on county government subdivisions. You will be allowed one split district with another jurisdiction to create a house district but these need to be kept to a minimum. The goal is to reduce the number of split counties, magisterial districts and voting precincts. Need to end the confusion of having multiple district at the same precinct which has caused voters being placed in the wrong district. Also need to end long odd shaped districts that represent no previously defined area. Once the 100 House districts are drawn the Senate districts will be two complete house districts with a 3rd district will be equally split by population to be assigned to two a joining districts. This dividing line will again use the principle of limiting jurisdictional splits. A split can only occur to equalize population. Need to limit the number of options available to the gerrymanders. The Congressional map will then utilized the State Senate districts and be required to use as many whole Senate districts as its whole fraction score requires. 11 congressional districts divided by 40 State Senate districts is 3.636 which would require that each Congressional House District must have

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3 complete State Senate districts. This would create a baseline map that would be compared to any commission produced maps and can be used by the courts if necessary to decide the final map.

DATE: 10/2/2021 8:49:02 AM

Name: Charles Coleman
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: Chuckcoleman@yahoo.com
Locality: Rose Hill CDP, Fairfax county
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I recommend sending proposed maps to various academics studying gerrymandering. I suggest that responsiveness be a criterion: the more votes a party gets statewide, the more seats it gets. Competitiveness everywhere is useless in the presence of geographically concentrated partisanship.

DATE: 9/28/2021 10:00:23 AM

Name: Fran Larkins
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: OneVirginia2021
Email: franlarkins40@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: C2 Statewide Senate
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

The City of Fredericksburg is much smaller than other Virginia cities and its "community of interest" economically extends into northern Spotsylvania westward along Route 3 as well as southern Stafford County. (Not just east of I-95.) District 13 in B3 Statewide SD would work well, but another suggestion is to at least use the areas in Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties that have a Fredericksburg mailing address - Zip Codes 22401, 22405, 22406, 22407, and 22408. I realize there's no correlation between zip codes and Census blocks, but this could give a good outline of our connections. The only reason I can see for not moving King George County to District 16 is that it might put Senators Stuart and McDougle in the same district. (Maps are down this morning so I can't see the incumbent markers.)

DATE: 9/28/2021 11:07:33 AM

Name: Michael Franklin Hoard
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: michaelfhoard@gmail.com
Locality: Alexandria City
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Latest Virginia Senate map as of 9-27-21.
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

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COMMENTS:

According to VPAP using PlanScore, the latest statewide VA Senate maps produced by the commission have a partisan lean (Republican in this case). That is completely unacceptable. Please correct this in subsequent iterations. The votes should determine who has control of government and not inherent advantages in district maps. This will keep elected officials accountable to the broadest base of voters and help quell extremists in either direction.

DATE: 9/28/2021 3:08:02 PM

Name: Darius Massoudi
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: darius.massoudi@gmail.com
Locality: Fairfax
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I own a home in Reston, Virginia and am writing to express my strong opposition to the released State Senate plans. Regardless of what party you represent, the released plans are clearly a Republican gerrymander. The people of this commonwealth have not elected a Republican to any statewide office since 2009, yet all five of the "swing" State Senate districts have been gerrymandered to slightly favor the Republicans. For example (as illustrated with geographic district descriptions):

- (1) Ashland-Short Pump: 48-50 Northam-Gillespie (-2%)
- (2) Chesapeake: 48-51 Northam-Gillespie (-3%)
- (3) King George-Fredericksburg-Stafford: Northam-Gillespie 48-51 (-3%)
- (4) Roanoke: Northam-Gillespie 48-51 (-3%)
- (5) Virginia Beach: Northam-Gillespie 49-50 (-1%).

This is unacceptable, and a Republican gerrymander. Please vote this down. I am not demanding a Democratic gerrymander, but simply a map where all of the swing districts have not been gerrymandered to favor one party.

DATE: 9/28/2021 3:51:25 PM

Name: Lauren Henson
Stakeholder Type: Private business
Email: laurenhenson@newheightscommunications.com
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

In response to today's discussion at the Virginia Redistricting Commission meeting about coalitions of interest, minority districts, and the changing demographic landscape of the Commonwealth, the Virginia Civic Engagement Table issued the following statement:

"We would like to invite certain members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission to join us, and the rest of the Commonwealth, here in the year 2021," said Erin Corbett, Redistricting Manager for the Virginia Civic Engagement Table. "Virginia has a shameful history of carving up communities of color, watering down their collective voting power and denying them the resources they deserve. Unfortunately, that legacy was alive and well at today's commission meeting."

Corbett continued, "We can stop pretending that "all voters," as Commissioner Richard O. Harrell III suggested, have been treated the same in the past. It's a false pretense so that he and others can continue denying

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communities of color fair representation and the constitutional principle of ‘one person, one vote.’ Voters should get to pick their leaders, not the other way around.”

“We demand that the Commission draw equitable maps that include coalition districts, and provide communities of color with the resources they need to thrive. The decisions the Commission is making today will last a decade and beyond -- it’s critical that they get it right.”

DATE: 9/28/2021 3:59:41 PM

Name: Sheila Olem
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Organization: Town of Herndon, VA; Mayor
Email: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
Locality: Fairfax
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

On behalf of the current and former mayors of the Town of Herndon, an incorporated town of consisting of 4.2 square miles, we collectively represent more than 45 years of Town leadership. This includes former mayors Thomas Davis Rust; Richard C. Thoesen; Carol A. Bruce; Michael L. O’Reilly; Steve J. DeBenedittis; Lisa C. Merkel; and me the current mayor, Sheila A. Olem.

We voice our objection to any proposal that would divide the Town of Herndon into more than one voting district. Such a division would most certainly cause significant confusion amongst our citizens and make it very difficult for our Town government to identify, coordinate, and collaborate district constituents’ issues with our General Assembly representatives as needs arise.

There are only three precincts in the Town of Herndon (Herndon 1, 2, 3). For as long as we can recall, the precincts in the Town of Herndon have been the same in House of Delegates, State Senate, and Congress, who have served our citizens well. To have our 4.2 square mile town split between two representatives is illogical, serves no purpose, and would be confusing to the constituents we serve as neighbors would be served by different representatives.

We respectfully urge the Virginia Redistricting Commission to maintain the Town of Herndon in one voting district for the Fairfax County District Supervisor and School Board, Virginia House of Delegates, Virginia Senate, and US Congress.

DATE: 9/28/2021 5:12:50 PM

Name: Kristi Sawert
Stakeholder Type: Organization staff
Organization: Arlington Heights Civic Association
Email: ahca.ksawert@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Arlington Heights Civic Association
Community of interest description: Has more than 130 nationalities, as well as the historically African-American communities of Green Valley, Johnson’s Hill (now Arlington View), and Butler Holmes (now Penrose).

COMMENTS:

I am writing on behalf of the Arlington Heights Civic Association ("AHCA"). Arlington Heights is one of Arlington's oldest neighborhoods and home to over 1000 households, more than 50 businesses, the Columbia Pike Library,

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several public schools, and houses of worship. We are a proud member of the Columbia Pike community, which is our main street, and the South Arlington 22204 ZIP code community-at-large. The 22204 ZIP code is one of the most diverse areas in Arlington, and is home to more than 130 nationalities, as well as the historically African-American communities of Green Valley, Johnson's Hill (now Arlington View), and Butler Holmes (now Penrose). We believe that our diversity and strong sense of community--i.e., "the world in a ZIP code"--makes Arlington Heights and the Columbia Pike corridor a desirable place to live. We strongly urge the redistricting committee to maintain the political cohesion of the Columbia Pike corridor and the 22204 community.

DATE: 9/28/2021 5:40:34 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: William and Mary
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/54079>

DATE: 9/28/2021 5:42:13 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: James Madison
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/54087>

DATE: 9/28/2021 5:43:36 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Randolph Macon
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/54089>

DATE: 9/28/2021 5:45:54 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project

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Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: George Mason
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/54099>

DATE: 9/28/2021 5:47:28 PM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Radford
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/54104>

DATE: 9/28/2021 10:25:27 PM

Name: Chris DeRosa
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: chris7307@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: maps & incumbent pairings
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, incumbent addresses

COMMENTS:

I am concerned that unpairing incumbents in the C2 Senate maps seems to have been a high priority of the mapdrawers (and legislator members of the Commission). Yes, the Commission agreed that incumbent addresses MAY be considered. But other criteria have higher priority according to the Constitution, the Virginia Code, and the Commission priority statement. Do not split Communities of Interest or create unusual districts simply to unpair incumbents. Some pairing may result. So be it. Incumbent protection is NOT what Virginians wanted when we voted to create this Commission and this process last November.

DATE: 9/29/2021 7:02:59 AM

Name: Fran Larkins
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Email: franlarkins40@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Problem hearing votes

COMMENTS:

When votes are taken, could the DLS staff announce each commissioner's response? In many cases, those watching virtually can't hear the vote. Repeating the last name and "Yes" or "No" would be a big help. Thanks!

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DATE: 9/29/2021 9:20:46 AM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Sweet Briar
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/55419>

DATE: 9/29/2021 9:22:09 AM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Hollins
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/55425>

DATE: 9/29/2021 9:23:46 AM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Shenandoah
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/55431>

DATE: 9/29/2021 9:25:29 AM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Ferrum

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Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/55563>

DATE: 9/29/2021 9:26:53 AM

Name: Callie Jordan
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjordan3@mail.umw.edu
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Mary Baldwin
Community of interest description: <https://districtr.org/COI/55590>

DATE: 9/29/2021 12:25:40 PM

Name: Chris Buchheit
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: buchheitcjc@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Hello Commission,
I write to you once again in order to demand that these maps be drawn without incumbent's position in mind. This would be a betrayal of the spirit of this commission. Draw the maps for the sole purpose of representing all Virginians as best as possible - the politicians do not matter.

DATE: 9/29/2021 4:36:55 PM

Name: Susan Kennedy
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Ms.
Email: sjbusi99@gmail.com
Locality: Fairfax County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Prison population
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

How are Prison populations counted, as the place of residence or where they lived before prison?

DATE: 9/29/2021 5:31:05 PM

Name: Steve Baker
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: swbaker12@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington, VA
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live

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Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: South Arlington
Community of interest description: Arlington, below Arlington Blvd

COMMENTS:

South Arlington is defined as anything below Arlington Blvd. Maps that divide South Arlington by using Columbia Pike as a district boundary are egregious. The communities of interest in this area dates back over 150 years and today comprises one of the most diverse communities in Virginia. It should be preserved, not cut in half.

DATE: 9/30/2021 2:12:05 PM

Name: Bill Millhouser
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: bmillhouser2010@cox.net
Locality: Fairfax County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: Bill Millhouser

COMMENTS:

Dear Commissioners,
Thank you for your time and effort to develop fair maps in an open and transparent process. I am impressed with the progress you have made toward developing draft Senate and House of Delegate district maps to be presented to the public for review and comment at the 8 virtual public hearings to be held October 4 through 7. I urge you to complete a one statewide map for House and one for the Senate. It is no longer useful to have two separate maps, one drawn by Republicans and one drawn by Democrats. The ability of the public to effectively review and comment requires that they be able to focus on a single statewide map for each chamber and be understand how the districts relate to one another and examine how each map meets the applicable federal and state criteria for map drawing.
In completing the draft maps this week, it is essential that you not elevate the objective to avoid incumbent pairing in districts above the legally binding Federal and State criteria that direct your map drawing. The purpose of avoiding incumbent pairing or incumbent protection is not a Federal or state requirement. Indeed, the General Assembly had the opportunity to add such a requirement to the Code but chose not to. Avoiding incumbent pairing is also not synonymous with the requirement that statewide maps shall not unduly favor or disfavor any political party. Issues regarding statewide partisan balance need to be based on the results of recent statewide elections and not the home addresses of incumbents.
I also commend the Communications and Outreach team for their efforts promote public awareness of the work of the Commission, particularly thru efforts to improve the Commission website. The new “landing page” is a major improvement, as is the expanded “FAQ” section. I recommend a few ‘tweaks’ further improve the website:
- The link to the “comment on a map” should include a narrative explanation of the various maps that are displayed, and clearly identify the final draft statewide maps that Commission is seeking comments on
- The “Schedule of Events” lists Commission Hearings; these should be labeled Commission Meetings. The Schedule could also be improved by including Information on the schedule for maps completion and the legislative review. As of now this information is found only in the FAQs
- The revised FAQ section is an excellent source of information. This is however hidden in a dropdown menu on the horizontal menu banner. I suggest adding a separate “FAQ” button to the menu banner so the visitors can easily find and access the information
Thank you again for your hard work and the opportunity to comment

DATE: 9/30/2021 5:31:02 PM

Name: Sri Amudhanar

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Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: amudhanars@gmail.com
Locality: Loudoun County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Communities of Interest
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: AAPI
Community of interest description: Members of Asian, American and Pacific Islander origin

COMMENTS:

My wife and I are, and have been residing the same home in Ashburn since we moved in here from Arlington 1998, when there weren't so many homes, schools, shops, roads, data centers, and other structures here, and of course, with much lower population, of members of ANY community - White, Black, Asian, Latino, Middle East, any and all included.

We do have a vibrant community now, in 2021, and the growth in population has been driven by influx of people belong to every community, and not to forget, new births and young people now born right here in Northern Virginia to parents who chose to settle down here.

All across Northern Virginia, extending from Alexandria (and more south from there) to up and beyond Purcellville, including Arlington, Tysons Corner, Reston, Ashburn, Leesburg, Dulles, Aldie, and so many places, we find members of the AAPI and other immigrant community residing here, moving in here, working and raising families, extraordinarily integrated in to our American way of life, inseparable from their friends from across communities.

In fact I know of many cross-community couples who met here, married here, raising children here who are succeeding in our schools here setting nation wide records here for excellent scholastic and sports achievements.

We are a great community and we are proud of it!

I am concerned that attacking this region with community based divisions for the purpose of providing greater representation to a community misses the point, that AAPI and the immigrant, is a grouping, not an isolated, or uniform community. The languages and lifeTypes in the immigrant origin community, carry within it differences comparable or even in excess, to the differences withing rest of American majority population collectively.

Identifying an area as an immigrant community dense district, or AAPI dense region, or some theoretically uniting factor, is no concept at all. It cannot be of benefit to lump big populations of an imaginary grouping into any election district, without splintering multiple streams of populations spread across the entire region.

In fact it would lead to extraordinary splintering of families spread out across the Northern Virginia region, and I expect, will fail to bring imagined benefits of representation, while becoming harmful and corrosive to the proven successful integration of newcomers into this region.

I do not believe that identifying and creating an area to represent an AAPI, immigrant, or any such population, will lead to benefits in representation.

Thank you for your consideration!

DATE: 10/1/2021 7:59:06 AM

Name: Diana Smith
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Herndon Reston Indivisible
Email: dlees51@gmail.com
Locality: Reston VA
Region: **Northern**

Type of comment: I have been unable to submit comment on map -- it stays "processing" -- many people I know have same problem. Is this bad management of IT resources or is this attempt to limit comments?
Topic(s) of interest: Unable to participate because of IT glitch on your server

COMMENTS:

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I have tried, as have many of my friends to add comments We get a "processing" note from your software -- and it stays (I left it running for hours just to see). Reminds me of the original ACA software rollout. I felt that was a software engineer's carelessness or sabotage. One or the other -- you have a system that denies us the opportunity to comment

DATE: 10/1/2021 8:40:23 AM

Name: Joanne Collins
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jcpalmer030@gmail.com
Locality: Herndon
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: A4 Statewide HOD 09.29.21
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Herndon

COMMENTS:

District Map 15 appears to dip down below Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) into the Sugarland area which is part of Herndon. These residents go to Herndon Schools and are more closely aligned with District 17 map. Route 7 is a more logical boundary line.

DATE: 10/1/2021 10:51:14 AM

Name: Sara Fitzgerald
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: 0
Email: sarafitz@aol.com
Locality: Falls Church
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Competitiveness
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I have followed redistricting issues since the mid 2010s. At that time, gerrymandering had helped to stagnate democracy in Virginia. Very few incumbents had an opponent, and only a few competed in races where the margin of victory was closer than even 10 percentage points. When the League of Women Voters looked at the situation as the 2010 redistricting round approached, it encouraged legislators to promote "competitiveness" when they drew the maps. Of course, the political demography/geography of Virginia makes it difficult to promote competitiveness everywhere, and it is not one of the commission's criteria. However, over the next few weeks, the commission and various groups will be analyzing the political neutrality of the commission's new maps. From the standpoint of citizens, more competition is a plus and would be healthy for the Commonwealth. Keep that in mind as you evaluate the partisan "winners" and "losers" of various maps. Where there is more competition, while meeting the other, more important criteria, that should be considered a plus.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:08:05 PM

Name: Shannon Duffy
Stakeholder Type: Private business
Organization: Central Fairfax 123 Core
Email: shannonn@oldtownfairfax.org
Locality: Fairfax

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Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Route 123 Core

COMMENTS:

First, thank you for your service on the historic first Virginia Redistricting Commission, and for considering the comments from our engaged and active community.

As a manager of commercial stakeholders within the Central Fairfax 123 Core, I write to you on behalf of concerned businesses, property owners, and invested stakeholders who greatly value the unique community we share. Readily apparent are the assets unique to the core, that go as far back as 1799 with the Fairfax Courthouse, the land granted to GMU, the Metro’s Orange Line, Route 66, and so much more. The historic and cultural significance that bonds the Route 123 core are everywhere, and the future investments we work very hard to secure are storied by our true history of mutual interests.

I am writing today to ask that you keep the Virginia Route 123 Core Community together, at the very least as a State Senate District. We feel the communities encompassed share unique values and interests which are to be considered when making decisions such as yours. We are one community with partnerships in our public education, networked transportation initiatives, local government resources, cultural and civic organizations, and historic preservation interests. We share a home welcoming the best and brightest to Virginia’s largest University and take great pride and stock in their growth of enrollment. Many of our businesses and families remain in the district because we are engaged and committed to these crossroads of Northern Virginia.

The Virginia Code defines communities of interest as a neighborhood or any geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests. Under this definition, the Route 123 Core constitutes one community.

A key part of central Fairfax’s identity comes from George Mason University, Virginia’s largest public university, and its 33,000 students, not to mention all the professors and staff who live in the area. The University is located partly in Fairfax City and partly in Fairfax County.

The University’s neighboring precincts in the County are all part of the University community. In Villa, Woodson, Robinson, Laurel, Bonnie Brae and Sideburn, the community is centered around the University. This is where professors live, and where students rent homes and apartments. These same precincts even share Fairfax postal addresses which end at the VRE railroad tracks, where Fairfax becomes Burke.

In conclusion, we ask that you please keep the Route 123 Core Community together. The precincts are linked economically, socially and physically and should stay together in redistricting.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:12:33 PM

Name: Sarah Toye
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: toyes@comcast.net
Locality: Spotsylvania County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Fredericksburg

Community of interest description: All of us share such things as medical care and facilities, a local newspaper, shopping areas, our regional library system, activities at the University of Mary Washington and Germanna Community College, the old historical area of Fredericksburg, local charities and volunteer work, and many others. One of the dominant interests we share is traffic, specifically I 95 and state Rte. 3.

COMMENTS:

First of all, thank you for participating in this essential effort. Your task is definitely challenging but very important to our Commonwealth.

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I would like to express my preference to have the area where I reside in northern Spotsylvania County grouped with the City of Fredericksburg. This area has always been associated with Fredericksburg. In fact, our ZIP Code was created many years back when the area was experiencing considerable growth and to this day, our mailing address is “Fredericksburg, VA.” We refer to our area by the same name.

The area I am suggesting includes ZIP Codes 22401, 22402, 22405, 22406, 22407, and 22408. All of us share such things as medical care and facilities, a local newspaper, shopping areas, our regional library system, activities at the University of Mary Washington and Germanna Community College, the old historical area of Fredericksburg, local charities and volunteer work, and many others. One of the dominant interests we share is traffic, specifically I 95 and state Rte. 3.

In summary, what happens in one of these Zip Codes affects all the rest of them.

Thank you for your consideration.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:14:32 PM

Name: Reid Goldstein

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: reidgoldstein@gmail.com

Locality: Arlington

Region: **Northern**

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

Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

Bottom Line Up Front:

I urge you to revise the proposal to maintain the unique character of the Columbia Pike corridor and not split it along its most significant identity feature.

My name is Reid Goldstein and I’m speaking about redistricting plans in Arlington, VA. I am a 36-year resident of the Columbia Pike Corridor in South Arlington and have held multiple positions with civic and governmental organizations during that time, all with the intent to improve my community. I believe that community quality is not a spectator sport and that the benefits of a healthy community come when we actively work for them. I have been the president of my neighborhood civic association; the President of the Board of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization; and I served for 8 years on Arlington County’s Housing Commission, to name a few of my community engagement activities. I am currently an elected member of the Arlington School Board.

Columbia Pike is South Arlington’s Main Street, which forms a focal point for the entire community both North and South of it. It is THE central corridor for commercial activity, transportation, housing, and the lifeblood of the economic community in South Arlington. Along with community roads of similar size and characteristics to its north (eg, Rt 29, Washington Blvd, and Wilson Blvd), Columbia Pike traverses the entire latitude of Arlington County – from the Pentagon on the east to the county line on the west. The most utilized transit line in the Commonwealth, the #16 Metrobus, travels down Columbia Pike to and from the Pentagon, which as you know, is the world’s largest office building.

Currently the Columbia Pike corridor, and nearly the entirety of South Arlington is contained in one House of Delegates district – the 49th. The proposal to split this district down the centerline of Columbia Pike unnecessarily divides one community whose cohesive feature is the Columbia Pike corridor. This proposal will separate those neighborhoods north of Columbia Pike from their neighbors south of Columbia Pike and combine them with the racially and socio-economically dissimilar 47th House district. Doing so will dilute the power of the 49th district to represent the concerns and interests of South Arlington residents. It will also divide the advocacy in the House of Delegates for the interests of residents of the 47th with respect to housing, transportation and economic livelihood – 3 essential components of a healthy community.

· South Arlington is a vibrant, ethnically and culturally diverse community of interest.

· The Columbia Pike corridor is known as “the World in a Zip Code”. Residents here hail from 135 countries.

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· South Arlington is, and has historically been, the home of a majority of Arlington’s lower-income communities and communities of color. They have faced disproportionate economic hardship compared to families in North Arlington and have specific infrastructure and public service needs that are unique to this area.

· The Columbia Pike corridor is disproportionately home to many of Arlington’s poorest residents and has benefitted significantly from political cohesion in local and state affairs.

· Speaking as a School Board member, I can say that Arlington Public Schools has historically recognized the unique geography and demographics of South Arlington and the Columbia Pike corridor in its school boundary assignments, Capital Improvement, and annual resource budgeting plans.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:16:21 PM

Name: Valerie Wrobel
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: mvwrobel@hotmail.com
Locality: Vienna
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Route 123 Core

COMMENTS:

Thank you for your service on the historic first Virginia Redistricting Commission, and for your thoughtfulness and consideration during this difficult and complex process. I am writing today to ask that you keep the Virginia Route 123 Core Community together, at least as a State Senate district. The communities along Route 123 in central Fairfax, including Fairfax City, the Town of Vienna and George Mason University, have social, historic and cultural ties that constitute a community of interest. They are the 123 Core Community.

The Virginia Code defines communities of interest as a neighborhood or any geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests. Under this definition, the Route 123 Core constitutes one community.

Historically, Route 123 has crossed Fairfax County from south to north, connecting Route One to the Chain Bridge. Along that route, Route 123 in central Fairfax is a distinct community, which has survived for generations. For example, Fairfax City and Vienna are historic towns within Fairfax County, whose existence predate the Civil War. They share a main road (Rte 123), border a key regional Highway (I-66), co-host a METRO station (Vienna), have local historic societies and downtown districts, and share a common identity as small jurisdictions just outside the Beltway. Additionally, Fairfax City runs an independent bus service that connects George Mason University and parts of Fairfax County south and east of the City to the Vienna METRO.

A key part of central Fairfax’s identity comes from George Mason University, Virginia’s largest public university, and its 33,000 students, not to mention all the professors and staff who live in the area. The University is located partly in Fairfax City and partly in Fairfax County.

The University’s neighboring precincts in the County are all part of the University community. In Villa, Woodson, Robinson, Laurel, Bonnie Brae and Sideburn, the community is centered around the University. This is where professors live, and where students rent homes and apartments. These same precincts even share Fairfax postal addresses which end at the VRE railroad tracks, where Fairfax becomes Burke. Please preserve the core of the Rte 123 corridor from the Burke VRE station to the Town Green in Vienna. It includes GMU, Fairfax City, the Vienna Metro, the Town of Vienna and most neighborhoods in the Robinson, Woodson, Fairfax, Oakton and Madison high school pyramids.

In conclusion, please the Route 123 Core Community together. The precincts are linked economically, socially and physically and should stay together in redistricting.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:22:12 PM

Name: Maryann Brown

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Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: merryfredster@gmail.com
Locality: Spotsylvania
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Spotsylvania and Fredericksburg
Community of interest description: Similar interests and things in common.

COMMENTS:

I am a resident of the Fredericksburg area, living in northern Spotsylvania. In regard to all of Virginia's redistricting maps, I urge you to keep the City of Fredericksburg and all of its adjacent suburbs together (zip codes 22401, 22405, 22406, 22407, and 22408). As a resident of 22407, I share similar concerns with the residents of the more developed Fredericksburg area, rather than those in rural Spotsylvania. Thank you for your consideration.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:28:39 PM

Name: Charley Conrad
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: charleyconrad@gmail.com
Locality: Arlington
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

I live in south Arlington one block off of Columbia Pike. Columbia Pike runs from the Air Force Memorial to the County line and is a dynamic and diverse community.
I am concerned that this redistricting is going to mess up our diverse community that thrives south from Arlington Boulevard.
Due to excellent representation we have something special and we have something that is working and has been working for a long time.
I want to make sure we have strong representation to watch over south Arlington. We have for so long got short changed by "other priorities" in North Arlington. It smacks of a north Arlington privilege. I well remember how the North Arlington folks worked to kill the Columbia Pike streetcar project because they didn't want to have to pay for it. I was told that specifically many times. It is an us or them mentality.
Bottom line here is please preserve strong representation for our south Arlington and Columbia Pike corridor so we have an advocacy voice speaking up for some of the poorest and some of the most diverse populations in Arlington.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:37:54 PM

Name: Bob Hultslander
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: hultsie@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Fredericksburg

COMMENTS:

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We appreciate having the right to submit my concerns as you toil to redistrict Virginia. We live in one of the many retirement communities in Fredericksburg, Regency of Chancellorsville, at the intersection of Rt 3 and Corter Road. We share the same interests and concerns concerns as Fredericksburg: Traffic (Rt 3 and I95), Medical Care, Shopping, Water Management, Fire Departments, Libraries, etc. In all the maps (VA Senate, VA House, US House), please include all Fredericksburg zip codes with the City of Fredericksburg (22407, 22408, 22405 and 22406), and most specifically our zip code (22407).

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:40:00 PM

Name: George Farrar
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: geofarrar@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Fredericksburg

COMMENTS:

Dear Commissioners,
I appreciate having the right to submit my concerns as you toil to redistrict Virginia. I live in one of the many retirement communities in Fredericksburg, Regency of Chancellorsville at the intersection of Rt 3 and Corter Road. I share the same concerns as Fredericksburg: TRAFFIC (Rt 3 and I95), Medical Care, Shopping, Enrichment, Volunteering/Working, Water Management, Libraries, etc. In all the maps (VA Senate, VA House, US House), please include all Fredericksburg zip codes with the City of Fredericksburg (22407, 22408, 22405 and 22406)

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:43:25 PM

Name: Josephine Cavallo
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: olliespets@msn.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Fredericksburg

COMMENTS:

I am submitting my concerns about redistricting Virginia. I live in one of the many retirement communities in Fredericksburg, Regency of Chancellorsville at the intersection of Rt 3 and Corter Road. I share the same concerns as Fredericksburg: TRAFFIC (Rt 3 and I95), Medical Care, Shopping, Enrichment, Volunteering/Working, Water Management, Libraries, etc. In all the maps (VA Senate, VA House, US House), please include all Fredericksburg zip codes with the City of Fredericksburg (22407, 22408, 22405 and 22406).

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:44:55 PM

Name: Tina Pruett
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: tinamarie2c@gmail.com
Locality: Fredericksburg
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

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Community of interest name: Fredericksburg

COMMENTS:

I appreciate having the right to submit my concerns as you toil to redistrict Virginia. I live in one of the many retirement communities in Fredericksburg, Regency of Chancellorsville at the intersection of Rt 3 and Corter Road. I share the same concerns as Fredericksburg: TRAFFIC (Rt 3 and I95), Medical Care, Shopping, Enrichment, Volunteering/Working, Water Management, Libraries, etc. In all the maps (VA Senate, VA House, US House), please include all Fredericksburg zip codes with the City of Fredericksburg (22407, 22408, 22405 and 22406).

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:45:58 PM

Name: Jonathon Russell
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: russell92jw@gmail.com
Locality: Reston
Region: Northern
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I own a home in Reston, Virginia and am writing to strongly express my opposition to the released State Senate plans. Regardless of what party you represent, the released plans are clearly a Republican gerrymander. The people of this commonwealth have not elected a Republican to any statewide office since 2009, yet all five of the "swing" State Senate districts have been gerrymandered to favor the Republicans. For example (as illustrated with geographic district descriptions):

- (1) Ashland-Short Pump: 48-50 Northam-Gillespie (-2%)
- (2) Chesapeake: 48-51 Northam-Gillespie (-3%)
- (3) King George-Fredericksburg-Stafford: Northam-Gillespie 48-51 (-3%)
- (4) Roanoke: Northam-Gillespie 48-51 (-3%)
- (5) Virginia Beach: Northam-Gillespie 49-50 (-1%).

This is unacceptable and needs to be voted down. I am not demanding a Democratic gerrymander, but simply a map where all of the swing districts have not been gerrymandered to favor one party.

DATE: 9/23/2021 9:18:50 AM

Name: Janann Mercker
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: Petitschoux@gmail.com
Locality: Loudoun
Region: Northern
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topics of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Nova
Community of interest description: Northern Virginia is a diverse and forward looking community!

COMMENTS:

Please unhitch western Loudoun from Clarke and Frederick! We are part of nova and those counties are not! Our common interest is with other Loudoun communities

DATE: 9/20/2021 5:38:06 PM

Name: Benjamin Mobley
Stakeholder Type: Private individual

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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Email: bmobley0@gmail.com
Locality: Fairfax County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: Map #61 A2 NOVA HOD (9-8-21)
Topics of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: Ridges of Glendilough
Community of interest description: Ridges of Glendilough is split between two precincts, Precinct: 804 - COLCHESTER and Precinct: 841 - POPES HEAD, they should be together in one district like they currently are in the 40th

COMMENTS:

It makes no sense to not place 841 - POPES HEAD into the 19th district since politically it fits with the 19th under these lines than the 13th and Ridges of Glendilough neighborhood is cut into two different districts, the 13th in POPES HEAD and Precinct: 804 - COLCHESTER in the 19th

DATE: 9/20/2021 5:38:06 PM

Name: Benjamin Mobley
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: bmobley0@gmail.com
Locality: Fairfax County
Region: **Northern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: Map #61 A2 NOVA HOD (9-8-21)
Topics of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: Ridges of Glendilough
Community of interest description: Ridges of Glendilough is split between two precincts, Precinct: 804 - COLCHESTER and Precinct: 841 - POPES HEAD, they should be together in one district like they currently are in the 40th

COMMENTS:

It makes no sense to not place 841 - POPES HEAD into the 19th district since politically it fits with the 19th under these lines than the 13th and Ridges of Glendilough neighborhood is cut into two different districts, the 13th in POPES HEAD and Precinct: 804 - COLCHESTER in the 19th

DATE SENT: 9/20/2021 10:16:00 AM

NAME: Name: Kripa Patwardhan

EMAIL: Email: Patwardhan.K.M@gmail.com

REGION: **Northern**

LOCALITY: Herndon

SUBJECT: Subject: concern about the placement of zip code 20171/Hattontown

COMMENT:

Comment: I am not liking the way 3 out of 4 maps separate my part of Herndon from the town of Herndon proper and from Reston. I share much more in common with Reston and the town of Herndon than I do with people in Centreville and Chantilly. My home is walkable to Herndon-Monroe Park and Ride, soon to be a proper silver line station, and these proposed maps do not seem to reflect that fact.

DATE SENT: 9/19/2021 8:36:00 PM

EMAIL: fgcaruso@outlook.com

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REGION: Northern
SUBJECT: Alexandria HOD districts 1&2 (map A3) and 4&5 (map B3)

COMMENT:
RE: Alexandria HOD districts 1&2 (map A3) and 4&5 (map B3): I am attaching a plan (PDF) I drew using MyDistricting through the VRC website. It is an alternative plan for Alexandria that includes 12,097 people from Arlington County rather than from Fairfax County. Delegates and senators represent residents and the local governments within their districts. As I have commented before, I am concerned that a delegate who represents Alexandria along with just a few precincts in Fairfax County will have to spend a disproportionate amount of time on Fairfax County issues due to Fairfax County's size and the complexity of the issues the County is facing.

Thank you for your work on the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

Giselle Caruso
Alexandria, VA

DATE SENT: 9/19/2021 8:10:00 PM
NAME: Name: Benjamin Elliot Mobley
EMAIL: Email: bmobley0@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax
SUBJECT: Subject: Keep Popes Head competitive and keep a competitive district in Fairfax County

COMMENT:
Comment: Under both the Democratic and Republican proposals, Precinct: 841 - Popes Head is placed in an uncompetitive senate and house district. Right now, we're in a competitive house district (40th) but not a competitive senate district (34th). Moving Popes Head to both an uncompetitive senate and house district would rob approximately 2,000 of us a voice of our choice in the legislature. Both proposals would place us in D+20 districts despite our precinct voting within single digits for Democratic and Republican candidates over the past five years, and voting for Republican candidates by about 5-points on average over that period (2016-20). Under the current lines, house district 40th is the only competitive district in all of Fairfax County, and removing it would minimize the voting power of 13% of the commonwealth's population. Right now, our district is the only method for both Democrats and Republicans to campaign for the legislature in Fairfax County. Every other seat in the senate and house is safely Democratic in Fairfax County. If the Democratic proposals hold, one in eight citizens of our commonwealth will be effectively disenfranchised from the legislature because every seat will be safely Democratic and there will not be a need to compete for our votes. Regional issues like transportation funding will be put on the backburner because there are no swing voters in Fairfax County to compete for. There are enough competitive precincts in Fairfax and Prince William counties to create a pure tossup district that spans both sides of the Occoquan River.

DATE SENT: 9/17/2021 1:17:00 PM
NAME: Name: Maria "Pete" Durgan
EMAIL: Email: arlpete22204@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington
SUBJECT: Subject: Keep Columbia Pike neighborhoods together

COMMENT:
Comment: Columbia Pike in Arlington is a unique neighborhood in Virginia. It is home to immigrants from all over the world, Economically, it is much less affluent than neighborhoods in North Arlington. To divide these neighborhoods in different districts will seriously reduce the voices of our immigrant population, which is primarily

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Latino. This would not be in the interest of the state of Virginia. For these reasons I consider Columbia Pike to be a Community of Interest that should be protected. Other thoughts about Columbia Pike to reinforce keeping the neighborhoods together: 1. Columbia Pike is the area with the highest bus use in Virginia. We have no metro stops, but our neighbors make heavy use of the buses to get to the Metro stations. 2. The area south of Arlington Blvd in Arlington historically has been the less affluent side of the county. Today, the Columbia Pike area is disproportionately populated by some of the poorest residents in NOVA. 3. The African American population of Arlington centers around the Columbia Pike neighborhoods. This is a remnant of our history since Reconstruction in the late 1980s, as former slaves and their descendants were red-lined out of most areas in North Arlington. 4. The Columbia Pike area is often called "the world in a zip code," reflecting the diverse cultures that live here. We do not have ethnic neighborhoods in Arlington, we have one area where everyone lives together. It's rare and it needs full representation in our government. 5. Latinos in particular, are the largest cohort of immigrants, and they are often the poorest. They live in substantial number along Columbia Pike. In Virginia, they comprise 10.5% of Virginia's population. They need their voices heard and breaking Columbia Pike up will greatly reduce their voices. Do not draw them out as they are an important block of Virginians. In summary, keep the Columbia Pike neighborhoods together in one district.

DATE SENT: 9/16/2021 8:58:00 PM
EMAIL: praveen.meyyan@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington
SUBJECT: Comment on Redistricting

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Committee,
As a resident of South Arlington, I think the area south of Route 50 should be kept together as a community of interest. For a long time county officials, state government and local residents have used Route 50 as a natural line for delineation as the areas south of Route 50 have historically been home to many of Arlington's communities of color. Perhaps this could change in the far future but for now, it best serves the interest of this community to have a district that is united both north and south of Columbia Pike with the Pike being the main artery and business center of the district.
Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,
Praveen Meyyan

DATE SENT: 9/16/2021 4:33:00 PM
EMAIL: jvmorgan@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax
SUBJECT: Tysons Urban Center precinct_census block map available for reference

COMMENT:

Commissioners,
Using the citizen redistricting tool, I put together a map of the precincts and census blocks that I believe best encompass the constituents of the Tysons Urban Center. To the extent practicable, I would suggest keeping these citizens together in the same house, senate, and congressional districts, rather than splitting them up among multiple districts.
<https://virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/98/1>
Furthermore, I want to commend counsel for agreeing to the memorandum "Directions to Mapdrawers on Political Subdivisions, Political Neutrality, and Communities of Interest." Adopting these instructions seems to be a smart way to take the Virginia Redistricting process in the right direction in terms of ensuring that voters are choosing their elected leaders rather than elected leaders choosing their voters.

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Although I doubt that these instructions were intended to be binding on citizen redistricting participants, I can confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, this map complies with the Commission's directions to map drawers (i.e., I believe this map avoids unnecessary divisions of existing political subdivisions, I did not consider political data, including election results or incumbent addresses, while drawing this map, and I sought to use the broad definition of "community of interest" set forth in the Virginia Code).

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for the work you are doing.

--Jason V. Morgan

DATE SENT: 9/15/2021 1:34:00 PM
EMAIL: patricia aburano <paburano6@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church
SUBJECT: comment regarding redistricting - falls church city

COMMENT:

I am a resident of Falls Church City, and submit this comment for the commission's consideration. I believe that if the current district boundaries are going to be changed, that it would be better if falls church is joined with merrifield, instead of with arlington. Falls church and merrifield are similar in size, demographics, and have similar recent histories of development. It would have more of a natural "flow" and feeling of community. thank you.
patricia aburano

DATE SENT: 9/15/2021 9:55:00 AM
NAME: Name: Judy Ratliff
EMAIL: Email: jratliff.lcsw@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Reston
SUBJECT: Subject: Gerrymandering Reston all the way to Alexandria

COMMENT:

Comment: I live in Reston, a largely democratic-voting district. We are included in a swath of democratic-voting areas that end in areas in Alexandria. This is crazy. Voters in Alexandria and voters in Reston should not be put together in one voting district! I'd like to see some common sense used to keep communities together when developing a new redistricting plan. Thank you. Judy Ratliff

DATE SENT: 9/14/2021 6:13:00 PM
NAME: Name: Neil Commerce
EMAIL: Email: neilcommerce@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Herndon
SUBJECT: Subject: Competitive districts

COMMENT:

Comment: Hi, for starters, thank you for this effort. We, the citizens of Virginia, understand that this is a difficult, complicated process, with multiple (and sometimes conflicting) interests to be represented. That said, we overwhelmingly voted for this, because we believe it is the right thing to do. I believe the best thing that you can do is craft districts that are as competitive as possible in the general election. Districts in which the "real" election is the primary lead to a more polarized government, as candidates are incentivized to appeal to the hard-core base of their constituency to win the primary, and have no pressure to appeal broadly in the general election. This means you get candidates who serve a niche of their constituents, rather than a broad spectrum, and this is not

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good for Virginia. Some districts will be farther to the wings than others; that's fine and good, as different regions of the state are different, but across the board, it would be better if candidates had work as hard as possible in the general election. This would lead to elected officials with more buy-in from their constituents, and more broad-based policy making across the board. Thank you, again. Neil Commerce, Herndon

DATE SENT: 9/14/2021 4:28:00 PM
EMAIL: godfreyblueridge@everyactioncustom.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Loudoun County
SUBJECT: Let me tell you about my community

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 live in the far western part of Loudoun County. The farms/homes are located on larger lots ten miles from grocery stores, etc. What bonds our community is interest in preserving the acreage here for farming. Loudoun County is losing land to development at an alarming rate. Because of the low number of people in residence here we are often districted with suburban communities to the east. As Loudoun County grows, we will continue to be districted with more densely populated communities. Thank you again for this herculean task ahead of you; you make us all proud serving as the very first commission!

DATE SENT: 9/14/2021 4:15:00 PM
NAME: Name: Tim Stevens
EMAIL: Email: tks505@verizon.net
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington, Falls Church
SUBJECT: Subject: draft voting districts

COMMENT:

Comment: I would like to see the City of Falls Church combined with the Arlington Senate district. This would return us to the prior arrangement when Sen. Whipple was in office. Falls Church City tends to have much more in common politically with Arlington than other areas of Northern Virginia. Thank you for your work.

DATE SENT: 9/14/2021 12:23:00 PM
EMAIL: jcall4472@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria
SUBJECT: Public Comment regarding criteria for drawing congressional districts

COMMENT:

Thank you for your quick reply regarding my concern related to requiring exactly equal population in congressional districts. Your reply led me to do more research. You are correct that the Supreme Court standard for congressional districts is more strict than for state legislative districts.
However the standard for congressional districts allows relatively small deviations, when deployed in the service of legitimate objectives. States must make a good-faith effort to draw districts with the same number of people in each district within the state, and any district with more or fewer people than the average must be justified by a consistent state policy. But consistent policies that leave a relatively small spread from largest to smallest district will likely be constitutional. In 2012, for example, the Supreme Court approved a congressional plan in West

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Virginia with 0.79% population variation based on keeping county lines intact. (Tennant v Jefferson County Commission)

I worry that the commission may use it's "exactly equal" criteria to justify boundaries that are not compact and that divide precincts and small communities.

On Sep 13, 2021, at 4:38 PM, VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov> wrote:

Jim,

Thank you for reaching out. It may seem like a typo but the equal population requirement for congressional districts is, in fact, a deviation of plus or minus one person. The Supreme Court first articulated the one-person, one-vote principle in its 1964 case Wesberry v. Sanders. While some deviation in population is permitted for state legislative districts, congressional districts are required to be precisely equal (recognizing that we can't assign half a person to one district, thus the permitted one-person deviation).

Virginia Redistricting Support Staff

Division of Legislative Services

On Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 2:02 PM Jim Call <jcall4472@gmail.com> wrote:

I want to call your attention to an almost "difficult to believe" criteria in the commission guidance for population equality in drawing congressional districts. Hopefully it is a typo, but regardless, it urgently needs to be addressed.

The 2021 Redistricting Guidelines and Criteria state the following under 1-d:

"d. Commission guidance:

i. Each legislative district should be drawn to be as equal as practicable, with total population variances minimized, with a target of no more than plus or minus 2%, while considering the other principles listed below.

ii. Each congressional district shall be drawn with a total population of plus or minus one person from the ideal district size. (emphasis added)"

I hope you meant to say one "percent", not one "person". If not, this criteria would require the commission to split precincts and actually choose individual households in drawing congressional boundaries. It would certainly wreck havoc with keeping counties and communities of interest together.

I hope this is helpful feedback. Good luck with your important work.

Jim Call

611 E. Alexandria Ave.

Alexandria, VA 22301

DATE SENT: 9/13/2021 10:23:00 PM

EMAIL: jvmorgan@gmail.com

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Fairfax

SUBJECT: Proposed changes to the Freedom Hill and Kilmer precincts in A2 NOVA SD (09-08-2021)

COMMENT:

Commissioners,

I decided to try out the "Citizens Redistricting" tool. Wow, it is really neat to be able to dig in and try going through the redistricting process. This is a difficult task and I thank you for your effort and dedication. I hope that you are seeing other Virginians try out this useful (and educational) tool so that they better understand and can better contribute to the redistricting process.

In trying out this tool, I decided to see how Freedom Hill and Kilmer could be adjusted in the A2 NOVA SD (09-08-2021) map (#40) to better reflect the nuanced communities of interest in this region. In particular, I wanted to see how to avoid splitting the Tysons Urban Center community while also avoiding the splitting of communities of interest near (but not in) the Tysons Urban Center).

My best attempt to draw these improved boundaries is available at

<https://virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/88/1>.

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To the extent the A2 NOVA SD line of proposals, or Senator Barker's proposal, affects the final senate districts in Fairfax County, I hope that this proposed modification to the border can be incorporated into the final set of approved districts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--Jason V. Morgan

DATE SENT: 9/13/2021 2:54:00 PM
EMAIL: luddie@everyactioncustom.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

SUBJECT: Feedback on proposed maps

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

I would like to provide feedback on the following proposed map: B2NOVA HOD.

First off, I think round districts generated by a computer algorithm would be optimal.

Barring that, map B2 NOVA HOD has the suspicious inclusion/exclusion of the Arlington Heights neighborhood -- north of Columbia Pike, but included with everything in the South Arlington district 3 (rather than #2). This feels like gerrymandering. Is there a good reason to include this 'economically disadvantaged' section with the the South Arlington district?

Please consider setting a precedent for the country by creating (mostly) round districts, rather than arbitrary street (or class) divisions.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Andrew Ludwig

3349 Ardley Ct Falls Church, VA 22041-2601

luddie@gmail.com

DATE SENT: 9/13/2021 9:28:17 AM
FROM: From: Takis Karantonis <takis.p.karantonis@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I am providing comments to the published preliminary redistricting maps for the Columbia Pike (R244) corridor in Arlington, Virginia (Zip-code 22204). I do this as a resident and active community member in this corridor since 2006 and as the former Executive Director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (www.columbiapike.org) from 2009-2016.

The published preliminary maps show Columbia Pike as the dividing boundary between a northern and a southern future district. Such division ignores the fact that Columbia Pike is, in reality, the historic and current central axis of Arlington's most culturally, socially and economically diverse community, the geographic extend of which is mostly congruent with ZIP code 22204. This community has all the characteristics of a "Community of Interest" as defined by Virginia Code and therefore it is important that it is included in one voting district and not divided in two or three as currently proposed.

Columbia Pike is Arlington's oldest main street (chartered by Congress in 1810). With its surrounding neighborhoods it forms a major South Arlington corridor. The arrival of a new federal workforce during the New Deal era and the construction of the Pentagon in 1941 were catalysts for vigorous urban growth along both sides of the Pike. Significant "Garden Apartment" complexes (a typical legacy multifamily housing type in Arlington) were constructed on both sides of the arterial street along with the corresponding

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neighborhood commercial areas. Still today, Columbia Pike ranks among the 2 or 3 highest ridership bus-transit corridors in the Commonwealth. The combination of available and affordable workforce housing, good transit, schools and other services attracted immigrant communities that began to arrive in the region. Columbia Pike soon became what the Brookings foundation described as “World in a Zip-Code”, Northern Virginia’s most diverse, multicultural neighborhood.

There are more than 85 languages spoken in Elementary Schools along Columbia Pike. Among others, we have vibrant Latinx, Ethiopian, Mongolian and Middle-Eastern communities rooted on both sides of the Pike. Dividing them politically will be detrimental to their community cohesion.

The unique Columbia Pike Documentary Project has been documenting these communities for 25 years. There is a current photographic exhibit at the Virginia Library in Richmond, documenting our community along the Pike.

Arlington County has planned Columbia Pike always as one district, especially since the late 1990s when the County Board adopted the “Columbia Pike Initiative” with the goal of revitalizing the corridor. As a citizen and, later, as the Executive Director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization I was deeply involved with the multiyear community-lead planning efforts. In 2012, the Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Plan received the Benjamin Banneker Award for Outstanding Social Commitment and Community. As a member of the Committee that co-authored this plan I firmly believe that the proposed political division will be detrimental to the revitalization efforts of our community.

On Columbia Pike, we are one, very tightly knit set of neighborhoods. We face significant common challenges. We are much more diverse and less wealthy than Arlington neighborhoods north of Arlington Blvd (R50). We have experienced disinvestment and lagged economically behind the rest of the County. We are the last in line to see investment in schools, public infrastructure, facilities and services. Columbia Pike is still the largest repository of affordable housing in Arlington and home to a disproportionately high share of moderate and low-income residents.

The existence of long-standing community-institutions like the Pike-Presidents-Group (which is the standing conference of all Civic Association Presidents along the Pike) and the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization is a testimony to the fact that we have to stand and advocate for our community interests as one community.

We should be therefore represented as ONE district in the General Assembly.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With kind regards,

Takis Karantonis

1401 S. Edgewood St.

Arlington VA 22204

DATE SENT: 9/13/2021 8:40:49 AM
FROM: From: Charlie Thomas <chasthos1@verizon.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:
Hello,
My name is Charles Thomas and I live in Arlington, Virginia. It has come to my attention that the commission may consider where delegates and senators are living in the drawing of maps. This should not be permitted and would politicize and corrupt the redrawing process. It will also undermine voters’ trust in the new Virginia Redistricting Commission.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Charles Thomas
4728 7th Road North
Arlington, VA 22203

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DATE SENT: 9/12/2021 10:09:49 PM
FROM: From: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Name: Sherry Skinner
EMAIL: Email: sherry.mcmurtrie@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

SUBJECT: Subject: Columbia Pike Corridor

COMMENT:

Comment: The Columbia Pike Corridor is South Arlington's Main Street and needs representation with political cohesion to benefit the shared socio-economic status of those living along the Pike. It is imperative that South Arlington not be divided up for representation along with affluent north Arlington districts as South Arlington's unique needs will be neglected.

DATE SENT: 9/12/2021 7:49:26 PM
FROM: From: Bret Leslie <bretleslie@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Vienna

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
I would like to provide feedback on the following proposed map: B2 NOVA HOD. Overall the map has districts that have an overall higher deviation from the target than A2 NOVA HOD and bring together disparate communities (i.e., break apart existing communities). For example District 10, would be a predominantly stretched in a north/south direction and encompass large areas south of Interstate-66, which has been and will be a barrier for communities. In contrast, the A2 NOVA HOD District 14 keeps is elongated east west which is more consistent with neighborhoods north of I-66 and more consistent with the the Difficult Run watershed.
Sincerely,
Dr. Bret Leslie
9929 Woodrow St Vienna, VA 22181-3137
bretleslie@aol.com

DATE SENT: 9/12/2021 2:52:08 PM
FROM: From: Bill Millhouser <bmillhouser2010@cox.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
Thank you all for your hard work on this complex task and for the opportunity to participate I am in general agreement with the changes to the map development and review schedule posted by the co-chairs Harris and Babichenko on the VRC website this weekend. I am, however, concerned about several issues.
First, fewer than 24 hours before Monday's Commission meeting, no materials have been provided to the public which explain the "additional specifics to current guidance" to the map drawers being considered. Thus the public is not able to review these materials and provide meaningful public comment prior to the meeting. The Commission is not fulfilling the promise of providing a

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transparent process when it fails to provide relevant information to the public, particularly regarding agenda items for Commission meetings.

Second, while it may be helpful to provide more guidance to the map drawers, a more significant issue remains, that being how to reconcile the two sets of maps drawn by the Democratic and Republican teams. As can be seen by reviewing the A2 and B2 NOVA maps, each team has taken a completely different approach to drawing the maps in the counties beyond Fairfax. These differences cannot be resolved easily by making adjustments to one or the other map. Also, Citizens I talked with are completely confused as to why there are A and B maps and two versions of each, as the website has no explanation of the various maps. This problem will become much worse if you proceed with drawing two set of statewide maps for each chamber. I therefore urge you to direct the map drawing teams to work together and produce a single draft statewide map for each chamber. Only in this way will the Commission and the public have a single starting point to review the draft maps.

Third, the website needs to be updated to provide a schedule of key events and milestones in addition to just the list of meeting and hearing dates now provided. This issue was discussed at the last Commission meeting where it was noted that the website contains only a list of upcoming meetings and hearings, but no indication of when the Commission intends to submit maps to the Legislature. I urge the Co-chairs to outline the schedule of events and milestones for the next four weeks at Monday's meeting and direct the staff to update the website to provide the public with a more complete schedule.

Sincerely,
Bill Millhouser
Fairfax County

DATE SENT: 9/12/2021 2:25:07 PM
FROM: From: Peter Evans <riverswork@yahoo.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Thank you for the opportunity to add comments for your consideration and for the official record. I'm impressed that your mapping consultants are off to a good start, and the Commission Co-Chairs are effectively leading the deliberations.

I hope you can assure that the same sorting capabilities that are developed for the Commission's use in locating & organizing official comments will also be available for the public to use as well.

Second, adding "tags" later for the sorting/organization of comments is a bad idea, one that may be extremely confusing, if they wouldn't be applicable to all comments, including those submitted earlier. Give your Staff time to propose the "tags," these aren't the critical path milestone yet. Clearly, some tags could include several related topics (e.g., comments that reference incumbents and those that refer to gerrymandering).

Third, I applaud your attention to the Commission deliberations and hope that you will overtly avoid using your cell phones during the Commission's mapping deliberations because, otherwise, it could easily appear to The Public that you are getting secret instructions from unidentified advocates by phone in the middle of the meeting. The apparent integrity of this Commission deliberation will set an historical standard for future Commissions to meet/exceed, and I urge you to set the highest standard possible.

Finally, and most important, I am grateful for the comments offered by Delegates Simon and Barker concerning the implications that the "start from scratch" approach may have for incumbent legislators. I can understand and appreciate their concerns, and I'm very grateful for their speaking out about the interests of the legislators who will be asked to

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approve the maps recommended by the Commission, but I object to those incumbent concerns being considered in the Commission’s mapping efforts.

My prayer is that you Commissioners, every one of you, are wise enough to understand and accept that protecting incumbents, even the very best, is not an appropriate consideration for the Commission in serving the interests of We the People. There are a few flaws in the new Constitutional amendment that you are working to implement, but nothing will diminish the apparent integrity of this new approach as much as any appearance that outside influencers might have a role in your recommendations to the General Assembly.

Thank you, again, for your dedication to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Peter Evans, 505 N Ivy St, Arlington VA 22201

DATE SENT: 9/11/2021 8:53:40 PM
FROM: From: James Mast <jandbmast@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Manassas

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
I would like to provide feedback on the following proposed map:B2 NOVA 22. As drawn the western quarter of this district is misaligned - we gravitate toward Manassas, not Woodbridge wrt transportation, shopping, dining, church, entertainment, etc. We have little if anything to do with the Lake Ridge/Woodbridge/Potomac Mills area.
Sincerely,
Mr James Mast
6107 River Forest Dr Manassas, VA 20112-3046 jandbmast@aol.com

DATE SENT: 9/10/2021 5:30:00 PM
EMAIL: delmsimon@house.virginia.gov
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Loudoun
SUBJECT: House of Delegate Redistricting in Loudoun _ Clark _ Frederick _ Winchester Counties_City

COMMENT:
For public comment.
Andrea Tetreault
Chief of Staff

Delegate Marcus Simon
District: (571) 327-0053
Richmond: (804) 698-1053 (During Session Only)
www.MarcusSimon.com

----- Forwarded message -----
From: <afechter@equityplusllc.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 5:24 PM
Subject: FW: House of Delegate Redistricting in Loudoun / Clark / Frederick / Winchester Counties/City

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To: <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>

I think this map does a better job of keeping communities of interest together and not creating Districts that take an hour to drive across than the current two maps before the Commission.

Hope you and the Commission find this helpful.

From: afechter@equityplusllc.com <afechter@equityplusllc.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 1:57 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Subject: House of Delegate Redistricting in Loudoun / Clark / Frederick / Winchester Counties/City

The attached map eliminates split precincts – keeps communities of interest in tact – and has HoD seats that are compact.

District 1 runs East – West along Route 50 in Loudoun and Clark Counties.

District 2 runs East-West along Route 7 in Loudoun/Clark/Frederick Counties.

District 3 essentially represents Leesburg and is entirely in Loudoun County.

District 4 runs along Route 7 in the eastern part of Loudoun County.

District 5 essentially represents Brambleton/Ashburn and is entirely in the central part of Loudoun County.

District 6 (partially cut off) represents Winchester and the central/southern part of Frederick County.

Loudoun county's explosive population growth (33% in one decade) to having over 400,000 residents certainly justifies having 3 all Loudoun HoD seats. That being said the communities West of Route 15 in Loudoun have more in common with the communities in Clark County (rural/agricultural) than they do with the communities east of Route 15 (urban/suburban). In the case of District 1 – Loudoun County students living in Aldie/Middleburg (which are west of Route 15) go to the some of the same Loudoun County Middle/High Schools that students in Madison's Trust/John Champe go to (which are east of Route 15). Having one District straddle the Route 50 divide makes sense in this context.

Sincerely,

Avram Fechter
Managing Director
202-236-4402
www.equityplusllc.com
24851 Quimby Oaks Place
Aldie, VA 20105

<Loudoun County HD Map.pdf>

DATE SENT: 9/8/2021 11:35:32 PM
FROM: From: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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NAME: Name: Ankit Jain
EMAIL: Email: ajankit92@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

SUBJECT: Subject: No incumbent protection gerrymandering!

COMMENT:

Comment: I am a citizen from Fairfax County looking for fair maps. I am asking that you do not alter the maps proposed by the mapmakers for the purpose of protecting incumbents. The current maps are very gerrymandered. Drawing fair maps will inevitably result in incumbents drawn out of their districts, as their current districts are crazy squiggles that allow for several incumbents to live right next to each other. This is too bad, but drawing fair maps should always(!) take priority over protecting incumbents. I am asking the commission to reject any attempt to alter these maps to protect incumbents. I hope that the map that Sen. Barker drew to protect his own skin at the expense of the state does not even get a hearing--to adopt those maps would be the exact opposite of what this Commission should be doing. We are watching, and there will be a large backlash if you do in fact alter the maps to protect incumbents.

DATE SENT: 9/8/2021 3:08:26 PM
FROM: From: PAUL BERRY <pberry@cbbellerose.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

COMMENT:

Good afternoon,
Thank you for your work and the opportunity to submit public comment.
The B2 NOVA HOD 9-8-2021 draft includes a map labeled #18 that is inconsistent with the concept of "Community of Interest". I ask that draft maps be reconsidered in such a way that Reston is not divided between multiple House of Delegates districts.
As Chair of the Fairfax County Redistricting Advisory Committee, I and the other commissioners are closely following the Community of Interest concept in order to maintain historical neighborhoods and communities that traditionally share commonalities. Reston is one such area. This is not simply a conceptual designation. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors explicitly considers Reston as a community that should not be divided when undertaking the magisterial district reapportionment process. Logic follows that equal representation and provision of services for General Assembly reapportionment should align with this.
Reston is a planned community with clearly defined boundaries that has existed since 1962. It has grown into a nationwide case study in architectural design, a well-managed transportation system, and a geographic and social entity possessing special qualities distinguishing it from the rest of Fairfax County. Please consider these factors when designating new district lines.
Thank you,
Paul Berry
Chair
Fairfax County 2021 Redistricting Advisory Committee

DATE SENT: 9/7/2021 7:51:45 PM
FROM: From: riverswork@yahoo.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

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COMMENT:

Thank you for the opportunity to add comments for your consideration and for the official record. I'm impressed that your mapping consultants are off to a good start, and the Commission Co-Chairs are effectively leading the deliberations.

I hope you can assure that the same sorting capabilities that are developed for the Commission's use in locating & organizing official comments will also be available for the public to use as well.

Second, adding "tags" later for the sorting/organization of comments is a bad idea, one that may be extremely confusing, if they wouldn't be applicable to all comments, including those submitted earlier. Give your Staff time to propose a good set of "tags;" these aren't the critical path milestone yet. Clearly, some tags could include several related topics (e.g., comments that reference incumbents and those that refer to gerrymandering.

Third, I applaud your attention to the Commission deliberations and hope that you will overtly avoid using your cell phones during the Commission's mapping deliberations because, otherwise, it could easily appear to The Public that you are getting secret instructions from unidentified advocates by phone in the middle of the meeting. The apparent integrity of this Commission deliberation will set an historical standard for future Commissions to meet/exceed, and I urge you to set the highest standard possible.

Finally, and most important, I am grateful for the comments offered by Delegates Simon and Barker concerning the implications that the "start from scratch" approach may have for incumbent legislators. I can understand and appreciate their concerns, and I'm very grateful for their speaking out about the interests of the legislators who will be asked to approve the maps recommended by the Commission, but I object to those incumbent concerns being given any consideration in the Commission's mapping priorities.

My prayer is that you Commissioners, every one of you, are wise enough to understand and accept that protecting incumbents, even the very best, is not an appropriate consideration for the Commission in serving the interests of We the People. There are a few flaws in the new Constitutional amendment that you are working to implement, but nothing will diminish the apparent integrity of this new approach as much as any appearance that outside influencers might have a role in your recommendations to the General Assembly.

Thank you, again, for your dedication to the Commonwealth of Virginia and its ReDistricting Commission.

Sincerely,

Peter Evans, 505 N Ivy St, Arlington VA 22201

DATE SENT: 9/12/2021 4:11:12 PM
FROM: From: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Name: Sara Fitzgerald
EMAIL: Email: sarafitz@aol.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington, Loudoun

SUBJECT: Subject: Preserving Jurisdictions--Population Deviation

COMMENT:

Comment: After listening to the commission's professional map makers discuss their proposals for Northern Virginia, I suggest the Commission consider changing its instructions for permissible population deviation. As noted at the meeting, the courts have upheld a deviation of plus or minus five percentage points. If, for instance, Loudoun County or Arlington County could

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be divided into a set number of districts by following that more relaxed standard, why not let the map makers do it. This would elevate the preservation of jurisdictional boundaries as a reasonable goal for all parts of the state, and eliminate small slivers being tacked on to a bigger jurisdiction. While it is important to preserve the concept of one person, one vote, this approach would give the map makers a bit more flexibility to draw sensible lines and avoid some of the issues of the past. This is an approach that could be discussed with your counsels and map makers to determine if they have any concerns.

DATE SENT: 9/17/2021 2:45:00 PM
EMAIL: jvmorgan@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

SUBJECT: Suggestions regarding districts 6, 14, and 15 on A2 NOVA HOD map

COMMENT:
Commissioners,
Please consider the suggested changes to district 6, 14, and 15, as presented on the A2 NOVA HOD map (number 61). The suggestions are available at <https://virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/99/1>. The purpose of these suggestions is to keep the Tysons Urban Center in one district without compromising the viability of the other proposed districts. I believe that the boundaries I've suggested meet these goals and are even more natural and conforming to the goals of redistricting (particularly with respect to respecting communities of interest) than the A2 NOVA HOD map.
Thank you for your time and consideration.
--Jason V. Morgan

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 14, 2021 11:15:53 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Elizabeth
EMAIL: cameron.lizmit@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Stafford

SUBJECT: Senate 28

COMMENT:
To Whom It May Concern: I am a resident of Stafford County. I am writing to requesting that the Virginia Redistricting Commission redraw Senate District 28 to include Stafford County, Fredericksburg City, and Spotsylvania County. Virginia law requires electoral districts to be drawn around communities of interest. Currently, Senate District 28 is a sprawling leviathan that includes communities that have very little in common from Prince William County's Rural Crescent to the shores of Westmoreland County. Residents of these areas have very little in common culturally or economically and, therefore, do not represent a community of interest. Rather, a more appropriate district should be centered around Fredericksburg City. Stafford County, Fredericksburg City, and Spotsylvania County have a strong community of interest. We eat at the same restaurants, shop at the same stores, our families worship at the same churches, and we all consider ourselves from "Fredericksburg". Senate District 28, therefore, should reflect that strong community of interest and be drawn around Fredericksburg City. Thank you, Elizabeth Cameron

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:44:11 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Steven Vogel <steven.j.vogel@earthlink.net>

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REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:

Greetings:

I applaud the Virginia Redistricting Commission's vote Monday to begin the map-drawing process from scratch, without regard for existing electoral maps.

I understand the Virginia Redistricting Commission soon will be making a decision about hiring a nonpartisan consultant to

mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.

In the interest of public confidence, I strongly urge the Commission to move forward with this plan.

Sincerely,

Steven Vogel

Falls Church, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:14:58 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Andrew Ludwig <luddie@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

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 'community' is best defined as those who live closest to me. In that spirit, please define districts in the most compact way possible : circles. I believe the best, fairest map, will look like a ball pit at Chuck E. Cheese. Let computers do the algorithms, and let the starting point be random. Test it a few times, then let it be drawn publicly, based on a random dart throw.

Computers can help us get away from our polarized, partisan politics. Please use them, and keep the districts as compact as possible -- in all directions (a circle).

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Ludwig

3349 Ardley Ct Falls Church, VA 22041-2601 luddie@gmail.com

REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Is it true that the Virginia Redistricting Commission is considering using existing legislative maps as a starting point in their map-drawing process because of the 45 day timeframe? I could not believe that in Virginia in 2021 that the legal counsel would even recommend such a fraudulent course of action. It is the coward's way out to accept it. Virginia deserves better from their Commissioners and the legal counsel. I feel strongly this will undermine not only the ultimate product, but also public confidence. I am hopeful that when presented with options somewhere between starting from existing maps (which is unpopular and not ideal) and starting from zero (which is a daunting task), that you will strongly consider one or more of them.

Why starting from existing maps is not only a bad idea, it is playing into the hands of

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politicians and corporate interests seeking to protect their political cronies as opposed to protecting each Virginian's God-given right to vote and have fair and equitable representation in their government.

Over the past decade Virginia's maps have been fifth worst in the nation. To start with them as a template and make minor changes will perpetuate the problems that were the impetus to create the Commission

In November 2020 Voters were overwhelmingly in favor of a new system established in a constitutional amendment. Fulfilling their democratically determined mandate is crucial for our state to move forward.

Virginia can be less political and more pragmatic to solve many real problems and get better overall governance if we have fairer elections based on fairer maps.

2 of the 3 sets of maps are a result of court intervention to undo racial gerrymandering. The regions affected by these changes are living under a band-aid, and many of the districts cut through communities in order to provide more racial balance.

It sets a bad precedent for future commissions to say that 45 days is too short to do anything beyond making adjustments. By this reasoning, Virginia will never get a fresh start.

Starting from existing maps also means starting with incumbent addresses and will make it harder to assure Virginians that the final maps were not put in place to protect incumbent politicians.

You are up against a very big task in just a matter of days and I truly believe that you will follow the harder right rather than the easier wrong in this matter. Some alternative approaches you might consider:

Computer-generated "starter maps" - using an algorithm based on the legally-mandated criteria, someone like Moon

Duchin (Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts University) could quickly and easily create maps to use

as a starting point.

"A fairness report" - using the existing maps but running them through a fairness report like the one available from the

Princeton Gerrymandering Project. This would point out the biggest problem areas and direct your attention to where

the biggest changes need to happen.

Equal Population map - starting from a map that is just districts determined by population and no other criteria and

adjusting from there.

Thank you for your time and attention. Don't let Virginia suffer for another 10 years as has been the result after the last commission.

James A. Minor

COL USA(Retired)

FROM: Barbara Allen <info@calvarypres.org>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Dear Commission Members,

First, let me congratulate you for your willingness to serve us. This has to be a very challenging task for each member as you serve all of the residents of our Commonwealth of Virginia. I've been following the discussions and actions being taken by the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

I'm very pleased that the Commission has taken a vote to begin the map-drawing process from scratch,

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without regard for existing electoral maps. This vote is most uplifting and may be the most prudent action taken thus far.

I sincerely hope that the Commission will now hire a nonpartisan consultant to provide a mathematical audit for all of Virginia's maps. Please continue to observe and implement transparency throughout this process.

Stay safe, healthy, honest and upbeat as our Virginia Redistricting Commission!

Sincerely,

Barbara Allen

Alexandria, VA Voter

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:30:56 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Gail Kropf <gailkropf@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Dear Commission,

Please vote for a Non-partisan Mathematical Audit to continue the process.

Thank you so very much for all you have done thus far.

Gail Kropf

7507 Elba Road

Alexandria, VA 22306

240-418-0797

gail.kropf@gmail.com

Vaccination saves lives!

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:08:39 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Tom Edmondson <tome50@verizon.net>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Please use a nonpartisan, mathematical audit in considering proposed redistricting maps. Allowing the commission to

descend into bipartisan gridlock or back-scratching like the Federal Election Commission is not at all what most Virginians

had in mind in voting for the commission. Today's vote was a step in the right direction. Thank you.

T. Edmondson

Alexandria

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:55:04 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: julie ciccarone <julieciccarone@yahoo.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Redistricting Committee,

First I want to thank you for your willingness to serve on the redistricting committee. I know this an awesome responsibility that will take

a significant amount of your time.

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I am writing to respectfully request that the committee start from a blank slate when drawing our new districts. Starting with a blank slate

will accomplish several important things:

- 1) Allow the committee to look at Virginia with fresh eyes which is what is so desperately needed;
- 2) Give confidence to Virginians that the committee truly is independent;
- 3) Ensure all Virginians' votes count; and
- 4) Help moderate the extreme tendencies of both parties by drawing truly competitive districts.

I realize that given the release of the census data, the timeframe to draw the districts is short but I hope you will still commit to starting with a blank slate.

These maps will impact not only the next ten years in Virginia but will be an example to the rest of the country demonstrating the benefits of independent redistricting commissions.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Julie M. Ciccarone

Alexandria, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 11:03:15 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: Bonnie Hershberg <hersh3b@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

I'm writing you as a long-time volunteer dedicated to fair redistricting in Va. I worked hard—as did scores of volunteers—to educate Virginians and end what I considered an “incumbent protection program” in our state. I was elated to see Virginians all over the Commonwealth overwhelmingly support the creation of the Commission to which you've now dedicated yourselves.

Because of my commitment to good governance, fair maps, and transparency, I'm appealing to you to avoid the temptation to use existing maps as a starting point for drawing new maps.

I'm sure you are aware of the multiple reasons to begin afresh but here are the ones that particularly seize me:

—I believe that a genuinely fair process cannot be driven by partisanship. Starting with new maps, Virginia can be less polarized and more pragmatic in its approach to solving the real problems of our citizens. As the fifth worst gerrymandered state in the nation, Virginia would suffer from a real credibility gap if the Commission chose to make only minor changes to the existing maps, perpetuating the problems that the the creation of the Commission sought to solve. A likely result would be voter disillusionment. In other words, failure to start anew will undermine public confidence in not only the ultimate maps but this brand new process.

—My guess is that like me, you're committed to racial and social equity in the creation of our maps. As you know, two of the three sets of maps under which we currently operate are the result of court intervention to undo racial gerrymandering. The regions affected by these changes are living under a band-aid, and many of the districts cut through communities in order to provide more racial balance. You can redress this situation and ensure greater equity by starting with a new process resulting in new maps.

—I believe we have an obligation to set the right precedent for future commissions here and across the country by saying that 45 days is not too short to do anything beyond tinkering. By this reasoning, Virginians will never get a fresh start they voted for.

Many excellent alternatives to “adjusting” existing maps have been proffered so I'll only mention a few. To make your work easier but to produce NEW maps, please consider, among the others,

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using computer-generated “starter maps,” of which there are several; a “fairness report,” like the one available from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project; or “third-party maps,” like the ones put forward by the Citizen Advisory Board.

I’m grateful that you have taken on this challenging task. You have been entrusted to make important decisions that will affect the lives of all Virginians over the next ten years. I know you’re up to the task.

Best regards,
Bonnie Hershberg
Alexandria, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 8, 2021 11:35:11 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Christa Schaertel <cs-trans@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

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?
Sincerely,
Christa Schaertel
413 S Fayette St Alexandria, VA 22314-5904 cs-trans@comcast.net

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, September 6, 2021 5:00:53 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Giselle Caruso <fgcaruso@outlook.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:
I am grateful for the time and energy that you are putting into this historic redistricting effort. I urge the Virginia Redistricting Commission to avoid including Fairfax County in districts that are primarily Alexandria districts. Instead, include Arlington County areas to “fill out” Alexandria districts. There are a few reasons to take this approach: First, Alexandria and Arlington have recently worked closely on the Crystal City (Arlington County)/Potomac Yard (Alexandria) “National Landing” area where the Amazon Headquarters 2 and the new Virginia Tech Innovation Campus will be. The relationship between the two jurisdictions over this geographic area will continue for many years to come.
The second reason is population size. Alexandria has a population of 159,467 and Arlington’s is 238,643. Fairfax at 1,145,670 is so much larger than either Alexandria or Arlington. Fairfax County’s challenges are more numerous and more complex. A delegate or senator who represents both Alexandria and Fairfax County will likely have to spend a lot of time on Fairfax County issues although she or he represents only a very small part of the county’s residents. Make the combination Alexandria-Arlington County, not Alexandria-Fairfax County.
Finally, under no circumstances should a delegate or senator have to represent constituents in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County. That elected official will have to split her or his time too many ways if she or he has to work with those three local governments’ legislative agendas.
Thank you again for your work on Virginia’s redistricting.
Giselle Caruso

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Alexandria, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 1, 2021 12:02:38 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Bill Millhouser <bmillhouser2010@cox.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Annandale

COMMENT:

Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission

I am enclosing the following testimony that I provided at the July 27 Public Meeting in Fairfax. Please post on your website.

My name is Bill Millhouser; I am a resident of the Annandale community of Fairfax County.

I want to start by thanking all of you for taking on the responsibility of implementing this new and transparent way of drawing our legislative districts. I would like to touch on two points today; first, the priority criteria that should guide map drawing and second, the need to address the current State Senate and Congressional districts which split my community.

The priority criteria for drawing districts should be as follows:

- The top priority criteria must be the protection of the voting rights of minority communities. This must be done very carefully to meet the specific criteria in the Federal Voting Rights Act.
- Second, Districts must be drawn to protect Communities of Interest which share common interests and needs, while avoiding placing communities with different or conflicting interests in the same district.
- Third, Districts should be drawn to avoid splitting cities and counties and voting precincts, as much as possible. This will provide the public a better understanding of the election process and ease local implementation of voting at the precinct level.
- Finally, as there are no federal or state legal requirements to use incumbent home addresses as a map-drawing criterion, this information should not be a starting point for map drawing, or in any way weaken the application of existing legal requirements.

Turning to my community, I have defined my “community of interest” on the attached map drawn using “Representable” software. This map is based on where I shop, my use of nearby recreation resources, and the schools, government buildings, and libraries that I regularly visit. I have named my community of interest “Greater Annandale.”

I draw your attention to the fact that the current State Senate and Congressional districts split up my community for no good reason. State Senate District 37 currently stretches roughly 20 miles from Centreville to the center of my community. Viewed in its entirety, District 37 includes numerous disparate communities with completely different issues and needs as it weaves its way across the County. It is a perfect example of an elongated gerrymandered district. The remainder of my community is located in State Senate District 35. This district includes the southern, eastern and northern edges of my community enclosing the central portion in Senate District 37 on three sides.

My community is also bisected by two Congressional districts—CD 8 and CD 11, again for no good reason. I live in CD 11, while neighbors 8 blocks away live in CD 8. I have attached maps which show how these State and Federal districts

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split my neighborhood.

I urge the Commission to examine these districts with an eye toward making the Greater Annandale community whole, with compact community-based districts. Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth and for the opportunity to speak before you today.

Bill Millhouser

Fairfax County

Map Description automatically generated

Diagram, map Description automatically generated

Map Description automatically generated

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Annandale

COMMENT:

On Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 3:44 PM Candace Butler <candy@edandcandy.com> wrote:
We appreciate your review and consideration of these comments.
Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA
Candace Butler, Annandale VA

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 11:19:07 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Tim Huson
EMAIL: tim@huson.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

SUBJECT: New redistricting maps must NOT start from the existing maps!

COMMENT:

I urge the redistricting commission to NOT start from current maps. Instead they should start with the maps produced by the 2011 Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission, or they should have their mapmaker create NEW initial maps. The existing maps are based on gerrymandered districts intended to divide up the population taking into account voters' party affiliations, in order to protect incumbents and/or to give an advantage to one party over the other. To start with a district map that reflects the former corrupt gerrymandered process would be to embed that corruption into the new district map. The districts should reflect the priorities intended by the new law passed by the voters, and those priorities should NOT be to help one party, both parties, or current incumbents. You must not start from the current maps! Do the right thing! Thank you, Tim Huson Arlington, Virginia

FROM: CRAGG HINES <cragghines@aol.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Thank you for your e-mail requesting the issue I wish to raise with the Redistricting Commission. I ask — and urge — the Commission to disqualify Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Feliciano because of inherent

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conflicts of interests faced by each of them.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Cragg Hines
5100 Little Falls Rd.
Arlington, VA 22207
C: 202-415-1434
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 2, 2021 9:41:31 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

I am looking forward to your discussion tomorrow (August 3rd) regarding the role of the Communications Specialist (long overdue) and the hiring of map-drawer(s). As I've stated before, hiring a non-partisan map-drawer is desirable - and a mathematician or political scientist to analyze the maps is also recommended.

Regarding your upcoming schedule: I am concerned that this Commission is setting itself up to fail in its mission - I see only

three "keep schedule clear" dates set for August-September. And those three meetings are only two hours long. It seems highly

improbable and very unrealistic that you can complete two sets of (140) maps in six hours of work.

For the benefit of the busy members of the Commission, as well as engaged members of the public who would like to attend your

meetings, it would be helpful to block out several days on our respective calendars for map-drawing. For Commissioners who must

travel to Richmond for the meetings, I would suggest scheduling meetings in a block of 2 or 3 days in a row (every week), with

funding provided for overnight accommodations. I recommend that you meet for 3- or 4-hour blocks of time to allow for in-depth, focused work.

Regarding the criteria: (see VA Code <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title24.2/chapter3/section24.2-304.04/>)

(1) I agree that equal population and compliance with established laws (2) must be adhered to. You should state the deviation

allowed "A deviation of no more than five percent shall be permitted for state legislative districts."

(3a) Contiguity and compactness are also important.

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(3b) With regard to "integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions" :: does this refer to political boundaries such as keeping cities together in single districts without being split; and that this would apply to counties as much as is reasonable?

(3c) I am not certain what 3c refers to.

(3d) With regard to "neighborhoods or any geographically defined group of people" (3d) :: please refer to these as "Communities of Interest", as stated in the Code "Districts shall be drawn to preserve communities of interest." Your statement that neighborhoods "shall be maintained to the extent possible" is not strong enough and seems to dismiss COIs as an important criteria. (although you do seem to clarify the importance in the "note" at the bottom of the page)

(4) Thank you for stating that addresses of incumbents will not be considered.

(5) It is concerning to me that stating the the criteria are "not intended to limit the consideration of any other principles or factors that the Commission deems appropriate" seems to leave the door wide open for political or partisan shenanigans.

Finally, you have neglected to include in your criteria the ability of ethnic, racial and language minority groups to elect leaders of

their choice. This is critically-important to fair maps. (see § 24.2-304.04.3)

I hope these comments and suggestions will be considered during your discussion on Tuesday afternoon.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)

chris7307@gmail.com

Arlington, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 1:01:18 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Peter Evans <riverswork@yahoo.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

As an American and a recent resident in Virginia, I'm very proud of the mission that you have responsibility for fulfilling! Hurray for our Virginia efforts to stop partisan gerrymandering in this Commonwealth!

I grew up in Colorado, moved to Arlington in 2004 and thank you for bringing your public redistricting hearings around the state. I was able to watch, but not attend, your meeting in Fairfax Co and would like to add the following comments for your record. If these comments seem obvious, please don't take offense, because I appreciate how much you've already started a very strong deliberative process.

I'm retired now, after many years working for and with many state and interstate agencies that were led by citizen boards or commissions, and I want to emphasize the value of the work you do in open, public sessions. With the benefit of internet/virtual meetings, the powerful visibility of your deliberations in public has increased substantially at a time when America needs assurance that our government decisions are sound and not corrupt. Please, in the short time that remains, strengthen our faith and confidence in the democratic process by deliberating at the key junctures in public!

1. Start From Scratch -since the existing district maps are widely considered to have been tainted by gerrymandering, it only makes sense to start fresh, without any priority given to preserving existing district boundaries for any of the district maps the Commission will recommend.

2. Mapping Priorities, as Bill Millhouser suggested in your Fairfax County meeting, should be clearly articulated and ranked by the Commission in public session. Having the staff work and Commission deliberation in secret will diminish the apparent integrity of

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the Commission's recommendations.

3. Single Mapping Consultant -it would be best if your selected sets of lawyers could agree on a single mapping consultant to support the Commission deliberation. This will help the Commissioners work together and avoid the schism of partisan debate, and should save a considerable amount of time, as well.

4. Recommended Maps should be presented to and discussed in public before they get final sign-off from the Commission and are recommended to the General Assembly. Again, having the staff work and Commission deliberation in secret will diminish the integrity of the Commission recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns and recommendations with you. I look forward to hearing your responses and deliberation in future meetings of the Commission.

Peter Evans
505 N Ivy St, Arlington VA

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 3:15:49 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Michael Beer <michaelabeer@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

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. Our community has many teenagers who will vote in a few years. Please take them into consideration. Please draw maps that will have numerical equality in terms of voters, not this year, but in the year 2026 half way through the decade. This means that districts with many teens should be smaller by a few percentages (to start off this year), and communities with old people should have slightly higher initial voter numbers. So the goal is to have roughly equal sized districts of voters by 2026. This may advantage republicans slightly, but I think it is worth doing...even though I am a Democrat.
Sincerely,
Michael Beer
2302 N Kenmore St Arlington, VA 22201-4327 michaelabeer@yahoo.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 11:22:07 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Tim Huson <tim@huson.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:
Dear friends:
I urge the redistricting commission to NOT start from current maps. Instead they should start with the maps produced by the 2011 Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission, or they should have their mapmaker create NEW initial maps.
The existing maps are based on gerrymandered districts intended to divide up the population taking into account voters' party affiliations, in order to protect incumbents and/or to give an advantage to one party over the other. To start with a district map that reflects the former corrupt gerrymandered process would be to embed that corruption into the new district map. The districts should reflect the priorities intended by the new law passed by the voters, and

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those priorities should NOT be to help one party, both parties, or current incumbents.
You must not start from the current maps! Do the right thing!

Thank you,
Tim Huson
Arlington, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 6:23:07 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Brianna Shamsuddoha <briannamsham@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:
Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,
My name is Brianna and I'm from Arlington, Virginia.
I am writing to document my input about redistricting in Virginia. These maps will be the basis for representation for the next decade and it's important that the maps fairly reflect our communities.
I believe that in order to reflect and represent our communities, the maps must intentionally keep communities together. This means not "packing" and "cracking" communities of color in southeastern and Northern Virginia, it means reducing splits in the districts in Northern Virginia, and also anchoring districts around areas with strong community ties like the University of Virginia and in Norfolk County.
I want to share a bit about my community and the shared interests that unite us, like my public policy concerns and notable local geography.
I believe the next district lines should be drawn in a manner that adequately reflects and fairly represents my community's interests.
Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment.
Sincerely,
Brianna Shamsuddoha
2201 N Pershing Dr Arlington, VA 22201-1446 briannamsham@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:21:31 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Elaine Braverman <elaine_braverman@msn.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:
I admire the work the Redistricting Commission has undertaken, and the willingness of the citizen Commission members to serve the Commonwealth.
However, I strongly oppose any consideration of beginning the process using existing legislative maps. The entire reason for the Commission's existence is the decades long fight to bring fairer, more transparent mapmaking. Over 2/3 of voters approved the Constitutional Amendment last fall, and recent citizen participation in public hearings and other public comment brought forth strong support for beginning with new maps. There are other ways to attack the timing constraints resulting from the lateness of Census data. Please consider those (including more independent maps drawn by non-legislative entities in 2011). Using existing legislative maps is the worst choice to make among the several options, in bringing sunshine to the Commonwealth's redistricting process.
Please make the right - not the supposedly "easy" decision.
Elaine Braverman
Arlington, VA

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DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 3:05:05 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Elaine Braverman <elaine_braverman@msn.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

I'm an Arlington resident, and attended the NoVa public hearing remotely. The hearing enabled a variety of views and concerns about communities of interest.

I am adding my voice in strong support of several issues raised by speakers at the hearing.

I urge the Commission to start from scratch in developing maps. In addition, professional map drawers should be engaged. An interesting suggestion was that the Republican and Democratic law firms engaged by the Commission jointly agree on an established entity to draw the maps. There are a number of independent, well-regarded organizations that have already demonstrated their expertise in this area. Incumbent addresses should have no consideration in drawing districts. If a candidate is not competitive without the advantage of incumbency, then it is certainly to the advantage of the Commonwealth that a better candidate represent us.

As the timeline for redistricting is extremely tight, the Commission should issue its plan for making the maps and engaging the public.

Overall, in all of its actions, the Commission should understand the public's deep skepticism ranging back over decades of redistricting "reforms" that didn't really bring fairness to the process. The Commission really has a history-making role, and I wish you success in achieving it.

Elaine Braverman
Arlington, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 19, 2021 6:17:43 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Constantine Roussos <outlook_C8BB7D1651834759@outlook.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Commission:

First, I would like to say that this opportunity to draw fair voting district lines is, in my opinion, the most important state-wide initiative of this century.

Nelson County is a lightly populated (population 15,000), geographically compact community bounded primarily by Albemarle County, the James River, Amherst County and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Due to Nelson's small population, organizations tend to have county-wide scope and cooperation between residents from different parts of the county is required for these organizations to be effective.

Charlottesville is the largest nearby city and the one with, by far, the most influence on Nelson's employment, business and culture. Important issues that periodically arise are debated within the county through personal contacts, public, county-wide meetings, letters and articles in the Nelson Co. Times, the Daily Progress and within organizations of county-wide scope. In the past these issues have included the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, county and state ordinances, including those for zoning, dogs and guns, the construction of a state prison, a license for an automobile racetrack, the construction of a nuclear power plant on the James River, a series of low-frequency towers for emergency military communication, a county comprehensive plan and numerous other issues of importance to residents of the county. Many of these issues required the involvement of elected and appointed officials. These include local officials such as those on the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and other elected and appointed boards as well as officials elected to the state legislature.

For the reasons given above it is critical that Nelson Co. not be split among different districts, political and otherwise. Before the previous redistricting Nelson County resided in a single legislative district for the

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House of Delegates and the State Senate. With the most recent redistricting Nelson became part of two different districts for the House of Delegates. This split has caused numerous organizational problems. The dividing line appears to be entirely arbitrary or drawn for political reasons. Due to Nelson County's small population it is entirely possible for Nelson County to be entirely contained in a single legislative district for the House and the Senate.

I ask that the Redistricting Commission please take special care to draw district lines to keep Nelson Co. whole. I further ask that Nelson be placed in districts that include the City of Charlottesville. I realize that this means including all or part of Albemarle County in such districts. Having lived in Nelson County since 1975, been involved with numerous county organizations and having attended the University of Virginia I believe that I have a knowledgeable perspective on this issue. I also believe that the grand majority of Nelson residents who have looked at this issue agree with me.

Thank you for your kind attention and thank you for volunteering to take on this most difficult and most important task.

Sincerely yours,

Constantine Roussos, Ph. D.

245 Cabell Mountain Lane

Arrington, VA 22922

roussos@lynchburg.edu

434-945-3313 (cell)

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 19, 2021 6:12:47 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Constantine Roussos <roussos@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

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. First, I would like to say that this opportunity to draw fair voting district lines is, in my opinion, the most important state-wide initiative of this century.

Nelson County is a lightly populated (population 15,000), geographically compact community bounded primarily by Albemarle County, the James River, Amherst County and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Due to Nelson's small population, organizations tend to have county-wide scope and cooperation between residents from different parts of the county is required for these organizations to be effective.

Charlottesville is the largest nearby city and the one with, by far, the most influence on Nelson's employment, business and culture. Important issues that periodically arise are debated within the county through personal contacts, public, county-wide meetings, letters and articles in the Nelson Co. Times, the Daily Progress and within organizations of county-wide scope. In the past these issues have included the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, county and state ordinances, including those for zoning, dogs and guns, the construction of a state prison, a license for an automobile racetrack, the construction of a nuclear power plant on the James River, a series of low-frequency towers for emergency military communication, a county comprehensive plan and numerous other issues of importance to residents of the county. Many of these issues required the involvement of elected and appointed officials. These include local officials such as those on the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and other elected and appointed boards as well as officials elected to the state legislature.

For the reasons given above it is critical that Nelson Co. not be split among different districts,

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political and otherwise. Before the previous redistricting Nelson County resided in a single legislative district for the House of Delegates and the State Senate. With the most recent redistricting Nelson became part of two different districts for the House of Delegates. This split has caused numerous organizational problems. The dividing line appears to be entirely arbitrary or drawn for political reasons. Due to Nelson County's small population it is entirely possible for Nelson County to be entirely contained in a single legislative district for the House and the Senate.

I ask that the Redistricting Commission please take special care to draw district lines to keep Nelson Co. whole. I further ask that Nelson be placed in districts that include the City of Charlottesville. I realize that this means including all or part of Albemarle County in such districts. Having lived in Nelson County since 1975, been involved with numerous county organizations and having attended the University of Virginia I believe that I have a knowledgeable perspective on this issue. I also believe that the grand majority of Nelson residents who have looked at this issue agree with me.

Thank you for your kind attention and thank you for volunteering to take on this most difficult and most important task.

Sincerely yours,

Constantine Roussos

Sincerely,

Dr. Constantine Roussos

245 Cabell Mountain Ln Arrington, VA 22922-2323 roussos@lynchburg.edu

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 19, 2021 2:13:18 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Chris Buchheit <buchheitcjc@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Hello VA Redistricting Commission,

I, along with many other volunteers, worked hard to get the amendment passed to establish this commission because we believe that our representation should completely and fully reflect the views, status, and preferences of all voters.

I would ask that every effort is taken to achieve that vision - ideally, every district should be purple, and not designed to protect any particular party or incumbent. That's how democracy works best - when it's genuinely competitive. For instance, please do not implement practices such as combining partisan maps from two parties; this will cement incumbents in particular districts - instead, hire an independent commission to draw the maps.

Please, do all you can to keep the politicians from drawing the maps; the state of our democracy in Virginia depends on it.

Very Respectfully,

Chris Buchheit

Arlington, VA

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 12:46 AM Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com> wrote:
06.07.21

I have spoken and written to you before, but I think it's important to share my ideas again as you make some key

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decisions today.

Transparency is a key strength of this new redistricting process. Virginians voted – they clearly want this process to be

fair, open and as non-partisan as possible.

Public Engagement

§ We are pleased that a listserv has been created to improve communications with the public; however, I have received only one email so far. I hope we will receive them more frequently in the future.

§ The stand-alone Commission website is a step in the right direction, but it definitely needs improvement.

Please consider hiring a webmaster to create and maintain a high quality website. Michigan’s redistricting website is, in my opinion, the “gold standard”. I know that at least two Commissioners have visited the website and agree that it is an effective one. One key feature is the public input portal which is like a Google form -- it is so easy to submit comments, shapefiles and Comm of Interest maps; there is no need to use an email address. The comments appear to be automatically uploaded into a “Gallery” in “real time. In the Gallery, Commissioners and the public can sort comments by region, date, or topic, and view every submission. There is no need to wait until a couple hours before a meeting begins to read the comments.

§ I recommend that the Commission hire a communications director who can determine how best to reach all Virginians - whether it’s print media, radio, or social media. Use our tax dollars wisely. It should not be necessary to spend \$160,000 on print media (which most of us never saw). Keep in mind, too, that the League of Women Voters, OneVirginia2021, the NAACP, VCET and other organizations are ready to help inform the public of important hearings, etc.

§ Schedule as many public hearings as possible to hear from Virginians. I hope that you will consider using the 21 Planning Districts, rather than the 8 Weldon Cooper regions as you schedule hearings. I urge you to consider holding 8 in-person hearings before map drawing begins. It’s vitally important to hear citizens’ input and respect that input as you begin to draw lines. In-person hearings should also allow for virtual participation as well.

§ Keep in mind that some regions are dense in population, so be prepared for many hours of testimony. (Note that Michigan held its first or 16 public hearings in May – over 150 people signed up to speak!) Other regions may have fewer people, but in-person hearings are very important for the many residents who have broadband and/or transportation issues.

§ Consider adding evening and weekend hours , which would allow working Virginians to attend hearings.

Many people cannot “attend” Commission hearings because they are working at 10 am and 2 pm. Do not shut them out from the hearings as well.

§ I think it is important that all Commissioners attend every public hearing either in-person or virtually (as is required of Commissioners in Michigan and California). In order to understand what Virginians want, you must listen to us.

Drawing the maps

§ The Commission should hire a special master to draw the maps for the House, Senate and Congressional districts. It’s important for those maps to be drawn “from scratch” – incumbent protection should not be a consideration (which it will be if partisan (legislator) Commissioners take control of the map-drawing process). Because of the 45-day time constraints, a special master may be more efficient in this new map-drawing process.

§ Just one special master (or two if necessary) (rather than 3 separate map drawers) should be responsible for drawing all 3 sets of maps. This would allow the House, Senate and Congressional districts to be coordinated as much as possible so that precincts, municipalities, cities and counties are not split unnecessarily.

Legal Counsel

I have written about my disappointment in the highly-partisan discussion about hiring two sets of legal counsel. I still hope that RFPs can be issued for a neutral, non-partisan legal team – as well as two RFPs for Democrat and Republican legal teams.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. And thank you for your dedication and hard work!

Christine DeRosa (she, her)

Arlington, Virginia

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DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, May 23, 2021 11:44:55 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident of Arlington. I am Co-coordinator of the Redistricting Issues Group of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. I have been working for #fair redistricting for Virginia for many years.

I am writing to encourage you to conduct a thorough and energetic search for the Unicorn. As elusive as it may be, it may be possible to find one if you are determined and resourceful. Perhaps some of our community non-profit, non-partisan groups can assist you in the search! Most of us are fully-immunized and ready to venture into the world and embark on a hunt for the elusive unicorn with you!

But, seriously, I must protest the highly-partisan nature of the discussion at the first meeting of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee on May 19

th. Senators Barker and Newman insisted that

there is no attorney or law firm on earth that would be neutral or non-partisan :: neither Democrat- nor Republican-leaning. Senator Barker said, "We should make sure nobody's interest is disregarded in any way." May I remind the Commission that the people's interest should be represented. The Senators' statements demonstrate a negative and highly partisan attitude that they have perhaps developed over decades of political life. This is exactly why Virginia voters voted overwhelmingly for the Constitutional Amendment to establish this Commission. We ask the legislators to put down your political swords and keep in mind the task that we have given you: to draw fair maps for Virginia. As Director Wade stated, the law clearly states that "any attorney would be hired for the full Commission." Not one for the Republicans and one for the Democrats. One for the Commission and the people of Virginia.

We also ask that you respect the hard-working voters of Virginia and use our taxpayer dollars wisely. Hiring two legal experts or firms will be very expensive, I'm sure. I would much rather see that those funds are used to hire experts in other fields, including mathematics/political science/redistricting, communications, and website and graphic design. As Commissioner Kumar suggested, you must be "good stewards" of Virginians' monies.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)
chris7307@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 9, 2021 2:06:49 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Christopher Bates <bateschapelhill@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Bristow

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 our community?

My wife and I, both recently retired, have lived for 15+ years in Braemar, a planned urban development in west-central Prince William County formed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia approximately 20 years ago. I am a former officer and chair of the New Castle Village

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Homeowners Association, which is a sub-association of the Braemar Community Association. Braemar residents are all members of the Braemar Community Association, which consists of approximately 3400 housing units, both detached single-family homes and town homes, as well as one of approximately 10 sub-associations. Geographically, our community is bisected by Broad Run (river/large creek) and sits between Vint Hill Road to the South, Linton Hall Road to the North, farmlands that are part of the Prince William County "Rural Crescent" to the west, and adjacent neighborhoods that are situated about 1/4 mile beyond the Braemar Parkway and Garry Glen Drive to the south.

Socially, the Community has a number of organized activities and programs, including a very active swim team for children, two swimming facilities, tennis courts, and extensive internal community sidewalks and internal and perimeter neighborhood walking, running and biking trails. Most children in Braemar attend common local public and private schools that are within 1-3 miles of all residents. Braemar Sub-associations also connect residents with one another on a regular basis. Most if not all Braemar residents vote in one of the two area electoral precincts housed at schools within the community. Local shopping in Bristow and nearby Gainesville further connect residents on a regular basis.

Residents are quite diverse in terms of their race, ethnicity, religion, age and educational backgrounds. Children in particular mix widely and often with those of other races, ethnicities and religions within our community. Political views appear to vary greatly from one household to the next based on the voting patterns in precincts within the Community. Generally, however, we live in a clean, safe and close-knit community and everyone is most focused on maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy in Braemar

We hope this information is helpful to the Virginia Redistricting Community.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. and Mary R. Bates

12525 Erroll Lane, Bristow, VA 20136-2121

Sincerely,

Mr. Christopher Bates

12525 Erroll Ln Bristow, VA 20136-2121 bateschapelhill@aol.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 4:39:13 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: sivigny@verizon.net

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Burke

COMMENT:

Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I attended the session in Fairfax on July 27. Thank you for holding these meetings. I agreed with much of what was presented. I live in

Senate district 37 and House district 41, both of which are totally absurdly drawn.

One thing, however, disturbed me greatly. Is it true, as one gentleman stated, that in a previous session you announced plans to hire

two different partisan firms to each draw a partisan map? If so, I strenuously object. That will only lead to each side drawing a

gerrymandered map, intentionally creating party or incumbent protection districts to use as bargaining chips to trade and then declare a

compromise. That is no better than what happened 10 years ago when the "compromise" was letting the GOP gerrymander the House

and the Dems gerrymander the Senate. Lessons learned should have taught us that we need maps drawn by a non-partisan entity.

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I also endorse the request that you release preliminary maps so that community engagement will continue, as opposed to your simply releasing information after decisions have been concluded and set in stone.

Thank you,
Ginge Sivigny
Burke, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, May 24, 2021 1:25:33 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Donna McGrath <donnaamcg50@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Clifton

COMMENT:

A few years ago, I needed to meet with and bring something to Congresswomen Comstock's office . Her district was so gerrymandered that I had to drive 45 minutes. Her 10th District goes through 3 counties here in NOVA which are all densely populated and have no other reason for wacky lines other than trying to pick voters. It flipped blue but probably should have 2-3 cycles ago. Please make our districts fair to all voters. The minority is now dictating to the majority across this Nation and is fueling unrest . Donna McGrath
Cell 703-517-2966
7505 Morwood Trail
Clifton 20124
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:07:48 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: William May <wmay17673@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Dumfries

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. Please keep counties in the same district. Avoid gerrymandering.
Sincerely,
William May
17673 Four Seasons Dr Dumfries, VA 22025-1838 wmay17673@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 16, 2021 5:36:08 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Karen Wolf
EMAIL: karenwolf@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

SUBJECT: Fair redistricting -- start from scratch

COMMENT:

I'm a constituent, voter, and active in my UU congregation. Virginia voters voted in

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the new redistricting system because they want to see fairer, less gerrymandered elections. Our existing maps have made us one of the most gerrymandered states in the nation, with fractured communities -- why would want to perpetuate their use in any way? My UU religion calls me to work for democracy and justice, and fair elections are a cornerstone of that work. Good governance starts with good elections, and good elections start with good maps. Please don't use our old broken system to design our next system. Give Virginians something better. Best, Karen Wolf Fairfax, VA 22030 Lay Minister for Social Justice and Former Board President Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax

REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

COMMENT:

My name is Kris Gregory and I am a resident of Fairfax County. My family was redistricted in 2011 from the 53rd Delegate District in Fairfax County to the 48th Delegate District. We were also redistricted from the 10th Congressional District to the 8th Congressional District. I urge you to correct this mistake. My immediate neighbors and I have a Falls Church mailing address even though we pay taxes for the McLean Community Center and technically are McLean residents. The results of the 2011 redistricting divided the McLean area of Fairfax County between 4 delegate districts and 2 Congressional districts. Many voters in McLean are confused about who represents them and it is not their fault. The current 48th Delegate District is located approximately 1/3 in Fairfax County and 2/3 in Arlington County. Our Delegate Rip Sullivan (D-48th) is a friend and does a great job since he lives in the Fairfax County section of his district. Having to split his time between 2 counties limits the time he can spend on Fairfax issues through no fault of his own. The VA 8th Congressional District is currently made up of Alexandria City, Arlington County, Falls Church City, and most of the Fairfax County areas with Alexandria and Falls Church mailing addresses. Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA 8th) has family and business ties to McLean and Falls Church City so he has been a great representative for the entire 8th Congressional district. However, the majority of McLean residents are in the 10th Congressional District and many voters who live in the 8th Congressional District mistakenly assume that they are too until they vote. I regret that my own Delegate Rip Sullivan will probably lose his seat but please redistrict me into McLean and Fairfax County majority districts. And I want to keep my Falls Church mailing address! Thank you. Kris Gregory Longfellow Precinct Captain Dranesville District Democratic Committee/DDDC Fairfax County Democratic Committee/FCDC

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 4:37:14 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Bill Millhouser <bmillhouser2010@cox.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

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COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

I am providing comments regarding the draft “2021 Proposed Redistricting Guidelines and Criteria.” (Guidelines) included with the agenda for August 3, 2021 Commission meeting.

I find these proposed Guidelines to be extremely confusing, particularly given the absence of any Commission discussion of the existing legal criteria or the need for these Guidelines.

The legally binding criteria for drawing districts this year are already clearly laid out in the Constitutions of the United States and Virginia, and the statutory criteria found in title 24-2.3 of the Virginia code. These criteria were added to fill a huge gap in public policy which previously allowed legislators almost unlimited discretion to draw gerrymandered districts.

I see no logical reason or legal rationale why these legally binding criteria should be rewritten or altered as proposed in these Guidelines.

The proposed Guidelines appear to be an effort to prioritize the existing legal criteria but instead muddy the meaning of the existing criteria while adding no additional clarity.

The drafters of the Guidelines seem to view these legal requirements as suggestions that can be rewritten, ignored or supplemented with factors not found in law.

More specifically the Guidelines:

-- Create a grouping of four criteria labeled “Communities of Interest,” a term of art which should clearly be limited to the existing Communities of Interest criterion in the code.

-- Include in this grouping a new criterion regarding “Neighborhoods....” which embodies the same concept found in the definition for “Communities of interest” in the code.

Despite the note at the bottom of the page that the communities of interest are extremely important to the Commission, these changes appear to weaken protection of such areas, by rewording the criteria and using the language describing “neighborhoods.” The standard for protection in the code is that “districts shall be drawn to preserve “Communities of interest.”

The Guidelines state that Neighborhoods “shall be maintained to the extent possible.” Why are these standards different?

-- Fail to include existing criteria ensuring that minorities have the ability to elect leaders of their choice, and the five percent population deviation limit for state legislative districts

-- Include a vague open-ended statement that the Guidelines are “not intended to limit the consideration of any principles or factors that the Commission deems appropriate.”

I have a hard time identifying any additional principles or factors that should be considered in order to draw fair maps, beyond those already found in the Federal and State legal criteria.

The Commission should identify in writing any such criteria it intends to apply and provide assurances that such factors will not weaken or take precedence over the already established criteria.

As noted earlier, there has been no indication from Commission that the existing legal requirements needed to be rewritten and reorganized in the format presented in the Guidelines.

A Division of Legislative Services attorney provided the Commission with a detailed overview of the Federal and State legal criteria guiding redistricting on April 26, 2021.

I am not aware of any discussion during subsequent Commission meetings indicating that the Commission would be considering drafting Guidelines such as these.

Also, the Guidelines directly contravene the following guidance in the Public Hearings FAQs requesting citizen input on Communities of Interest as defined in the existing State code.

Changing the definition of “Communities of Interest” now after the close of the initial round of public hearings is confusing and illogical.

The Commission wants to hear from the public about their “Communities of Interest.” What does that mean?

The Code of Virginia defines a "community of interest" as a neighborhood or any geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests. Communities of interest

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are defined by local community members and local circumstances. Criteria related to common interests or characteristics include:

- Shared racial or ethnic background
- Common history or culture
- Common religion or language
- Shared socio-economic status
- Economic ties
- Transportation patterns
- Communication networks (media markets)

A variety of geographic features, populations, and histories can make it difficult to define a community of interest, so it

is important that the Commission hear about and understand local sentiment and circumstances in order to identify these communities. It is recommended that you consider incorporating answers to the following questions

when providing public comment.

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

I also note that the posting of the proposed Guidelines approximately 28 hours before the scheduled meeting this afternoon fails to provide adequate public notice and opportunity to comment. The public did not have sufficient time to review, analyze and discuss the guidelines prior to the meeting. Citizens working during the day likely were not able to read the comments until

Monday night and had no opportunity to provide written comments to the Commission prior to the meeting.

I urge the Commission to not approve the Guidelines and retain the language in the existing Federal and State criteria as written.

I also urge the Commission to provide adequate public notice of meeting agendas and materials for future Commission meetings, such that citizens have the opportunity to provide written comments

prior to the meeting. This should be, at a minimum, three working days prior to any Commission meeting.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Bill Millhouser

Fairfax County

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 26, 2021 7:58:35 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Ankit Jain <ajankit92@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Fairfax

COMMENT:

id-virginia-virginia_precincts-100-HouseofDelegatesDistricts,assignment Fairfax County Armfield,0 Fairfax County Frying Pan,0 Fairfax County Mcnair,0 Fairfax County Coates,0 Fairfax County Floris,0 Fairfax County Brookfield,0 Fairfax County Rocky Run,0 Fairfax County Poplar Tree,0 Fairfax County Powell,0 Fairfax County Fair Oaks,0 Fairfax County Centre Ridge,0 Fairfax County Oak Hill,0 Fairfax County Chantilly,0 Fairfax County Lees Corner,0 Fairfax County Franklin,0

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id-virginia-virginia_precincts-100-HouseofDelegatesDistricts,assignment Loudoun County Dulles South,0 Loudoun County Rock Ridge,0 Loudoun County Oak Grove,0 Fairfax County Coates,0 Fairfax County Mcnair,0 Fairfax County Frying Pan,0 Fairfax County Armfield,0 Fairfax County Carson,0 Fairfax County Brookfield,0 Loudoun County Carter,0 Loudoun County Moorefield,0 Loudoun County Lunsford,0 Loudoun County Cardinal Ridge,0 Loudoun County Little River,0 Loudoun County Hutchison Farm,0 Loudoun County Town Hall,0 Loudoun County Pinebrook,0 Loudoun County Buffalo Trail,0 Loudoun County Freedom,0 Loudoun County Liberty,0 Loudoun County Legacy,0 Loudoun County Mercer,0 Fairfax County Floris,0 Hello Commissioners,

My name is Ankit Jain. I grew up in Fairfax County and I am a citizen hoping the state will finally have fair districts. I submit these comments to supplement the written testimony I will deliver to you at the 7/27 Northern Virginia public hearing--the comments are attached to this email as well. I have two requests for you. First, I want to explain why I am strongly opposed to the suggestion at your last meeting that your two sets of partisan legal counsel will hire their own partisan map drawers to draw district maps.

I worry this is a great way to back into an incumbent protection gerrymander, because each set of partisan mapdrawers will come into the process with the goal of protecting their party, and the two groups then may agree on an incumbent protection gerrymander as a "compromise." Even if the Commission were to make it clear that is not what they wanted, the partisan mapdrawers could still sneak in partisanship into the maps they send you.

Rather than doing this, you should hire one, nonpartisan mapdrawer. If you are worried you do not have time to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP), you can direct your legal counsel to work together to hire one, nonpartisan mapdrawer as a consultant for both firms. I specifically recommend you either hire or direct your legal counsel to hire Moon Duchin from MGGG Redistricting Lab at Tufts University. Hiring a nonpartisan mapdrawer is the best way for this Commission to ensure that fair maps will come out of this process and to earn trust from the public that this is the Commission's goal.

Second, as an Indian-American from Fairfax County, I ask this Commission to draw a House of Delegates Asian opportunity district in either Fairfax or Loudoun County. The first time an Indian-American was elected to the Virginia General Assembly was in 2019—only two years ago. There have still been very few Asian-Americans who have ever been elected to the General Assembly. Fairfax and Loudoun counties now have large Asian-American populations. To ensure Asian-Americans have a proper voice in our state government, the Commission should draw a HOD district that gives Asians the opportunity to elect a candidate to represent them. This is eminently possible—attached to these comments are two potential Asian-American opportunity districts I drew that retain basic compactness criteria. They are also available to review in more depth at the following links:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DUw7phywLYM3VgwHdlvCCFpyyuuZHdj?usp=sharing>, <https://distrctr.org/plan/31036>, and <https://distrctr.org/plan/31041>. I hope you will work to rectify the serious lack of influence that Asian-Americans have in state government by creating this opportunity district.

Thank you,
Ankit Jain

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 9:36:52 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Edward Faggen <esfesq@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

COMMENT:
Virginia Redistricting Commission:

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Attached are my comments substantially as I presented them at the public hearing on July 27 at George Mason University in Fairfax. Please include them in the public record.

Thank you for holding the hearing and for considering my comments.

Ed Faggen

Edward S. Faggen

3835 Farrcroft Green

Fairfax, Virginia 22030

(703) 638-9110

esfesq@gmail.com

[Public Hearing - GMU July 27, 2021]

Good afternoon. My name is Ed Faggen. I live down the road from here, in the City of Fairfax.

I am here just to say thank you for what you are doing.

I am thanking you because what you are doing is so important. I volunteered for One Virginia 2021 and was pleased when this truly grassroots initiative passed. It passed because the people of Virginia overwhelmingly want fair voting maps.

You turn on the TV or read a newspaper and you sense that there is a fear in the country that America is declining, a fear that our democracy is failing, that our country is in its twilight. People are losing faith in our ideals and the fundamentals of our democracy, and one of those fundamentals is voting. The belief is that voting, basic going to the polls and expressing a preference on a candidate or on an issue, is inconsequential, meaningless, because it is

Memo to Seth Stark

November 5, 2010

rigged by powerful, unseen hands and that voting does not really count. This belief that voting is rigged undermines our democracy, undermines the foundations of our country. The distrust it sows, the great paranoia and cynicism it creates about our ability to function, leads to extremist thinking and extreme actions. We need to have faith in our system of voting just like we have to have faith that our courts apply the law in an evenhanded way. This is basic civics 101. It is the basis of a democracy. Regardless of our political views, we all need to believe that the system for making decisions is fair. We need to believe that the mechanisms of voting are evenhanded. So, for sure, we need fair voting districts; it is fundamental to a functioning democracy.

Virginians were among the leaders that helped to form this country some 245 years ago. They showed leadership. Today Virginians, and that would be you, on this commission are showing leadership by assuring that we will maintain the most fundamental attribute of a democratic society, fair voting. This

Memo to Seth Stark

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November 5, 2010

commission can achieve voting districts that you can say have not been drawn to favor one political outcome or favor one political party or partisan belief. If you do that, you will help to maintain, or restore, faith in our system and fight back against those fears that our democracy is fading into history. So, for your willingness to devote yourselves to this task and for showing this leadership, I thank you and wish you well.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 26, 2021 9:02:46 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Meg Lamb <mlamb@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

COMMENT:

Written public comment for 7/27 hearing

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

From: Fairfax Senator <kathy@fairfaxsenator.com>

Date: Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 2:58 PM

Subject: Senator Petersen's office

To: <mlamb@dls.virginia.gov>

Hi Meg,

Senator Petersen is not able to speak on Tues at the Public Hearing, attached are his comments that he would like to have

On the public record.

Best,

Kathy Neilson

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: copier@petersenfirm.com

Date: July 23, 2021 at 2:45:53 PM EDT

To: kathy@fairfaxsenator.com

Subject: Message from KM_C258

Reply-To: copier@petersenfirm.com

--

Meg Lamb

Manager, General Laws, Administration & Elections

Senior Attorney, Privileges & Elections

Division of Legislative Services

900 East Main Street

Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor

Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 698-1822

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, July 25, 2021 4:53:02 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Fairfax Senator <kathy@fairfaxsenator.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

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COMMENT:

Please see attached written comments from Senator Petersen. He is unable to attend public hearing on Tuesday but would like to have his comments be part of the public record.

Thank you

Kathy Neilson

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: copier@petersenfirm.com

Date: July 23, 2021 at 4:14:52 PM EDT

To: kathy@fairfaxsenator.com

Subject: Message from KM_C258

Reply-To: copier@petersenfirm.com

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Fairfax

COMMENT:

On Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 9:04 PM JoAnn Flanagan <j.flanagan1224@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Commissioners:

Congratulations and thank-you for your service on the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

As you finalize your budget, please include funding for map drawers. Time is short for this redistricting cycle. The Redistricting Amendment clearly emphasizes public participation, through citizen commissioners and through public engagement. But map drawing for the entire state requires in-depth technical skill best left to seasoned professionals rather than citizen or legislator Commissioners. Your time is needed for listening closely to the needs of Virginia's people and choosing maps that most closely meet our needs and the priorities of the redistricting process.

In addition, it is crucial that the map drawing process is free from bias toward any present or future candidates in Virginia elections. Drawing maps without the influence of current incumbent addresses will be a major victory for election fairness throughout this entire redistricting cycle.

Thank-you for your attention to these matters,

JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan

Fairfax, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, September 6, 2021 6:31:40 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: David Robie <robdave53@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Fairfax County Falls Church

COMMENT:

First, thanks for placing that link for those of us who were not able to watch in real time.

As for the meeting itself, I couldn't help but notice that the legislator members of the commission have a disproportionate, outsized input to the proceedings. They tend to forget that we are all the beneficiaries of this process.

Dave Robie

Falls Church

Fairfax County

Haycock Precinct

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:01:31 AM GMT-04:00

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October 18, 2021

FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Michael Clancy
EMAIL: michaelclancy1@verizon.net
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax County, Prince William

SUBJECT: Map Drawing - Congressional Districts

COMMENT:

As you draw the Congressional district maps, please address the 10 and 11th congressional districts in northern Virginia to make them politically competitive so that the voters can choose their representatives not vice versa. The overwhelming goal of the League of Women Voters, OneVirginia and the voters is politically competitive districts. The 11th is especially egregious. It was intentionally drawn, zig zagging across Fairfax County splitting neighborhoods and then turning south into Prince William County in order to heavily favor the democratic party incumbent. It will be a total failure of this process if the 11th district is not redrawn fairly to provide for a competitive electoral process instead of the current exercise of simply anointing the incumbent. It is simple to do: remove the Prince William County precincts, remove all the precincts inside of the Beltway (to the east of the Beltway), and move the district west/outside of the Beltway and incorporate precincts from Loudoun County. Each of you can easily draw districts at <https://districtr.org/virginia>. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to the important work ahead.

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 10:57:35 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jean Phillipson <extraphillipsonj@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax Station

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. Clifton, Virginia is a small town with a semi rural surrounding of 5+ acre lots, horses, other farm animals, woods and creeks. We were very connected through Clifton Elementary school, which brought together kids who don't live in traditional neighborhoods where they can walk to each other's houses.
Sadly, the school was closed despite our community's best efforts to fight that. Nevertheless, many of us are parents of former student or former students ourselves and feel strongly connected to the town of Clifton despite being outside of the official town limits. Our community should vote together but we do not. Not only that, our districts change capriciously and I have voted in at least two different locations for my district and my representative changing since I have lived here. I would like all of the Clifton Elementary school are to have the same representative.
Sincerely,
Jean Phillipson
6500 Colchester Rd Fairfax Station, VA 22039-1201 extraphillipsonj@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 4:47:20 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Sara Fitzgerald

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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October 18, 2021

EMAIL: sarafitz@aol.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

SUBJECT: Don't Start with Existing Boundaries

COMMENT:

August 13, 2021 To the Virginia Redistricting Commission: I was distressed to hear at your August 3, 2021, meeting that your partisan counsels had recommended that the Commission start its map drawing by using the existing legislative and congressional maps, rather than “starting from scratch” as many citizens have urged the Commission to do. The recommendation was reportedly based on the short, 45-day window the Commission has in which to complete its work. I am skeptical that the counsels actually have had any experience in “starting from scratch” with a bipartisan commission. They may believe that “starting from scratch” will make it more difficult for fresh maps to win the approval of the General Assembly as members may find themselves living in districts that are different from their current ones. But “starting from scratch” would certainly make the ultimate redistricting plans more acceptable in the eyes of the public. Further, now that the Census data have been released, it is clear that much of Virginia’s population growth in the past decade has occurred among minority groups. Would the Commission’s Racial Polarization Voting Analyst recommend that it would be easier to create more “minority opportunity districts” if the Commission started with a blank slate? If the Commission decides it can’t start from scratch because of time pressures, please consider starting with a less partisan map than the ones the General Assembly drew in 2010. There are several bipartisan or independent maps from which to choose that are just as old as the current maps (before the court-ordered redrawing). Alternatively, the Commission could start with a map prepared by software algorithms set to the Commission’s prioritized criteria. Either of these approaches would address legitimate concerns about time pressures while increasing citizen confidence that the resulting maps are actually fair. Sara Fitzgerald Falls Church, Virginia

FROM: Bill Millhouser <bmillhouser2010@cox.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:

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

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 6:06:22 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Kathy Utgoff <kathy.utgoff@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

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COMMENT:

It is wrong to say that there is little interest in redistricting. That may have been true in the past because the citizens never had a say in the process. Virginia voters are now much more aware of gerrymandering because they been shown the contorted maps at many venues across the state and there has been much more media attention to the issue in Virginia and in the US as a whole. Gerrymandering is no longer an arcane term. Two thirds of Virginia voters a transparent commission. Now they are watching.

Kathleen Utgoff
6345 Waterway Dr.
Falls Church VA 22044

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 9:11:07 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Kathleen Utgoff <kutgoff@verizon.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:

I live in Northern Virginia on a small lake that was cut in half by the districts drawn after the 2010 Census. One of the halves is in Senate District 37, a district that has literally been the poster child for extreme gerrymandering in Virginia.

Now that the Census has been delivered and the Virginia Redistricting Commission is charged with drawing the maps in a very short amount of time, I want to express my concern that the Commission has considered starting the map drawing process using the existing maps, maps that have denied my neighbors any semblance of a community that can speak with one voice to our elected representatives. The harm that has been done to this area of Northern Virginia cannot be undone without radical changes to district lines.

I watched the video where the Commission Chair said that the Commission has been advised to start with the existing maps because of time constraints. I believe, however, that the public will not have confidence in maps that started on the wrong foot. There are other maps that can be used. Just one example is student maps that were part of a competition after the last Census. There are other alternatives as well.

I congratulate the Commission on the groundbreaking work that you have done to create maps that are fair to all Virginias. Now that the Census data is available, many important decisions must be made in the next week. One of the most important of those is how to start the process. I hope you will not choose to start with the existing maps, when so many citizens are opposed to that approach.

Kathleen P. Utgoff
6345 Waterway Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22044

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, July 22, 2021 3:31:13 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Mark Resta <mresta@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

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

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interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. Hello Virginia Redistricting Commission, I strongly believe that gerrymandering is ruining our democracy, and putting party interests over national interests. This is not the United States of the Republican Party or the United States of the Democratic Party. The United States existed before either of these parties, and will exist after them, too. A true patriot puts national interests before party interests, but we haven't been seeing nearly enough of that lately. Regarding redistricting, I believe that voting districts should mirror town or city boundaries. I live in Falls Church City, and Falls Church City should be a single district. Other towns and cities should be their own districts. One town, one district. One Town, One District Thank you, Mark Resta Sincerely, Mark Resta 241 Gundry Dr Falls Church, VA 22046-4117 mresta@dxc.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 11:43:09 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Martha Cooper <mcoop08@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

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 live in the City of Falls Church. It was inconveniently established to limit access of African American neighbors to its schools back in the late 1940's. It is now a vibrant multi-cultural community that lacks affordable housing. It continues to invest heavily in its schools. Its citizens vote in elections. I am a bit disgusted by the shapes of the VA Senate and House districts. I realize that reflects of work of Republicans and Democrats. I strongly urge the Commission on redistricting to take the needs of communities not political parties as the basis for their redistricting. The crazy salamander-shaped borders must be radically reduced. I expect that redistricting will challenge the Commission. I expect you to work for the benefit of all residents in the state of Virginia regardless of political affiliation. Thank you for undertaking this task with diligence and equanimity. Sincerely, Martha J M Cooper Falls Church, 22046 Sincerely, Martha Cooper 207 S Virginia Ave Falls Church, VA 22046-4129 mcoop08@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 19, 2021 12:33:44 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: katie.emmons@verizon.net
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioners:

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I am a long term resident of the City of Falls Church. I am writing in support of the review of the voting districts in Virginia, particularly in Northern Virginia. I believe that such a review when conducted with definable, non-partisan and uniform criteria and when conducted in a transparent fashion will support fair elections and encourage participation in our democracy. This is a goal which I support wholeheartedly.

Sincerely, Katharine S. Emmons

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:20:34 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Andy Ludwig <luddie@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:

Hello, and thank you for your time/effort to improve voting and representation in Virginia ~
I'd like to make one suggestion, a 'silver bullet' of improving districts, which no one can argue against :
Use computers to make districts as small and circular as possible, so the resulting map looks like a ball pit.
Everything else is subjective, or leads to decisions based on race/income/culture/rural vs. urban - which are all problematic.
Let it be simply done based on population density (with a random starting point), and you'll have drawn a map no one can legitimately argue is "unfair".
Thank you. My fingers are crossed for you -- and our nation,
-Andy Ludwig
Falls Church
--
A society grows great
When old men plant trees
Whose shade they know
They shall never sit in
Greek Proverb

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, May 22, 2021 6:40:19 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: sarafitz@aol.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:

Attached is a public comment for the commission.
Sara Fitzgerald
Falls Church, Virginia.
Subject: Public Comments
From: Cary Whiteside <1950maxwell@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
Date Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 4:38:31 PM GMT-04:00
Date Received: Thursday, May 20, 2021 4:38:44 PM GMT-04:00
Since Homo Sapien is the only living species, it means we have a little black or brown in all of us. We are all members of the same club - the Human Race. The Neanderthall was a different species of human, but they are all gone now. -Alvin and Carylee Whiteside, Human Beings

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REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:

May 22, 2021

To the Commissioners:

Having monitored most of the meetings of the commission and its subcommittees since the commission was organized, I want to praise the spirit of bipartisanship and civility in which its meetings have been conducted. While the drafters of the constitutional amendment did not call for the appointment of rotating co-chairs to manage the commission's business, that has turned out to be a good solution for what could have been an early source of conflict. This approach has also contributed to the atmosphere of fairness and cooperation that the commission projects. That's why I listened with alarm this past week as the legislator members of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee called for spending the commission's precious taxpayer dollars on hiring two sets of counsel, one watching out for the needs of each political party, rather than a single lawyer who would represent the interests of the commission—and thus the citizen of the Commonwealth. I agree with those citizen members who said this would be of grave concern to Virginia citizens who worked to ratify the amendment and all of those who voted for it. I also agree that most Virginians would consider this a waste of taxpayer money, particularly when the commission has not yet moved aggressively to improve and expand the communications capabilities of the commission and the Division of Legislative Services staff.

(As an aside, part of the problem on the communications side is that the well-meaning DLS staff traditionally must respond to the questions and needs of the General Assembly. While DLS must communicate about the business of the General Assembly, it does so in an encyclopedic way, not one designed to engage with all of the state's citizens and encourage them to become part of a complicated process. Specific attention to this would also help commission members process all of the input they have and will receive—including this comment I am submitting.)

Legislative members suggested that hunting for non-partisan legal representation would amount to searching for "a unicorn." When I first began working on redistricting reform for the League of Women Voters in 2005, the passage of a constitutional amendment to create a bi-partisan, citizen-led commission also seemed like a "unicorn." But with a lot of hard work by many people and organizations, that did not turn out to be the case.

If the legislators insist on hiring a lawyer to monitor the commission's work for fairness to their particular political party, let the state political parties or the legislature's political caucuses foot that bill. Surely there will be many people, lawyers or not, scrutinizing the commission's ultimate maps. The parties can make their case that a map is not fair to them from the vantage point of "outsiders," not people at the table. The commission will need legal advice on its process and whether the maps comply with civil and voting rights laws, not how well they reflect the concerns of the "communities of interest" of the two political parties.

If the commission votes on this issue and chooses to seek two attorneys, I hope that the commission will at least issue another Request for a Proposal for a single counsel, just to see if that proverbial unicorn is hiding in the woods. I am not a lawyer and have no one to suggest, even if it would be appropriate to do so. I will note, however, that the gerrymandering that occurred nationwide in the last redistricting cycle fueled an explosion of non-partisan organizations dedicated to monitoring redistricting and wrestling with all of the underlying issues relating to how "fairness" is defined. Further, I suspect there are many younger lawyers who were motivated to make it their field of expertise, in the same way many of us were motivated to work to change the way redistricting had been done in the Commonwealth since the days of Patrick Henry. To cite just one example—and I'm not suggesting he be hired—a member of the College of William and Mary Law School's map-drawing team in the 2010 redistricting map competition in Virginia was so animated by what he learned in that process that he worked for

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most of the rest of the decade as the executive director of OneVirginia2021 to seek a bipartisan solution.

As one commissioner noted, many eyes are on the commission this year—and not just people who live in Virginia. Amid all the partisan rancor in our country today, the commission has a chance to demonstrate clearly that there is a new way of doing redistricting than the way it has been done in the past.

Sara Fitzgerald
Falls Church, Virginia

Note: While I have been active in the League of Women Voters of Virginia and OneVirginia2021, the views expressed here are my own.

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 5:40:20 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Judith K. Sanders
EMAIL: vulfhild@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

SUBJECT: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:
All of "greater Fredericksburg " should be in the same congressional district. From Wilderness in the West to Ferry Farms in the East, from Berea North of the Rappahannock to Southpoint; we're all affected by the same infrastructure, traffic, & environmental problems. Being cut up into multiple districts makes any improvement much harder.

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 26, 2021 8:04:33 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioners -
Have you given consideration to how and when you will use maps that are submitted to the Commission from the public? Will you accept maps using Representable, Districtr, and Dave's in addition to the Citygate software? Many citizens are drawing their "communities of interest" using Representable. If you wait until the end, it may be too late to incorporate these ideas into maps being prepared by the map drawers. It would be a terrible waste of time and energy and a disappointment for citizens if their suggestions are dismissed off-hand.
On that note, when will the communications and outreach consultants begin their work?
Thank you!
Fran Larkins
Fredericksburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:07:34 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Martha McCaslin <mimimccas@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

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population mapping for Virginia.voters.

Martha McCaslin
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 4:28:21 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

To our Commissioners -
One of the reasons so many Virginians (65%) voted for the Constitutional Amendment to establish the Virginia Redistricting Commission is that they no longer wanted politicians to draw their own legislative districts and choose their own voters. If you ignore current maps, there should be less reason to be concerned about incumbent protection.
I realize some of the citizen commissioners may feel the legislators on the Commission will give you the best advice on redistricting which can be a very complicated process. Please consider, however, in this instance, whether the “fox may be guarding the hen house.”
Please vote on Monday that districts will not be drawn using the current maps that are so terribly gerrymandered.
Thank you for your service on the Commission!
Fran Larkins
Fredericksburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 11:39:52 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Meghan OConnor <meghanconnor@hotmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
Good day. Congratulations on being selected for the redistricting committee for the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are very lucky that Virginia has made the decision to embrace this method of redistricting as a better way to support all Virginians as they select people to represent their local concerns.
As a resident of Fredericksburg for almost thirty years I am repeatedly struck by the perverse manner in which this relatively small city is divided into two different voting districts for General Assembly representation and for US congressional representation. As the commission begins its deliberation for redistricting, please consider making the city of Fredericksburg ONE district for representation at both the Virginia General Assembly and the US Congressional level.
A single district would better reflect the political desires of this city and its needs.
Thank you for your work
Meghan O’Connor
Fredericksburg, Virginia
A Partisan Solution to Partisan Gerrymandering:
The Define-Combine Procedure
Maxwell Palmera
, Benjamin Schneerb
, and Kevin DeLucab
aDepartment of Political Science, Boston University; b
John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
March 15, 2021

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Redistricting reformers have proposed many solutions to the problem of partisan gerrymandering, including non-partisan commissions and bipartisan commissions with members from each party. Redistricting litigation frequently ends with court- or special-master-drawn plans. All of these methods require either bipartisan consensus or the agreement of both parties on the legitimacy of a neutral third party to resolve disputes. In this paper we propose a new method for drawing district maps, the Define-Combine Procedure, that substantially reduces partisan gerrymandering without requiring a neutral third party or bipartisan agreement. One party defines a map of 2N equal-population contiguous districts. Then the second party combines pairs of contiguous districts to create the final map of N districts. Using real-world geographic and electoral data, we use simulations and map-drawing algorithms to show that this procedure dramatically reduces the advantage conferred to the party controlling the redistricting process and leads to less biased maps without requiring cooperation or non-partisan actors.

[FULL ARTICLE]

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 8:34:48 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Elizabeth Kelley <kelleyei@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

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 over 55 community I live in is diverse, energetic and dedicated to democracy. We come to the aid of our neighbors and wouldn't think of asking what political party they belong to before that help is given. A democratic society doesn't fear opinions of those different than themselves; they embrace, learn and grow from it. It is not right to redraw districts so one political party has advantage over another and it's not the "self evident" truths that are talked about in the Constitution. Fair and open delineations of districts will help heal the current divide among Americans that are being torn along party lines. When the person with the most votes fairly and honestly wins a district and then goes on to represent those who elected them, our democracy works just the way it should. Please be objective and honest when you take that pencil in hand to draw district lines and make sure those lines do not divide us unfairly.
Sincerely,
Elizabeth Kelley
2 Ashland Cir Fredericksburg, VA 22406-7492 kelleyei@aol.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 5:20:26 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: marcia keener <marcia.keener@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:
Dear Commission,

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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Please look at our voting districts afresh and see if we can address the deleterious effects of gerrymandering for our communities---in another recommended way, rather than using the old gerrymandered maps, just as other pioneering states have! Please do not "start" with existing maps and assume that they are valid and just need a little "tweaking." That would be a waste of great civic energy and voter direction and passion. We need the time and expertise to do that, but let's find what is needed now to do it right!

PLEASE START WITH NEW MAPS!

Sincerely, Marcia Keener
Fredericksburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 5:04:44 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Tres Seaver <tseaver@palladion.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners:

First, thank you for the work you are doing on behalf of the Commonwealth: I know that your job can present thorny problems, working to balance different interests to achieve a fair and representative map of Virginia's voting districts.

As a resident of the city of Fredericksburg, I am writing to request that you classify Fredericksburg as a "community of interest" for redistricting purposes.

My small city (28,000 residents, 10.5 square miles), is currently split between House districts 28 and 88, which dilutes the city's voice in the legislature, and creates confusion among voters (the lines between the districts even split precincts, and divides the University of Mary Washington).

Thank you for your consideration,

Best regards,

Kenneth W. "Tres" Seaver III

20 Pawnee Drive

Fredericksburg, VA 22401-1111

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:12:46 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Charles G McDaniel <charles.g@hilldrup.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Great comments! I fully agree and support the idea of Fredericksburg as a single unit.

Charles McDaniel

Chairman

800.476.6683

888.834.2121

540.220.8245 Cell

703.441.2590 Fax

hilldrup.com

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Hilldrup continues to experience post-pandemic volume surges of customers requesting moving and storage services. As a result of this

demand, we're experiencing a higher than usual volume of emails and calls. We're working efficiently to respond to all messages as quickly as

possible. We appreciate your patience and understanding during this time!

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DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:23:45 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Rick Pullen <rick.pullen@verizon.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Commissioners,
Please do not allow Fredericksburg to continue to be split between two House of Delegates districts in the future (or State Senate or Congressional Districts). As you know, this caused a major headache during one recent election when voters were handed the wrong ballots. The election was so close, the error might have affected the outcome. It's impossible to know. Please let's avoid this in the future by not splitting up the city.
Also, Fredericksburg is its own community and your task is to keep our community of interest together when we vote.
Good luck and thanks for your attention.
Rick Pullen
PS: If you're ever looking for a good novel to read, I can offer a few by a Virginia writer!
Rick Pullen
Author
Naked Ambition (Best Seller)
Naked Truth (Finalist for Silver Falchion Award)
The Apprentice (First in a Serial)
RickPullen.com

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 14, 2021 12:09:28 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Trystan Bennett <trys.bennett@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
I am a resident of Fredericksburg City. I am writing to request that the Virginia Redistricting Commission redraw Senate District 28 to include Stafford County, Fredericksburg City, and Spotsylvania County, and that the City of Fredericksburg itself be contained in one House District (28 with Stafford), one Senate District (28) and one congressional district (remain in the first).
Virginia law requires electoral districts to be drawn around communities of interest. Currently, Senate District 28 is a sprawling leviathan that includes communities that have very little in common from Prince William County's Rural Crescent to the shores of Westmoreland County. Residents of these areas have very little in common culturally or economically and, therefore, do not represent a community of interest. Furthermore, Fredericksburg City's population is only 28,000 and only 10.4 miles in size, yet is currently split into multiple House districts (28 and 88). This split divides neighborhoods, such that on Lee Avenue, one side of the street is in the 28th, and on side is in the 88th.
The current split also divides students at the University of Mary Washington, with on campus students in the 28th and off campus and some University housing located in the 88th. The University is certainly a community of interest but housing is spread through different precincts.
The City itself is also absolutely a "community of interest." The City is a regional, national and worldwide destination for lovers of history, nature, art, music, shopping, dining, and entertainment. We are a small community with shared interests of preserving the Rappahannock River, celebrating our diverse community,

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advocating for increased school funding, for efficient transportation solutions, and supporting our small business community.

As for the Senate District, a more appropriate district should be centered around Fredericksburg City. Stafford County, Fredericksburg City, and Spotsylvania County have a strong community of interest. We eat at the same restaurants, shop at the same stores, our families worship at the same churches, and we all consider ourselves from “Fredericksburg”, as does most of the postal system. Senate District 28, therefore, should reflect that strong community of interest and be drawn around Fredericksburg City; and our City should not be divided into multiple House Districts. If the Commission is truly interested in eliminating gerrymandering, as all the pre-election campaigns maintained, then these recommendations should make sense in light of our shared community centered around the City of Fredericksburg.

Thank you,

Trystan C. Bennett

Resident, Fredericksburg, Virginia

FROM: Walter Sheffield <wjs@wshefflaw.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners

August 13, 2021

Please redistrict the City of Fredericksburg as a single unit in your plan.

We have a strong community of interest as a rapidly growing City of the First Class. Among the purposes of having our own Council, constitutional officers, school system, public works and independent taxation are that our issues and problems are distinct from those of our neighbors.

Our voices are simply not being heard as a City because we have been politically eviscerated to minimize any influence we might have at the polls. For many years we have been systemically smothered in Richmond by politicians who primarily respond to Stafford and Spotsylvania County.

Thank you,

Walter Jervis Sheffield

Fredericksburg

WJS@wshefflaw.com

1314 Sophia Street

Fredericksburg

Virginia

22401-3742

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 8:42:44 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Robert Keith Thomas <rkthomas2@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not start with the present districts. They divide Fredericksburg in half or more. The

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town is certainly a community of interest. Voters decided at the last election to abandon the gerrymandered districts we now have and vested in you the authority to change them. Start over and do it right. R Thomas
Fredericksburg city

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:39:38 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Danae Peckler <dapeckler@yahoo.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
My name is Danae Peckler and I am writing to express my interest in redistricting in the City of Fredericksburg.
As a small but dynamic city with an engaged citizenry, Fredericksburg has been mistakenly divided into two districts and, as a "community of interest" we ought not to be divided so crudely into two halves. It has come to my attention that:
The split districts divide neighborhoods, for example currently on Lee Ave., one side of the street is in the 88th and the other side is in the 28th.
The current split divides students at the University of Mary Washington, with on campus students in the 28th and off campus and some University housing located in in the 88th. The University is certainly a community of interest but housing is spread through different precincts.
The City is a "community of interest." The City is a regional, national and worldwide destination for lovers of history, nature, art, music, shopping, dining, and entertainment. We are small community with shared interests of preserving the Rappahannock River and our historic built environment, celebrating our diverse community, advocating for increased school funding, for efficient transportation solutions, and supporting our small business community.
Many thanks for your consideration of my email & your dedication to see in the best interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth, not just it's politicians.
Sincerely,
Danae Peckler
Fredericksburg, VA, resident who is not sure which district she actually lives in...

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:49:11 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Carolyn Eldred <eldred.carolyn@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
I am writing to urge you NOT to begin Virginia's redistricting with the maps based on the 2010 Census (with their subsequent tweaking). Instead, I urge you to begin with a clean slate based on the most recent available information. Redistricting should be based on up-to-date population information from the very start of the process, rather than on the "stale" data that informed the prior maps. I do not believe that speed or efficiency are enhanced by starting with the old maps. If anything, a clean slate from the beginning will contribute to a fair and efficient process. Thank you.
Very respectfully, Carolyn A Eldred, 33 Denison Street, Fredericksburg

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:37:39 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Juanita Channel <lj67brown@gmail.com>

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

October 18, 2021

REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

I was dismayed to hear that the Commission has plans to start with existing Virginia maps to establish new maps. I don't believe that's what we had in mind when we voted overwhelmingly in November for the Redistricting Commission Amendment. You don't have to fully understand gerrymandering to know something is wrong with the current maps when you view how the lines have been drawn. Fulfilling the democratically determined mandate is crucial for our state to move forward.

Unfortunately, I don't have a solution to this problem, but I hope you will consider a method that will sufficiently address problems with current maps.

Thanks for reading my concerns.

Leta J. Channel
183 Hyannis Pl
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 5:39:50 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Robert Keith Thomas <rcthomas2@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Members:

It is dismaying to hear that the commission is seriously considering using the existing district maps as a starting point in creating new districts. These districts are gerrymandered already which is precisely what we worked so hard to end. There is time to work with existing groups to define new districts. To do otherwise would betray the public that voted to create this commission. R Thomas

Fredericksburg

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 16, 2021 9:20:31 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

To the Commission -

Please give strong consideration to the University of Richmond's Spatial Analysis Lab for the Commission's map drawing expertise. From this group's "responses to questions," they have an in-depth knowledge of Virginia; are academic experts in managing and analyzing Virginia spatial data, are familiar with the already established methods of tracking "communities of interest," and have suggested using "fairness report cards" an efficient approach to allow the commission to point out problematic boundaries that need to be addressed. (This last as an option instead of an open-ended starter map approach.)

Just because both law firms don't agree is not a reason to instead choose two competing map drawers, once again heading down the political path Virginians have said they don't want.

Read the group's responses to questions thoroughly, and please use your good judgment to hire them.

Thank you so much!
Fran Larkins

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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October 18, 2021

Fredericksburg, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 1:14:35 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: marcia keener <marcia.keener@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for serving on this incredibly important Commission.

At last, fair redistricting may come to our City of Fredericksburg. Please do all that is in your power to make our City one district with clear and useful boundaries. We need statisticians and all the necessary experts and tools to do a good job! Let's do the job right with very powerful data and strong recommendations that will bring about desired reforms across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I have volunteered with OneVA at fairs, conventions and voter polling stations to educate voters about the detriments of gerrymandering. This topic has generated much enthusiasm. I went from educating voters with facts, news, and maps—to—pulling out as many forms as I could for several people to sign at one time. People were not only interested —they had already digested the information and were up-to-date as voters and citizens on news about current affairs, and were more than ready to call on their elected representatives for fair redistricting action!

The people wish to vote within properly represented districts with sensible boundaries that help citizens to effectively participate and respond—and to organize efficiently around issues and opportunities pertaining to legislative matters. It has been extremely confusing to have Fredericksburg divided into two different districts. And it drives me nuts the way things are at present—two districts for one small independent City! Thank you for hearing the people.

Sincerely,

Marcia Keener
603 Pitt Street
Fredericksburg, VA
22401

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 6, 2021 12:10:13 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: sharon moser <slmhorsewm@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

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.

The community I live in can be described as a microcosm of many different people. The residential area is composed of large lots and nice size houses filled with people from all walks of life. Our interests include highway safety, ecology, voting rights for all and responsive government officials. Effective schools are vital to our growing region.

We are also concerned with pure, clean water and air. These needs are crucial to all communities.

Gerrymandering is opposed. As John Adams in 1788, "State legislatures should be an exact portrait and miniature of the people as a whole".

Thank you for seeking our opinions and thank you for serving the people in honesty and truth.hat

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community?

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Moser

6121 River Rd Fredericksburg, VA 22407-2248 slmhorsewm@aol.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 4:12:21 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Karen Kallay <kakallay@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner:

I share the opinion of the many friends and colleagues with whom I have visited on this subject of re-drawing the legislative district boundaries.

Please start fresh. So many of the existing boundaries are either the direct or the secondary result of partisan decisions.

From watching commission hearings and seeing decisions to date, I am impressed that general fairness and good will prevail. Yes, the job is daunting, but so many computerized model-forming programs already exist that just need the census data and your ranking of priorities. Then you can experiment with slight adjustments of input and see if the output is consistent with the change, i.e. if the program is reliable.

Please also reinforce existing community boundaries as much as possible. Especially in these days of social isolation and citizen estrangement from civic life, providing a shared legislator can help reverse that trend.

But don't start with current legislative boundaries!

Sincerely, Karen Kallay, Fredericksburg VA 22401

--

Karen Kallay, kakallay@gmail.com
(540) 373-1744 (c) (540) 845-5545
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:44:25 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Sabina Weitzman <sabina@sabinaweitzman.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

Members, Redistricting Commission –

I write to you today because I'm concerned that you're discussing starting the reapportionment process with existing maps.

It is imperative to start fresh, and while it may seem the more difficult path, it is absolutely essential. Trying to 'fix' maps

that are products of decades of gerrymandering by both parties will produce more of the "same old same old".

Voters chose the commission path because they wanted better.

Sabina D. Weitzman, Architect, AIA

Design Works Studio

913 Marye Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

540-899-8003 (office)

540-907-7432 (mobile)

sabina@sabinaweitzman.com

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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October 18, 2021

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 5:20:41 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jon Gerlach <jgerlach@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

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 Commissioner,
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to the 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.
The residents of the City of Fredericksburg (zip code 22401) enjoy a strong, shared identity. We are well known for our diverse culture and the unique character of our many small neighborhoods. We may be eclectic, but we are linked by the common thread of being proud residents of the City. We rise and fall on the tide of community, and prosperity. Economically, we are a regional, national and worldwide destination for lovers of history, nature, art, music, shopping, dining and of course professional baseball (Go FREDNats!).
Most members of our City share a sincere concern for the health of the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay, for clean sources of renewable energy throughout the City, for a thriving small business community, for our remarkable history (since 1728, and earlier), for the quality of our City schools, for decent teacher pay, for efficient transportation solutions, and most importantly, for the future of Fredericksburg's remarkable quality of life as we undergo relentless population growth and new development.
We value and protect the "special sauce" that makes our City unique, and having a single voice in the General Assembly will allow us to be heard as a self-identified Community of Interest. We are just 10.4 square miles of wonderful, and here in Fredericksburg, we're all in this together.
Sincerely,
Jon Gerlach
Sincerely,
Jon Gerlach
809 Charlotte St Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5601 jgerlach@gerlachlawfirm.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:50:10 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Donna Blalock <blalockdonna@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

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. Fredericksburg is a small, but tight knit community that has been marginalized into insignificance by gerrymandering in the past. I urge you to keep our voters in one district so we have a voice in elections that can be heard instead of silenced.
Sincerely,

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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Donna Blalock
317 Twin Lake Dr Fredericksburg, VA 22401-7038 blalockdonna@ymail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, July 29, 2021 6:49:41 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Tina Morris <tina_m_morris@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

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 want a representative who will listen to my concerns. I want a representative who has an interest and a stake in this community, not a 'technically correct' address. Splitting the city leave citizens confuses as to who represents them. I support one district for 22401.
Tina Morris
Sincerely,
Ms. Tina Morris
1711 Franklin St Fredericksburg, VA 22401-4507 tinammorris@yahoo.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:39:03 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jonathan Stevens <jibstevens@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

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 City of Fredericksburg has a great deal of unity of purpose and vision. This is why we moved here in the first place. It has always rankled me however that our representation in Richmond has been split. This should be rectified. We are very proud of our city and wish that we be treated as one community, as we treat ourselves. Thank you!
Sincerely,
Jonathan Stevens
303 Braehead Dr Fredericksburg, VA 22401-2211 jibstevens@cox.net

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 2:44:01 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Christine Henry <christine.rae.henry@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

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. While I have only lived in the city of Fredericksburg (zip code 22401) since 2016, I have come to value the deep roots of this community and the interconnectedness of the people here. As with many cities small or large, we have many neighborhoods with distinct characters, such as our downtown business district and many of the primarily residential neighborhoods. Each of these areas has both physical and cultural ties that create a shared sense of place. What is truly remarkable about our city is that the individual neighborhoods are also united in the shared identity as residents of Fredericksburg. Having moved from Washington, DC to Fredericksburg I am continually amazed at how many people here love and value our city and seem to agree on what we consider its assets--the river, the historic fabric, and the small businesses that define our city. It is not that every individual always agrees with one another on all questions that pertain to these assets, but instead there is a common understanding of what defines our community. In the current maps, our city is split between two districts and this has resulted in splitting our voice on policy matters that impact the city. It is because of this shared identify and values that I believe our city should be kept together when drawing the new district maps.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Henry

222 Princess Anne St Fredericksburg, VA 22401-6039 christine.rae.henry@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 6:21:34 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: David <david@david.us>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

In recent redistricting of the 1st Congressional District Republican state legislatures have sought, quite successfully, to dilute any areas of Democratic support and deprive those of us who live in Fredericksburg and other areas of any true and fair representation in the U.S. Congress. In 2010, they went so far as to take a part of the city of Fredericksburg across both municipal and geographical (a river) lines to put it in a more Republican area. In the 2017 redistricting, they created a congressional district that runs from Dale City almost to Hampton Roads for the same reason. There is no rationale to have have a district shaped like the 1st Congressional District—it is clearly an extraordinarily long and narrow district, not adhering to any reasonable rule of compact districts or observing the model of honoring municipal boundaries, designed solely to deny Democratic voters fair representation in Congress.

I hope your Commission will have the courage to make the sweeping redistricting changes that should be made in Virginia to eradicate decades of Republican abuse. Voters deserve to be fairly represented. Follow the assumed rules of compact districts, integrity of municipal boundaries, and limitations of geographical boundaries. I live in the City of Fredericksburg, and I feel very aggrieved that my vote has been cast aside by Republican partisan behavior.

David Baker

david@david.us

Sent from my iPad

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 16, 2021 9:49:45 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Patricia Parkinson <parkinson.pm6@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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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? Our community association is strongly Republican, and a smaller percentage is Democrat. 4. What connects your community? (Community Activities and Services, Cultural or Historical Interests, Economic or Environmental Interests, Community Needs and Concerns? Stafford community services provide games and activities for +55, kids and residents. The community is growing and it is obvious that it needs the educational and economic funding proposed by Prior Governor McAuliffe. I prefer that the redistricting be done fairly giving Democrat and Republicans an equal chance, and either not be overwhelming.

Fair amount of districting show it is even.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Parkinson

2 Carson Dr Fredericksburg, VA 22406-8424 parkinson.pm6@gmail.com

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

On Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 3:39 PM Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com> wrote:

Commissioners -

1. The draft RFP for Communications and Outreach Services asks for a workplan that would identify "Appropriate hours for meetings for each target community to accommodate all residents (e.g., regular business hours, on weekends, or during evening hours)." The proposed hearing schedule does not allow for consideration of weekends.
2. The Note under the schedule for "Virtual Public Hearings" states "*Virtual public hearings provide members of the public from all regions the opportunity to speak." I don't believe this was the intent of the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee. There was much discussion at their May 26 meeting about the importance of focusing on each region. I agree with Del. Adams who suggested having the in-person not confined to region because map lines may make it easier to get to another site. However, he would make the virtual hearings regional and use libraries for online access. Mr. Harrell added "if virtual meetings are open to all, the same people could speak every time." He also suggested priority be given to the locality in virtual meetings.
3. Signs at hearings? The "Rules of Conduct" under "Public Participation Guidelines" prohibit "Banners, Signs, bullhorns, or similar devices . . ." There may be members of the public who would like to use a sign to indicate their "Community of Interest" or suggestion for districts. (For example: I have an 24" x 18" map on a sign to accompany my presentation.) Signs of this type should be allowed.
4. Please ensure there is a method for persons who sign up to speak to know when their time is approaching. We could then be ready to quickly come to the podium. This would also be much more efficient for virtual hearings.
5. There should also be a way for all commissioners at the virtual hearings to be viewed at the same time. It has been less than ideal for those of us who are now watching the live-streaming of Commission meetings. Unless we are signed up to speak in person, the live-stream shows only the speaker, not the full commission.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Fran Larkins

Fredericksburg, VA

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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October 18, 2021

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

On Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 3:51 PM Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com> wrote:

Commissioners -

Budget for Map Drawing Services -

1. As you consider the line item in the budget for “map drawing services,” I hope you will not see this as a place to cut pennies.
2. There are many very qualified experts to guide you through the various components of map drawing from concise population demands to requirements of the Voting Rights Act to prioritizing criteria such as Communities of Interest.
3. From the very first meeting of the Commission, there has been discussion about the process of map drawing.
4. Some legislators have considerable experience with drawing maps and feel the Commission can “come up with maps fair to everybody.”
5. While several citizen commissioners have taken advantage of an opportunity to train on Citygate software, their experience seems to have been mixed.
6. The Commission needs to hire as many experts as would be necessary to ensure all commissioners – citizens and legislators - are comfortable with the map drawing process.
7. Most importantly – citizens should feel that their voice is heard as maps are drawn. Legislators that have drawn maps in the past have not made the interest of voters their top priority.

What should be the starting point for map drawing?

1. While it would perhaps be considered less expensive and time-consuming to “tweak” existing maps, fair redistricting for Virginia must begin with a fresh map.
2. The problems of gerrymandering, e.g. split precincts have resulted from simply shifting lines every ten years just enough to benefit a particular party or incumbent.
3. As Communities of Interest, our counties need more cohesive representation. I reside in Stafford County which has three House Districts and three State Senate districts. The Commission should use this historic opportunity to divide counties into fewer districts.
4. Many Virginia cities also want to no longer be divided into multiple districts.
5. The needs of these and other citizen-drawn COI would be much easier to accommodate if the map was started from a blank slate.
6. If current districts are just “tweaked”, it would be too easy to draw the map to accommodate a single legislator. If created with COI as a priority, there would be no need for legislator addresses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fran Larkins

Fredericksburg, VA

FROM: Jeffrey C. Jacobs <NPVIC@timehorse.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Herndon

COMMENT:

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

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

1) Respect the Voting Rights Act:

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

2) Political Efficiency

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

3) Compact

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

All that said, I'm a software engineer, and I can tell you machine learning and game theory would be perfect to solve this problem, respect the VRA, maximize political efficiency, and be compact.

I hope the commission will consider this route to make itself redundant and give ourselves the fairest districts possible!

Jeffrey C. Jacobs
12522 Philmont Drive
Herndon, VA 20170

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 4:20:32 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Christina Wang <christina.z.wang@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Herndon

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,
My name is Christina Wang, and I'm from Herndon, VA. I'm writing to ask you to start fresh, and not build off of existing maps, when drawing new districts. Virginia voters voted overwhelmingly to pass Amendment 1 and establish the redistricting commission in order to have maps that are fair and representative of everyone in the commonwealth. However, Virginia's current maps are extremely gerrymandered, cutting up communities and denying them their vote. To start from these maps would perpetuate the problems of unequal representation and inefficient governance that the commission was created to address. Plus, it would undermine voter confidence in the new redistricting process.

From the commission meetings that I've watched so far, I know that all of you are committed to drawing fair maps and making this new process work. So please, keep to your commitment and start fresh with new maps.

Thank you,
Christina Wang

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:45:08 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Dee Pendley <drdeep3@gmail.com>

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Linden

COMMENT:

Please hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically audit any maps produced.
Dr. Dee Pendley
Linden, VA

REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Manassas

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,
Thank you for your recent vote to start afresh with maps, rather than making incremental adjustments to the existing district lines.
As you move forward into the next critical phases of your work, I urge you to
Hire a nonpartisan consultant to create the maps
Direct the consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia’s criteria.
Using a modeling process to optimize across the multiple criteria is a clean, peer-reviewable, verifiable approach that can give citizens – and legislators – confidence that the maps are being drawn in an objective, fair way.
Multicriteria decisionmaking has been around since the 1960s (Multiple-criteria decision analysis - Wikipedia) and the map-drawing software that is now available can create boundaries that are based on algorithms for multicriteria decisionmaking. These algorithms can evenly distribute population by district, maximize overlap with existing political boundaries, maximize conformity with the “compact and contiguous” objectives, and maximize competition within districts.
As a voter, I earnestly seek a fair system of voting. Fairness starts with fair maps. A fair approach for drawing maps would be to first agree upon the criteria; then agree on the relative weighting of each criterion; and then to use an impartial model (with algorithms to mathematically operationalize the criteria) to draw the boundaries.
Keeping the process as transparent and mathematically clean as possible will give citizens and legislators assurance that our democracy is based on the principle of fairness.
Thanks for your consideration, and keep up the good work.
Sincerely,
J. Randall Freed
6151 Hemlock Ct
Manassas VA 20112

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 9:35:04 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: freedrst@verizon.net
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Manassas

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
Thank you for your hard work this far organizing for the census drop of information and subsequent redistricting.
My husband and I live off of Davis Ford Road in Prince William County in a development called Riverview

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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Estates. Our mailing address is Manassas. Yet, our Congressional Representative is Congressman Wittman from Congressional District 1. Congressman Wittman lives in Montross on the Northern Neck, and he represents an area just North of Jamestown and Williamsburg all the way up to Prince William County. We used to be part of the 11

th Congressional District which includes Lake Ridge and Dale City as well as the other half of Davis Ford Rd and parts of FFX County. The 10

th District includes the other side of our

development which is Buckhall and Manassas. We have much more in common with the 10th and 11

th

Congressional Districts than we do with Congressional District 1. For instance, transportation issues for us are huge. Many of us commute in to DC for work. We don't have much in common with the Northern Neck, Fredericksburg and the more rural points down South off of Rte. 95.

We'd appreciate being in a Northern Virginia Congressional District where our concerns are heard and acted upon. I feel as though we've been without a voice for 10 years.

Thanks very much for all you're doing!

Best,

Patricia S Freed

6151 Hemlock Ct

Manassas, VA 20112

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 6, 2021 12:56:40 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Stephen Mournighan <steve.mournighan@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: McLean

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?
McLean Virginia is a well defined community: it is defined by the special taxing district within which residents pay a special tax to support the McLean Community Center. That taxing district is bordered on the north by the Potomac River; on the east by the Arlington County / Fairfax County line; on the west by Difficult Run; on the south by Route 66 until it intersects with Rt. 7, at which point Rt. 7 becomes the southern border. One House of Delegates district should be defined by these borders: if more people are needed for equality with other districts, the western border can be moved west to Old Dominion Drive, or Leigh Mill Road, or Walker Road. At present, 4 delegates have a piece of McLean. which is ridiculous.
Sincerely,
Stephen Mournighan
7204 Churchill Rd Mc Lean, VA 22101-2003 steve.mournighan@verizon.net

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 23, 2021 12:21:42 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jean Lee <msjlee@comcast.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Millwood

COMMENT:
Dear Members of the Commission

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Thank you for serving on the commission to assess the status of redistricting in Virginia. I fully support SB717 and HB1255 and ask that you make certain "communities of interest" are preserved in Virginia. I want a fair map, one that will ensure communities with similar characteristics will remain intact and will not be allowed to be diluted by the way a map is drawn. Redistricting maps should reflect the will of the voters, fairly represent all communities, particularly communities of color. Virginia has taken a step forward and should become a model for the entire country. Thank you, Jean Lee

Jean Lee
Brexton
P.O. Box 293
Millwood,VA, 22646
540-837-1790
msjlee@comcast.net

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 10:57:36 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Mike Clancy <michaelclancy1@verizon.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Prince William, Loudoun, Fairfax

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioners:
As you draw the Congressional district maps, please address the 10 and 11th congressional districts in northern Virginia to make them politically competitive so that the voters can choose their representatives not vice versa. The overwhelming goal of the League of Women Voters, OneVirginia and the voters is politically competitive districts. The 11th is especially egregious. It was intentionally drawn, zig zagging across Fairfax County splitting neighborhoods and then turning south into Prince William County in order to heavily favor the democratic party incumbent. It will be a total failure of this process if the 11th district is not redrawn fairly to provide for a competitive electoral process instead of the current exercise of simply anointing the incumbent. It is simple to do: remove the Prince William County precincts, remove all the precincts inside of the Beltway (to the east of the Beltway), and move the district west/outside of the Beltway and incorporate precincts from Loudoun County. Each of you can easily draw districts at <https://districtr.org/virginia>. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to the important work ahead.
Michael Clancy

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:25:29 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Annabel Gunsallus <agunsallus12@yahoo.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Prince William, Loudoun, Fairfax

COMMENT:
Please proceed with your plan to hire a consultant who will apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria for drawing fair electoral maps.
Thank you.
Annabel G. Gunsallus

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DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 6, 2021 1:20:00 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Lori Keenan <keenanlori@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Rectorville

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? We are bound by a love of horses, gardens, farms and an appreciation for conservation and the environment. We are north of I-66 in Fauquier (northern) and Loudoun Counties. We are well educated and have relatively high incomes. Our boundaries are basically the Goose Creek watershed, which runs from Linden to Delaplane to Upperville and Middleburg up to Leesburg and into the Potomac River near Landsdowne. Our eastern boundary is Route 15 and the western boundary is along the Blue Ridge mountains and the boundary with Clarke County. Currently, some of us are in the 5th US District which is too big geographically and does not represent us in the northern part of the state. We feel disenfranchised. Please link us up with a more northern/Loudoun district for the US House of Representatives.
Sincerely yours,
Florence/Lori Keenan
Sincerely,
Ms. Lori Keenan
PO Box 312 Rectortown, VA 20140-0312
keenanlori@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:05:31 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Anne Earle Strange
EMAIL: akss@comcast.net
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Reston

SUBJECT: Give Virginians Fair Maps for Better Representation

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Commission, I believe that gerrymandering is at the root of why the United States is so polarized! Until we get rid of gerrymandering the polarization is going to get worst. Because of the creation of a Virginia Redistricting Commission, Virginians now have an opportunity for the first time in four hundred years to have a say in how our congressional boundaries are drawn. Please let them guide you as you draw the new boundaries. Please ensure that the following gets done as you draw the new maps. 1) Virginia is the fifth most gerrymandered state so throw out the very gerrymandered 2011 maps drawn by the Republicans in the House of Delegates and Democrats in the Virginia Senate. 2) Draw completely new maps focused on keeping "Communities of Interest," towns, cities, and counties together. 3) Pay absolutely no attention to where the Republicans or Democrats politicians live in Virginia. 4) Meet the state constitution's requirement that congressional maps be contiguous and compact (all existing congressional districts are contiguous but not very compact). 5) Meet as much as you can, even if it means working every day, to get the new maps drawn as quickly as

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possible. 6) Give citizens as much time as possible to review the new maps. 7) Be transparent in all your actions. 8) Invite the press into your meetings. 9) Give the citizens of Virginia the fairest congressional district maps possible. 10) Make Virginia a shining example of what citizens and politicians can do, working together, to ensure our democracy works for all of us. Creating fair maps for all Virginians should be your number one priority so citizens get fairer elections and better representation. Sincerely yours, Anne Earle Strange Reston, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 24, 2021 2:33:56 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: RUTH SIEVERS <ruthsievers@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Reston

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?
Reston is one of the first planned communities in the United States. Many of us chose Reston because of its unique sense of commitment to community, the desire to live in a place with a sense of equality for all citizens and a respect for nature. Our identity as Restonians is important to keeping Reston as originally conceived by its founder. Keep our community intact please as you draw these maps
Sincerely,
Ms RUTH SIEVERS
11500 Fairway Dr Apt 307 Reston, VA 20190-4454 ruthsievers@mac.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 9, 2021 2:17:56 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Emily McPhie <ebm7554@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Reston

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'm an active and very healthy retiree in Reston. I love living along a stream surrounded by greenery, with walking paths and pools and other recreational amenities within easy reach, among the many other benefits of living here. Since we're part of northern Virginia, and Reston's history in particular is decidedly on the more liberal side (as are most of my friends), our community, I feel, has been gerrymandered to typically give us only the option of electing a Democrat to Congress. While this might well be my choice under any circumstances, my point is that I'd like a real choice, rather than either no opposition or a Republican candidate who clearly has no interest in or running (or perhaps no ability to run) a competitive campaign. I'd like to hear real ideas exchanged, and I'd like to feel there's actually some competition, if for no other reason than to keep the Democratic candidate on his/her toes. My concern is that, with such partisan gerrymandering, the candidates we have to choose from (not just in this district but throughout the state and the country for that matter) tend to be pushed more and more to the extremes rather than toward some sort of more manageable center. We're never going to get

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beyond this horrible hyper-partisan divide we've got at the moment if we can't start to have actual debates that help us start to think more about what we might have in common rather than all the reasons to try to drive one another apart.

Sincerely,

Emily McPhie

11230 Leatherwood Dr Reston, VA 20191-4607 ebm7554@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 7:29:29 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Michael Clancy
EMAIL: michaelclancy1@verizon.net
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Reston, Herndon, Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Vienna, McLean
SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners, Best wishes for the speedy recovery for the member with COVID and best wishes for the continued health of all members. As emphasized by OneVirginia, the League of Woman Voters, other voting advocacy groups and virtually every single citizen who has testified or submitted comments, the voters want politically competitive districts. Voters want their vote to have meaning. Indeed that is the point of elections: Government by the people. While competitive districts may not be possible in every locality (for example, in Arlington, Alexandria and southwest Virginia), the Commission should strive to maximize the number of competitive districts, including in northern Virginia. The decision to disregard the current districts and draw districts based on a blank map is a key first step to eliminating gerrymandered districts and maximizing competitive districts. Focusing on the Congressional districts, please strive to establish competitive districts in northern Virginia. Here is a link to a map showing competitive districts. See <https://districtr.org/plan/41238> Blue is the new competitive 10th. It encompasses Reston, Herndon and precincts west and south, and reflects a mix of Democratic party majority and Republican party majority precincts. Green is the new 11th, which is more competitive than the current 11th. Mauve is the new competitive 1st. Yellow is the new 8th. It encompasses Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Vienna and McLean. Thank you for your consideration and your dedication to this project of redistricting. Michael Clancy 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: Thursday, August 12, 2021 3:36:40 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Janet Martin <janet5204martin@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Springfield

COMMENT:

Commissioners: I know today is the big day - the data has arrived. Now the hard work starts! I am taking this special moment to write to you to ask that you DO NOT start this round of redistricting with the existing maps. I have a number of reasons for asking this:
1) using existing maps will only ensure that current gerrymandering is perpetuated. Our current districts are often drawn in tortured ways

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to divide communities and ensure incumbent protection. A fresh start would give all of the Commonwealth a better chance at having a truly representative government and give the commission a better chance at keeping communities of interest together.

2) If you start from existing maps that means you will be implicitly starting with incumbent addresses already baked into the process. I implore you to NOT consider incumbent protection either explicitly or implicitly when drawing our new maps. I understand that for the elected officials on the commission this will be an extremely hard ask but I would urge the citizen members to push back as hard as you can so as to give all of Virginians, not just our elected officials, a fair voice in how our districts are created. I understand that staring at a blank sheet of paper can be a daunting experience. But when it comes to drawing new maps for the Commonwealth that is not your only choice. You have a number of other options, including:

1) a computer-generated “starter map”. You could use an algorithm based on the legally-mandated criteria which could quickly and easily create many maps that you could use as a starting point. I understand that Moon Duchin (Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts University) has access to some tools that could be very helpful if this is the option you choose.

2) Another option might be to use “a fairness report” like the one available from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. This would point out the biggest problem areas of our current maps and let you know where changes could have the best impact.

3) You could start with the maps created in 2011 by students in the LWV/Wason Center Competition or the maps put forth by the 2011 Citizens Advisory Commission. While these maps are a decade old - they would be a better start than the current maps (which, by the way, are also a decade old) that were created specifically with political considerations in mind.

I wish all of you the best of luck. The next 45 days could be the beginning of a new era for the Commonwealth. We can show the rest of the United States that Politicians and Citizens can work together to create a more open, fair, and just society by starting with ending political and racial gerrymandering!

All the best,
Janet Martin
Springfield, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 12:02:59 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Michael Martin <michael5204martin@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Springfield

COMMENT:
At the suggestion of Mr. Wade, I've attached copies of the comments I made yesterday at the VRC public hearing at George Mason University in Fairfax. Thank you.
Sincerely,
Michael Martin
Springfield, Virginia
A Presentation to the Virginia Redistricting Commission
at George Mason University (Johnson Ctr, Dewberry Hall)
on Tuesday, July 27th by Michael Martin
Commissioners, Good afternoon. My name is Michael Martin. I've lived in

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Springfield for 35 years. It is good to finally meet you face-to-face.

Thank you for your efforts. I am excited to see the progress you're making.

But I'm also worried. You have not recently published a plan. I don't know how you're going to get everything done on time.

I worked in the Project Management Industry for over a decade, and I know that managing one's everyday activities doesn't require much planning.

Simply asking, "What's next?", and following your gut instinct, usually works fine.

Unfortunately, applying such a casual approach to a unique task like drawing complex district maps in 45 days doesn't work nearly as well. Implementing a project management technology such as critical path method will yield far superior results.

The benefits of project planning can be illustrated with a simple example:

Suppose I need to use a new software program. Before I can use it, my plan says I must do three things:

- First, order the software. Amazon Prime can deliver it in 3 days;
- Second, load it onto my laptop. That will take me a day;
- Third, train myself on the software. I can do that in 2 days.

Therefore, it will take 6 days before I'm ready. But I take weekends off. Since these 6 days will span a weekend, I must add an additional 2 weekend days, for a total of 8 days.

In this example, I have 8 days of foresight. If I don't need to use the software in the next eight days, I'm on schedule. But if I need to start sooner, I can see that I will miss the deadline unless I rework the plan.

And by recognizing the problem early, I have time to explore mitigation strategies such as:

- Asking Amazon Prime to expedite shipping; or
- Renting a laptop that has the needed software pre-loaded; or
- Hiring a planning consultant who has the software on her laptop.

The Virginia Redistricting Commission has yet to publish a plan illustrating a viable strategy for incorporating citizen input to date, reviewing all draft map submissions, drawing maps using prioritized criteria, and delivering approved maps to the Virginia legislature in the allotted time. The plan should include detailed task descriptions and a task completion schedule with hard deadlines.

I urge the Commission to take the following actions, quickly and decisively:

1. Make and publish a detailed plan with all the elements noted above.
2. Utilize project management methodology to actively manage your plan.
3. Hire a consultant to facilitate and expedite your planning.

In conclusion, I am rooting for your success. You can do this. Now is your time to shine, and Virginia will thank you. But please hurry.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Martin

Springfield VA

A project management resource:

PMI Project Management Institute - The Project Management Institute is a U.S.-based not-for-profit professional organization for project management.

<https://www.pmi.org/>

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 11:05:04 AM GMT-04:00

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FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Sabina D Weitzman
EMAIL: sabina@sabinaweitzman.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Stafford

SUBJECT: This morning's work - thank you, citizen members!

COMMENT:

I am so grateful to the commission's citizen members who spoke on my behalf this morning, reminding elected officials of the people's urgent demands. First, that the work of drawing maps - and all that happens in support of that work - be conducted in public. Second, that your starting point will not be the last decade's gerrymandered maps. Your voices, respectful but urgently presented to your fellow commissioners, won the day. Thank you, citizen commissioners! I think it was Sen. Simon who described the path forward as either adversarial or collaborative. I very much hope the commission will at least begin their work collaboratively and look to a non-partisan academic map-drawer like the Tufts University Redistricting Lab led by Moon Duchin to generate and evaluate maps based on criteria you will flesh out. The adversarial path is part of the path envisioned in the constitutional amendment that created the commission, hence even rather than proportional representation for the parties. However, beginning with partisan horse-trading will lead directly to gerrymandered carve-ups. Start with criteria, see where this takes you, and - with possible maps in front of you - make your arguments about why district boundaries are unfair. Today seemed like an important pivot in the right direction. Bravo!

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:45:20 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Wanda Denise Blackwell
EMAIL: wanda_blackwell@hotmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Stafford

SUBJECT: Redistricting Stafford County

COMMENT:

I am asking that you draw new maps without consideration of existing district lines in Stafford County.

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 12:09:27 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Carolyn <praizjc1@aol.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Stafford

COMMENT:

Hello,
I'm writing to convey my disagreement with the suggested use of the existing maps for redistricting purposes. New maps should be drawn. Court intervened for 2 of the 3 sets of maps due to racial gerrymandering. Many of the districts cut through communities in order to provide more racial balance and that court intervention should be considered a temporary

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fix, like a Band-Aid.

We are long-term Staffordians and we operated our businesses here for nearly twenty years. Our community is changing for the good. Trying to use the old 'jerry-rigged maps will undermine the confidence and pride our citizens should have in our community. Stafford is an equitable community to raise families in and the maps should reflect this accurately.

V/R,

Robert Jenkins

Carolyn Jenkins

31 Groves Lane

Stafford, VA 22556

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:23:57 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Cynthia Zimmerman <cbascetta@verizon.net>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Stafford

COMMENT:

Over the past decade Virginia's maps have been fifth worst in the nation. To start with them as a template and make minor changes will perpetuate the problems that were the impetus to create the Commission. You don't have to start with a blank slate. There are plenty of alternatives that will yield a fairer result. Please don't start with the status quo! -- Cindy Zimmerman, Stafford

Sent from the all new AOL app for Android

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:04:10 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: mdmlkm73@verizon.net

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Stafford

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission:

You have a big job and Virginians are counting on you to infuse confidence in the maps created by this new process. Please don't start from existing maps--start fresh!

Thank you,

Lynne McCay

Stafford, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 6:09:09 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Nigel Ogilvie <nigel_ogilvie@yahoo.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: The Plains, Fauquier

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

You have an opportunity to demonstrate bipartisan honesty as you re-draw our district lines.

Such demonstration of cooperation for the higher good would serve as leadership by example in our bitterly divided

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political system.

I will be thrilled if you do.

I will not be surprised if you don't.

Sincerely,

Nigel Ogilvie

The Plains, VA (Fauquier County)

Nigel R. Ogilvie, CFA

Nigel_Ogilvie@Yahoo.com

202-730-5288 cell and text messages

There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew. Marshall McLuhan citing Buckminster Fuller.

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 12:55:04 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Lucia Anderson <leander17@comcast.net>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Woodbridge

COMMENT:

Dear members of Virginia's 2021 redistricting commission:

Today is the day you get the population data from the Census Bureau that you have been waiting for. Now you can get down to the business

of drawing fair election districts for Virginia voters.

I am sure that, with the 45-day deadline you have to complete the state maps, it will be tempting to start with the current maps and just tweak them here and there. PLEASE DON'T.

This would be a huge mistake. The courts had to redo two sets of the current maps in order to fix their racial gerrymandering. The court fixes are a temporary patch and are in no way ideal. Trying to tweak these maps would be putting patches on patches.

Virginia's voters overwhelmingly endorsed a new way of drawing election districts with the constitutional amendment that establishes your commission. The voters are expecting you to Do Things Differently. Tweaking old maps is not Doing Things Differently. Such a course of action will shake public confidence, both in the maps you draw and the whole commission process.

There are better ways to promote good government through fairer maps that will result in fairer elections. There are two that spring to mind. The folks at Tufts University's Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group could prepare computer-generated starter maps using an algorithm based on your legally mandated criteria. Or, you could use the Princeton Gerrymandering Project's fairness report process to pinpoint the biggest problems in the existing maps.

Either way, you'd get analysis from outside observers who have made fair redistricting their business for years.

Worth a shot, no?

Please don't let us down. We're counting on you to make our elections fair, to give every Virginia voter an equal chance to affect the outcome of any election.

Lucia Anderson

16007 Laconia Circle

Woodbridge, Va. 22191

leander17@comcast.net

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 9, 2021 2:20:53 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Donald Longava <d.longava@everyactioncustom.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Woodbridge

COMMENT:

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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. Our community is a small development, Devonshire, off Spriggs Road, just outside Dale City. We are on well/septic and wooded acre lots. Homes mostly built @ 1980. We are members of Nextdoor.com which connects @ 40 neighbors.

Our most important concern is protecting our environment and the need to understand how the environment is changing. In particular, the Chesapeake watershed and the animals that call it home.

Sincerely,

Mr. Donald Longava

14571 Leilani Dr Woodbridge, VA 22193-3603 d.longava@verizon.net

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Woodbridge

COMMENT:

On Fri, May 28, 2021 at 12:44 PM GRACE <gfwhite@mindspring.com> wrote:

As someone who supported Amendment One, attending committee hearings at the General Assembly and talking with voters at the polls about redistricting reform over several elections, I am thrilled to watch Virginia's new redistricting commission as you work through the process.

I do have a few concerns. First, unless a citizen registers to make a public comment, it is not possible to get a gallery view of all of the commissioners. This definitely detracts from the value of virtual meetings.

Second, I have been following the discussion of whether to hire a single attorney/law firm or hire two - one that leans Democratic and one that leans Republican - and do not find it credible that it is impossible to find a non-partisan firm. I think the issue is how to find a firm that is acceptable to all sides.

Third, I am concerned that an insufficient number of public hearings are proposed and that insufficient attention is being paid to those areas of the state that don't have good broadband to allow citizens in those areas to have input without imposing significant travel on them.

Respectfully -

Grace White

Woodbridge, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, April 9, 2021 9:51:53 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: marlene Thacker <MolliT7@msn.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Woodbridge

COMMENT:

Please undo the gerrymandering that resulted in some of Woodbridge being placed under District 1. We originally voted for Rep. Gerry Connally and, subsequently, found ourselves under Rep. Rob Wittman. Please undo this so that we are placed back under Rep. Gerry Connally so that our voting will count once again. We were told that this issue would be resolved in 2021 and we appreciate it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Nellie E. Thacker

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Marlene E. Thacker

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:00:53 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Louise Kenny <lkenny1208@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Hi all of you smart, dedicated, forward-thinking members of the redistricting commission. You are serving Virginia and your fellow Virginians so well by serving on this commission. You are truly doing the will of the people. Many, many thanks.
I did want to really encourage you to apply a mathematical audit to the redrawn maps to make sure they are fair, non-partisan and in the best interest of allowing citizens to choose their legislators. Please don't allow yourselves to get dissuaded from this important step.
We are really counting on you to break new ground and make our redistricting process and resulting maps all they can and should be. You have it in your power. Go for it.
Louise Kenny, Alexandria
Sent from my iPad

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:42:56 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jim Walsh <jamesdwalsh@comcast.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Let's have a want a nonpartisan, mathematical audit!
--
Jim Walsh
900 Pendleton St
Alexandria, VA 22314
Email: jamesdwalsh@comcast.net
Ph or SMS Text: 347-450-5344
Cell or Text: 703-589-4944

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:40:07 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: David Drachsler <ddrachsler@comcast.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

I urge you to abide by the spirit of the constitutional amendment setting up the commission and draw districts based on the nonpartisan criteria in the amendment.
David A. Drachsler
250 S. Reynolds St.
Apt. 1310
Alexandria, Va 22304
Sent from my iPad

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 6:33:11 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Harriet <harrietmcguire@earthlink.net>

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REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

I'm in favor of your hiring a mathematical/statistical guru who can apply the same rigorous criteria to non-partisan analysis of every proposed district map.

Harriet McGuire

3007 Russell Road / Alexandria VA 22305 Text: 703.298-9759

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:59:11 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: barbara george <barbarageorge40@yahoo.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Alexandria

COMMENT:

Hello,

As an active and registered voter in Virginia, I am strongly in favor of the use of nonpartisan consultants to mathematically apply an algorithm based on VA's criteria to any new maps that are considered. It is essential that we get this right--fair, just, and ensuring representation and an equal vote for everyone who is eligible to vote.

Barbara George
Alexandria, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, January 21, 2021 4:58:54 PM GMT-05:00
FROM: Candace Butler <candy@edandcandy.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Annandale

COMMENT:

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

Thank you,
Candace Butler
Annandale VA

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:18:01 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Bev Schlotterbeck <editorbev@icloud.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Annandale

COMMENT:

I supported and campaigned for a non-partisan redistricting commission, and I am writing now to support the hiring of a nonpartisan consultant that would use an algorithm based on the state's criteria to any maps that are considered. I appreciate your hard work and the challenges you face. Please continue in your quest to make all votes count as much as possible. Beverly A Schlotterbeck 7118 Wayne Dr. Annandale, VA 22003

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:59:48 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Lillian Clementi
EMAIL: Lillian@LCTranslator.com
REGION: Northern

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

October 18, 2021

LOCALITY: Arlington

SUBJECT: MANY Virginians care about this

COMMENT:

Senator Barker is flat wrong. I care. My neighbors care. The thousands of Virginians who supported the OneVirginia2021 reform effort care. We're all watching, and we'll all remember when it's time to vote. I voted against Mark Levine precisely because of his opposition to fair redistricting, and I imagine there are people in many districts who feel the same. The strong YES vote last November should put Senator Barker on notice that times have changed. Do NOT start from gerrymandered maps. Do NOT consider incumbent addresses. Stop politicking and draw fair districts. All of Virginia is watching. And the Virginia Supreme Court is waiting in the wings. Lillian Clementi Arlington

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, January 21, 2021 12:05:14 PM GMT-05:00

FROM: Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>

NAME:

EMAIL:

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

To the members of the Commission:

As a long-time supporter of fair redistricting, I have followed developments, including "attending" and observing the two meetings of the Selection Committee. In general, I believe that the members of the Selection Committee took their roles and

responsibilities seriously and deliberated with due diligence when selecting the 8 citizen commissioners.

Unfortunately, they were probably not aware of the racist, hateful comments made by Mr. Feliciano of Fredericksburg; thus they

appointed/selected him without reservations.

Since his selection, we have become aware of the horrible statements made by Mr. Feliciano. I am horrified. As a woman I am

angry. As a person of color, I am upset. His comments reflect a disdain of our democratic process - as well as misogyny and

racism. I don't believe that there is a process by which a Commissioner can be removed without his/her consent. So I call on

Mr. Feliciano to resign his position immediately - by remaining on the Commission he will taint the reputation of this body, and call

into question whether his decisions, recommendations, or viewpoints are truly in the interest of all Virginians.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)

chris7307@gmail.com

571-422-6605 (cell)

2115 N. Hollister St.

Arlington, VA 22205

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, January 21, 2021 11:56:28 AM GMT-05:00

FROM: Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Arlington

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

October 18, 2021

COMMENT:

To the members of the Commission:

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

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

If a commissioner has contributed tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to state and local candidates and/or political parties

or PACs, that commissioner would not generate much confidence from the voters of Virginia.

Chris DeRosa (she/her)

chris7307@gmail.com

571-422-6605 (cell)

2115 N. Hollister St.

Arlington, VA 22205

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:57:23 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Hank McEntee <hankmac77@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Greetings

Please take the Dems And Republicans out of the Redistricting process. Apply a formula to determine the shape of districts. Of course geography, as well as shapes of population centers can be a factor leading to strange shaped districts. But let's take the influence of both parties out of the line drawing.

Thank you,

Henry McEntee

3625 Tenth St N

Unit 604

Arlington, Va 22201

Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:18:57 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Carlisle Levine <carlisle.levine@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Hello!

Thank you for the work you are doing helping to create fairer districts in Virginia. I applaud your plan to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.

Sincerely,

Carlisle J. Levine, PhD

Arlington, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:37:40 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Tim Huson <tim@huson.com>

REGION: Northern

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

October 18, 2021

LOCALITY: Arlington

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Commission:
Thank you for your noble work. I live in Arlington and have been following your progress. I encourage you to go ahead with the proposal to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically audit any maps that you consider using an algorithm that reflects Virginia's criteria.
Best of luck,
Tim Huson
2101 N Kenmore St
Arlington, VA 22201
tim@huson.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 27, 2021 1:13:47 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: VIRGINIA SIVIGNY <sivigny@verizon.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Burke

COMMENT:

I believe it is crucial that you hire a nonpartisan consultant to conduct a mathematical, nonpartisan audit. Virginia D. Sivigny
Burke, VA
Sent from my iPad

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:16:39 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Kevin Utzy
EMAIL: krutzy62@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Culpeper

SUBJECT: Impasses

COMMENT:

We in Virginia wanted a bi-partisan commission. Not a partisan one. If you ladies and gentlemen cannot get your act together, quit and get people who can work together. Compromise works both ways with both parties. My goodness you can't agree on a lawyer or an independent map drawing group. Come on people grow up and settle your differences PLEASE for the love of god. And there is a lot more people paying attention than you think. Regards, Kevin R. Utzy
Culpeper, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 8:44:30 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: David P Culp
EMAIL: kulpmg@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax

SUBJECT: Don't Start With Old Maps

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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October 18, 2021

COMMENT:

Thank you for taking on the challenge of drawing new election districts for Virginia. Virginians voted to change the old system in the hope that the system can be made as impartial, fair, and representative as possible. I am writing as a resident of the Mantua area in Fairfax County who considers himself an independent and a small "D" democrat. I am a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax; one of my faith's principles is to promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our in society at large. To that end, I encourage the Redistricting Commission to take on its job with a totally clean slate, as much as possible. Specifically, I ask that the Commission reject any reliance on the existing voting maps as you draw new voting maps. The old maps reflected gerrymandering, which is the main reason Virginia wanted to have a commission do the job now. The old voting maps fractured communities, and perpetuated districts that favor incumbents over challengers. With current technology, the Commission has the tools necessary to draw maps that can fairly reflect the current population of the state, without regard to past voting patterns. Please do so. Thank you
David Culp Fairfax, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:00:55 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Mark Cochrane <mcochranebooks@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax, 22030 zip

COMMENT:

As a Virginia voter, I support hiring a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered for redistricting.
Mark Cochrane
22030

FROM: Martha Cooper <mcoop08@everyactionadvocacy.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Falls Church

COMMENT:

Dear Delegate Marcus B. Simon,
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 live in the City of Falls Church. It was inconveniently established to limit access of African American neighbors to its schools back in the late 1940's. It is now a vibrant multi-cultural community that lacks affordable housing. It continues to invest heavily in its schools. Its citizens vote in elections. I am a bit disgusted by the shapes of the VA Senate and House districts. I realize that reflects of work of Republicans and Democrats. I strongly urge the Commission on redistricting to take the needs of communities not political parties as the basis for their redistricting. The crazy salamander-shaped borders must be radically reduced. I expect that redistricting will challenge the Commission. I expect you to work for the benefit of all residents in the state of Virginia regardless of political affiliation. Thank you for undertaking this task with diligence and equanimity.
Sincerely,
Martha J M Cooper
Falls Church, 22046

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

October 18, 2021

Sincerely,
Martha Cooper
207 S Virginia Ave Falls Church, VA 22046-4129
mcooop08@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:46:42 PM GMT-05:00
FROM: Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

To members of the Redistricting Commission -
I am looking forward to watching as the first Virginia Redistricting Commission to include citizens holds its first meeting this evening. I was very appreciative of the Selection Committee's deliberations in choosing these eight citizens and felt they were in general very careful to follow the requirements of the Statute to ensure the citizens were "as a whole, representative of the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the Commonwealth."
I do have concerns, however, about two of the citizen members that were selected. I understand the need to have a citizen from the large southwest region of Virginia, and that Mr. Gilliam was the only name on one of the lists that met this criteria. I also understand that contributions to a political party did not make him ineligible. His huge campaign contributions brought to light by VPAP, however, do not give us confidence that he will help to redistrict fairly with the needs of all Virginia in mind.
I also understand that Mr. Feliciano was chosen because he was the only Hispanic applicant from the lists sent to the Selection Committee and they were being very conscious of ethnic representation. I also understand they could not have known about his social media posts at that time and were relying on a recommendation by Del. Mark Cole. If there was a way in statute to remove a commissioner, that should certainly happen.
At this point, it would be to the benefit of this new Redistricting Commission if Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Feliciano would take it upon themselves to resign. New members could then be selected from Mr. Gilbert's and Mr. Norment's ;lists that would add to the number of females on the Commission. Six males and two females is certainly not gender balanced.
At the very least, neither Mr. Gilliam nor Mr. Feliciano should be considered for the position of Chairman.
Thank you for your service to Virginia!
Fran Larkins
Fredericksburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 2, 2021 7:58:47 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

To our Commissioners –
Calendar –
Looking at the “Materials” for the August 3 full Commission meeting, I am very concerned about the proposed calendar which is to be considered by the full Commission on August 3, 2021.
Are you really not going to have any meetings between the delivery of Census data on August 16 and August 30? I can only hope further dates will be added as the process for map drawing is discussed at your August 3 meeting.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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How will the work of map drawers be available to the public? It is very important that this be transparent and above board. Is it realistic to expect that this can be done in just three meetings of two hours each? If maps aren't shared before the week of September 20 – 24 how can any major feedback be incorporated before the HOD/Senate maps are submitted to the General Assembly? Is it realistic to expect the public to only have "minor tweaks" if this is the first time they have seen the maps?

"2021 Proposed Redistricting Guidelines and Criteria"-

I am very pleased to see two items on the draft by legal counsel to the Commission:

3.b. "The integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions should be preserved to the extent possible by avoiding unnecessary divisions of those subdivisions."

4. "Maps shall not favor or disfavor any political party, [but in no case will the Commission consider the residences of incumbents as part of its consideration of this factor.]

By including these two statements, it is very evident you have been listening to citizen testimony at recent hearings. Thank you!

Communications and Outreach Services –

Are you as disappointed as many are that attendance at the hearings in several areas of Virginia has been very sparse? The Communications and Outreach Services position should have been one of the first positions hired! Instead, the last hearing before the maps are drawn is this Thursday and the position is not yet filled. Please get this person on board and working quickly to enable the public to participate in the redistricting process.

Please also require the two law firms to jointly hire a nonpartisan redistricting expert to evaluate the maps. This could go a long way to restoring the public's confidence that the Commission's work will be carried out in the spirit of the Virginia Constitutional Amendment.

Thank you!

Fran Larkins

40 Battery Point Dr.

Fredericksburg, VA 22406

Franlarkins40@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:12:14 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:

August 27, 2021

Virginia Redistricting Commission

Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor

900 E. Main Street

Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Fredericksburg Branch NAACP, thank you for your service on the Virginia Redistricting Commission and for spending your time and energy on the complex task of drawing Virginia's new legislative districts. And while the rest of the Commonwealth may be challenging to organize, Fredericksburg is not. You simply need to keep Fredericksburg together.

There is no clearer community of interest in our region than the city of Fredericksburg. We are 28,000 people in 10.5 square miles, arranged in small neighborhoods and brought together by the love of community, nature, art, and culture. We care for our neighbors, whether their family has been here for generations or they made a choice to become a part of our community. We have an independent city government, public school system, emergency services, and many more services and concerns unique to Fredericksburg and common to all our residents. Please

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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keep Fredericksburg together.

Fredericksburg is a unified community in so many ways, but we are divided in one profound way. While Fredericksburg’s congressional and state senate districts both include the entire city, a previous General Assembly split the city between two House of Delegates districts. Where our votes should be most consequential, our voice is divided and unfairly overwhelmed by the surrounding counties. By reuniting Fredericksburg into a single house district and keeping us in single congressional and state senate districts, you will enable simpler elections, remove split precincts, and prevent the dilution of Fredericksburg’s unique concerns before the General Assembly and Congress. You have this one opportunity to keep Fredericksburg together in all our legislative districts.

As you evaluate the needs of the Commonwealth’s many communities, we trust that you will give Fredericksburg back its voice in the House of Delegates and keep Fredericksburg together.

Charlyne Jackson-Fields

President, Fredericksburg Branch NAACP

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 28, 2021 11:49:45 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Caitlin Bennett <ced3fk@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:
Commissioners,
Attached is the letter from the Fredericksburg Branch of the NAACP in regards to redistricting the City of Fredericksburg.
Thank you,
Caitlin Bennett
Chair, Communications, Press, and Publicity Committee
Fredericksburg Branch NAACP

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:21:34 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Karen Kallay <kakallay@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioners,
We have seen how easily doubt can be cast on even the most rigorously conducted elections. I fear something similar will be tried in the Commission's work.
I believe that the strongest resistance to such an attempt would be if you hire a nonpartisan source to conduct a mathematical audit of proposed maps.
Sincerely,
--
Karen Kallay, kakallay@gmail.com
(c) (540) 845-5545
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:13:16 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Harold Spotts <hspotts@aol.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fredericksburg

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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October 18, 2021

COMMENT:

Please make the audit fair and bi-partisan.

Harold L. Spotts

10106 Oat Lands Place

Fredericksburg, VA 22408

Tele: (540) 898-6072

Cell: (540) 220-5689

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:30:50 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: freedprt@verizon.net

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Manassas

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

I'm asking you to respect the wish of the voters and appoint a non-partisan consultant who will apply a logarithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are under consideration.

We elected a bipartisan commission to act in the interests of the voters not the politicians and are watching and hoping to see if you will comply with the wishes of Virginians.

Let's cut out the partisan haggling and get on with the process of producing a fair and unbiased redistricting map.

Thanks very much,

Patricia Freed

Manassas, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 8:24:31 PM GMT-05:00

FROM: Ankit Jain <ajankit92@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Northern Virginia

COMMENT:

Hello,

My name is Ankit Jain--I'm a northern Virginia resident and campaigned in favor of this redistricting commission. One of the main expectations we had for the citizen commissioners was that they would be independent from the politicians and would put the interests of the voters before that of politicians. I am requesting you honor the intent of this amendment by foregrounding in your mind the political independence of the finalists as you make your selections.

Further, many Virginians do not identify with either major political party, and they deserve representation on this commission. To maximize independence and political diversity, I specifically request you choose one finalist who does not identify with either major party from each slate of candidates. Because the Senate Democrats forwarded only one such candidate-- Kimball W. Brace--I am requesting you to choose him for the commission.

Among the independent finalists forwarded by Republicans, I request you to choose someone who has no history of donating to Republicans to ensure the person is truly independent.

Finally, I am requesting you not to choose Marvin W. Gilliam for the commission. Mr. Gilliam has a history of donating large amounts of money to Republican candidates, indicating a strong relationship with Republican leaders. I do not trust him to place the interests of all Virginians over those of Republican leaders.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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To summarize, I am asking you, first, to consider the likelihood any finalist will act independently of political leaders in all deliberation. Second, I am asking you to take one citizen who does not identify with either party from each slate forwarded to you. Finally, I am requesting you not to choose Marvin W. Gilliam for the commission. I hope you will help us effectuate the intent of this amendment.

Best,
Ankit Jain

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:36:50 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Laura Fabian <9550birmingham@gmail.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Prince William County

SUBJECT:

COMMENT:

I moved into the first congressional district in 2020. I have lived in Virginia all my life. When I became aware of the first district boundaries I was shocked. This small portion of Prince William county has nothing in common with the balance of the district. We are a true suburb of Washington, D.C. while the rest of the district is in rural, even farming communities.

Our portion of the district is racially, ethnically and religiously diverse. We work in government and government related entities. My interests do not coincide with small, far flung towns with little interest in the vast cultural and entertainment opportunities near to us in Prince William County. Their transportation interests are vastly different from ours in this truly metropolitan area of the first district.

I do not feel represented in any way by my congressman. He lives in the rural area of the district. I feel that when I take his surveys or otherwise communicate with him he dismisses me out of hand. I am certain others in this area of the fist district feel the same. I believe the vote history in Northern Virginia will show Prince William County voting one way and Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula a very different way. I also fear that some of my neighbors may not be aware of their lack of representation in Congress.

Laura Fabian

Sent from Mail for Windows

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 15, 2021 6:06:34 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

NAME: Robin P. Williams

EMAIL: robin.williamsx@gmail.com

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Prince William, Fauquier County

SUBJECT: Representative Lines

COMMENT:

Today PWC is non-representated by three Congresspeople who have a minority part of their district in PWC. PWC is the second largest County in the Commonwealth at ~ 450K with distinct boundary lines (Potomac River, Occoquan River, and the County lines. Make it it's own Congressional District and add a small jurisdiction like Fauquier County to PWC to make one contiguous jurisdiction that'll actually get representation. Do NOT make boundary lines based upon who votes where because the Demographics change and then no one is represented correctly. Follow the basic guidance in the Legislative Affairs document and don't get clever.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 4:47:08 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: William Card
EMAIL: Wacard@aol.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Prince William, Manassas, Manassas Park

SUBJECT: Prince William County Should be Four House of Delegates Districts

COMMENT:

Right now Prince William County is split up by eight (8) separate House of Delegates Districts (2, 13,31, 40, 50, 51, 52, and 87). It looks like we have two base districts (51 and 52) while everywhere else, surrounding jurisdictions have nibbled away at the edges. It must make coordination between agencies difficult. I do think that there is an easy solution that makes sense. First – pull Manassas and Manassas Park together and add in those precincts North and Northwest of those cities to make a more homogenous community of interest. Second – one of two most obvious communities of interest is the Western and Northwestern portion of the County. Roughly, by eliminating the encroachment of the 87th and 40th and combining those areas with what remains of the 13th – you have a more uniform community of interest all within Prince William County. Third, moving South it would make sense to have a community of interest that consists of a district that runs from the Eastern boundary to the Western boundary of the county. Lastly, we should keep the Prince William portion of the 2nd and combine it with the remnants of the 52nd that represent the most obvious community of interest in the I-95/Highway 1 corridor and East. These four House of Delegates districts would respect the distinctly unique communities of interest that exist within Prince William County. I believe that this would also simplify the coordination between State and County/City governments and their often-unique requirements.

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 26, 2021 8:15:47 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Lori Keenan <keenanlori@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Rectortown

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 husband and I live in northern Fauquier County, near Rectortown, north of Warrenton and north of I-66. This area is in the Goose Creek watershed which is part of the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. We have more in common with Loudoun County to the north, where the Goose Creek runs through Loudoun County into the Potomac River, than with southern Fauquier or areas further south. We live in horse country which is fairly prosperous and well educated. We value our environment and conservation, but our elected officials do not and haven't for a long time. As such we feel unrepresented, except by our statewide elected officials. Our state delegate and our US Representative do not represent our values, and haven't for a long time.
Look at the Goose Creek watershed, running from Linden, through Marshall and Delaplane to Upperville and into Loudoun County, as a community that should be kept together so that we can work together with our elected officials to preserve and protect this very beautiful, resource rich

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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part of our county and return the Goose Creek to a recreational level of cleanliness. Today it is imperiled, even though it is a State Scenic River. We need elected officials who value clean water and do what it will take to return the Goose Creek to the level of cleanliness we need to ensure this way of life.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lori Keenan

PO Box 312 Rectortown, VA 20140-0312

keenanlori@gmail.com

FROM: <astephens@acchase.com>

REGION: Northern

LOCALITY: Reston

COMMENT:

Dear Mr. Simon,

I understand that the Virginia Redistricting Commission is having trouble coming up with a fair redistricting method. I

suggest that you try mathematical optimization, which will quickly and inexpensively give you the optimal map with the

parameters you choose, free of political bias.

Optimization is a mathematical methodology that achieves the best possible solution for a problem with multiple parameters. Until now, optimization has not been a feasible redistricting method, as no viable software or modeling

solution existed that was able to properly analyze hundreds of millions of potential redistricting plans to come up with a

single ideal result. Now it is not only possible, but highly practical, as it can easily cut redistricting prices in half.

Through optimization, you can draw districts that are contiguous, compact, have equal population and conform to

Federal law. You may have additional Virginia-specific parameters, which can easily be included in the equation.

Why not try it? Wouldn't it make sense to see what the "ideal" looks like? If the Commission decides to include additional parameters after the initial optimization, it can be done on a timely basis.

We would like to discuss further with you to show you precisely how optimization would work for Virginia We would be

happy to provide you with a free sample and demonstrate how redistricting inputs could be varied to meet your specific

needs. Moreover, while the cost of optimizing Virginia would normally be \$325,000, since we based here, we are prepared to offer you a substantial "home-team" discount.

Please contact us to set up a remote meeting. The redistricting clock is ticking, and you can make Virginia the first state to do it right.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest Regards,

Ann Stephens

Encore Data

Reston, Virginia

Ph. 703-471-2189

www.encore-data.com

About Us

Encore Data is working in tandem with Optimization Direct to provide mathematically optimized redistricting to any

state that requests it.

Principals

Ann Stephens

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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Encore Data, Inc.

Reston, Virginia

www.encore-data.com

Ann Stephens began her career as Research Director of the Software Publishers Association, where she applied analytic techniques to determine future trends in the industry. From there, she founded PC Data in 1991, which tracked sales on a weekly basis of all PC hardware and software in the United States. In 1999, PC Data also began tracking Internet use in the U.S., Canada, Italy, Australia and China. The company was sold in 2001. Stephens is now CEO of Encore Data, a data consulting firm.

Over the past 30 years, she has provided data services to more than 200 technology companies, including Microsoft,

Apple, Google, Symantec, IBM, Adobe Systems and Disney. Stephens received an MBA from the University of Virginia

in 1982. Her thesis, entitled “The Oakland A’s” provided a multiple regression program to optimize revenue, promotions

and salaries for the Oakland A’s baseball team, and was the precursor to “Moneyball.”

Robert Ashford

Optimization Direct Inc.

Harrington Park, NJ

www.optimizationdirect.com

Robert Ashford is one of the world’s foremost authorities on optimization. He received a Master’s degree in Mathematics

from Cambridge University and a Ph.D. from Warwick Business School and has authored more than 20 academic papers

in Optimization. Robert co-founded Dash Optimization in 1984, where he pioneered the development of new modeling

and solution technologies, driving the size, complexity and scope of optimizing programs. Dash Optimization was sold

to FICO in 2008 and Ashford subsequently, co-founded Optimization Direct in 2014, which is an IBM partner. He is the

original author of Xpress-MP, one of the world’s leading optimization systems.

Alkis Vazacopoulos

Optimization Direct, Inc.

Harrington Park, NJ

www.optimizationdirect.com

Alkis Vazacopoulos is a pioneer in using Parallel Programming for solving Large-Scale Optimization problems for vertical

markets, particularly in Banking and Retail Industries. From January 2008 to January 2011 he was Vice President at FICO Research. Prior to that he was President of Dash Optimization, Inc. where he worked closely with end users, consulting companies, OEMs/ISVs in developing optimization solutions.

Vazacopoulos co-founded Optimization Direct in 2014. He also consults with Fortune 500 companies in the areas of

finance, marketing optimization, data mining, supply chain, retail optimization, procurement and decision analytics.

DATE RECEIVED:

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 7:08:11 AM GMT-04:00

FROM:

Mike Clancy <michaelclancy1@verizon.net>

REGION:

Northern

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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October 18, 2021

LOCALITY: Reston, Herndon, Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
Best wishes for the speedy recovery for the member with COVID and best wishes for the continued health of all members.
As emphasized by OneVirginia, the League of Woman Voters, other voting advocacy groups and virtually every single citizen who has testified or submitted comments, the voters want politically competitive districts. Voters want their vote to have meaning. Indeed that is the point of elections: Government by the people. While competitive districts may not be possible in every locality (for example, in Arlington, Alexandria and southwest Virginia), the Commission should strive to maximize the number of competitive districts, including in northern Virginia.
The decision to disregard the current districts and draw districts based on a blank map is a key first step to eliminating gerrymandered districts and maximizing competitive districts.
Focusing on the Congressional districts, please strive to establish competitive districts in northern Virginia. Here is a link to a map showing competitive districts.
See <https://districtr.org/plan/41238> The proposed map is also attached, but the link provides a better view because it can be enlarged to see the precincts.
Blue is the new competitive 10th. It encompasses Reston, Herndon and precincts west and south, and reflects a mix of Democratic party majority and Republican party majority precincts.
Green is the new 11th, which is more competitive than the current 11th.
Mauve is the new competitive 1st.
Yellow is the new 8th. It encompasses Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Vienna and McLean.
Thank you for your consideration and your dedication to this project of redistricting.
Michael Clancy

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:09:11 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Kathy Barnard <kgbarnar@gmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Springfield

COMMENT:

Please hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.
Thank you
Kathy Barnard
Springfield, VA
Sent from my iPad

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, September 5, 2021 5:47:58 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Megan
EMAIL: Nonopager@aol.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Stafford, Fredericksburg

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

October 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Keep stafford and fredericksburg together

COMMENT:

Please keep stafford and fredericksburg and the city's around it together
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 27, 2021 2:44:29 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Bobby Dunigan
EMAIL: bdunigan@chaneyenterprises.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, Prince William

SUBJECT: Community of Interest

COMMENT:

Thanks to all for undertaking this redistricting project. As a lifelong resident of southern Stafford County, I would like to see Stafford, Spotsylvania and King George included together in this process. I also think Stafford's county line should be contiguous and not be included with any portion of Prince William county. I believe the people in this group share similar interests, life types, diversity, etc. and would be well served by doing so. Thank you and may God bless our State and Country.
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: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:20:21 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Carol Esteki <maryam1472@yahoo.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Sterling

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Committee,
I would like to express my support of a nonpartisan mathematical audit of any redistricting proposal that the committee comes up with. All of us, whether Democrat, Republican, third party, or independent, need to know that the process has been properly audited to insure as fair a map as possible.
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Carol Esteki
Sterling, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 7:49:50 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Sarah W. Dixon
EMAIL: sbwd@msn.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Tidewater, Fredericksburg

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – NORTHERN REGION

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SUBJECT: WE DO CARE ABOUT REDISTRICTING!!

COMMENT:

There are Many Citizens of Virginia who DO care about fair redistricting and getting gerrymandering out of the process. We want a non-partisan commission to draw the lines. This is not about politics...this is about democracy where every vote counts. Please let Virginia lead the way for the rest of America in showing how we can have fair voting districts and allow for each person's vote to count. My own district was gerrymandered in the last "drawing of lines" and it goes from Tidewater all the way to Fredericksburg. WE DO CARE!!

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 8:09:06 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Ian Cook <ian@888fulcrum.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Vienna

COMMENT:

As someone who supported the efforts of OneVirginia2021 and pushed for our state to finally adopt the enlightened stance to move redistricting out of the direct control of either party, I applaud your latest move to start on the new map from scratch.
I am an immigrant from Canada where, due to the existence of independent redistricting commissions in every province, the issue of gerrymandering just was not an issue in the political arena.
I urge you all to look beyond party benefit, look long-term, and construct an edifice for creating electoral maps that enable more competitive races around more contiguous voter-driven interests and expectations.
Thank you for your work for all of us.
Ian Cook
1711 Pine Valley Drive
Vienna 22182

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:52:14 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Rosemary Eckert <rmeckert@hotmail.com>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Warrenton

COMMENT:

Pleased to learn of the vote to begin redistricting from scratch. Please continue to work in a non-partisan manner using a mathematical redistricting audit.
Thank you
Rosemary Eckert
Warrenton Va

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 1:28:05 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Kimberly Lewis Gibson <kklgibson@verizon.net>
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Warrenton

COMMENT:

To The Committee,

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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Virginia finally has a chance to abolish the horrific gerrymandering that has taken place in our Commonwealth and which has distorted the ability to fairly elect our legislators.
I IMPLORE you -- do what is right for the voters, not the politicians!
Truly democratic elections must prevail. It's the right of every citizen of Virginia (and the entire U.S.) to be confident that voting districts are logically and fairly established.
Thank you for your hard work on behalf of all of us.
Kim Lewis Gibson
Warrenton, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:21:22 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Douglas Borden
EMAIL: douglas.borden@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Arlington

SUBJECT: Fair Voting Districts

COMMENT:

In 2020, Virginians voted for a new and fair approach to the voting districts. The old voting maps are based on outdated data and even then fractured communities and interfered with good governance in the state. Many communities were divided by the old maps. Urban areas were often cut up so that urban votes would be diluted in mostly suburban districts. The new maps for 2021, as required by law now, must start from fresh population data to provide fair representation to all communities and all segments of the Virginia voting populace. It takes little time for computer map drawing to generate new maps once the map criteria are set, so claiming time to produce the maps as rationale from starting from the 2011 maps is a falsehood. The very principles of our democracy call us to work for fair representation for everyone and for a level playing field for our elections. Political divides are difficult enough without created artificial geographic boundaries that make Virginia more politically divided. We can and must to better if we expect our elected officials to be more pragmatic in solving real world problems for all our citizens. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this perspective and for doing what is right for the citizens of Virginia. Regards, Douglas H Borden III Arlington, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 26, 2021 10:36:21 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Daisy Judith Keith
EMAIL: djkbiz9@gmail.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Fairfax City

SUBJECT: 2021 voting maps - don't use old maps

COMMENT:

I am a long time resident of Virginia and I always vote. I am writing about the drawing of 2021 voting maps. I, and the overwhelming majority of other Virginians, voted in 2020 for meaningful change in voting districts. New voting maps SHOULD NOT be based on old 2011 discriminatory and divisive voting maps because then the discrimination and divisiveness will just be perpetuated. Timelines should not interfere with drawing fair voting maps. Computer map drawing produces maps quickly, once the map criteria are set. We will have fairer elections based on fairer maps that are based on current data, and that is the result Virginians like myself

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want and voted for. Sincerely, Daisy Judith Keith Fairfax City, Fairfax County, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:57:25 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: plphillips33@reagan.com
REGION: Northern
LOCALITY: Potomac Falls

COMMENT:

My experience as a candidate leads to these observations. The currently gerrymandered and numbered districts create confusion among voters. For example, when I ran in the 33rd Senate district the district overlapped with eight House of Delegate districts and 11 Board of Supervisor districts in two counties. In general, many voters are unfamiliar with the state legislature. The reference to State Senate is often confused with our US Senators from Virginia. The House of Delegates can often be confused with the U.S. House of Representatives. There are several ways the Redistricting Commission could reduce the confusion moving forward.

#1 Because the Senate is 1/40th of the state population and the House of Delegates is 1/100th of the population there should be 2 1/2 House of Delegate districts in one Senate district. This alone would greatly reduce the confusion. Currently during campaign season, voters will see campaign signs, ads, news articles, and internet email and advertising for candidates in whose districts they do not reside.

#2 The numbering of the districts could also be used to reduce confusion. The numbering of House of Delegate districts should not be the same, or close to the US House of Representatives seat for that district. For example, the 10th House of Delegate district resides in the 10th Congressional District. This major redistricting effort provides the opportunity to totally re-number the districts. The same follows for numbering the Senate districts. Likewise, it would be ideal for the House and Senate districts not to overlap in their numbers. For example, the 33rd Delegate District currently resides in the 33rd Senate District the 32nd district being right nearby also often gets confused with the Senate district. A suggested number naming plan that would avoid this confusion follows.

#3 When referring to district numbers for the House of Delegates, State Senate and US House of Representatives, a letter should be placed in front of each district number to help voters understand which race is being discussed. For example, a “D” should be placed in front of the district number for House of Delegates, an “S” for Senate District, and an “H” for the House of Representative district. While that information might seem superfluous on the voter’s voter registration card it would help them to become accustomed to the new nomenclature. Hopefully campaigns, websites, government entities would all be informed and encouraged to use the new nomenclature. Introducing the new nomenclature would also help to clarify new district compared to old districts.

Suggested Numbering/Name of Districts

U.S. House of
Representatives State Senate

House of
Delegates

11 40 1

40 2

40/39 3

39 4

39 5

38 6

38 7

38/37 8

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Patricia Phillips

571-243-5800

Pphillips33@reagan.com

Potomac Falls, VA