

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – HAMPTON ROADS REGION
November 19, 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 82

DATE: 10/19/2021 7:25:34 PM

Name: Carol A Mann
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: carol-mann@cox.net
Locality: James City County
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: C1 Statewide-CD and Map #323, Tom Davis Map
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: All of James City County and Williamsburg
Community of interest description: See comments above.

COMMENTS:

Reference Tom Davis Map . It recognized the community of interest by keeping Ford's Colony, Kingsmill and Williamsburg as a community of interest and keeps us in the First District. Where as Map #364 which is C1 Statewide CD splits James City County which would include half of Ford's Colony, Kingsmill and Williamsburg into the Second District. In this configuration, the Second District runs from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach. This does not make for a compact community. Please adopt the configuration as shown for the area on Tom Davis' Map #323.

DATE: 10/20/2021 2:16:59 AM

Name: Mike Joseph
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Retired
Email: mjoseph@tni.net
Locality: James City County
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: The Colonial Triangle and adjacent area
Community of interest description: Includes James City County, Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown and to Poquoson.

COMMENTS:

Reference: Map No. 364 - C1 Statewide CD and Map No. 323 - Tom Davis Map
Monday's meeting was spent comparing these two maps. By far Map No. 323 is best suited for our "Community of Interest". Map No. 323 keeps James City County whole and all in the 1st Congressional District. The alternative as shown in Map 364 - C1 Statewide CD splits James City County in half. The split divides Ford's Colony between the 1st and 2nd Congressional Districts and shows all of Kingsmill in the 2nd Congressional District. Ford's Colony and Kingsmill are significant landmarks in are area and defines our community just as much as Busch Gardens.
It also needs to be said that Map No. 364 C1-Statewide CD shows that the 2nd Congressional District stretches from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach. This is not compact. Compactness is one of your criteria along with not splitting cities and counties.
Map No. 323 - Tom Davis Map keeps James City County whole and includes Williamsburg and Yorktown in the 1st Congressional District which share historical importance and identity. This area consisting of Jamestown , Williamsburg,

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and Yorktown is commonly identified as "The Colonial Triangle". This is an excellent example of "Community of Interest". It also represents compactness for our area.

The community identity of our area we call "The Colonial Triangle" is not in any way the same as Virginia Beach.

Please adopt the boundaries of the 1st Congressional District for this area as defined by Map No. 323 - Tom Davis Map. This would include James City County, Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown and will go as far as Poquoson. Geographically this will make a compact district with shared historical and cultural interest.

DATE: 10/21/2021 1:54:05 PM

Name: Richard Hagen
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: OneVirginia2021
Email: rhagen12@verizon.net
Locality: Virgnia Beach, va
Region: **Hampton Roads**
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
Community of interest name: Political Affiliation
Community of interest description: "A "community of interest" does not include a community based upon political affiliation or relationship with a political party, elected official, or candidate for office." (See 'Communities of interest' section above)

COMMENTS:

I want to thank the Commissioners for making a valiant effort with all the extra challenges of Covid and the crazy census. I think you did well to overcome many obstacles but it seems you could not overcome the obstacle we are most concerned with.....that is Partisanship. It seems that at this point the Commission process is over. The Commission's actions demonstrated that our original Amendment which set up a commission with NO Legislators and NO party affiliation was the correct way to go.

We must now hope that the Virginia Supreme Court can put aside political affiliation and allow an independent out-of-state expert to draw our maps. Maybe after the dust settles it will be time to try and pass a new Amendment before 2030 to get Legislators and patrician appointees off the Commission. (OK stop laughing I know that will probably be impossible. But it could happen.)

I again want to thank each of you for Volunteering for this arduous task. At least we Citizens had a chance to voice our concerns and watch the process. Have a relaxing holiday season.

DATE: 10/21/2021 3:52:48 PM

Name: Carolyn Lempert
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: cslempert@yahoo.com
Locality: Hampton Roads
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Northern Virginia Beach
Community of interest description: Urban, densely populated, multi racial and multi ethnic

COMMENTS:

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I live in northern Virginia Beach, an urban area with multi ethnic, well educated population. We do not share economic, educational, social issues with the eastern shore. I strongly object to having VB- based state district absorbed into an area with essentially rural concerns.

DATE: 10/22/2021 8:33:40 AM

Name: Shelly Simonds
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Email: Delssimonds@house.virginia.gov
Locality: Newport News
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Denbigh Community
Community of interest description: The Denbigh area of Newport News is a community of interest that should be kept together in re-districting. The area goes from the Riverview/ Boxley, Oyster Point Blvd area up to include Fort Eustis and Lee Hall over to Jefferson Avenue and Denbigh Blvd.

DATE: 10/22/2021 10:12:08 AM

Name: Norman Cherrix
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: c_norman60@yahoo.com
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

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 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.

DATE: 10/22/2021 10:14:21 AM

Name: Kathy Stark
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jstark25@everyactioncustom.com
Locality: Norfolk
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

The proposed congressional map meant to be a compromise between the two parties is basically a carbon copy of the map proposed by Tom Davis, the former chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

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Any map that looks similar to a map proposed by a Republican Party leader who was responsible for electing more Republicans to the House of Representatives cannot in good faith be considered a compromise -- and it is certainly not fair to voters.

I'm writing because I believe this map should NOT be used as the starting point for Virginia's future congressional map. The commission needs to go back to the drawing board.

DATE: 10/28/2021 6:56:59 AM

Name: Richard G Zimmermann

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: richardzimmermann@verizon.net

Locality: Chesapeake

Region: **Hampton Roads**

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

Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

Community of interest name: Virginia MSAs: Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Community of interest description: MSAs. US Census Bureau MSAs of Metro- and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are authoritative, non-partisan areas of Virginian settlement mapped according to settlements by the PEOPLE to be represented in a legislative chamber, updated at each census.*

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COMMENTS:

Website "reference materials" should include an orientation to redistricting for the general reader, and for the Commissioners to gain a "common vocabulary" sadly lacking during proceedings, needed both for the citizen commissioners, and for the partisan 'electeds'.

- For example, Levitt, Justin. A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting: 2010 Edition. The Brennan Center for Justice.

- For additional recommendations, I would recommend a retired researcher at the Library of Virginia , Brent Tarter. He has UVA-published books on the history of Redistricting in Virginia, and one on Virginia Constitutions soon to be released.

DATE: 10/28/2021 7:34:20 AM

Name: Richard G Zimmermann

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: richardzimmermann@verizon.net

Locality: Chesapeake

Region: **Hampton Roads**

Type of comment: Request for information

Map: #164 Richard Zimmermann 11- Compact Congressional Districts

Topic(s) of interest: Request for information

Community of interest name: Chesapeake Bay

Community of interest description: The "Chesapeake Bay" is Virginia's continuous 400-year community-of-interest among the localities along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

- It is NOW FOUND WITHIN the north-Hampton Roads MSA-Eastern Shore and within the 757-Area Code with 4 small excepti

COMMENTS:

Re: Plan #164 eleven district partisan breakdown data, projections based on past elections averages.

- Delegate Marcus Simon in public session mentioned that he had Commission staff work up the past-voting average voting results for all Congressional District plans, including citizen-submitted plans.

- Could I please have a copy of the expected partisan divisions in the 11 districts of Plan #164 by district as Solid Democratic, Solid Republican, Leaning Democratic, Leaning Republican?

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- I would like to pair PARTISAN results with the previously published data on RACIAL composition in the districts, showing 3-MAJORITY-MINORITY districts with one black-opportunity and one black-competitive among those three, and 4-MINORITY-OPPORTUNITY districts with two black competitive districts among those four.

DATE: 10/28/2021 7:48:52 AM

Name: Richard G Zimmermann
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: richardzimmermann@verizon.net
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Commission 9-Rules for Redistricting - imperatives & conditions

COMMENTS:

- Commission IMPERATIVES in apportionment by population into US Congressional Districts -
 1. equal population: totals to range by 5% by law = target goal average + /- 2.5%.
 2. compact: test LENGTH-WIDTH v. 'sausage', POLSBY-POPPER v. 'juts', REOCK v. 'tendrils-fingers'.
 3. contiguous: adjacent like habitats, within the same MSA, then 'spoke' localities remote from dense 'hub'.
 4. communities of interest: socio-economic settlement tied by commutes in MSAs: cities, towns, census-designated-places under 50 square miles; historical residential areas; Chesapeake Bay shore-line localities.
 5. Meet Voting Rights Act requirements; racial minorities communities in coalition can elect their preference.
- Commission redistricting CONDITIONS by statewide summary review -
 6. DO NOT take voting results into consideration; BUT summary view must justify any non-competitive districts by compactness and adjacent like-habitat among urban, suburban, exurban, and rural settlements. Example: Southwest Virginia is compact, adjacent, without an alternative configuration; it has been solid Republican Congressional.
 7. DO NOT take racial goals into consideration for each district; BUT on summary view the plan must not reduce number of minority opportunity districts with greater than 40% total population.
 8. DO NOT take incumbency into consideration; BUT recall that in Congressional districts, incumbents need not reside in the district elected. See Governor P. HENRY's attempt to deny J. MADISON a seat in the First Congress.
 9. DO start from scratch, without reference to the previously drawn districts. DO Meet the 8 previous criteria.

DATE: 10/28/2021 8:16:25 AM

Name: Richard G Zimmermann
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: richardzimmermann@verizon.net
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Redistricting DECISION TREE & Commission PROCEDURE

COMMENTS:

The following draft DECISION TREE is a response to Co-Chair GRETA HARRIS suggesting a decision tree to explicitly determine consistent district-drawing procedure across regions, and Delegate MARCUS SIMON suggesting teams draw maps in real time explaining their steps for Commissioners contemporaneous queries and comments.

- SEQUENCING for redistricting begins with 11 Congressional districts, nests 100 Delegate districts into them, and finally aggregates 2.5 compact Delegate districts into 40 compact state Senate districts.
- The START point for a district from scratch, is a 'node' of dense settlement within an MSA. The SMAs have a dense-core settlement, and adjacent cities, counties, towns, & 'designated census places' – in socio-economic 'communities-of-interest' tied by commuting patterns. Each has an "urban" habitat with over 10,000 for Micropolitan "Micro-MSAs", and over 50,000 for Metropolitan "Metro-MSAs".

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- #1. DESIGNATE “center-of-density nodes” within each MSA comparable to “city core” or “center city” places. Three census blocks or precincts within a densely populated area -- based on US Census population data -- can provide a starting point from which to begin drawing districts of concentricity.
 - #2. DRAW districts compactly radiating from a “center-of-density node”, acquire precincts of like density first. Habitat is variously dense settlement in “urban”, “suburban”, “exurban”, and “rural” areas. The individual’s chosen habitat and lifestyle is a priority “community of interest” for each district drawn. ADD three to five “parcels” of census blocks or precinct of like habitat onto a growing draft-district along main thoroughfares, US highways, State Routes.
 - #3. FILL IN gaps between thoroughfares to maintain a compact shape, an equilateral or oval-like figure. Rotate through the nodes of population to be distributed into districts to expand drafted districts incrementally. In summary view, measure compactness by tests of LENGTH-WIDTH against elongated ‘sausage’ districts, POLSBY-POPPER against ‘jutting spikes’, and REOCK against ‘tendrils-fingers’.
-
- #4. KEEP INTACT PreK-5 schools ATTENDANCE ZONES. These are areas of compatible cultural settlement that local authorities find conducive for early childhood education. Families with children are a priority “community of interest”.
 - #5. KEEP INTACT localities of LESS THAN 50 SQUARE MILES, whether they are cities, counties, towns, or census designated places (CDPs). The “LYNCHBURG Rule”. These settlements often are made up of home-renters moving every 4-6 years, or home-owners moving every 6-8 year. They first relocate there for their children’s public education for the most part.
 - #6. DIVIDE LARGE area square-mile localities over 50 square miles -*as required for compactness*- using local authority separations of their populations by cultures which are compatible with early childhood education, the PreK-5 school attendance zones. Example: FAIRFAX COUNTY divides school zones north-and-south along US-50 for PreK-5, Middle, and High School attendance zones.
 - #7. DIVIDE SMALL population counties under 15,000 which are remote from their core urban populations or outside MSAs -*to balance district populations and maintain district compactness*-.
-
- #8. NEST 8-9 Delegate districts within each Congressional district. Starting with the previous starting points. Divide 1-2 as required following the same procedures in steps #1-7. On summary review, 100 compact Delegate districts are nested within 11 compact Congressional districts.
 - #9. AGGREGATE 2.5 Delegate districts (of 100) to each state Senate district (of 40), such that at summary review, 40 compact delegate districts compactly span 100 Delegate districts that in turn are nested within 11 compact Congressional districts.

DATE: 10/28/2021 9:05:04 AM

Name: Richard G Zimerrmann
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: richardzimerrmann@verizon.net
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Map: Map #164 Eleven Congressional Districts Richard Zimerrann
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Northern Virginia
Community of interest description: Northern Virginia community of interest includes four compact districts, each with like-habitats. (1) "Inside the Beltway" and adjacent-south, for Plan #164 district-11; (2) "NoVa-north", Fairfax north of US-50, Reston-Ashburn; (3) "NoVa-south", Fairfax s

COMMENTS:

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In the Commission session, FRIDAY OCTOBER 22, Delegate MARCUS SIMON objected to what he called “SPLITTING” Northern Virginia districts to gerrymander resident urban settlements into exurban and rural areas, watering down their vote in the Virginia Congressional delegation.

- This essay will define the NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY OF INTEREST”, shown on citizen submitted commission Map #164 under the Congressional Districts tab, "Eleven compact Congressional districts" by Richard Zimermann, Plan-11, Plan-10, Plan-08 and Plan-07. PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS - I grew up in Alexandria for ten years and taught high school and owned a home in Fairfax County for ten years.

- Please refer elsewhere for two maps. The FIRST MAP pictures all workers with MSA commuting ties in Northern Virginia into the “DC Metro Area”, from SnapChat, “10 Ways to map Northern Virginia”. Winchester & Frederick Co. are represented with ties in concentrations akin to those elsewhere in the NoVa exurban settlements, between 10% and 40% of the area’s commuter total.

- A SECOND map shows dots of dense population ‘communities’ on a VDOT Highway Map, commercially designated “center cities” or academically designated “city cores”. These may be found (a) among equivalents in scholarly publications of population-density heat-maps, (b) in US Census published charts of Virginia localities and census-designated-places, or (c) readily located approximately online in the Neighborhood Scout "Neighborhood Profiles", browser search on "Arlington center city neighborhood profile", for "Inside the Beltway" -Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church; for "NoVa Exurbia" - Winchester, Warrenton, Culpepper, Fredericksburg, etc.

- Rationale for dividing Fairfax County. District boundaries dividing large square-area localities with large populations, should follow local authority separations of their populations by cultures compatible with early childhood education, the PreK-5 school attendance zones. For instance, in Fairfax County US-50 separates school zones north-and-south for the preponderance of all adjacent PreK-5, Middle and High school residential areas.

- Note, in Plan #164 at the Congressional District tab, four are drawn within the NoVa MSA, or adjacent to it and no other.

- Plan-11 is “Inside the Beltway” minority-opportunity, Plan-10 is “NoVa-North” with Reston-Ashburn-Chantilly-Fairfax County north of US-50, majority-minority; Plan-08 is “NoVa-South” with Springfield-Manassas-Woodbridge-Fairfax County south of US-50, majority-minority, black competitive; Plan-07 is “NoVa-Exburbs” with Winchester-Warrenton-Fredericksburg, minority-competitive. The Plan is easily amended to place Prince William County entirely within -08 by adding blocks from -07 to -08 per public comment, and ceding blocks east adjacent Leesburg from -08 to -07.

- A standard-of-compactness such as court-approved tests – using (a) Length-Width against elongated ‘sausage’ shapes, (b) Polsby-Popper against jagged juts, and (c) Reock against tendril-fingers -- will establish limits on “sausage” districts meeting a “compact” visual impression, but gerrymandering urban habitat slices into a majority of remote, non-adjacent settlements made up of dissimilar habitats.

DATE: 10/28/2021 3:45:30 PM

Name: Richard G Zimermann

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: richardzimermann@verizon.net

Locality: Chesapeake

Region: **Hampton Roads**

Type of comment: Comment on a map

Map: Map #164 Eleven compact Congressional districts - Richard Zimermann

Topic(s) of interest: DEFENSE - Meets 9 Commission Criteria - 1 of 3

COMMENTS:

DEFEND Map #164 – DISCUSSION of 9 COMMISSION criteria

All eleven compact Congressional districts in MAP #164 meet the NINE (9) Commission criteria, for each DISTRICT and altogether STATEWIDE, for 2021 redistricting plans.

- In two additional posts, please find APPENDIX A, a compliance chart for Plan #164 Voting Rights Act Plan, and APPENDIX B, a summary of Plan #164 Commission website public comments and author replies.

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MAP #164 SUMMARY RESULTS in 9 points:

- Commission IMPERATIVES in apportionment by POPULATION into US Congressional Districts -

(1) EQUAL POPULATION by law within a range of 5%, or +/- 2.5% of target goal average.

(2) COMPACT by tests: LENGTH-WIDTH v. 'sausage', POLSBY-POPPER v. 'juts', REOCK v. 'tendrils-fingers'.

(3) CONTIGUOUS adjacent 'like' habitats, within the same MSA, then 'spoke' localities remote from dense 'hub'.

Habitat settlements of Virginians to be represented are Census urban-rural, or commercial & scholarly urban-suburban-exurban-rural.

(4) COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST are represented, (4a) those authoritative, non-partisan defined areas of the socio-economic settlement which are tied by resident commutes as reported in Census-MSAs; (4b) cities, towns, census-designated-places under 50 square miles; (4c) respected locality-drawn PreK-5 schools, historic residential areas; (4d) Chesapeake Bay shore-line localities in north-Hampton Roads SMA.

(5) VOTING RIGHTS ACT requirements must be met in summary view statewide: racial minorities communities in coalition can elect their preference in minority-opportunity districts with over 40% minority population.

- Commission redistricting CONDITIONS by STATEWIDE summary review -

(6) DO NOT take VOTING RESULTS into consideration for populations within each district; BUT summary view must justify any non-competitive districts by compactness and adjacent like-habitat among urban, suburban, exurban, and rural settlements. Example: Southwest Virginia is compact, adjacent, without an alternative configuration; it has been solid Republican Congressional.

(7) DO NOT take RACIAL GOALS into consideration for populations within each district; BUT on summary view the plan must not reduce number of minority opportunity districts with greater than 40% total population.

(8) DO NOT take INCUMBENCY into consideration; BUT recall that in Congressional districts, incumbents need not reside in the district elected. See Governor P. HENRY's attempt to deny J. MADISON a seat in the First Congress.

(9) DO START FROM SCRATCH redistricting boundaries, without reference to previously drawn districts. DO MEET the public criteria published by the Commission.

- - - MAP #164 DISCUSSION

- (1) The #164 districts have equal population, range from target +1.4% to -1.8% of +/- 2.5% allowed. - Every district has a margin of 5-6,000 population to "smooth" boundaries to maintain cultural communities in the respected localities PreK-5 school attendance zones for early childhood education, a principle reason for Virginian family relocation, whether home-renters, or home-owners.

- (2) The districts are compact. - The Plan-06 "Virginia central-west" district is commended by a resident as compact, and an improvement over the 2021 sausage north-south gerrymander to the Carolina Line. - Two public comments are "friendly amendments": reapportion west-Prince William to 2 districts, and maintain the Rappahannock locality boundary. See "Comment summaries and replies" below.

- (3) The districts are contiguous. - The Plan-01 "Chesapeake Bay district" is commended in 3 of 6 public comments on #164. Residents in the Lower & Middle Peninsulas, and on the Eastern shore, share the same North-Hampton-Roads MSA and 757-Area Code. Plan-01 recognizes the historic "community of interest" persisting for over 400-years along the shores of the Chesapeake Bay. The DMV "Friends of the Chesapeake Bay" plate-sets have been sold to over 500,000 Virginians since its 1996 first issue.

- (4) The Plan districts account for communities of interest. While statewide "partisan proportionality" is indefensible in court, the "one-man-one-vote" doctrine represents people in settlements. (4a) Most Virginians live in urban habitat. Urban habitat is "densely settled", with "residential, commercial and other non-residential" land use; it "does not follow city or county boundaries". (4b) The US Census defines MSAs as adjacent localities of urban area. Metropolitan Statistical Area MSAs have "at least one urban area of 50,000 or more", and Micropolitan Statistical Area MSAs have "at least one urban area of 10,000 or more". - (5) The Plan in summary view accounts for Voting Rights Act requirements. (5a) There are no target racial proportions applied to any district. (5b) The number of existing districts with minority (non-white) populations may not be arbitrarily reduced. Plans must apply consistent rules for compact districts of equal population.

- (6) The districts drawn DO NOT take VOTING RESULTS into consideration for populations within each district. - - However, on summary inspection, they cannot allow undue weight to one party without mitigating circumstances as required by law: (6a) compact, (6b) contiguous community settlement by the residents alone must be represented. Plan #164 districts are drawn independently of previous voting results.

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- (7) The districts drawn DO NOT take RACIAL GOALS into consideration for populations within each district. - - However, on summary inspection, to conform to recent Voting Rights Act provisions and their US Supreme Court interpretations, they cannot allow LOSS OF MINORITY-OPPORTUNITY DISTRICTS over 40% -- a standard set by Court-order redistricting for VA-03 at 41%, and VA-04 at 46%.
(7a) - In Plan-03 and Plan-04, black-multi-racial groups have competitive or opportunity districts.
 - It has THREE (3) majority-minority >50% constituents – including one Black-Multi-race opportunity >40% and one Black-multi-race competitive >30% district;
 - It has FOUR (4) minority opportunity >40% constituents – including two Black-Multi-race competitive >30% districts;
 - It has TWO (2) minority competitive >30% constituents.(7b) - The Commission PUBLICLY defined the population to use for drawing 2021 districts in the linked software for redistricting on its website.
 - The POLITICAL STANDARD used in public software is the “total resident population” in precincts and census blocks required by law in the US and Virginia Constitutions.
 - The commission did NOT adopt the JUDICIAL “voting age population” STANDARD in its publicly applied software used elsewhere in sidebar discussions for background information only.
- (8) The districts DO NOT take INCUMBENCY into consideration. - However, on summary inspection, avoid arbitrarily throwing two incumbents into the same newly drawn district without a lawful rationale according to compactness, community of interest, or equal population apportionment; recall Congressional incumbents are not required to reside in their district.
- (9) Map #164 DOES START FROM SCRATCH, each redistricting plan, without reference to previously drawn districts. - However on summary inspection, districts should not arbitrarily draw a district outside of incumbent’s current district constituency.
(9a) - Plan-01 situates incumbent BOBBY SCOTT of Newport News in the district population center of a Minority-opportunity district of 45.8%, and that is black-multiracial competitive at 33.3%.
(9b) - Plan-03 situates incumbent A. DONALD MCEACHIN of Richmond in the district population center of a Minority-opportunity district of 40.1%, and that is black-multiracial participation at 27.4%. McEachin has demonstrated a partisan coalition with Democrats who voted 54% for Biden in 2020. Richmond is the least racially motivated voting locality in Virginia outside Northern Virginia.
(9c)- Plan-06 situates incumbent ABIGAIL SPANBERGER's residence in Henrico County in the Plan-03 district, however Congressional incumbents are not required to reside in their districts. Recall Anti-Federalist Governor PATRICK HENRY's attempt to district Federalist JAMES MADISON out of the FIRST CONGRESS.
 - The Plan-06 district population center is Charlottesville-Albemarle MSA, the largest concentration of Democratic votes for Abigail Spanberger’s Congressional election.
 - As a fluent speaker of Spanish, she can directly communicate to Spanish-speaking homes. Settlement in the last decade boomed in the two Harrisonburg wards north of US-33.
 - Many VMI graduates become Marine officers each year; all six 4-star Marine Generals left the Trump administration. The NC-Goldsboro AF base district elected a Democrat in 2020, and a majority of voters in the two Norfolk Naval Station voted for Joe Biden. Marine Gen. John Allen endorsed Hillary Clinton at the 2016 Democratic Convention. These indicators all point to the reelection of incumbent ABIGAIL SPANBERGER in the new Map #164-06 district.
- - - This Map #164 DEFENSE 1 of 3, please see additional posts - DEFENSE 2 of 3 Map #164 meets the Voting Rights Act requirements, and DEFENSE 3 of 3 Map #164 summarizes public comments and author replies.

DATE: 11/1/2021 2:41:52 PM

Name: Kathy Stark
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jstark25@cox.net
Locality: Norfolk
Region: **Hampton Roads**

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Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

The proposed congressional map meant to be a compromise between the two parties is basically a carbon copy of the map proposed by Tom Davis, the former chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee. Any map that looks similar to a map proposed by a Republican Party leader who was responsible for electing more Republicans to the House of Representatives cannot in good faith be considered a compromise -- and it is certainly not fair to voters. I'm writing because I believe this map should NOT be used as the starting point for Virginia's future congressional map. The commission needs to go back to the drawing board.

DATE: 11/1/2021 2:47:13 PM

Name: Sandra Fox
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: rforx6@cox.net
Locality: Hayes
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Voters in Virginia deserve a congressional map that fairly represents the state and the voting trends of the past decade. A fair map in Virginia does not mean creating districts that will result in an equal number of Democratic and Republican representatives -- like what Republicans on the commission are demanding. Despite egregious Republican gerrymandering after the 2010 Census, Democrats now hold 7 out of 11 congressional districts, including districts that were drawn to prevent them from winning in the first place. A fair map would recognize that a majority of voters have supported Democratic candidates for Congress in recent elections and the district lines should not be manipulated to erase that. Since 2009, Democrats have won every single statewide election. And from the House of Delegates to Congress to President Biden's 10-point victory, there is strong evidence that voters are choosing Democratic candidates more and more often. Virginia is increasingly becoming a Democratic state -- and the Congressional map should reflect that. The commission should use these testimonies to inform a fair map -- voters made a definitive statement last year when we voted for this commission. We want public input to be the basis for our maps!

DATE: 11/1/2021 2:47:46 PM

Name: Kathy Stark
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jstark25@cox.net
Locality: Norfolk
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Voters in Virginia deserve a congressional map that fairly represents the state and the voting trends of the past decade. A fair map in Virginia does not mean creating districts that will result in an equal number of Democratic and Republican representatives -- like what Republicans on the commission are demanding.

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Despite egregious Republican gerrymandering after the 2010 Census, Democrats now hold 7 out of 11 congressional districts, including districts that were drawn to prevent them from winning in the first place. A fair map would recognize that a majority of voters have supported Democratic candidates for Congress in recent elections and the district lines should not be manipulated to erase that.

Since 2009, Democrats have won every single statewide election. And from the House of Delegates to Congress to President Biden's 10-point victory, there is strong evidence that voters are choosing Democratic candidates more and more often. Virginia is increasingly becoming a Democratic state -- and the Congressional map should reflect that.

The commission should use these testimonies to inform a fair map -- voters made a definitive statement last year when we voted for this commission. We want public input to be the basis for our maps!

DATE: 11/1/2021 2:55:11 PM

Name: Richard Zimmermann
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: richardzimmermann@verizon.net
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

Thank you for forthrightly representing the Northern Virginia region during the Virginia Redistricting Commission sessions. Lots to say, reference materials on the website for everybody should have included LEVITT, Justin. A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting: 2010 Edition. The Brennan Center for Justice. . . .

- p.s. I am a life-long Democrat, and financial supporter of ABIGAIL SPANBERGER. Re my Congressional Plan #164, please note Congressional incumbents do not have to reside in their district. Voters who vote for Mr. MCAULLIFFE will not make any 'carpetbagger' aspersions. See Gov. PATRICK HENRY's attempt to lock out JAMES MADISON from the First Congress. Abigail's electoral base in Plan-06 is unchanged: Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Her command of Spanish is a huge asset for a Democratic candidate running among the meat-packing plants along I-81. The Harrisonburg population boom is in its two north wards of Spanish-speaking homes. The district includes VMI retirees, NC Goldboro Air Force Base District elected a Democratic Congressman in 2020; Norfolk Naval Station's two precincts voted for JOE BIDEN. All six Marine 4-star Generals left the Trump administration, JOHN ALLEN among them endorsed HILLARY at the 2016 National Convention . . .

In the Commission session, FRIDAY OCTOBER 22, Delegate MARCUS SIMON objected to what he called "SPLITTING" Northern Virginia districts to gerrymander resident urban settlements into exurban and rural areas, watering down their vote in the Virginia Congressional delegation.

Below are two maps. The FIRST MAP pictures all workers with MSA commuting ties in Northern Virginia into the "DC Metro Area", from SnapChat, "10 Ways to map Northern Virginia". Winchester & Frederick Co. are represented with ties in concentrations akin to those elsewhere in the NoVa exurban settlements, between 10% and 40% of the area's commuter total. The SECOND shows dots of dense population 'communities' on a VDOT Highway Map, commercially designated "center cities" or academically designated "city cores".

Rationale for dividing Fairfax County. District boundaries dividing large square-area localities with large populations, should follow local authority separations of their populations by cultures compatible with early childhood education, the PreK-5 school attendance zones. For instance, in Fairfax County US-50 separates school zones north-and-south for the preponderance of all adjacent PreK-5, Middle and High school residential areas. Note, in Plan #164 at the Congressional District tab, four are drawn within the NoVa MSA, or adjacent to it and no other.

Plan-11 is "Inside the Beltway" minority-opportunity,
Plan-10 is "NoVa-North" with Reston-Ashburn-Chantilly-Fairfax County north of US-50, majority-minority;
Plan-08 is "NoVa-South" with Springfield-Manassas-Woodbridge-Fairfax County south of US-50, majority-minority, black competitive;

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Plan-07 is “NoVa-Exburbs” with Winchester-Warrenton-Fredericksburg, minority-competitive. The Plan is easily amended to place Prince William County entirely within -08 by adding blocks from -07 to -08 per public comment, and ceding blocks east adjacent Leesburg from -08 to -07.

A standard-of-compactness such as court-approved tests – using (a) Length-Width against elongated ‘sausage’ shapes, (b) Polsby-Popper against jagged juts, and (c) Reock against tendril-fingers -- will establish limits on “sausage” districts meeting a “compact” visual impression, but gerrymandering urban habitat slices into a majority of remote, non-adjacent settlements made up of dissimilar habitats.

Earlier, Delegate MARCUS SIMON called on each team to draw districts IN REAL TIME before the Commission with their rationales. This was in line with Co-Chair Greta Harris call to use A DECISION TREE to incorporate Commission guidelines for public explanations of how district boundaries were drawn in each case.

SEE BELOW for a list of the nine (9) stated criteria for redistricting discussed in Commission sessions.

The US Census authoritatively publishes non-partisan maps of Virginian populations in “communities of interest” of adjacent localities (cities, counties, towns, census-determined-areas) with “social and economic” ties objectively determined by 2020 commuting patterns. The new MSA maps show changes for newly drawn Metropolitan Statistical Areas with over 50,000 “urban core”, and Micropolitan Statistical Areas over 10,000.

DECISION TREE for REDISTRICTING – outline.

9-RULES – imperatives & conditions

- Commission imperatives in apportionment by population into US Congressional Districts -

1. equal population: totals to range by 5% by law = target goal average + /- 2.5%.
2. compact: test LENGTH-WIDTH v. ‘sausage’, POLSBY-POPPER v. ‘juts’, REOCK v. ‘tendril-fingers’.
3. contiguous: adjacent like habitats, within the same MSA, then ‘spoke’ localities remote from dense ‘hub’.
4. communities of interest: socio-economic settlement tied by commutes in MSAs: cities, towns, census-designated-places under 50 square miles; historical residential areas; Chesapeake Bay shore-line localities.
5. Meet Voting Rights Act requirements; racial minorities communities in coalition can elect their preference.

-Commission redistricting conditions by statewide summary review -

6. DO NOT take voting results into consideration; summary view must justify non-competitive districts by compactness and adjacent like-habitat among urban, suburban, exurban, and rural settlements.
7. DO NOT take racial goals into consideration for each district; on summary view the plan must not reduce number of minority opportunity districts with greater than 40% total population.
8. DO NOT take incumbency into consideration; in Congressional districts, incumbents need not reside in the district elected. See Governor P. HENRY attempt to deny J. MADISON a seat.
9. DO start from scratch, without reference to the previously drawn districts. Meet the 8 previous criteria.

9-STEPS in a decision tree redistricting

Sequencing for redistricting begins with 11 Congressional districts, nests 100 Delegate districts into them, and finally aggregates 2.5 compact Delegate districts into 40 compact state Senate districts.

- The START point for a district from scratch, is a ‘node’ of dense settlement within an MSA. The SMAs have a dense-core settlement, and adjacent cities, counties, towns, & ‘designated census places’ – in socio-economic ‘communities-of-interest’ tied by commuting patterns. Each has an “urban” habitat with over 10,000 for Micropolitan “Micro-MSAs”, and over 50,000 for Metropolitan “Metro-MSAs”.

#1. Designate “center-of-density nodes” within each MSA comparable to “city core” or “center city” places. Three census blocks or precincts within a densely populated area -- based on US Census population data -- can provide a starting point from which to begin drawing districts of concentricity.

#2. Draw districts compactly radiating from a “center-of-density node”, acquire precincts of like density first. Habitat is variously dense settlement in “urban”, “suburban”, “exurban”, and “rural” areas. The individual’s chosen habitat and lifestyle is a priority “community of interest” for each district drawn.

#3. Add three to five “parcels” of census blocks or precinct of like habitat onto a growing draft-district along main thoroughfares, US highways, State Routes.

#4. Fill in gaps between thoroughfares to maintain a compact shape, an equilateral or oval-like figure. Rotate through the nodes of population to be distributed into districts to expand drafted districts incrementally. In summary view, measure compactness by tests of Length-Width against elongated ‘sausage’ districts, Polsby-Popper against ‘jutting spikes’, and Reock against ‘tendril-fingers’..

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- #5. Keep intact PreK-5 schools attendance zones. These are areas of compatible cultural settlement that local authorities find conducive for early childhood education. Families with children are a priority “community of interest”.
 - #6. Keep intact localities of less than 50 square miles, whether they are cities, counties, towns, or census designated places (CDPs). The “Lynchburg Rule”. These settlements often are made up of home-renters moving every 4-6 years, or home-owners moving every 6-8 year. They first relocate there for their children’s public education for the most part.
 - #7. Divide large area square-mile localities over 50 square miles as required for compactness using local authority separations of their populations by cultures which are compatible with early childhood education, the PreK-5 school attendance zones.
 - #8. Nest 8-9 Delegate districts within each Congressional district. Starting with the previous starting points. Divide 1-2 as required following the same procedures in steps #1-6. On summary review, 100 compact Delegate districts are nested within 11 compact Congressionals.
 - #9. Aggregate 2.5 Delegate districts to each state Senate district, such that at summary review, 40 compact delegate districts compactly span 100 Delegate districts that in turn are almost entirely nested as 9 within 11 compact Congressional districts.
- <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=79018b49ad&attid=0.2.0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1715220064526872533&th=17cdaf8fa1bf2fd5&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=17cc6dee931d500d11b1>
- <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=79018b49ad&attid=0.2.0.2&permmsgid=msg-f:1715220064526872533&th=17cdaf8fa1bf2fd5&view=att&disp=safe&realattid=17cc6dee931bbca48df2>
- <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=79018b49ad&attid=0.2.0.3&permmsgid=msg-f:1715220064526872533&th=17cdaf8fa1bf2fd5&view=att&disp=safe>

DATE: 11/2/2021 1:40:16 PM

Name: Rita Taylor
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: gr8fulrbt@gmail.com
Locality: Hampton
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Voters in Virginia deserve a congressional map that fairly represents the state and the voting trends of the past decade. A fair map in Virginia does not mean creating districts that will result in an equal number of Democratic and Republican representatives -- like what Republicans on the commission are demanding. Despite egregious Republican gerrymandering after the 2010 Census, Democrats now hold 7 out of 11 congressional districts, including districts that were drawn to prevent them from winning in the first place. A fair map would recognize that a majority of voters have supported Democratic candidates for Congress in recent elections and the district lines should not be manipulated to erase that. Since 2009, Democrats have won every single statewide election. And from the House of Delegates to Congress to President Biden’s 10-point victory, there is strong evidence that voters are choosing Democratic candidates more and more often. Virginia is increasingly becoming a Democratic state -- and the Congressional map should reflect that. The commission should use these testimonies to inform a fair map -- voters made a definitive statement last year when we voted for this commission. We want public input to be the basis for our maps!

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

Name: Carolyn Caywood
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: cacaywood@cox.bet

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
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Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

Name: Andrea Burford
Stakeholder Type: Other
Organization: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Email: momma2alexia@gmail.com
Locality: Chesapeake, VA 23323
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
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November 19, 2021

October 7, 2021

Delegate Marcus B. Simon

Falls Church, VA

Subject: Virginia 2021 Redistricting

Dear Delegate Simon:

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrea Burford

3113 Camelot Blvd.

Chesapeake, VA 23323

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

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

Name:

Anne Brennan

Stakeholder Type:

Private individual

Email:

annieb810@hotmail.com

Locality:

Williamsburg, VA 23185

Region:

Hampton Roads

Type of comment:

General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

Dear Commissioners:

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

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

Sincerely,

Anne Brennan

159 Lakewood Drive

Williamsburg, VA 23185

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
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DATE: 10/15/2021 8:44:00 AM

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

Please see my attached letter

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

022-Virginia Senate
101-A3 Statewide SD
103-B3 Statewide SD
116-Chase Tuck's State Senate Plan
119-Senate w Extra African American District
137-BobSenate20210924B
138-C2 Statewide SD
149-Chase Tuck's State Senate Plan Two
175-New Virginia Majority -State Senate
188-A4 Statewide SD
189-B4 Statewide SD
193-bennetts virginia senate
197-A5 Statewide SD

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

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

023-Virginia House
 100-A3 Statewide HOD
 102-B3 Statewide HOD

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

Plan #	Dev	%	Dem Safe	Dem Compete	Rep Safe	Rep Compete	Black Majority	Black Access	Asian Access	Reock	Polsby
023	6,530	7.59	47	17	31	20	10	11	3	0.4036	0.3341
100	6,530	7.59	47	17	31	20	10	11	3	0.4036	0.3341
102	6,530	7.59	47	17	31	20	10	11	3	0.4036	0.3341
120	6,138	7.01	48	22	26	21	6	17	3	0.3798	0.3292
131	4,366	5.00	48	21	26	21	6	19	2	0.3848	0.3043
154	90,617	108.73	46	20	32	19	9	13	2	0.3937	0.335
155	8,580	10.29	46	21	27	25	10	14	3	0.389	0.3203
157	7,967	9.08	47	22	26	20	7	15	4	0.3823	0.3248
162	4,288	4.88	43	26	26	29	11	12	3	0.394	0.3249
173	8,876	10.54	48	21	28	17	7	14	2	0.389	0.3
180	8,314	9.98	46	21	28	24	11	13	3	0.3902	0.3261
185	8,434	10.12	46	20	28	24	11	13	3	0.3857	0.3247

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186	8,185	9.82	49	17	31	17	10	14	2	0.397 5	0.327 9
198	8,752	10.50	46	21	28	24	11	13	3	0.384 7	0.324 5

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

As I watched the Commission meeting Friday afternoon, I shared the sorrow and frustration I heard. It is clear that there are structural problems with the design of the Commission. Nevertheless, I took Mr. Feliciano's comment as an injunction to look at the new maps. Today as I did so, I found that there is a second structural problem in how they are presented. The colors are distracting and the disjointed numbering hides the fact that many districts are nearly identical because that's what the demographics dictate. I believe that if you could arrange for map overlays, without colors and numbers, this would become visible. Then it would be possible to make adjustments until the result was one map. That draft could then be tested for compliance with the criteria and further adjusted. I suppose the mapping platform was not really intended for duelling maps, but I believe it has done you a real disservice and exacerbated tensions.

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
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November 19, 2021

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

Name: Richard Zimermann, Jr
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: richardzimermann@verizon.net
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

I am 72, a fifty-year voter in Virginia including a homeowner in Harrisonburg for seven years. I travelled Rockingham County as a Public School Visiting Teacher investigating truancy and child abuse for a year, then I taught at Elkton in the 1970s High School there. For the next decade I pursued a construction career and completed an MBA at James Madison University, working pro bono with small businesses as a course requirement.

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I returned to teaching in Fairfax County, retiring to Chesapeake, Virginia. I am deeply appreciative of the public service performed by Redistricting Commissioners. Thank you one and all.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name: Alan J Stein
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: alan.stein.as@gmail.com
Locality: Virginia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

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

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

Name: BillFleming

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – HAMPTON ROADS REGION
November 19, 2021

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

COMMENTS:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
My name is Bill Fleming, and I have lived in Virginia Beach, VA since 1994. Previously I live in Petersburg, VA and Alexandria, VA. I am writing to raise what I feel is an important metric regarding the redistricting process. Since the Redistricting Commission is getting maps from partisan sources I strongly recommending that an independent nonpartisan non-Virginian organization be given the final opportunity to provide an alternative redistricting solution. The organization about which I am most familiar is MGGG Redistricting Lab (<https://mggg.org/>) which was recently covered in the Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/virginia-redistricting-gerrymandering-math-geometry/2021/09/03/8003790e-0b4c-11ec-aea1-42a8138f132a_story.html?fbclid=IwAR1TTWv2I-3ze_Ax4nx4Xsek5DotfRaMjIn39UotdIOFvYamF3B4JSun8Q)

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

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

COMMENTS:

Ladies and Gentlemen,
My name is Bill Fleming, and I have lived in Virginia Beach, VA since 1994. Previously I live in Petersburg, VA and Alexandria, VA. I am writing to raise what I feel is an important metric regarding the redistricting process. One of the frequent characteristics of Gerrymandering is that the gerrymandered districts are long non-compact. These districts have large perimeters compared to the area of the district. For example, If a district were a square with width of 4 miles and length of 4 miles, the perimeter would be $4 \times 4 = 16$ miles while the area would be $4 \times 4 = 16$ square miles. However, if the district were a rectangle of 16 mile long and 1 mile wide, the perimeter would be $16 + 16 + 1 + 1 = 34$ miles while the area would still be 16 square miles ($16 \times 1 = 16$). In the first case of a compact square, the ratio of perimeter to area is $P/A = 16/16 = 1$. In the case of the long rectangle, $P/A = 34/16 = 2.125$. Thus, the ratio of perimeter to area (P/A) is an indicator of a non-compact district. Therefore, I recommend that you use the P/A number for all districts as an indicator of a district not being compact. I would suggest setting a threshold of this ratio to be the point that should not be passed. An upper threshold of 1.3 is probably reasonable.

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

Name: Suzan Griffin
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: sjgriffin@widomaker.com
Locality: james city county

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – HAMPTON ROADS REGION
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Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – HAMPTON ROADS REGION
November 19, 2021

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

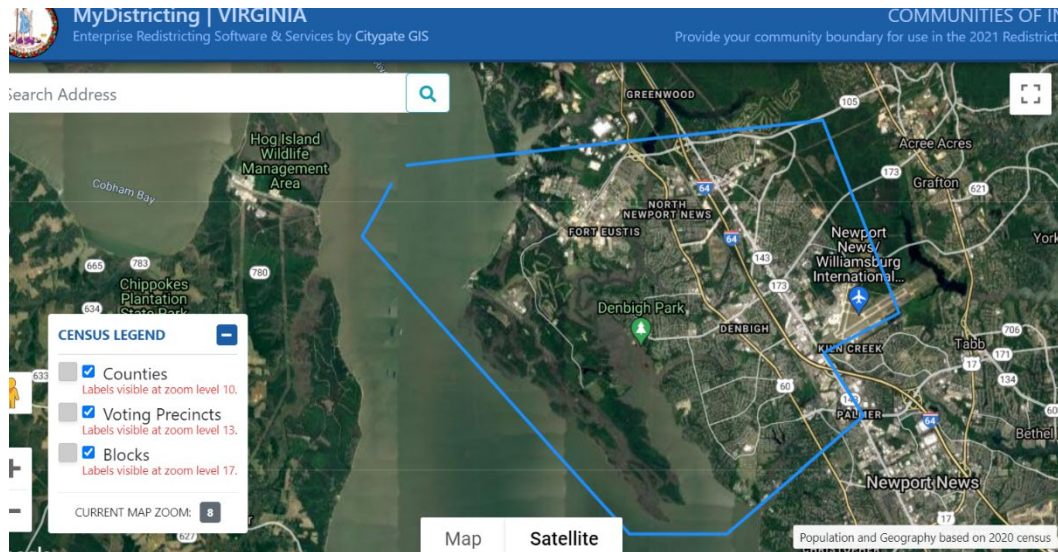
Community of interest name: Denbigh Community

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

COMMENTS:

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

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 November 19, 2021



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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

Name: Bob West

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: bobwestva@gmail.com

Locality: Norfolk

Region: **Hampton Roads**

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

Favor or disfavor any political party

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under Virginia Code "A map of districts shall not, when considered an a statewide base, unduly favor or disfavor any political party." VA Code Ann 24.2-

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304.04(8)

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

Minority majority-black seats

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BobSenateVA District 16 is district with 50.18% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.3810 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.2231. Bigger number is better. The district does split 6 county lines.

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

C2 Statewide SD District 26 is a district with 52.03% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.2945 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.1109. This is a Reock 0.2019 lower than the plan BobSenateVA District 9 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.2212 lower. Bigger number is better in these numbers. The district does split county 5 county lines.

C2 Statewide SD District 27 is a district with 52.36% black population. Dave's Redistricting gives the district a Reock of 0.2231 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.1756. This is a Reock 0.1579 lower than the plan BobSenateVA District 16 and a Polsby-Popper of 0.0475 lower. Bigger number is better in these numbers. The district does split county 3 county lines.

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

Name: Nicholas Proffitt
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: nproffitt712@gmail.com
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topics of interest: Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

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

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

Name: Nicholas Proffitt
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: nproffitt712@gmail.com
Locality: Chesapeake
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topics of interest: Communities of interest, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: Great Bridge/Hickory
Community of interest description: Most of current Southeastern and Central parts of House District 78

COMMENTS:

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

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

Name: Richard Hagen
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: rhagen12@verizon.net
Locality: Virgninia Beach
Region: **Hampton Roads**

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – HAMPTON ROADS REGION
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Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topics of interest: Population equality, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

Name: Mike Joseph
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: mjoseph@tni.net
Locality: Williamsburg, Virginia
Region: **Hampton Roads**
Type of comment: Comment on a map

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
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Topics of interest: Numbering HOD, State Senate, and Congressional Districts

COMMENTS:

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

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

COMMENT:

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

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

COMMENT:

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

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
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- GUIDE #1: Draw districts compact and contiguous.

- GUIDE #2: Draw districts “equal” in population, where “equal” is by law a range of 5%, or smallest (average – 2.5%) to largest (average + 2.5%) * in the DRAFT “Nesting Scheme” examples, use a range of +/- 2.0% : smallest CD = 760,480 & smallest DD = 76,048.

- GUIDE #3: Draw districts by “communities of interest”: by policy aggregate “communities of interest” by how the citizens reside in elementary PK-5 school zones, whether those “communities of interest” are found by aggregating like cultural & social, commercial & economic, or geographic & historical settlement population characteristics.

- GUIDE #4: Draw districts to clarify and unify neighborhood communities represented in each district: (a) respect locality boundaries wherever possible and (b) nest smaller districts within larger, so that

(i) most neighborhoods attending the same PK-5 schools are within the same delegate, state senate & congressional district.

(ii) most living in the densest settlements are within the same delegate, state senate & congressional district, and

(iii) most residents in their neighborhoods within the largest population localities, reside within the same nested delegate, state senate, and congressional district, even when the very largest localities must be apportioned to draw districts of equal populations.

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

- NOT as self-interested organizations for self-serving partisan interests,

- but AS NEIGHBORS in a common social contract that they enter into by geographic proximity within districts that are:

(i) contiguous (as resolved by the 1842 Jacksonian Democrats in Congress),

(ii) in compact (as resolved by the 1872 Lincoln-Republicans in Congress), and

(iii) of equal population (as resolved by the 1911 Progressives in Congress [in a coalition of Teddy Roosevelt-Republicans & Grover Cleveland-Democrats]).

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

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

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

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

SUBJECT: Va SENATE districts

COMMENT:

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Commission:

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

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

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

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

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

SUBJECT: Chesapeake and the 4th Congressional District

COMMENT:

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

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

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COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners:

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

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

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

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

Thanks. Rick Zimmermann

Richard Zimmermann

1226 Brookside Landing

Chesapeake VA 23320

cell phone: 703-946-7543

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

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

REGION: Hampton Roads

LOCALITY: Chesapeake

COMMENT:

Commission Staff:

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

Thank you for receiving them now.

John Stone

757-630-7472

Virginia Redistricting Commission July 31,2021

Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor

900 E. Main Street

Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Members of the Commission:

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

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

It also led to noncompetitive elections. Since 2003, I have lived in both the 18th and 14th State Senatorial districts. In the 18th District, the incumbent has been unopposed in four out of five elections and won with 70% of the vote in 2003. The incumbent in the 14th District has been

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unopposed in three of five elections and won the other two with 71% and 60% of the vote. Democracy is always stronger when the voters have a meaningful choice. Because of all this, I enlisted 15 years ago in the long and exhausting fight to make Virginia's redistricting process bi-partisan or non-partisan. (I am proud to be a member of the OneVirginia2021 Foundation Board of Directors). I believed strongly that we should have an independent citizen-controlled commission to draw the new lines every 10 years. While that's not exactly what has happened, I believe we have the means to make the process more equitable and more transparent. And I salute all of you on the Virginia Redistricting Commission for agreeing to take on arguably the most important task in recent history in our state. Chapter 1265 of the Virginia Acts of Assembly (SB 717 in the 2020 Legislative Session) requires the commission on which you serve to draw lines that: do not discriminate against racial and ethnic minorities; that preserve communities of interest; that provide for compact and contiguous districts; and that do not "when considered on a statewide basis, unduly favor or disfavor any political party." Those are all important. I would also urge that you-to the extent possible- respect jurisdictional boundaries. Currently, the incumbent in the 14th State Senatorial district represents portions of seven different cities and counties, some of them obviously with conflicting interests. The incumbent in the 18th district represents all of or parts of twelve jurisdictions. This does not allow for effective representation, no matter how many hours the senator works or how many miles they must drive. In addition, the city of Chesapeake is currently represented by three senators and six delegates. That seems like a few too many for me, although it's not as bad as Fairfax County- represented by nine senators and eighteen delegates. Of Chesapeake's nine legislators, just four actually live there. The city of Suffolk is represented by six legislators, only one of whom lives in Suffolk. I do not subscribe to the argument that redistricting is necessarily a political task which can be done only by politicians. That narrative puts our legislators in a difficult position in which they are perceived as working to advance their own political interests. I do believe strongly that every seat in the Virginia Senate, the House of Delegates, and the United States House of Representatives belongs not to the elected official who might currently hold it; every seat belongs to the people of Virginia, who have a vested interest in seeing that those seats are held by the individual- Republican or Democrat, male or female-most capable of doing the job. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and thank you for your commitment to this great state of Virginia. Sincerely,
John T. Stone
John.stone344@gmail.com
757-630-7472

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

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community?
Greenbrier is the downtown of Chesapeake, Va. We work hard for the money and all we see is

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Vic nicholls

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

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

COMMENT:

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

Commissioners:

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

Sincerely,

Richard Zimermann, 1226 Brookside Landing, Chesapeake VA 23320.

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

COMMENT:

Commissioners:

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

Mostly nesting three kinds of districts by water shed can reflect the political community's common interest in (a) waste water treatment and water reclamation in droughts, and (b) runoff management from parking lots & fields for flood and pollution control. --

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

Sincerely,
Rick Zimmermann
1226 Brookside Landing
Chesapeake VA 23320

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

COMMENT:

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

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

COMMENT:

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

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

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SUBJECT: Redistricting

COMMENT:

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

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:21:07 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: VDenise Harrington
EMAIL: Dharrington1619@gmail.com
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: James City County

SUBJECT: My District

COMMENT:

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

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 6:51:57 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Sharron Kitchen Miller <skitchenmiller@yahoo.com>
REGION: Hampton Roads
LOCALITY: Newport News

COMMENT:

August 11, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

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

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

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

With the release of the U.S. Census data, a new phase of your work is about to begin. Our organization will continue to encourage public participation regarding all aspects of fair and balanced reform through the many educational tools we have assembled and share with all who are engaged in this process.

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On behalf of our volunteer base of tens of thousands who reside in every corner of Virginia, I respectfully ask that your members remain mindful that an overwhelming majority of voters supported the creation of this commission in full agreement that all want fair electoral maps - regardless of political party. We have often said that the notion of "fairness" is not about right vs. left, it is about right vs. wrong. Please keep this in mind as you enter the next stage of the critically important work with which you have been tasked.

Thank you again for your efforts thus far and we stand at the ready to assist in whatever way we may be of help.

Sincerely,

Sharron Kitchen Miller

Newport News VA

Sharron Kitchen Miller, OneVirginia2021 Foundation Board President

onevirginia2021foundation.org

skitchernmiller@yahoo.com

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

COMMENT:

Thank you for deciding to start with a blank slate. I feel a little better about your work. Now, could you take the next step and choose a nonpartisan consultant for the audit? I am a little confused by your stance that you 'could not' find nonpartisan experts in other areas of your work. How hard did you look? Did you ask University resources for suggestions?

Mary Louise Barhydt

5555 Lakewood Drive

Norfolk, VA 23509

757-855-1440

barhydt@cox.net

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;

It's about learning to dance in the rain.

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

COMMENT:

I urge you to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any redistricting maps that are considered.

Thomas Van Tiem

9541 12th Bay St

Norfolk, VA 23518

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

COMMENT:

To: all members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission

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From: a concerned citizen

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

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

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mary Louise Antieau Barhydt

5555 Lakewood Drive

Norfolk, VA 23509

757-855-1440

barhydt@cox.net

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;

It's about learning to dance in the rain.

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

SUBJECT: Start from scratch redistricting

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUBJECT: Redistricting Virginia Beach

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

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

SUBJECT: August 23rd meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENT:

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

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

SUBJECT: Congressional Redistricting

COMMENT:

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

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<https://davesredistricting.org/join/d70c52be-a8fe-47ed-81ed-dabec3d5cffc>

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

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 9:38:23 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: stuart dopp <stuardopp75@gmail.com>
REGION: **Hampton Roads**
LOCALITY: Williamsburg

COMMENT:

Having participated in One VA 2021 campaigns both at the polls and in other ways, I am distressed to see the politicization of this redistricting process. I live in one of the most gerrymandered districts in the Commonwealth, a ridiculous configuration that snakes through the country side from Jamestown to above Fredericksburg with no rhyme or reason other than the ambitions of politicians. This kind of selfishness is a disgrace to our democracy and an affront to those who have worked so hard to bring a more fair and rational approach to this sticky wicket.

I cannot be in Richmond on Monday morning, but will be there in spirit.

Thank you for serving and for, hopefully, honoring the best interests of all of us,
Virginia Stuart Dopp
5182 Rollison Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23188

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

COMMENT:

Dear Committee,

I am a very concerned citizen (along with MANY others) that wants to have fair elections in Virginia. My district was unfairly sliced up during the last "drawing of the lines" and it goes from Tidewater to Fredericksburg.

PLEASE work together to allow ALL Virginians to have their voices heard and let every vote count. STOP Gerrymandering and show the rest of America how fair elections can be held in our state. Let the lines be drawn by a non-partisan committee.

WE DO CARE.

Thank you.

Sarah Dixon
104 Kathryn Court
Williamsburg, VA 23185

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

COMMENT:

I came from Williamsburg today for your meeting. Though I didn't speak, I was so pleased to see the important work you are doing. As a strong supporter for the values associated with the LWV, OneVirginia2021, Unitarian Universalists, VICPP, etc., today's session was the best one I ever

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attended in Richmond!!

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

Les Solomon

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Solomons, 113 Wetherburn La Williamsburg, VA 23188

Cell phone:

Les (he, him) 757 202-1909

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

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

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

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

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

between. I know OneVirginia2021 will offer some constructive alternatives.

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

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

Very respectfully,

Ernie Gates

Williamsburg

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

Dear Commissioners:

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

We have several ways in which to connect in this area that I enjoy: the Osher Institute for continuing education is very popular and well attended; we have social events once a month to connect with neighbors in many different interest areas; and the James River is a beautiful waterway for relaxation and kyacks. The campus of William and Mary is open, beautiful, and full

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

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

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

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? I find it quite disconcerting that we cannot see the commission members during commission meetings. At the very least, members should be introduced at each meeting. Also how many commission members have completed the training for Citygate ? This is very important to the process !
Dr Janet Moore Ross
Williamsburg, Va.
Sincerely,
Dr. Janet Ross
117 Roffinghams Way Williamsburg, VA 23185-8915 ajross31@hotmail.com

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

COMMENT:
Thanks for the super majority vote in favor of drawing district lines from scratch.

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As part of the process, it's imperative to have independent expert 'number crunchers, to make a 'more perfect' set of new maps. Let the numbers and the criteria steer the process and the rest will fall into place .

George Allen Johnston
York County Voter
571.451.9757
Sent from my iPad

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

COMMENT:

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