



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comment re: selection process meeting tomorrow

1 message

Aaron Barden <ajbarden94@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 3:46 PM

Good afternoon Selection Committee Members,

I appreciate your service in this new redistricting process.

As you fulfill your duties, I hope you will maintain the current pool's relatively good reflection of Virginia's diversity. In particular, please make selections that ensure regional, racial, gender, and economic diversity on the Commission.

The new Commission will only be effective if every Virginian can see themselves in its members.

Again, thank you for your service in this historic process.

Sincerely,
Aaron Barden



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comments on Commission Selection: Choose Independents

1 message

Ankit Jain <ajankit92@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 8:24 PM

Hello,

My name is Ankit Jain--I'm a northern Virginia resident and campaigned in favor of this redistricting commission. One of the main expectations we had for the citizen commissioners was that they would be independent from the politicians and would put the interests of the voters before that of politicians. I am requesting you honor the intent of this amendment by foregrounding in your mind the political independence of the finalists as you make your selections.

Further, many Virginians do not identify with either major political party, and they deserve representation on this commission. To maximize independence and political diversity, I specifically request you choose one finalist who does not identify with either major party from each slate of candidates. Because the Senate Democrats forwarded only one such candidate--Kimball W. Brace--I am requesting you to choose him for the commission.

Among the independent finalists forwarded by Republicans, I request you to choose someone who has no history of donating to Republicans to ensure the person is truly independent.

Finally, I am requesting you not to choose Marvin W. Gilliam for the commission. Mr. Gilliam has a history of donating large amounts of money to Republican candidates, indicating a strong relationship with Republican leaders. I do not trust him to place the interests of all Virginians over those of Republican leaders.

To summarize, I am asking you, first, to consider the likelihood any finalist will act independently of political leaders in all deliberation. Second, I am asking you to take one citizen who does not identify with either party from each slate forwarded to you. Finally, I am requesting you not to choose Marvin W. Gilliam for the commission. I hope you will help us effectuate the intent of this amendment.

Best,
Ankit Jain



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Candidates

1 message

Jennifer Woofter <jennifer@sustainabilityconsulting.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 4:38 PM

Hello Selection Committee members,

Thank you in advance for your service to advance a fair and effective redistricting process. You have an incredibly important job (as I'm sure you know!) and the citizens of Virginia are counting on you to represent competing and often contradictory interests. I wish you the best in this challenging but worthy endeavor.

It was natural to see that the legislator "short list" of 64 citizens included primarily Republican citizens from rural areas and Democratic candidates from the urban areas -- since that is how our General Assembly is primarily constituted. However, I would like to suggest that you select at least one of Democratic citizen member of the commission from outside of the urban crescent area.

Why? We have significant Democratic presences in rural Virginia municipalities that should not be overlooked. Our numbers are often obscured by the existing gerrymandering that has split places like Lynchburg into two House of Delegate districts and two State Senate districts (all VERY safely Republican). However, voting within Lynchburg City limits is often very close to 50-50, and indeed went Democratic in the 2019 Presidential election, with 5-2 Democratic representation on the City Council. **The message: rural Democrats exist and we should have a voice in the redistricting process.**

I'm sure the reverse holds true as well, with Republican contingents in urban areas, and so I encourage you to look broadly at how to ensure a balanced representation across the entire Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to watching the livestream of the meeting tomorrow.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Woofter

Strategic Sustainability Consulting, President
VA House of Delegates, 2019 Candidate (HD-22)
ROSEL's List, Co-Chair
League of Women Voters – Lynchburg, Membership Chair
Lynchburg City Schools, Equity Task Force Member
Small Business Development Center, Business Advisor
Mentor Capital Network, Business Mentor
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

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VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTAL

1 message

SWells679 <itswells@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 3:14 AM

To: VAREDIST@dls.virginia.gov

- 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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

High dollar donars

1 message

Roger miller <rogerd.miller@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:09 PM

High dollar donors already have inordinate influence in how our government functions. They don't also need a seat deciding who our representatives are. The purpose of the amendment was to give voters confidence that our leaders served the interests of their constituents, not special interests. If relatives of former electeds are disqualified, shouldn't mega-donors be too?

Thank you for hearing me out,

Roger Miller



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting commission

1 message

Victoria Higgins <victoriahiggins14@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:14 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to object to the inclusion on the commission of a citizen member, Marvin Gilliam, who has donated over \$900,000 to Republican candidates. The commission is intended to draw non-partisan maps, and the inclusion of a member with such obvious partisan intent casts doubt on the objectivity of the maps that will be drawn.

While there may be no criteria to prevent the inclusion of such a member, Virginians must have confidence in the commission to produce fair maps. A member who has used considerable personal wealth to influence the political process in the favor of one party will undermine faith in the process.

Thank you,
Victoria Higgins
SD 9 / HD 69

Sent from my iPhone