

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comments on selection committee plan

1 message

Anna Scholl <anna@progressva.org> To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 10:59 AM

Good morning,

I write this morning to submit comments on the proposed citizen application for membership on the redistricting committee, as well as the proposed advertising plan to recruit applicants.

Throughout the push to establish a redistricting commission, there have been frequent concerns expressed about ensuring diversity in representation. That concern should extend to diversity in socioeconomic background and education as well. The multiple fields to provide information about education experience and degrees earned sends the clear message that citizens should have extensive schooling in order to participate in the redistricting process. I would strongly recommend the committee include additional disclaimers clarifying that a college degree or other higher education is not required to apply or participate in the commission.

Similarly, I wish to raise concerns regarding the proposed advertising plan. As the meeting materials clearly note, focusing advertising on print newspapers and newspaper websites primarily reaches "affluent, educated audiences." Advertising designed to reach that specific audience will only ensure applications to the commission are similarly skewed to well-off and educated people--not reflective of the commonwealth. I strongly encourage the committee to consider more diverse modes of advertising on platforms as part of a plan designed to reach an audience as diverse as the people who live here.

Best,

Anna Scholl

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Sent with Shift



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Comment on Redistricting Commission Virginia Residency Requirement

1 message

Greg Delawie <delawiegt5@gmail.com> To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov Wed, Nov 25, 2020 at 3:27 PM

Regarding the three-year VA residency requirement, I hope this will be interpreted to mean legal residency (domicile), rather than physical presence in the Commonwealth. I raise this because I believe military or Foreign Service personnel who may have been domiciled in VA for years should be eligible to serve, even if they were temporarily absent during some of the three-year period, whether in the US or abroad on assignment for the US government, assuming they maintained their domicile in VA (driver's license, pay VA state taxes, etc).

Greg Delawie Ambassador (Ret)