

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

Virginia Redistricting Commission to Receive Public Comment on Southwest Region Redistricting

July 29, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

The Virginia Redistricting Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Thursday, **July 29, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** to receive public comment relating to drawing of state and congressional legislative districts in the Southwest region of Virginia.

The Southwest region, as defined by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, includes the Counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise and the Cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton.

Participants must register to speak at least 24 hours in advance on the Commission's website. Comments will be limited to three minutes. Participation guidelines and additional information on accessing the hearing is available on the Commission's website at <https://www.virginiaredistricting.org>.

A total of eight public hearings will be held in summer 2021. Additional virtual public hearings are scheduled for the West Central region (July 15), Eastern region (July 22), and Valley region (August 5). In-person public hearings are scheduled for Farmville (July 13, Southside region), Norfolk (July 20, Hampton Roads region), Fairfax (July 27, Northern region), and Richmond (August 3, Central region).

The eight summer hearings take place prior to the Commission's receipt of census data and the drawing of proposed redistricting maps. Comments on the map drawing process and defining communities of interest are encouraged. Eight additional regional public hearings will be held in September 2021 to receive public comment after the Commission draws proposed redistricting maps.

All hearings will be livestreamed and archived on the Commission's website. The Commission will endeavor to accommodate requests for accessibility accommodations, including sign language interpretation, received up to 48 hours prior to the public hearing. Please submit such requests to varedist@dls.virginia.gov or (804) 698-1888.

Written public comment may be submitted at any time to varedist@dls.virginia.gov. Written comments are posted on the Commission's website in full.

The Virginia Redistricting Commission is a constitutionally created body approved by the voters of Virginia in 2020. The Commission will draw Virginia's congressional and state legislative districts in 2021. **For updates and additional information, visit the Commission's website:**

<https://www.virginiaredistricting.org>