

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 118

DATE: 10/6/2021 3:13:25 PM

Name: Charnel Williams
Stakeholder Type: Organization staff
Organization: Campus Vote Project
Email: cjmj1354@gmail.com
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Virginia State University

Community of interest description: Hi, my name is Charnel Williams. I am a transfer and junior at Virginia State University. I have attended school at Virginia State university for two years, and have lived in the city of Petersburg for a full year. I am also participating in a college student Redistricting Fellowship with Campus Vote Project, an organization that is empowering college students to have a voice in their state's redistricting process. In the Virginia State University community, we need representatives who will listen to, understand, and advocate for our needs.

Virginia State University and the surrounding community are diverse with a larger minority population in comparison to other communities throughout our state. Virginia State University students rent apartments and homes in areas neighboring our campus and, as such, the minority population in these communities is quite significant. With students finding a home at Virginia State University or in areas neighboring our campus, they also account for a significant amount of local employment such as: mall jobs, jobs on the Boulevard near campus, local grocery stores, and even some places as far as Richmond. The community also has many students who start their own businesses, providing a service or selling a product. This is a very affable community with many students that would like to make this their permanent home.

Although the community is close and tight-knit, our voting districts are not. While the State University community is well intact at the Congressional District level, I am concerned about where the current lines are drawn for our State Districts. While the physical boundaries of our campus community are intact within State House District 63 and State Senate District 16, a significant number of students who reside in the Colonial Heights area to the east are situated in State House District 66 and State Senate District 11. When students look to participate in elections, they are oftentimes confused about who is representing them. This is because our community is not yet considered a Community of Interest and kept in tact at all levels of government.

Virginia State University and the heavily student-populated surrounding areas should be considered a Community of Interest when redrawing our district lines as part of Virginia's ongoing redistricting process. We as a community would benefit by being a part of the same district because, despite varying political views, we share similar political concerns.

In conclusion, I believe that as a community in the same district we would receive representation that better meets our needs. This is home for a lot of us, so proper representation is crucial to our livelihood. While some may just be here for school, there are others here that have already made this their permanent community or plan to in the future. We account for many jobs both on and off campus, and some begin their careers here as well. Adding the Colonial Heights area to the existing State Districts of Virginia State University would allow them to see proper representation. Thank you for considering Virginia State University and our community as a Community of Interest moving forward.

Thank you.

DATE: 10/6/2021 11:13:22 AM

Name: Christopher B. Seaman
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: cbseaman@gmail.com
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map# 198 A7 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (10-3-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Albemarle/Charlottesville
Community of interest description: Albemarle County, Charlottesville City, and part/all of Nelson County

COMMENTS:

I am a Professor of Law at Washington and Lee University, where I teach Election Law. As an election law scholar and a citizen of Albemarle County, I strongly oppose the Republican-drawn map for House of Delegates, which divides Albemarle County into 3 pieces (HD-74, HD-75, and HD-76). The citizens of Albemarle County -- which have overwhelmingly voted Democratic in local, statewide, and federal elections -- have had our voices diluted in the VA House of Delegates for the past decade precisely because of this sort of pernicious partisan gerrymandering, where our county of approximately 110,000 was fragment into four separate districts. My own district, HD 25, currently runs from the Charlottesville bypass (US-29) to the West Virginia border, deliberately avoiding pockets of Democratic voters in Waynesboro, Staunton, and Harrisonburg to be a Republican gerrymander. The citizens of Albemarle deserve to be as unified as possible going forward. As a result, we should be in only 2 Districts. The first District should include Charlottesville and some portion of Albemarle County to reach optimal population. The second District could be the rest of Albemarle and our neighbor to the south, Nelson County, with whom we share a community of interest, as we share common newspapers, television stations, and commuting patterns. This would be a compact District that would keep the citizens of Albemarle together as much as possible while also addressing the concern raised by some members of this commission regarding the Democratic map crossing the mountains between Augusta and Albemarle.

DATE: 10/6/2021 7:51:10 AM

Name: Ken Chasin
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: OneVirginia 2021
Email: kenchasin1@gmail.com
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation
Community of interest name: Urban versus Rural

COMMENTS:

Good afternoon. My name is Ken Chasin. I reside in Albemarle County which is located in Virginia's 5th Congressional District.
I am requesting that the election map for Virginia's fifth congressional district be redrawn because the district has been severely gerrymandered and has resulted in the following situation:
1. The district is Virginia's largest U.S. congressional district with an area of 10,000 plus square miles and is larger in area than six US states (Vermont, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Hampshire).
2. The 5th District contains counties located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Region stretching vertically across the state from the Virginia-North Carolina Border going 250 miles up to in Northern Virginia, 40 miles southwest of Washington DC.
3. As of 2019, the population of the district was approximately 736,00 residents which equates to just 72 residents per square mile and
4. The district is approximately 2/3 rural and 1/3 urban which tilts the playing field in favor of Republicans as rural voters almost invariably vote Republican.
In conclusion, the Virginia 5th congressional district must and needs to be redrawn to reduce its square miles and result in a more equitable voter distribution among rural and urban voters.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

DATE: 10/5/2021 4:07:35 PM

Name: Mark Heinicke
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Self
Email: markjheinicke@gmail.com
Locality: Ruckersville Virginia, in Greene County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: B4 Statewide SD (Map #189) and A5 Statewide SD (Map #197)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Greene County
Community of interest description: A largely rural county in central Virginia with commercial and dense residential development confined to a narrow corridor around a major artery.

COMMENTS:

ARGUMENTS FOR MAKING SENATE DISTRICT 31 A COMPOSITE OF NELSON, ALBEMARLE, GREENE, AND FLUVANNA COUNTIES, AND THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, AND TO EXCLUDE THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

The arguments are institutional, economic, geographical, and demographical, as follows.

THE BASIS:

1. The four counties and the city of Charlottesville are all in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission. The purpose of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission is to “assist our local member governments, partners, and stakeholders with a variety of technical and program services.” Buckingham County, however, is not in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District.
 2. Buckingham County is not in the Central Region of this Public Hearing, whereas the other counties and the city of Charlottesville are.
 3. The counties of Greene, Albemarle, Nelson, and the city of Charlottesville are traversed north to south by U.S. Rte. 29, which connects them economically and facilitates cultural and recreational exchange. Geographically, all three join the eastern flank of the Blue Ridge Mountains with the Piedmont region.
 4. The aggregate population of the five entities by the 2020 census is 221,175, with a deviation of just 2.5% above the Senate district target of 215,785.
 5. Albemarle County (pop. ~ 111,000) and the City of Charlottesville (pop. ~ 47,000) account for about 70% of the total population of the five entities, and 44% of the total area (731 of 1,644 square miles).
 6. The character of the five entities together represents a balance between rural and urban/suburban development, with Nelson and Fluvanna Counties mostly rural throughout, and Greene County largely rural except along the Rte. 29 corridor in the eastern part of the county where commercial and residential development has become highly active but is confined to the corridor by the Greene County Comprehensive Plan. The 29 corridor in Greene represents a northern extension of the kind of development found in eastern Albemarle County
 7. As one who has personally lived in Greene County for 11 years and in Nelson County for the previous 10 years, I strongly believe that the two counties are very similar in overall character culturally and demographically, and provide a psychological relief valve from the hustle and bustle of eastern Albemarle and the city of Charlottesville.
- RELATIONSHIP OF SENATE DISTRICT 31 TO THE STATEWIDE SENATE REDISTRICTING MAPS A5 AND B4
- District 31 of the A5 Statewide Senate District map contains Nelson County but not Greene County, and the B4 Statewide Senate District map contains Greene County but not Nelson County. In both maps Albemarle County dominates in population and commercial activity. Both maps currently contain Buckingham County, which has less in common with Albemarle than do either Nelson or Greene, as reflected by the composition of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission noted above.
- Both Nelson and Greene have much stronger arguments in favor of belonging to a District 31 that is dominated by Albemarle County in population and commercial activity, than does Buckingham County.
- Therefore it is logical and reasonable that District 31 should include both Nelson and Greene counties, and exclude Buckingham County. Neither map A5 nor B4 accomplishes this.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

IF, however, it is an either/or proposition that the choice is between the A5 map that excludes Greene from District 31 but includes Nelson, or the B4 map that includes Greene but excludes Nelson, then logic and reason argue in favor of the B4 map, putting Greene in District 31. The reason is clear to anyone who drives U.S. Route 29 across the three counties, because there is greater continuity between Albemarle County and Greene County than between Albemarle County and Nelson County, on account of differences in commercial and residential development along the Route 29 corridor.

DATE: 10/5/2021 2:15:23 PM

Name: Muriel Grim
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: msgrim2012@gmail.com
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #155 A4 Statewide HOD -- Commission plan (9-29-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest, geographic boundaries

COMMENTS:

So that they can speak for the majority of their constituents it is very important that elected officials represent areas that are defined by a common physical, cultural, and economic identity. A map that divides Albemarle County disassociates the residents from an important common identity – residents of the Charlottesville area. Please produce a map that keeps Albemarle as whole as possible with the only possible requirement for breaking up the county being physical geography barriers.

DATE: 10/4/2021 3:22:50 PM

Name: Edward D Hess
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: hesse@darden.virginia.edu
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Redistricting MAP
Map: 81
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Charlottesville- Albemarle

COMMENTS:

Don't divide Albemarle — I oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle.

DATE: 10/4/2021 10:31:23 AM

Name: Linda Seaman
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: lindaseaman24@gmail.com
Locality: Albemarle
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest description: Albemarle and Charlottesville

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

COMMENTS:

Albemarle and Charlottesville form a community of interest. The Democrats map reflects this. Please just 2 House Districts for Albemarle County.

DATE: 10/3/2021 4:48:31 PM

Name: James R Freeland
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: freelandj@darden.virginia.edu
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

COMMENTS:

I strongly support either of the two proposals by the Democrats. Albemarle and Charlottesville should be together as they have strong connections. I strongly oppose the Republican House of Delegates map. It makes no sense to think of the interests and communities of Greene County, Orange County, and Amherst as being similar to Albemarle County and Charlottesville. These are rural area with much different agendas.

DATE: 10/2/2021 7:23:17 PM

Name: Ellie Syverud
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: ellie7349@gmail.com
Locality: Crozet VA
Region: **Central**
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:

Don't divide Albemarle — oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle. Keep Albemarle (and Charlottesville) together as a community of interest. Everyone in Albemarle shares economic and cultural ties to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia. The Democratic map shows that there is no need to divide Albemarle to get districts of equal population. The better way to get the additional 12,000 people to complete Albemarle's second district is to go south to Nelson (route 20 and 29 corridors), southwest to Fluvanna (Lake Monticello), or north to Greene county (Rt 19). Augusta is over the Blue Ridge and is much more connected to the communities west of the Blue Ridge.

DATE: 10/2/2021 4:14:20 PM

Name: Steven J Brecker
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: steven.brecker@gmail.com
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: 81st District
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest, Political neutrality

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Community of interest name: Albemarle County, Charlottesville, University of Virginia
Community of interest description: University of Virginia community

COMMENTS:

- Don't divide Albemarle — I oppose the Republican House of Delegates map! It continues the long practice of political gerrymandering. The very rural areas (further away from Charlottesville) of Nelson, Amherst, Greene and Orange have little community connection to Albemarle.
- Keep Albemarle (and Charlottesville) together as a community of interest. Everyone in Albemarle shares economic and cultural ties to Charlottesville and the University of Virginia.
- The Democratic map shows that there is no need to divide Albemarle to get districts of equal population.
- The better way to get the additional 12,000 people to complete Albemarle's second district is to go south to Nelson (route 20 and 29 corridors), southwest to Fluvanna (Lake Monticello), or north to Greene county (Rt 19). Augusta is over the Blue Ridge and is much more connected to the communities west of the Blue Ridge.

DATE: 10/2/2021 2:12:34 PM

Name: Sarah K Harris
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: sarahkeenan128@hotmail.com
Locality: Central
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

I am a resident of Albemarle County and would like to voice my support for keeping Albemarle as unified as possible, not subdivided further than we already are. I would also like our district to be drawn to include communities that share our interests, values, and priorities more than we currently have in the 25th district. For example, the residents of Albemarle County have demonstrated overwhelming support for public health measures such as mask mandates in schools and vaccine requirements for teachers and other public service workers who work with high-risk communities. The same can not be said for residents in Augusta and Rockingham County. Similarly, the Albemarle County School Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Policy on the Treatment of Transgender and Gender-Expansive Students in Schools, sending a clear message to our most vulnerable students that they are free to exist openly and without fear or retribution in our schools. The Augusta County School Board voted unanimously AGAINST the policy, despite the fact that implementation of this policy is required by law. The Rockingham County School Board did not vote on the adoption of the policy; they simply sent out a press release saying they would not be adopting a new policy to protect transgender students. These are clear differences in values held by communities on either side of the mountain. While my heart breaks for the transgender and gender-expansive kids in the valley who were denied protections and affirmation in their schools, it also has become all the more clear to me that we need different representation in the Virginia House of Delegates here in Albemarle County than the one we currently share with voters in the western areas of our district.

DATE: 10/2/2021 9:41:33 AM

Name: Brittany Rose
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: BrittanyCRose@me.com
Locality: Henrico County (suburb of Richmond)
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: House of Delegates maps A6 and B6

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Western Henrico County/Three Chopt magisterial district
Community of interest description: Suburban community experiencing growth and development with a significant Asian population

COMMENTS:

My portion of Henrico County is currently a part of HD56 with Louisa County and parts of Goochland and Spotsylvania counties. This area of Henrico is fully suburban and continues to experience significant growth and development. To be in a district with largely rural counties as we are now doesn't make sense - our proposed inclusion in district 56 as drawn in the B6 maps doesn't make any more sense. In fact, this map drawer has bundled Henrico with even more rural counties than their last 5 proposals! We would be included in a district with portions of Goochland, Hanover, and Caroline counties (all of which are largely rural). Further, the population in this area of Henrico is made up of 22% Asian residents. The A6 map keeps us in a district entirely composed of Henrico residents with 23% of those residents being Asian (A6 district 70). This B6 map carves out this area of Henrico and dilutes the percentage of Asian residents in HD56 even further to just under 8%. Even the adjacent district proposed on this map, HD65, will only have an Asian population of 18.8%. By putting this part of Henrico with Goochland, Hanover, and Caroline counties in HD56 you are carving out a small section of a highly suburban community and lumping it in with dissimilar rural communities while simultaneously diluting the Asian population in western Henrico.

DATE: 10/2/2021 9:35:00 AM

Name: David K Garth
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: david@oakshadefarm.com
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest, Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Please keep Albemarle County and Charlottesville in the same district. Or, at least do not divide the city and county into more than two districts. Albemarle is very diverse in political viewpoints which balance each other. Charlottesville is the center of common interests for Albemarle. This community of interests for the city extends into Fluvanna to Lake Monticello, into Greene County at least to Stanardsville, and into Nelson County to Afton and Nellies Ford.

DATE: 10/2/2021 8:22:44 AM

Name: Deborah M. Garth
Stakeholder Type: Organization volunteer
Organization: Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention
Email: Debby@oakshadefarm. Com
Locality: Charlottesville, Va
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: Deborah Garth

COMMENTS:

Each of us deserves to have our vote count!

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

DATE: 10/1/2021 7:25:02 PM

Name: Edwin Taylor
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: ETphHOM.5@comcast.net
Locality: Central Region, Hanover County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

The Politicians on the Committee are only concern about keeping their and other Party members in their own region so they don't won't be able to run. The Politicians should be kicked off the Committee and only private citizens on it. If any citizens shows a Party favor, they should be kicked off. It what's best for the Commonwealth and the People, not a DAMN PARTY. Thanks

DATE: 9/23/2021 8:41:16 AM

Name: Katherine e. Slaughter
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: katherineslaughter61@gmail.com
Locality: Charlottesville
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #23 Virginia House (8-31-21)
Topics of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Central Va - Albemarle-Charlottesville
Description: Albemarle and Charlottesville are the population center but the other counties in the Planning District - Greene, Nelson, Louisa and Fluvanna - share boundaries, and residents shop, visit, work and use health facilities within Albemarle Charlottesville.

COMMENTS:

I ask that you not split Albemarle County into a voting district including Augusta County, separated by the Blue Ridge Mountains, but instead that you utilize part of the Albemarle community of interest in adjacent counties of Greene, Fluvanna, Nelson, or Louisa, all of which are within its Planning District. People in these various communities work, shop, recreate, or study in Albemarle County or Charlottesville. They share similar social, cultural and economic interests. Crossing the Blue Ridge mountains for a district means that the interests of the area on the other side of the mountain will not be properly represented (or vice versa). Please work to avoid crossing major geographical boundaries when creating districts and to conserve communities of interest. The fact that the other counties are in the same planning district indicates that these communities work together on issues in common to rural, suburban and urban areas, including environmental issues, solid waste, transportation, employment and housing. Thank you. Sincerely, Kay Slaughter

DATE: 9/22/2021 11:22:19 PM

Name: Michael Kenneth Fox
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: mkfox7@gmail.com
Locality: Crozet
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: Map #23 Virginia House (8-31-21)

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Topics of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

I am a resident of Crozet in Albemarle County, and I am concerned about the proposed 76th District in map A3. Our county is currently split between four districts, and this map fails to fully rectify this senseless splintering. Albemarle is a culturally unique region of the commonwealth that fosters homogeneousness. We are home to the University of Virginia, and the estates of Presidents Jefferson and Monroe. Additionally, the Annexation and Revenue Sharing Agreement of 1982 between the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle prohibits the city from annexing county land, effectively in exchange for a transfer of county real estate tax revenue to the city according to a complex formula. There are also jointly-operated property and county property inside the city limits. Albemarle is also home to the town of Scottsville.

Ideally, with a Albemarle-Charlottesville population of 159,000, one House district would serve the city and surrounding communities, and another district would serve the rest of the county. Splitting up the county into districts that extend into more rural counties dilutes the identity, needs and interests of our region; neither our community, nor ones two counties over, would be appropriately represented.

I urge commissioners to recognize this as maps are being drafted.

DATE: 9/22/2021 5:32:58 AM

Name: James Calvin Pyles
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: none
Email: jcpyles44@gmail.com
Locality: Crozet
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #23 Virginia House (8-31-21)
Topics of interest: Voting rights and political participation
Community of interest name: Social, economic and cultural interests centering on the University of Virginia undergraduate, graduate and hospital facilities
Community of interest description: Albemarle county and Charlottesville

COMMENTS:

Albemarle County and Charlottesville should be a single voting district because they have generally common social, cultural and economic interests and meet the requirement in the Constitution for "protecting communities of interest and respecting political boundaries".

DATE: 9/21/2021 2:32:37 PM

Name: Donna Price
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: donnapaulaprice@hotmail.com
Locality: Albemarle County
Region: **Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topics of interest: My previous online comment
Community of interest name: Albemarle County
Community of interest description: Albemarle County

COMMENTS:

I am writing to clarify a couple of errors that I previously made in my comments: 1) Sunday, September 19th - when I first commented upon the Democratic HoD proposal that had Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville in Districts 80 and 81; it appeared to me that House District 81 was "NOT" limited to Albemarle

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

County and the City of Charlottesville; but was, rather connected with Fluvanna and other counties to the east of Albemarle County in proposed House District 76. That made no sense to me; and, that was my comment. The next day, Monday September 20th, upon realizing my error, I attempted on numerous occasions to make a new comment; however, either the VirginiaRedistricting.org website would not load; using Safari, Chrome, and Firefox I received notifications that it was a false website; and, when I finally was able to load the correct proposed map, the images blurred into a "Picasso-like" artwork making identification of the appropriate Districts impossible to see. In that correction I again erred, this time omitting District 76, instead referencing District 81.

In sum: Of the four proposed maps affecting Albemarle County: House Proposed HOD violates the charter of the commission by dividing a contiguous community of interest - Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville - into 3 separate Districts (which, is better than the 4 we now have, but still wrong); while the other 3 proposed maps better maintain the contiguous community of Albemarle County within the proposed Districts (HoD and Senate). Albemarle County is, in many respects, different from the surrounding counties: by population (112,000 in the County plus 48,000 in Charlottesville; whereas, for example, Nelson County has about 14,000 people); in terms of development pressures (other surrounding counties may have one or, at most, two substantially smaller development areas); and, while rural Albemarle may be more like rural areas of other Counties, the County - as a whole - should be divided into as few a number of Districts as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to update/clarify my input.

DATE: 9/21/2021 11:54:29 AM

Name: Beau Cribbs
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: beaucribbs@gmail.com
Locality: City of Richmond
Region: Central
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topics of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Church Hill, Richmond

COMMENTS:

Church Hill should be kept with the rest of the City of Richmond, specifically the parts of the city north of the James River. I feel very strongly that District 62 in Proposal B3 does not accurately reflect Church Hill's "community of interest" in terms of simple geography -- not to mention socioeconomics, cultural resources and demographics.

In other words, Church Hill has very little similarities with Charles City County, for example, and has far more in common with the rest of the City of Richmond, which is in District 61 and 68. When edits are made to the preliminary maps, please consider including Church Hill in with the rest of the City of Richmond.

DATE: 9/21/2021 6:12:41 AM

Name: Faithea Flowers Foster
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: faflowers@yahoo.com
Locality: Richmond City 23220
Region: Central
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topics of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Be fair and don't try to water down the black vote as done in the past.

DATE SENT: 9/21/2021 8:18:00 AM

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

EMAIL: miketabony@yahoo.com
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: 24553, Gladstone
SUBJECT: A map for your consideration.

COMMENT:

To whomever it applies,
I am Michael Loga Tabony, a resident of Virginia living in area code 24553, Gladstone, VA, and have submitted the Congressional District Map linked to below for the commission’s consideration. I attempted to retain communities of interest and equal population numbers but did not look at political or racial data while drawing. IMHO, we should all endeavor to FIRST be Americans and once we start considering other parameters we move away from that goal.
Please see:
www.districtr.org/plan/48525
Thank you,
Mike Tabony

DATE SENT: 9/15/2021 11:44:00 AM
EMAIL: mlawless@scottsville.org
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Albemarle and Fluvanna
SUBJECT: Scottsville Town Limits in Districting

COMMENT:

Good morning,

Thank for all your hard work in the difficult process of redistricting. I see in Graham Moomaw’s coverage of the Commission work, that county/city/town boundaries were discussed today, in the context of communities of interest.

Let me please share a note on behalf of the Town of Scottsville, where I serve as town administrator. Our town boundaries straddle the county line of Albemarle and Fluvanna, with some residents in both counties. This is unfortunate given the state senate boundaries, in particular. In a town of only 600 residents, not everyone has the same representatives.

Please be aware of the several towns in similar situations, and keep these geographic quirks as part of the complex work of the commission.

Respectfully,

Matt Lawless
Scottsville Town Administrator
Office: 434-286-9267
Web, Facebook, Twitter

DATE SENT: 9/13/2021 2:57:00 PM
EMAIL: hchamber@richmond.edu
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Richmond
SUBJECT: Professor Chambers - Legal Analysis of Virginia Redistricting

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

COMMENT:

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission Members –

From 2011-2013, I served as a special assistant attorney general for Virginia for redistricting matters.

Today (September 13), you heard strong presentations regarding the legal strictures of redistricting. In the two attached articles which have been published in the last year – “Readying Virginia for Redistricting After a Decade of Election Law Upheaval” and “The Fight over the Virginia Redistricting Commission” – I provide a history and analysis of the legal requirements of redistricting in Virginia. The articles may help answer some of the questions you asked counsel today. I hope the articles are helpful when you analyze the maps you will soon begin to consider.

Of course, I am happy to talk with any commissioners or the commission as a whole.

-HLC

Henry L. Chambers, Jr.
Austin E. Owen Research Scholar and Professor of Law
University of Richmond School of Law
203 Richmond Way
Richmond, Va. 23173
(804) 289-8199
hchamber@richmond.edu

DATE SENT: 9/12/2021 11:15:10 PM
FROM: From: Chris DeRosa <chris.lwv.222@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Greetings, members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission and DLS staff!
Once again, thank you for all of your dedicated efforts to bring #Fair Maps to reality to all Virginians, and for the opportunities you are providing to Virginians to participate in the process.
I spoke before you in person, in Richmond, on August 23rd - my remarks, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Virginia, are attached here so that they might be included in the compendium of comments that will be gathered and organized by the Communications team. It is also for the benefit of the newest members of this Commission. My remarks are also copied below.
Thank you!
Chris DeRosa (she, her)
Co-Coordinator, LWV-VA Redistricting Committee
chris.lwv.222@gmail.com
571-422-6605
Remarks to the Virginia Redistricting Commission
8/23/21
Richmond, VA
Good morning.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

I'm Chris DeRosa. This morning I am here, representing the League of Women Voters of Virginia, including our President, Deb Wake, and over 2200 members of the League. We have worked hard for #Fair maps for many, many years, including helping to pass the Constitutional Amendment in November. Our position is that we want and need fair maps for the benefit of the voters of Virginia. Virginians want to elect representatives of their choice. The biggest improvement in the process, we believe, is transparency – we are watching and listening to all your discussions and votes with great interest. Pouring sunshine into the process is important. We ask you to be wary of going around FOIA and transparency by allowing any decisions to be made behind closed doors. Also, we fully support the establishment of other criteria for maps, especially the respect for Communities of Interest(COI) and the rights of ethnic, racial, and language minorities “to elect representatives of their choice”. Although we would have preferred a nonpartisan, all-citizen commission, we are hopeful that all of you on this commission, being balanced and bipartisan, will work for the benefit of all Virginians. We hope that you are listening to the voices of the people. We hope that you are reading all of the comments – nearly 400 written comments submitted by email, over 125 in the newest portal, (more than 3/4 of those submitted in the past 10 days). League members have read all comments and note that a few threads have been woven throughout the meetings and hearings. We've heard loudly and clearly that people want their communities kept together rather than split into 2 or more districts unnecessarily. Reunite them into one cohesive community. Secondly, another thread is that not one person who has submitted testimony has advised the Commissioners to begin with existing maps. Virginians do not want this to happen. Thank you to those of you who put aside partisanship today with your vote. These messages are from the people of Virginia. Hear their voices. Do what's right for the people, not what's right for the Ds or the Rs, not what's right for partisan interests. What's fair for the people, not for politicians. You are concerned with “landing this plane” and maps getting approval from members of the General Assembly. You might land the plane, but if the politicians are in the pilot seats and the cabin door is locked, you may not have the approval of the voters sitting in the passenger cabin. We hope that you will keep this in mind: draw maps that the residents of this Commonwealth will approve. You should work for us. And The League is here to work alongside with you.

DATE RECEIVED: 9/8/2021 8:19:43 AM
FROM: From: Mindy Ring <mindyvt13@yahoo.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Chesterfield

COMMENT:
Hello,
I am a resident of Chesterfield County, also a Democrat. I would like to say that I do not care where an incumbent currently lives and whether or not they are drawn out of their district. I do not believe the address of the incumbent should factor into drawing a non-partisan district map that will stand for at least 10 years.
Thank you,
Mindy Ring

DATE RECEIVED: 9/7/2021 12:15:13 PM
FROM: From: Earl Rogers <earl.rogers1661@icloud.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Chesterfield

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

COMMENT:

I hope the commission will seriously consider the offer of Moon Duchin of tufts university to assist in your job.

The commission must take the partisan politics out of this process, as the voters of Virginia expressed their desire.

Respectfully submitted;

Earl M. Rogers, M.S., P.D.

LTC USAR ret

North chesterfield Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: 9/11/2021 8:55:11 AM
FROM: From: Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

On Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 8:20 AM Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I would like to submit 2 maps for your consideration for the Charlottesville Community of Interest. Each of these is within the 2% deviation that we are looking for.

Thank you for the work of the Commission.

Elly Tucker

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Elly Tucker
Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor
111 Reynard Dr.
Charlottesville VA 22901
phone: 434-293-3500
fax: 434-979-1800
www.BeMovedDance.com

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Elly Tucker
Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor
111 Reynard Dr.
Charlottesville VA 22901
phone: 434-293-3500
fax: 434-979-1800
www.BeMovedDance.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:39:10 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Amy Wharton <amyannwharton@yahoo.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Albemarle

COMMENT:

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for voting to start the redistricting process from a blank map. I support a fair and equitable mathematical approach to redistricting. As you know, the Virginia Constitution

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

requires voting districts to be "compact and contiguous." We haven't had real compliance with that mandate for as long as I can remember. I support the creation of districts that comply with both the letter and the spirit of that mandate. Virginians must join their voices together with those of their neighbors, not strangers 100 miles or more away from them.

Thank you all so much for your service to the people of Virginia.

Best regards,

Amy Wharton

Albemarle County

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 12, 2021 8:40:26 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: Angela Lynn <angelalynn54@gmail.com>

REGION: **Central**

LOCALITY: Albemarle'

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Commission Members,

I have served on several boards, a Conservation Easement Authority and Criminal Justice Reform Commission in Albemarle County.

We have had four House of Delegate districts divide us up since 2011 with two Senate representatives that live nowhere near Albemarle county along with other distant counties that have no interest in what we need for our people and resources to be properly represented in Richmond.

I believe the reason we are so poorly drawn is to dilute our voice and give power to that one party that holds three of the representatives in House of Delegates seats and incumbent protection to the Senate seats.

This drowns out the voice of the majority of people in Albemarle County.

I respectfully request you no longer allow this to continue.

We have no voice at the ballot box in my 25th House district with a ridiculous amount of people in Rockingham and Augusta County stepping over us with electing a representative from their areas who never needed to step foot in our county when he ran for office in 2019 much less worry about what this county needs .

It should hold only two seats with local, familiar representatives and a more compact district rather than one that goes clear to the West Virginia border in order to control votes.

Please do not allow Albemarle County to have the effects of gerrymandering so obviously dealt with four stretched out HoD districts and Senators from far away rather than compact districts that truly represent the people that it serves.

Respectfully

Angela Lynn

Albemarle County

--

Albemarle County Criminal Justice Citizens Advisory Commission

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 12:52:30 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Mary-Margaret <mmargcash@gmail.com>

REGION: **Central**

LOCALITY: Bon Air

COMMENT:

...to make this a non-partisan effort, based on math and communities of interest. An elected legislator's personal interest (i.e. preserving his/her district) should not be a factor in decision making. I am disappointed in the partisan wrangling over who should draw proposed maps. That very disagreement

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

shows the ugly truth that some legislators have their own best interests in mind, rather than that of citizens.

Mary-Margaret Cash

Bon Air, Va.

FROM: Betty Tabony <btabony@gmail.com>

REGION: **Central**

LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Hello,

I am a retired teacher from the Nelson County Public Schools now living in Charlottesville. I also want to thank you for the invitation to the public to give testimony and respectfully request that one of the Redistricting Commission's public hearings be scheduled in Charlottesville.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Tabony

920 Henry Ave.

Charlottesville, VA 22903

btabony@gmail.com

434-942-2862

On Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 12:34 PM Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to give testimony. There are several of us in Charlottesville that would like to request that some of the hearings for the Redistricting Committee to be held in Charlottesville when you hold

them in the Central Region. Before we got the data, there were many meetings held around the state, but none in Charlottesville when it was the Central region's turn. Please have Charlottesville be one of your sites. If you need help

to secure a location, let me know and I will attempt to help find a location.

Thank you,

Elly Tucker

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Elly Tucker

Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor

111 Reynard Dr.

Charlottesville VA 22901

phone: 434-293-3500

fax: 434-979-1800

www.BeMovedDance.com

FROM: George Loper <gloper@gmail.com>

REGION: **Central**

LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

I am writing to strongly encourage this commission to base redistricting on existing planning districts. I am likewise opposed to basing redistricting on existing seats.

Our state has been gerrymandered enough! Within my own area, state districts range from over the mountains and then eastward toward Richmond (4th), as well as from nearly the top of the state to the bottom (5th).

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Please do your job and redistrict in a manner that represents communities of citizens instead of politically divided interests of existing domains.

George Loper
Charlottesville

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:03:39 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: KATHERINE HOFFMAN <kobbyhoffman@aol.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission members, Thank you for your recent vote to start from blank maps and for your transparency and public input consideration. To implement your mission and for the public good, looking forward to the commission's hiring of a non-partisan consultant to from the ground up to mathematically apply your criteria to create Virginia's Redistricting maps. Thank you.

Regards,
Katherine Hoffman
112 Middlesex Drive
Charlottesville VA 22901-2608
434-295-2566

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:14:05 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: frances lee-vandell <fleevandell@yahoo.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

To the commissioners of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,
You have an incredible chance to redraw the lines for voting districts using the best in technology.

Our eyes are on you, while we applaud your decision to remake the lines.
Virginia has Planning Districts that are compact, contigal and historically join together for their grouped governmental grants and oversight. These boundaries also could be referred to as already shared and acceptable lines drawn for counties.

Respectfully,
Frances Lee-Vandell
2860 Pea Ridge Road
Charlottesville, VA 22901
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:37:02 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: cindy cartwright <cindycartwright@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,
Thank you for voting today to start redrawing our voting districts from scratch. I trust you will

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

continue, as a commission, to remain transparent and listen to public input.
Please choose to hire a non-partisan, experienced consultant to apply a mathematical algorithm in the drawing of Virginia’s new voting districts. Math is a non-partisan subject that can insure each district is developed without bias.

Thank you for the work you are doing to allow voters to choose their representation.

Cindy Cartwright
1404 East Market Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902
VA Delegate District 57
VA Senate District 25
US Federal District 5
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:20:07 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:
Thank you for the vote taken today to honor the wishes of the voters who voted for Question 1, praying that it would end the political gerrymandering that has characterized previous redistricting. Until today, I thought we had been deceived. The vote to start with a blank slate and work with the census data within the parameters of the law without consideration for how incumbent politicians would be effected restored credibility to the Commission.
There are politicians on the commission who treat politics as a blood sport. Please don’t let them distract you. Stay on the trajectory you approved today, and make Virginians proud.
Bob Wilson
Robert D. Wilson
949 Glenwood Station Ln #106
Charlottesville, VA 22901
rdwilson837@gmail.com
(434) 724-9068

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 14, 2021 1:57:27 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Daniel Grogan <groganvision@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. Please do not start fr current Va districts which are atrocious. Rather start w a clean slate to keep communities of interest paramount. Compactness is even more important for the resulting congressional maps. I'm sure your task is much more challenging than most realize and will likely be a memorable but thankless job. It is so very vital to a vibrant democracy.
I live several blocks fr the Cville city limits in Albemarle Co. We now have 4 delegates for the greater Cville area which is not good for cohesion and policy making. In the 80s, 90s and 00s we had only one delegate. Perhaps two is the best solution but not a district going to the WVa line as is now the case!

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

For 6 years I've worked to realize this amendment and your commission so please make Va. fair and proud to have maps conducive to good government and competitive districts. Since gerrymandering started in Va (1788 Gov Patrick Henry drew maps purposely pitting Monroe vs Madison) we should be in the lead to tame this BEAST.

Sincerely,

Daniel Grogan

1612 Inglewood Dr Charlottesville, VA 22901-2649 groganvision@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 14, 2021 12:05:59 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: William Lankford <blankford2@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? The local community should NOT be the basis for political boundaries. They should be designed to give as many people as possible a chance to cast a meaningful vote. More difficult but worth while.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Lankford

1400 E Market St Charlottesville, VA 22902-5449 blankford2@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 11:11:38 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Donald and Akice Gross <aliceanddon@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? The fifth congressional district as now configured is a prime example of gerrymandering. It is by no means compact and definitely needs to be redrawn to include Charlottesville and as much as surrounding Albemarle County as possible.

Sincerely,

Alice and Donald Gross

2600 Barracks Rd., Apt 220

Charlottesville (Albemarle Coungy0

Sincerely,

Donald and Akice Gross

2600 Barracks Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901-2121 aliceanddon@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 6, 2021 12:17:29 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

The Republican controlled Virginia General Assembly only allowed the Amendment creating the Independent Redistricting Commission to pass because they feared that the Democrats would win control in the upcoming election. If they retained control they could simply refuse to pass the Amendment the second time thereby killing it. The Democrats did win control, the Amendment passed, and the voters ratified it.

Many Democrat legislators opposed approving the Amendment the second time because of a couple of poison pills the Republicans placed in the Amendment at the last moment designed to make the Commission less Independent. The first and most serious was including current legislators on the Commission. The second was to permit two of the legislator members kill a redistricting plan that might make their districts or incumbent districts more competitive.

The Commission should recognize that the legislators on the Commission represent districts that the Republicans gerrymandered in 2011. By factoring in the current legislative districts, the Commission automatically destroys their credibility by starting with a map designed to provide Republican control of the Virginia General Assembly and the Congressional Delegation through 2021. They were remarkably effective, and only lost their majority when some of the districts had to be redrawn due to court decisions. Of course, there hasn't been a Republican elected to a statewide office since 2009. They couldn't gerrymander statewide offices.

The "Communities of Interest" in the districts drawn in 2009 were specifically drawn to support Republican interests. If legislative districts are drawn considering the address of any current member of the General Assembly, the Independent Commission's credibility will be compromised, and the voters who voted to end gerrymandering will have been deceived.

Robert D. Wilson
949 Glenwood Station Ln #106
Charlottesville, VA 22901
rdwilson837@gmail.com
(434) 724-9068

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 8, 2021 9:48:49 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Kay Ferguson <kay@kayzap.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

I am gerrymandered away from having a voice and a strong vote in my VA District 25 and my Congressional District 5.

My community of Charlottesville/Albemarle County has been carved up like a pig for the express purpose of canceling my progressive values.

I live just west of Charlottesville and my state District 25 is drawn to reach in for just a sliver of my community, divorce

it from the cultural center of Charlottesville and dilute it with far flung rural areas that are more traditionally conservative and whose needs concerns and challenges are utterly different from my own.

District 5 is drawn like a zipper to cancel my values and those of most of my community by including rural areas to the

north and south that are historically more conservative. There is nothing contiguous about either of these district maps.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

The current maps make it almost impossible to conduct a viable campaign for a challenging candidate whose positions reflect my own.

I hope you will lead well on the new maps that must be drawn so that I and other Virginians can choose elected officials who represent, understand and serve us.

Kay Ferguson
Charlottesville, VA 22901

--

Kay Leigh Ferguson
Water Quilt Project
ARTivism Virginia
Water is life. Protect it.

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:11:14 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Loper, Ann B (abl2x) <abl2x@virginia.edu>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

I am a citizen living in Charlottesville, and would like urge the commission to focus redistricting plans based on existing state planning districts. These district planning commissions have operated successfully for many years. By so doing, the new districts will have a focus on the particular economic, geographic, and cultural conditions of the contiguous area.

I am opposed to using existing legislative seats as a basis or starting point. This idea seems rather proposterous to me. The unwieldy size of congressional districts in our state means that in past election cycles my own elected officials have lived several hundred miles apart at different ends of the state! Using this year's seats as a marker for representation that will affect districts for possibly decades to come is ridiculous. This plan also seems antithetical to the goals of finding cohesive geographical areas.

I appreciate your considering these points in your important work.

Ann Loper
Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 7:36:47 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Katherine e. Slaughter <katherineslaughter61@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. Please do not use existing districts to draw your new map thus perpetuating the existing political division that split cities and counties, cross mountains and rivers to create political districts that satisfy the political status quo but violate the provision requiring communities of interest.

Especially i ask citizen members to stand up to the legislative members on this and i hope at least some legislative members will vote NOT to protect party interests but to do the right thing.

My suggestion is to use planning districts as the basis for redistricting and to work at drawing lines that might join some PDs or portions of PDs.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Sincerely,
Ms Katherine e. Slaughter
1503 Short 18Th St Charlottesville, VA 22902-5477 katherineslaughter61@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 5, 2021 3:56:51 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Susan McKinnon <susanmmckinnon@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

To: Redistricting Commission
From: Susan McKinnon, Charlottesville Resident
Re: Redistricting Priorities
I have made my home in Charlottesville since 1984. During the 37 years I have lived in Charlottesville, my voting district has been outrageously gerrymandered, resulting in a subversion of the democratic process and of fair and equitable representation, and making it exceedingly difficult to meaningfully address pressing regional issues relating to economic development, jobs, housing, infrastructure, transportation, the environment, climate change, and healthcare.
I am excited that we now have a chance to redraw the district lines in a way that is NON-PARTISAN and that will thereby revitalize the democratic process, rather than secure the lopsided victory of the most extreme partisan candidates. I believe this gerrymandering has led to disastrous results not only in Virginia but across the country.
In order to achieve a non-partisan redistricting, I urge you to not to use political considerations in designing district boundaries. Instead, please prioritize the following criteria:
—districts should be compact and contiguous
—districts should be based on communities of interest—and the best way to achieve this is to adopt Planning Districts as a prototype for legislative and congressional districts. The 23 Planning Districts created by Virginia statute provide an excellent, non-partisan means for creating compact, contiguous communities of interest.
—districts should prioritize racial equity to counter the long history of disenfranchisement of racialized minorities in the state of Virginia
--redistricting should exclude political addresses and political considerations.
Thank you very much for your work to produce an equitable and vibrant democratic process in the state of Virginia.
Sincerely,
Susan McKinnon

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 10:45:22 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

The suggestion that the Independent (?) Redistricting Commission use the existing map as their base for redrawing the voting districts in the Virginia will taint your new map with the stench of corruption.
The Republican controlled Virginia General Assembly allowed the Constitutional Amendment creating the Independent Redistricting Commission to pass initially because they feared that the Democrats would win control in the upcoming election. If they retained control they could simply refuse to pass the Amendment the second time thereby killing it. The Democrats did win control,

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

the General Assembly did pass the Amendment again, and the voters ratified it.

Many Democrat legislators opposed approving the Amendment the second time it had to pass before ratification because of last minute Republican poison pills inserted in the Amendment designed to make the Commission less Independent. The first and most serious pill was including current legislators on the Commission. The second was to permit two of the legislator members to kill a redistricting plan that might make their districts, or incumbent districts, more competitive.

The Commissioners should recognize that the legislators on the Commission represent districts that the Republicans gerrymandered in 2011. By using the current legislative districts as a base, the Commission automatically destroys their credibility by starting with a map designed to provide Republican control of the Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia Congressional Delegation through 2021. They were remarkably effective, and only lost their majority when some of the districts had to be redrawn due to court decisions. Of course, there hasn't been a Republican elected to a statewide office since 2009. They couldn't gerrymander statewide offices.

The "Communities of Interest" in the districts drawn in 2011 were specifically drawn to support the interests of Republicans (or their financial backers). If the legislative districts are drawn in 2021-2022 considering the address of any current member of the General Assembly, the Independent Redistricting Commission's credibility will be compromised, and the voters who voted to end gerrymandering will have been deceived.

The politicians campaigning for office now are campaigning in districts gerrymandered in 2011. In the computerized world we live in there is no reason to begin your work with a gerrymandered map. The whole concept of an Independent Redistricting Commission that the voters approve to end gerrymandering will either be confirmed or disproved by this Commission. Don't betray Virginia's voters by capitulating to the legislative members of the Commission.

Robert D. Wilson

949 Glenwood Station Ln #106

Charlottesville, VA 22901

rdwilson837@gmail.com

(434) 724-9068

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 4:37:51 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: F. Michael Ashby <fmashby@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. I have been voting in the Woodbrook voting district for 30 years. I am an Independent and have voted for candidates from both of the major parties. Over that time, the General Assembly seats have often run unopposed, as has the 5th Congressional District. Initially, our district ran east to west for the Congressional Representative. Later it was changed to its present day north to south. As our district has recently voted more often for the Democratic candidate, we were changed such that our Republican representative in the General Assembly was redistricted out of our district (saying that the district was built for him, not the voters) such that he has run unopposed for years and we were placed in the Democratic representatives district, who also runs unopposed. Similarly, as our Congressional district voted for more Democratic candidates, the 5th district was changed such that the Democratic voters were diluted and overwhelmed by

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Republican voters in communities with little in common with ours. With the exception of Tom Perriello for 2 years, the 5th District has had a Republican Representative most of my voting life. Our present representative was chosen by a caucus, not a primary. Because of the way the District is drawn, the Republican caucus picked our representative, not the voters. I feel that this Representative in no way represents our Community's beliefs and I believe that our Community should have a representative, who does. I think that the voters, not a party caucus, should choose our representative.

Sincerely,

Dr. F. Michael Ashby

327 Dover Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901-1013 fmashby@comcast.net

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 19, 2021 2:23:00 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: M. Rick Turner <mrickt@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community
The need for more racial diversity on the downtown mall and on W, Main St In Charlottesville
Particularly, African American
Sincerely,
Dt M. Rick Turner
1663 Brandywine Dr Charlottesville, VA 22901-2801 mrickt@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 9, 2021 2:28:01 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Donald Gross <aliceanddon@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:
Dear Redistricting Committee,
Please redo part of the highly gerrymandered 5th district to a compact, contiguous district including Charlottesville and Albemarle County.
Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Donald and Alice Gross
2600 Barracks Rd, Apt 220
Charlottesville, VA 22901

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 17, 2021 11:53:08 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Fred Diehl <fad@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. My larger community is Charlottesville and my smaller is the neighborhood where I live. Most of us are enthusiastically in favor of redistricting in a fair manner but are frustrated at the well-funded efforts to block change. We feel our 5th VA district is a good example of how redistricting a progressive part of the state into a very conservative southern side blocks us from having equal representation. We support all efforts at FAIR redistricting and doing away with the current practices which tend to disenfranchise those of us in my area. Fred Diehl

Sincerely,

Dr. Fred Diehl

104 Key West Dr Charlottesville, VA 22911-8427 fad@virginia.edu

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

REGION: Central

LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

On Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 9:04 AM Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning. My name is Ken Chasin and I live in Charlottesville. I am a retired Information Technology professional and my areas of expertise are business intelligence solutions and data analysis.

I would like to propose a strategy for redrawing Virginia's congressional district maps based on a hub-and-spoke architecture where the hubs are Virginia's 25 most-populated counties and the spokes are adjacent smaller populated counties. This map-drawing strategy is modeled after how the Virginia Association of Counties -Regions ("VACo") is organized which currently has thirteen designated state regions and a subset (80+) of all existing Virginia counties.

Virginia's 25 most populated counties represent significant communities of interest and place and account for two-thirds of Virginia's total population. These counties can be used as the hubs for any new congressional districts because that is where:

- Most people live in Virginia
- Highest concentration of schools exists
- Highest concentration of jobs and industries exist
- Most major shopping centers are located
- Where many major religious centers are located
- And further they provide a wide-array of government products and services to their residents and neighboring smaller counties (e.g.; Police, Courts, Utilities, Election Polling Locations & Libraries).

Each district hub will have attached to it adjacent smaller populated counties going out in wider arcs until a congressional district population of one-eleventh of the total state- population is achieved.

Candidate adjacent counties must satisfy the following criteria:

- Directly border on the congressional district hub and/or each other to be in compliance with the "contiguous" rule.
- Should have similar demographics as regards:
 - a) Race/Ethnicity
 - b) Industries and Occupations
 - c) Urban / Rural breakdown
 - d) Education (Enrollment/Level of Educational Achievement)

--

Ken Chasin

Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, March 4, 2021 11:32:27 AM GMT-05:00
FROM: katherine slaughter <katherineslaughter61@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

Dear Commission:

I don't know where you are in the process of district re-drawing for districts of Virginia General Assembly or US Congress. However, I hope you will consider the use of Planning Districts as a basis for common interests. In general, these districts have a history in Virginia of bringing regions together to work on common problems, and thus there is not only a geographic rationale but a working relationship as communities with common interests and a history of working on these interests. I have attached more detailed comments.

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District (TJPCD) of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Greene, Louisa, Fluvanna demonstrates the current status of how split a common interest area may be. There are 9 legislators representing this "area" (5 delegates and 4 senators). Parts of TJPCD in the Central Piedmont share legislators from districts across the Blue Ridge (Avoli, Hanger and Deeds) and as far south as the Lynchburg area (Peake, Farriss) and as far east as Richmond (Carter) and to the north east, Spotsylvania (Reeves). See <https://tjpcd.org/your-state-legislators/>

I have participated in the League of Women Voters' excellent mapmaking training, but I find the scale of districts of common interest too small as compared to size of congressional or legislative districts.

Our area is but one example where communities of interest have been split into many different districts that do not represent common interests or even common geography. I hope your map drawing will seek to make sure that lines are drawn based on true interests, rather than political parties, and of course include the other criteria as well.

Sincerely,

Kay Slaughter
Charlottesville, VA

--

Kay Slaughter

To: Legislative Staff and Redistricting Commission

From: Katherine Slaughter, Citizen of Charlottesville and a former chair, Thomas Jefferson Planning District

Re: Use of Virginia Planning Districts for Redistricting.

March 4, 2021

While drawing political district drawing challenges, like assembling a jigsaw puzzle, I propose for a start that you utilize the boundaries of Planning Districts (PDs) as a basis for creating communities of interest, combining PDs and/or portions of PDs to fit the needed population base for General Assembly districts and Congressional Districts.

<https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/pdcs> Within their PDs, these communities have worked with each other and generally share common interests and certainly a common geography.

The criteria for redistricting includes contiguous land "preserving communities of interest; ... contiguous territory; ... compact territory; ... does not unduly favor or disfavor any political party." Important also are the requirements not to dilute the voting power of minority communities. For example, the Virginia Piedmont is one such "community of interest."

Planning districts of contiguous counties and cities have historically provided forums for the individual cities and counties to work together on issues of common interest, including housing, transportation, water quality, air quality, and other planning issues. Because the Planning

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Districts are creations of the state government, using their structure as a template with which to work on redistricting, including potentially combining areas such as or adjacent portions as Congressional districts or state legislative districts, seems appropriate.

For example, Charlottesville and Albemarle County are part of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District 10, which also includes Counties of Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, and Greene. The Rappahannock-Rapidan District 9 encompasses Madison, Orange, Culpeper, Rappahannock, and Fauquier. From past census, I understand 768,588 is the ideal size for congressional districts. Clearly for Congressional districts, each PDC alone is too small – TJPDC, 235,000; Rappahannock-Rapidan District, 164,209. But combined, they are almost 400,000. Possibly the two could be combined with another PD to the west or south.

TJPD 10 serves a broad community through Charlottesville's University of Virginia, Piedmont Virginia Community College, the UVA Medical Complex, and a regional library system. To the North, the Rappahannock Rapidan District is served by Germanna Community College and local hospitals but many residents depend on the UVA Medical Complex for acute and critical care. PD 9 serves Madison, Orange, Culpeper, Fauquier, and Rappahannock. PD 9 and 10 (excepting Nelson County) are served by the Culpeper Transportation District. The metropolitan planning districts – utilized for federal funding -- are also developed by looking at the planning districts. Clearly, the current state legislative districting is awry when districts cross major barriers, like the mountains, and thus serve different issues. For example, while Charlottesville and Staunton are both cities, Charlottesville and the Central Virginia Piedmont face issues different from those of Staunton and the Shenandoah Valley communities.

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District (TJPDC) of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Nelson, Greene, Louisa, Fluvanna demonstrates the current status of how split a common interest area may be. There are 9 legislators representing this "area" (5 delegates and 4 senators). Parts of TJPDC in the Central Piedmont share legislators from districts across the Blue Ridge (Avoli, Hanger and Deeds) and as far south as the Lynchburg area (Peake, Farriss) and as far east as Richmond (Carter) and to the north east, Spotsylvania (Reeves). See <https://tjpd.org/your-state-legislators/> As to Congressional districts, all TJPD except for Louisa is in a district that stretches from portions of Fauquier to the north to Danville and the North Carolina border. Louisa County is in the 7th Congressional District.

Because Planning Districts meet regularly, the members of various governing bodies have worked together on common issues. Members of the elected bodies know each other through this work which often includes infrastructure issues like transportation, water supply and thus water quality issues, air quality, land use management and planning, and conservation issues. What physical or manmade barriers should exclude the joining of land masses together in Districts? Lands that are adjacent but separated by mountains or bodies of water should not be joined. The Eastern Shore of Virginia because of population may need to be joined to a mainland area. Otherwise, keeping areas in Northern Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, Piedmont, Southside, near- and far-southwest Virginia should be practicable. Thus, I urge the Commission to consider using the Planning Districts as the building blocks for General Assembly or Congressional districts.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, March 29, 2021 9:09:35 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:
My name is Ken Chasin and I live in Charlottesville. I am a retired Information Technology professional and my areas of expertise include business intelligence solutions and data analysis. These skills are very adaptable to analyzing demographic data and discovering demographic trends and patterns.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

I have developed a redistricting strategy proposal for Virginia's congressional districts which I emailed to the Commission last week. This proposal lays out seven (7) criteria for drawing Virginia's new congressional district maps and are in agreement with the criteria set forth by the Virginia Redistricting Commission, US Supreme Court rulings concerning redistricting/gerrymandering and criteria used by other states for redistricting. The seven criteria very briefly are:

1. Incorporate the concept of communities of interest/communities of place
2. Ensure that the congressional districts' land areas be contiguous and be of equal population as much as possible
3. Allow for racial fairness
4. Don't give a partisan edge
5. Preserve existing geographic boundaries of city, town, and counties
6. Reflect U.S. census data as concerns the number of congressional districts allocated to Virginia and
7. The land area chosen for each new congressional district map should be reflective of key demographics.

Finally, I would like to make you aware that over the last three months, I have been collecting demographic data pertaining to Virginia's existing eleven congressional districts and its 25 most populated counties which I have organized into a set of Microsoft Excel dashboards and charts. I emailed samples of the Excel dashboards and charts to the Commission last week. Let me know if you like me to share more of the demographic data with the Commission.

--

Ken Chasin

Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887

FROM: Ned Michie <nedmichie@aol.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Charlottesville

COMMENT:

I was very very disappointed to read that your commission is looking to hire separate map consultants. It would be a horrible outcome if you end up creating as many safe seats as you can for each party even though such a map would have "bipartisan" support. The "partisan" part being the whole problem!! I was also very very disappointed to read that you will consider the home address of the person who happens to hold office now. It is not that individual's office. He or she is just the current occupant. The process should not at all be aimed at protecting any individual politicians.

I was then very glad to hear you voted to support starting the mapping from scratch and I certainly hope you will support having one non partisan outfit doing a math audit. If we end up with a "bi-partisan" map of safer seats -- you all have ENTIRELY FAILED in your mission.

I do very much thank you for taking on this thankless task that will not please everyone no matter what -- just make sure it is the PEOPLE you are aiming to please and NOT the politicians who happen to be holding the seats.

Ned

Edmund R. Michie

Attorney at Law

PO Box 11

Charlottesville, VA 22902-0011

Ph# (434) 296-1198

This electronic message transmission contains information from Edmund R. Michie, Esq. Attorney at law. The information may be confidential and/or privileged and is intended

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

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DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:26:17 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Judy marie Johnson <renaissancewomyn@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville 22902 Zip Code

COMMENT:
and fair..non-partisan! thanks, judy marie johnson 22902

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:27:31 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Sheila M McMillen
EMAIL: smcmillenx@gmail.com
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville, Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, Greene
SUBJECT: Keep areas compact

COMMENT:
I live in Charlottesville. Currently this District is incredibly elongated, running through areas both rural and urban which have few issues in common. I urge the Commission to consider that Charlottesville and Albemarle County are part of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District 10, which also includes Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, and Greene. Keeping these groups together and keeping the District compact, passed on Planning District 10, would make much more sense than the current districting, which seems to have no other intent than to dilute and erase the concerns shared by the citizens in my area.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:09:56 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Connie Porter <connieportertemp@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlotteville

COMMENT:
I support the use of a nonpartisan mathematical audit as part of the redistricting committee's process for creating an optimum, explainable plan for new voting districts in Virginia.
Constance Porter
Resident
Charlottesville, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:25:21 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: John Surr <jvsurr@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlotteville

COMMENT:

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

In proceeding with the redistricting, I hope that you'll hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any redistricting maps that are considered. That will help the public feel confident about the objectivity of your results.

John Surr

jvsurr@gmail.com

250 Pantops Mtn. Rd., Apt. 7504

Charlottesville, VA 22911-8720

phone (434) 972-2854

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:07:52 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Lois Sandy <ljsandy@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville, Albemarle

COMMENT:

I add my congratulations to the 12-4 voting tally that directed you to begin the nonpartisan process for setting up congressional voting districts in Virginia. I know the lead-up has been contentious, but your hard work demonstrates the hopes of most Virginians to have fairer elections for the next decade.

Now, I trust whatever is presented to the GA will demonstrate their strongest support. This is one Virginia citizen who sends her heartfelt gratitude for your accomplishment! Best wishes for the hard work ahead!

Lois Sandy

Charlottesville/Albemarle County

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 28, 2021 10:56:08 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Zeke Crater
EMAIL: varedistricting.hq@recursor.net
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Charlottesville, Albemarle, Orange, Louisa

SUBJECT: Keep me with my community

COMMENT:

I live just outside Charlottesville, which is my community. My current congressional district reaches from North Carolina to almost Maryland. Both are wonderful areas of Virginia, but both are outside my community of Charlottesville, Albemarle, Orange, and Louisa counties. My 25th state senate district and my 25th state house district both reach West Virginia. In my tiny church, my fellow parishioners are divided into four separate state house districts. My own 25th house district separates me from my Charlottesville community. Please redistrict Virginia so that I may share the same representative as my community.

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, July 16, 2021 5:05:08 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Herbert Loveless <herbert_loveless@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Chester

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. I am a member of the Richmond Environmental Film Festival. We are concerned about maintaining the benefits of our environment and preventing the damage to the local area from climate change. While it is extremely unlikely that Virginia will suffer heat domes like that that occurred in the Pacific northwest or the upcoming one in the upper Rockies. Or massive forest fires that are taking place in California. Or the mega drought effecting Arizona, Nevada and Utah, Virginia will suffer from excess rain fall, flooding along the coast line in Virginia Beach and along inland river, and lower agricultural productivity. The people who are in this community of concern are in Chester like myself and my wife and in the Midlothian, west Henrico, Goochland and Culpepper Co. areas. While this might not meet the standard definition of community, we have many of the same concerns which I believe makes us a community.
Sincerely,
Dr. Herbert Loveless
3817 Seasigh Ct Chester, VA 23831-7324 herbert_loveless@yahoo.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:42:49 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Anne Geraty <moss8350@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Crozet

COMMENT:

The independent redistricting committee received overwhelming citizen support because of its purpose to take partisan politics out of the drawing of districts. Please move forward with a plan to hire a NON-PARTISAN consultant to evaluate the maps. This committee is no place for partisan politics!
Thank you!
Anne Geraty
Crozet, VA 22932

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 9, 2021 12:33:19 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Teresa Spigle <tsvande@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Crozet

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? Crozet is a booming community. I love the variety of restaurants here, the library, small shops and services available. SMALL is the keyword. I've lived in Crozet off and on since 1985 when I met my first husband. We watched large tracks of acreage change from beautiful rolling farmland to Old Trail, Highlands, Gray Rock etc.. on and on with the development. Now there is a walking mall proposed. This must be the end of the development or our SMALL town will no longer be SMALL

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

and class sizes will be more overwhelming. My son attended Brownsville Elementary, Henley Middle and Western Albemarle and each location had children attending classes in trailers, walking outdoors to get to class, often, in less than ideal weather conditions. Please limit the growth in Crozet to keep it SMALL and manageable for the limited resources we have, including water, affordable housing and schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice concerns. Teresa Spigle, CCM, RN, MSN, BSBA

Sincerely,

Ms. Teresa Spigle

5911 McComb St Crozet, VA 22932-3023

tsvande@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 11:39:01 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jennifer Moseley <jennifer.moseley2@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Glen Allen

COMMENT:

Thank you for volunteering your time and brains to the Virginia Redistricting Commission. All of us have worked so hard to pass redistricting reform in Virginia and your role is essential in drawing fair maps. The best way to ensure that districts are not gerrymandered for political and racial reasons is to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered by the redistricting commission.

Please vote yes to a nonpartisan mathematical audit.

Thank you,

Jennifer

--

Jennifer Moseley

10700 Purcell Road

Glen Allen, VA 23060

(804) 539-9856

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 2:42:46 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Tina Winkler
EMAIL: twinkler11@me.com
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Goochland

SUBJECT: Redistricting keeping communities together

COMMENT:

I would like to advocate that Goochland County be kept together in the redistricting process. Currently, we are divided between the 56th and 65th HoD Districts, while all of Goochland is in the 22nd Senate District and in the 7th Congressional District. In addition, there are a couple of split precincts as well. The goal of redistricting should be keeping communities of interest together. Furthermore, all districts should be drawn to be competitive, not guaranteed to one party or another. All the voters in Goochland, especially and including minority voters who too often are rendered voiceless, should have a voice at the ballot box. I am disappointed I can't speak to the Commission in person, but I wanted to be sure that you heard my thoughts on the process. Thank you for your time in reading this message. Sincerely, Tina Winkler Goochland

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:10:11 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Rebecca Phillips
EMAIL: rebflips@hotmail.com
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Greene County

SUBJECT: Redistricting

COMMENT:

As a Greene County citizen of the 5th District, I find the current district lines WAY out of bounds. And I'm sure the citizens of Danville would agree! Districts should be configured to be representative of the area in which we live. This benefits both the citizen and the elected representative. How can one person truly represent the interests of a gerrymandered district? Help restore democracy by fair voting districts and effective representation.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:07:59 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Bonnie Price Lofton
EMAIL: bonnie.lofton@gmail.com
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Greene County, Franklin County, Rappahannock

SUBJECT: Redistricting

COMMENT:

I live in Greene County. My mother lives in Rappahannock County. My son lives in Franklin County. We are many hours' drive apart. Yet we are all currently in the same voting district! This gerrymandering has to stop. It makes our democratic system look like some kind of mafia setup. Please draw the districts in a sensible contiguous manner that any reasonable voter can recognize to be fair. That means not purposely drawing lines to reduce the voting impact of certain liberal-collegiate cities or to maintain the voting power of majority black areas. It also means keeping districts within decent driving distance (like 90 minutes in any direction) to make it reasonably accessible for candidates who need to campaign or meet with constituents. Thank you!

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 10:48:50 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Jeffrey Katz
EMAIL: jakatz@live.com
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Hanover

SUBJECT: Hanover

COMMENT:

It is my sincere belief that any redistricting proposals respect the rural nature of Hanover County.

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:23:16 AM GMT-04:00

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

FROM: Mary Horne <mary1852@me.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Henrico

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
Please hire a non-political, neutral organization to apply mathematical analysis of proposed maps for redistricting.
I am very interested in the Commission accomplishing the drawing of competitive districts in a non-partisan fashion prior to the deadline. I do not think we've come this far to end up with the Virginia Supreme Court having to draw maps.
Please carry on and do good, impartial work for Virginia and it's democracy.
Thank you,
Mary Horne
Henrico, Virginia
mary1852@me.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:39:56 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Ann McMillan <annhcmillan@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Henrico

COMMENT:

I'm one of the many who volunteered with OneVirginia 2021 over several years. I went to polling places and talked to voters about how both parties gerrymander - enabling those in power to choose their voters and not the other way around. Only one person out of hundreds ever told me they favored gerrymandering! When my party came into power and some wanted to go through the process all over again, I urged my legislators not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. And so I care a lot that good should come out of this. Please - adopt the fairest model of drawing district lines that is out there. Help Virginia model the democratic process for the rest of the nation. We are counting on you.
Ann McMillan
23238 Henrico voter

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 4:42:18 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Hoogakker, John <jhoogakker@wlu.edu>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Henrico

COMMENT:

I write to help dispel the notion recently promulgated that there is limited citizen interest in the work of your Commission. It is my observation, backed-up the the voter referendum that interest and expectations are high in improving delineation of electoral districts. Please don't confuse limited participation at early meetings, undoubtedly influenced by the pandemic with lower enthusiasm. Virginia is interested - and watching! John Hoogakker, Henrico, Virginia
Sent from my iPad

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 4:00:51 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Bray, Catherine <BRA150@henrico.us>

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Henrico

COMMENT:

Hello,
My name is Cate Bray, and I am a planner working on magisterial district reapportionment for Henrico County. Could you provide a date of release for the adjusted population data that will be developed after reallocation of prison populations?
Thank you for any information you're able to provide as we plan our reapportionment process.
Regards,
Cate Bray
County Planner II, Henrico County Planning Department
4301 East Parham Road, Henrico, VA 23228
Phone (804) 501-4645, Fax (804) 501-4379
bra150@henrico.us

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 3:32:38 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jeffrey Clark <jlbclark@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Henrico

COMMENT:

I am a concerned citizen who voted for a new system to establish the political maps in Virginia. I am asking that you start from scratch in drawing new maps rather than make modifications to the existing maps.
The current maps have all kinds of problems including that they were among the worst in the nation, needed to be modified through court order which put a band-aid on the problems of racial gerrymandering, and many current districts cut through communities of interest, Therefore, I am urging you to start over and create new maps rather than make changes to existing maps. To do otherwise will cause people to doubt the integrity of your final product.
Thanks.
Jeffrey Clark
1501 Bronwyn Rd, Richmond, VA 23238
--
Jeffrey Clark
1501 Bronwyn Rd.
Apt. 203
Henrico, VA 23238
jlbclark@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 8, 2021 3:54:46 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jackson, Barbara Alice (baj) <baj@virginia.edu>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Keswick

COMMENT:

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Virginia Senator district 58

I live in Albemarle county and identify with the county and Charlottesville. My state senator (Mr. Reeves) is from Spotsylvania Co.

I don't think he has ever been to my little corner of Albemarle County. I would like by senator to be the same as the one that represents the rest of Albemarle and Charlottesville. Could the Senatorial districts be based on the Virginia Health Districts? The Blue Ridge Health District cover Albemarle, Geen, Louisa, Fluvanna and Nelson Counties. About 250,000 people.

My second issue is with the 5th congressional district for the US Congress. The rural areas seem to have the advantage. I would like to see less of southern Virginia in this district.

Thank you.

Barbara Jackson
1017 Holly Ridge Rd
Keswick, VA 22947
baj@virginia.edu

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, June 13, 2021 3:16:36 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Mark Hergott <m.bergott87@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Lakeside zip 23228

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Mark and I am a resident of Lakeside (zip: 23228). I am writing to provide written comment on VA redistricting. I believe it is very important that VA have multiple majority minority districts given the state's racial diversity. I also believe it is important that VA have competitive districts. I have drawn a proposal based on these priorities. Under this map, 5 districts would be competitive and 4 would be majority minority. Additionally, this map tries to follow municipal and county lines where possible while still maintaining roughly equal population. Here is the link to the map: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/5cd0b205-7c2d-404c-9bc4-8d6a654dfe8b>.

Sincerely,
Mark

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:17:51 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Gmail <joanna.hickman11@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Louisa

COMMENT:

People deserve representation for their districts, not preservation of the status quo. Please vote for an unbiased mathematical analysis of redistricting.

Joanna Hickman
Louisa VA

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 7, 2021 10:02:12 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Samuel Perry <sperry2@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Midlothian

COMMENT:

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community?

My community is the Midlothian/Robious Road area. I define the boundaries of my community as the area from Bon Air to Rt. 288 and the Midlothian/Rt. 60 area. The community should be kept together because of geography, availability of shopping, medical care, restaurants and transportation issues. I would like to see the Redistricting Commission consider also including some adjacent areas which reflect more racial and economic diversity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Samuel Perry

3537 Kendal Crossing Ter Midlothian, VA 23113-3614 sperry2@richmond.edu

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 17, 2021 6:54:34 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: W. Kathleen Swarhout <wkbs23117@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Mineral

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? Louisa County is a rural county where a lot of the people know each other. we have the "Mineral Farmers' Market" where vendors and customers meet not only to sell and buy homemade foods and crafts items but to converse and enjoy meeting and greeting all. There is no racial tension. The Louisa Arts Center has entertainment and classes. This summer, they had several day "camps" for children to explore various art forms. At the end of each camp, there was a graduation performance where the students exhibited what they had learned in camp. The local Rotary Club sponsored the camps with a grant, there were other grants, and there were two funds that provided scholarships so that all the children who wanted to attend could attend without concern for finances.

We enjoy the slower tempo of rural living but want to have the internet speed and communications available in the "city". Our Fire and Emergency Services are quite good, but the County is large and the coverage is spread thin. It may take 30 minutes to get a response to a 911 call and transportation to the nearest hospital takes almost an hour. One area, around Lake Anna, has gotten together to fund a Fire and Rescue Squad site and would like to have an Urgent Care Facility, too. the Board of Supervisors is aware and is facilitating this endeavor. From what I have observed, most of the county is fiscally conservative and socially outgoing to help others in need, when the need is known. Local farmers and gardeners contribute produce to the Resource Center (Food Bank) to be distributed. Church groups regularly contribute gallons of fresh milk to the Resource Center.

Although Louisa has many people whose financial status is below the poverty line, there is a helping hand available.

Louisa county should be treated as one entity when drawing voting districts. We have districts within the county and supervisors responsible for that district. People choose where they wish to live, for the most part, so they should be able to vote within their district and county, in a convenient place, or by requesting a mail-in ballot.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Mrs. W. Kathleen Swarthout
4849 Indian Creek Rd Mineral, VA 23117-3329 wkbs23117@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 10:32:58 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Heywood Greenberg
EMAIL: greenberg@lynchburg.edu
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Nelson County

SUBJECT: Unify House of Delegate Districts Along County Boundaries

COMMENT:
Nelson County was split into two House of Delegate districts in 2010. This resulted in a dilution of the county's influence on our representatives to the point that we have rarely seen or received communications from our two Delegates. Reunifying the county into a single House district would give the citizens more influence on their delegate and cause him or her to pay more attention to the county's needs, regardless of which party the delegate is in.

REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: North Chesterfield

COMMENT:
Speaker Filler -Corn
Delegate Adams
Senator Chase
Please see the below editorial in the Friday, August 20, 2021, Washington Post.
You are my elected officials representing me in the Virginia Legislation.
I need yall to encourage our Virginia Redistricting Commission to DO THEIR JOB!
This is ridiculous and is petty and juvenile, and must stop.
If our Redistricting Commission cannot get their act together and do the right thing for Virginia (and not their respective party);
then PLEASE WORK TO REVERSE OR CANCEL THIS LAW
and we will go back to the bad ole days of Gerrymandering!!
Or reconstruct the Redistricting law to OMIT our legislators and appoint only non-partisan, non-legislator civilians. They can not do any worse!!
I had such high hopes (as so many Virginians had) for this commission to develop rational , non partisan legislative districts , so it is particularly painful for me (and Virginia) to see it devolve into such a petty , partisan ploy.
Feel free to share this with all 16 Redistricting commission members. Maybe such criticism will spur them to DO THE RIGHT THING AND SERVE VIRGINIA FIRST.
Respectfully;
Your constituent:
Earl M. Rogers, M.S.,P.D
Northern Chesterfield Virginia

FROM: Earl Rogers <earl.rogers@comcast.net>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: North Chesterfield

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

COMMENT:

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission:
The Virginia voters have spoken and formed the VRC, AND DEMAND A FAIR, EQUITABLE, NON PARTISAN Redistricting process of our legislative districts.
PLEASE DO YOUR JOB.
Respectfully;
Earl M.Rogers , M.S.,P.D.
LTC USAR ret
North chesterfield Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:37:24 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Gayle <gturn52@yahoo.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: North Chesterfield

COMMENT:

Dear Commission Members,
I am writing to advocate support and to request your commitment to ensuring transparency and fairness by securing the services of a non-partisan mathematical audit contractor for any/all proposed district maps as soon as possible.
This non-partisan contractor should apply an algorithm based solely upon our State's criteria to all considered maps moving forward. Thank you.
Respectfully,
Gayle Turner
Resident North Chesterfield, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:07:07 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Lwaddill <lwaddill@aol.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: North Chesterfield

COMMENT:

A good decision today. Thanks.
Lorraine Waddill
North Chesterfield, 23236

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, July 8, 2021 3:23:48 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: brianna adams <b.adams15380@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: North Chesterfield

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 hate to say it but numbers say it all these days. Looking at the districts it's not very fair and I would go as far to say some even have the upper hand. Although race doesn't matter it simply needs to be more fair and more competitive even if that means redrawing the lines not to benefit any one party but

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

to allow them to have an equal chance. Without redrawing the lines it's unfair to areas like where I live we are simply out numbered please help us by fixing the lines.

Sincerely,

Miss brianna adams

15380 Greenwood Church Rd Montpelier, VA 23192-2924 b.adams15380@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 9, 2021 1:09:14 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: EARL Rogers <earl.rogers1661@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: North Chesterfield

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 live in Smoketree subdivision , near Monacan HS, in north chesterfield county. This community wants a FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRICT. One that we voters get to pick their delegate and senator, rather than a district that is unfairly drawn to favor one party over the other. DRAW A FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRICT.

EARL ROGERS

Sincerely,

Dr. EARL Rogers

11524 Stillbrook Rd North Chesterfield, VA 23236-2408 earl.rogers1661@yahoo.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 5:23:45 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Matthew Wilson <matthewcarterwilson@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: North Garden

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

My state-wide community of educated younger-adult Virginians, in the suburbs and even scattered out here in Albemarle farm country, values being challenged and held accountable for our limited worldviews. We don't live by our defensiveness and insecurities, nor do we sit around feeling sorry for ourselves and make-believing how "culturally marginalized" we are for doing nothing whatsoever to understand the outside world like today's republican voters. When the smart girls challenged me as a racist apologist, I had to put the work into getting over myself to understand and engage with the civilized world that understood things in a depth and context I did not. We don't shy away from confronting ourselves like republican voters, nor feel the need to construct elaborate psychological defense mechanisms where we pretend to be "real Americans."

We are not trapped in a state of perpetual rebellious adolescence like republican voters. And if fascism comes to America as it has been, we will defend our country from becoming another Hungary or Russia, as republican voters have shown us they want. My generation will never listen to another fake Christian, fake "hardworking," fake "patriot" word out of a republican mouth again.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

My broader community of educated Virginians pay most of the taxes and contribute most of our state's expenses to cover those rural reactionary temper tantrums over juvenile cultural issues, and we find that absolutely unacceptable. We don't hide from the world and pretend everything is a big game, like republican voters. We put the traumatic and difficult work into becoming the more intelligent, more evolved, harder working, secular future--no matter how scared and defensive that makes republican voters trapped in a mythological past. We support gun control wholeheartedly, but also maintain my own guns and ammo in fear of the fascist conditions brought about by the same scowling-faced garbage people who claim to be "defending against tyranny." We will not let a raging reactionary republican minority of isolated, violent adult children destroy our once proud society. -a lifelong Virginian, JMU grad, proud American, former and never again republican voter

Sincerely,

Matthew Wilson

2742 Southern Hills Ct North Garden, VA 22959-1639 matthewcarterwilson@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 16, 2021 12:33:43 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: James Baylor Blackford Jr
EMAIL: prairiegates@hotmail.com
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

SUBJECT: Does the Commission Want to Be Seen as a Scheme to Protect Incumbents?

COMMENT:

My name is James Baylor Blackford Jr. I reside in Richmond VA, where I voted yes on Amendment One. I ask that commissioners move to implement the so-called "Start from Scratch" guidelines for drawing new Virginia electoral maps. The citizens that I talk to place great importance on a commission that values independence & that does not move to solidify the re-election chances of incumbents. Using the present electoral maps as the starting point indicates to us that the commission has chosen the goal of protecting incumbents. I do not fault the lawmakers for seeking that outcome. If I was a lawmaker, I might well support that move. But I plead with commissioners to safeguard the larger interests of the Commonwealth when it implements a "Start From Scratch" model that more greatly empowers Virginia voters. Yours, James B Blackford Jr. 310 S Cherry St Richmond, VA 23220

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 6:33:04 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Richard Hagen
EMAIL: rhagen12@verizon.net
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

SUBJECT: Virginians care about redistricting

COMMENT:

I would like to comment on meeting attendance. I was able to attend the public meeting in Norfolk and listened in on several others. I and many other concerned Virginians would like to attend all your meetings but often cannot. Many of your meetings are at times and locations where it is difficult to attend. For example your 8 am meeting in Richmond is difficult for someone in Virginia Beach to get there. Also, the ongoing Covid crisis is another road block

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

to face to face meetings. If you add in work, children, medical conditions, etc. many of us cannot be physically present. We must depend on online comments and emails to present our opinions and views. I hope someone is reviewing the emails and tallying the opinions. I urge you to NOT see the lack of bodies at your meetings to mean that we are not interested and don't care. Remember the large percent of voters who passed the Amendment. Look at the number of emails and comments you receive. We are watching and hope you use our input to draw fair maps. Thank you for taking on this vital project.

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 7:25:20 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Gerald Swerling
EMAIL: jerry.swerling@gmail.com
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

SUBJECT: We are watching you politicize the process

COMMENT:
Contrary to what was said in a recent meeting, lots of people are watching your actions, and are appalled at the obvious attempts to politicize the process and ignore the will of the voters who approved it in the first place. Gerald Swerling Richmond

REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:
Greetings Commissioners:
My name is James B Blackford Jr. I reside in Richmond VA, where I voted yes on Amendment One. I ask that commissioners move to implement the so-called "Start from Scratch" guidelines for drawing new Virginia electoral maps. The citizens that I talk to place great importance on a commission that values independence & that does not move to solidify the re-election chances of incumbents. Using the present electoral maps as the starting point indicates to us that the commission has chosen the goal of protecting incumbents. I do not fault the lawmakers for seeking that outcome. If I was a lawmaker, I might well support that move. But I plead with commissioners to safeguard the larger interests of the Commonwealth when it implements a "Start From Scratch" model that more greatly empowers Virginia voters.
Yours,
James B Blackford Jr.
310 S Cherry St
Richmond, VA 2322-

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 3:13:37 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Pam O'Rourke <pam.orourke@indoff.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioners:
As members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission you will soon be making a decision about the map drawing process.
This should not be a partisan fight. If you feel you cannot cast unbiased votes, and

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

are influenced by your political party, then I suggest you resign for the good of our Commonwealth.

I support hiring a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.

Thank you.

Pam O'Rourke

Marketing Consultant | Indoff

o: 804-330-3713

c: 804-338-6947

p: pam.orourke@indoff.com

8138 Grimsby Road

Richmond, VA 23235

www.indoff.com

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DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:34:17 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Susan Miller <susan.miller1417@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:
To Virginia Redistricting Commission; I am following the redistricting process with interest and great hopes for a non-partisan, transparent and fair result. Thank you for voting to start with a blank map. Now please choose a non-partisan consultant to apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria.
Susan A Miller MD
susan.miller1417@gmail.com
1417 Grove Ave Richmond, VA 23220

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:33:12 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: holt edmunds <holtedmunds@yahoo.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:
My understanding is your commission will draw lines regardless of existing districts. And this is a good thing.
Please do a good, non-partisan job. So many voters are cynical about how laws and districts and patronage and revolving door government works. It will be a tribute to your decency and patriotism to redistrict in an equitable, non partisan way.
Holt Edmunds
Richmond

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:48:08 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: egkirstein@aol.com
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

I commend the Virginia Redistricting Commission's bipartisan vote to start mapmaking from a blank slate. As Board President Sharron Kitchen Miller said, "An overwhelming majority of Virginians voted for a redistricting process with unprecedented levels of transparency and public input, and today's vote embodied this mandate." Please continue to ensure the redistricting is done in a transparent way beginning with a mathematical, non-partisan audit.
Edward Kirstein
7000 W Grace St
Richmond, VA 23226

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 6:16:05 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jacqueline Roberts <j2302r@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Richmond

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 live in Eastern Henrico sandwiched between Laburnum Ave, Cedar Fork road, Creighton Road and Nine Mile Road. Pleased with the support of the school board (Henrico), Real Estate value, programs for citizens, etc.
Jacqueline L. Roberts
Sincerely,
Mrs. Jacqueline Roberts
5103 Bending Branch Ct Richmond, VA 23223-3362 j2302r@verizon.net

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:39:54 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jerry Swerling <jerry.swerling@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Contrary to what was said in a recent meeting, lots of people are watching your actions, and are appalled at the obvious attempts to politicize the process and ignore the will of the voters who approved it in the first place.
Gerald Swerling
Richmond
--
Jerry
Jerry Swerling
Professor Emeritus, University of Southern California

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
310-430-8689
jerry.swerling@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 20, 2021 2:40:42 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Barbara Anderson <iowabja@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

I was very pleased and hopeful when the Redistricting Commission Amendment was passed overwhelmingly in last year's election. Virginia voters sent a clear message that we wanted the decennial redistricting process taken out of the hands of a partisan state legislature and into the hands of a more evenly represented bipartisan group of legislators and citizens. By a 2-to-1 majority, Virginia voters said that they no longer wanted redistricting to be a partisan process. It is distressing and infuriating to observe that you are still functioning in a partisan fashion, rather than as an even-handed, collaborative group with a common goal of establishing congressional districts as objectively and fairly as possible.

Please try harder to demonstrate your commitment to working together as a group rather than competing factions working against each other. We will all benefit from knowing that such a thing is still possible in Virginia, and we will all benefit from the product of a collaborative rather than a competitive commission.

Sincerely,
Barbara Anderson
3109 Stony Point Road, Apt. C
Richmond, VA 23235

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 21, 2021 12:48:45 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jeffrey Elhai <elhaij@vcu.edu>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Hello VA Redistricting Commission members,
We can all feel Chair Greta Harris's despair near the end of last Tuesday's meeting (Aug 17). A split vote effectively sent back to counsel the task of finding a map-drawing entity. "We just made our lives a lot more complicated", she sighed. It looks like counsel will not be able to find a single map-drawing entity acceptable to the Commission. How will the Commission deal with two?

There is a way, inspired by our common experience.

Suppose you and I agree to share one doughnut. We both want as much of it as possible. What procedure can we adopt to ensure that the portions are equitable? "I'll cut the doughnut!" "No, I will!"

The solution is simple. One person cuts the doughnut, and the other person chooses which piece to eat. It doesn't matter who cuts and who chooses. Either way, the incentives are in place to get as close to 50:50 as possible.

This insight has been adapted to redistricting, most recently by Palmer, Schneer, and DePalma, 1921 (I've attached a copy of the paper). In brief, the authors simulate two opposing partisans redistricting various states (including Virginia). One side starts by creating a map that defines *twice* the number of districts (e.g. 80 Senate districts). Then the other side combines two adjacent districts to make one. Using this procedure -- called Define-Combine -- it makes little difference which side makes the initial map. The predicted electoral outcome is about the same.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

If you get two map-drawing entities from the two sets of counsels, then let them play Define-Combine (of course limited by the guidance provided by the Commission). The map or maps made by this process can serve as the starting point for the commission to move forward.

I propose this as a possible way out of the quagmire of two separate map drawers, but I'm not enamored with the idea. The model presumes that the only motivation is partisan advantage, clearly not the case in Virginia, where Democrats have worked with Republicans to preserve the status quo. Still, at this point, Define-Combine or something like it may be the least bad choice left.

If you're willing to bend, then I think you'd get better results, and better optics, from starter maps that are computer-generated based on well-defined priorities composed by the Commission (as has been suggested many times in previous e-mails).

Jeff Elhai

Palmer M, Schneer B, DeLuca K (2021). Working paper. A Partisan Solution to Partisan Gerrymandering: The Define-Combine Procedure.

[https://maxwellpalmer.com/research/Palmer_Schneer_DeLuca_Define_Combine_Procedure.pdf]

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Jeff Elhai

Richmond, VA 23229

E-mail: ElhaiJ@VCU.Edu

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:59:02 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jeffrey Elhai <elhaij@vcu.edu>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Virginia voted 66% in favor of the redistricting amendment, almost twice as many in favor as opposed. Many voted with the phrase ringing in their ears, "voters should choose their representatives rather than representatives choose their voters". The commission voted to defy this sentiment and subvert the spirit of the amendment by permitting the addresses of incumbents to be considered in the drawing of legislative boundaries.

The context was how to flesh out the requirement that a map, considered on a statewide basis, may not unduly favor or disfavor any political party. One commissioner presented a hypothetical outcome: ten Democrat incumbents put in the same district to compete with each other while Republican incumbents remained solitary. Would this scenario disfavor a party on a statewide basis? On the face of it, the outcome would disfavor individual incumbents. Perhaps packing incumbents of one party would lead to a statewide loss of seats. Maybe, maybe not. Political data and projected electoral outcomes would seem to be a more direct measure of party rather than individual disfavoring. But regardless, the argument rests on the assumption that the status quo occupies a privileged position, one that is to be the standard for determining favored' and 'disfavored'. Needless to say, if the electorate supported the status quo, they would not have voted overwhelmingly to replace the redistricting process that brought it into being.

Some commissioners argued that the tight schedule makes it impractical to draw a map without incumbent addresses only to revise the map later when this information is available. True, but as Commissioner Simon pointed out, there is no loss of time if addresses are not used at all.

Some worried that a map with incumbent clashes will not pass the General Assembly. The amendment indeed gives the General Assembly veto power over the map. But only you can give it the additional power to determine where the lines are drawn. You do this by abdicating your mandate and drawing lines on their behalf. Commissioner Abrenio said it well: the job of the Commission is to draw a map as apolitically as possible. If members of the General Assembly choose to thwart the work of the Commission, then let them face electoral consequences.

Nothing says 'representatives choosing their voters' so vividly as a process that protects incumbency. You

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

can best serve Virginia by listening to the millions of citizens who voted this Commission into existence and barring the use of incumbent addresses.

Jeff Elhai

--

Jeff Elhai

Richmond, VA 23229

E-mail: ElhaiJ@VCU.Edu

Web: <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~elhaij>

BioBIKE: <http://biobike.csbc.vcu.edu>

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 3:01:44 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jonathan Greenberg <MostalAlchemist@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community?

My community is a suburban working and retired community. There are families who need to stay safe even while there are many visitors to the Wetlands, Pony Pasture and other aspects of the James River Park System in this area.

Common links between me and my neighbors are environmental stewardship, continued access to our local businesses in nearby shopping centers, recycling efforts, water reclamation efforts and most importantly, improving education in our public schools to make up for the interruption in learning caused by covid.

That means, living in the vicinity of both the Granite Hills and the Stratford Hills shopping centers plus Huguenot HS along the fall of the James River is our microcosm within the greater Richmond area. We have put up with a lot of flat tires from pot holes and road construction, destruction of precious trees that used to live here. That is why the main street was named Forest Hill Ave. However, it could be renamed "Tree Murder Alley" after what I've seen take place over the past 10 years.

I see a large community with shared political interests comprised of residents who live along the river and going west from the end of Manchester, past Forest Hill Park through Bon Air, Stoney Point plus Powhatan and south past Midlothian Turnpike (Rte 60).

Matters regarding the fall of the James River and resources in this area, affect residents equally. Common highway exits from the Chippenham and the Powhite keep us coming and going together. We have retail centers plus farms and other agricultural resource production enterprises that sustain us. We've been working together for so long, it would be a shame to break up our societal success story. I think that as development continues westward through Moseley and Powhatan, we will continue to share the same interests and requirements as we do now.

Downtown/Urban living and business to the northeast is a different community. Rural areas that are west of Cumberland are also a different community, so I see the residents from Manchester to Powhatan and south to Hull Street Road (360) as being mostly suburban and sharing the same resources. Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jonathan Greenberg

2956 Hathaway Rd Richmond, VA 23225-1724 MostalAlchemist@aol.com

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 8:56:03 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Ali Faruk <farukam@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to public input and consider the needs of communities of interest across the Commonwealth. To that end, I'd like to tell you a little about my community. I'm tired of elected officials drawing themselves into safe seats so they can insulate themselves from challenges. Often I have worked hard to engage communities and involve them in the political process only to see them cut out of districts and marginalized even further.
Sincerely,
Mr Ali Faruk
2811 Griffin Ave Richmond, VA 23222-3628 farukam@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 5, 2021 7:55:03 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Carol Parke <cparkerva@gmail.com>
REGION: Central
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Commissioners:
My name is Carol Parke, and I am following Virginia's redistricting process with great interest. With this email I wish to state my hope for an honest and fair redistricting process. The stakes are immense. I am a former academic library administrator living in Westover Hills, Richmond since 2004 and newly retired from the Syracuse University Library. Mid-career, I spent eight years at the VCU Library, and earlier I was in charge of Government Publications at the Yale University Library. There I had the privilege of working with faculty, students and ordinary townspeople who needed to find information the government produces and distributes, and to help them understand its content and context. I often needed to clarify the differing roles of the three branches of government, whose actions and publications truly document our priorities and our progress (or not) as a nation. Year after year, the Congress, and Congressional documents, were among our most heavily requested sources of needed information.
The fair assignment of Congressional districts according to law is one of the most important components of good government, and, it seems, one of the easiest to be compromised. We've seen that again and again. Fair and transparent redistricting that permits us to govern according to the needs and wants of all Americans – not just the powerful, not just insiders – is more crucial than ever this year. In the wake of January 6th at the Capitol, we must not lose this rare opportunity we have been given!
It is not so common to see congressional districts fairly-drawn – but a critical mass of citizens here in Virginia seems to have awakened to the reality that the evils of Jim Crow are still with us, and gerrymandering is still rampant. (Covid-like, powerful, swiftly adapting, those evils have had no trouble clothing themselves in newer realities. They have always had their followers, and still do.) Too many of us have not understood how pervasive and tenacious the old, discredited ways of operating can be, and in this, I believe we've been naïve. All eligible voters need to have the same opportunity to vote, and their Congressional districts drawn to make all of their votes count.
Fair and legal redistricting is a foundational component of good government, a first step on which nearly everything else will build. It can rectify old evils, give those who have been silenced a voice, advance the dreams of so many, make a better Virginia for all Virginians, and model for the less enlightened how good governance can work for the good of all. In Virginia we've made a start, but we must not flinch. Done well,

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

redistricting will move us toward a more equal state and nation. Without it? Just look around you. Without it, I am truly afraid.

Respectfully,
Carol Parke
cparkerva@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 7:34:10 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Melissa Ferrell <mwferrell3@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners:
I have volunteered with OneVirginia2021, which has collected troves of information and much wisdom in its years working on fair districting in our fair state.
I realize your tight schedule, but encourage you strongly to go beyond starting with current districts, and seek a compromise to move the process with a fresh approach. Please consider alternatives.
Many thanks for your willingness to take on this vital project and your work that lies ahead.
Very truly yours,
Melissa
Melissa Wimbish Ferrell
511 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd, Apt.7
Richmond, VA 23220
“We must use our time and our space on this little planet that we call Earth to make a lasting contribution, to leave it a little better than we found it, and now that need is greater than ever before.”
John Lewis, 2020

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 5, 2021 2:31:53 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Joyce Hillstrom
EMAIL: joycehillstrom@gmail.com
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Richmond, Charlottesville

SUBJECT: Keep districts compact.

COMMENT:

Please redraw the districts so that they are able to send representatives to Richmond and to Washington who represent many or even most of the citizens within them. I live in Charlottesville where our Congressional district stretches from northern Virginia to the North Carolina line. How can any one person fairly represent such a long area? Most of us feel not only not represented but humiliated.

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 8:03:43 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Marcia McDuffie <secondwind@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Roseland

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

COMMENT:

To the board: I thank you for deciding to begin anew from the census data in drawing voting districts. The current districts have skewed local and regional state elections to a remarkable degree, not only by diluting the votes of targeted groups but also in encouraging the emergence of more radical candidates in many districts such as mine (Congressional 5th district).

I appreciate your dedication to service in Virginia and will follow your deliberations with intense interest.

Marcia McDuffie
1936 Emblys Gap Rd.
Roseland, VA 22967

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 16, 2021 12:22:34 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Mark Heinicke <markjheinicke@gmail.com>
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Ruckersville

COMMENT:

Dear members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for the hard work you have already done, and best wishes for performing the even harder task ahead of you.

I beg you to create new legislative district boundaries by starting from the ground up. To use existing boundaries as the basis for drawing new ones is a bit like using Rube Goldberg contraptions as a basis for designing a new car. The process ought to be guided by fairness, logic, and facts, and not by tinkering with maps that were shaped by old biases and political power struggles.

Thank you for your consideration of my views, and good luck!

Sincerely,
Mark Heinicke
Ruckersville, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:48:38 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Pete Costigan <ph.costigan@hotmail.com>
NAME:
EMAIL:
REGION: **Central**
LOCALITY: Ruckersville

SUBJECT:

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners:

The possibility of using existing district maps as a starting point for drawing new maps was introduced at your August 3rd meeting. My understanding is that the Commission will vote on that possibility at its August 16th meeting.

Given the daunting and time constrained map-drawing task you face, I fully understand the temptation to use existing maps as a starting point. However, I urge you to resist that temptation in favor of another option.

In the four most recent elections, I advocated at the polls for the passage of an amendment creating the Commission on which you now serve. Having spoken several hundred voters in both progressive and more conservative districts who have long supported redistricting reform, I was gratified but not surprised when in Nov. 2020, 67% of Virginians voted for the amendment.

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – CENTRAL REGION

October 7, 2021

Attached is one of the handouts I distributed during those conversations with voters. It shows the boundaries of two blatantly gerrymandered districts: one drawn by Democrats for a senator's seat and other drawn by Republicans for a house delegate's seat. While neither of these gerrymanders were anomalies, both gave voters more than sufficient proof to conclude that Virginia must scrape entirely all past map drawing methods in favor of one that produces more competitive and representative. Responsibility for implementing that new method is now in your hands.

An alternative to starting with existing maps is starting with computer generated maps using an algorithm based on the legally mandated criteria that each district must meet. I believe the Commission is aware of the work of Moon Duchin of the Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts. She has the expertise and experience to quickly and easily create such maps that then could be used as starting maps.

After having "zoomed in" on ten of the Commission's meetings, a few Sub-commission meetings, the Richmond-based public hearing and having read much of the content posted to the redistricting website maintained by DLS, I have developed high respect and appreciation for your efforts. I suspect that the 45 days allotted to produce the maps could be stressful for you all. However, I can't see how starting with existing maps when alternatives are available will reduce that stress. I do see how it might disappoint the many Virginia voters who have pushed for redistricting reform for so long. Thanks for all you do.

Pete Costigan,
Ruckersville, Va.