

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – EASTERN REGION

October 7, 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 9

DATE: 9/28/2021 3:17:14 PM

Name: Linda S. Boatman
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: lsbpainter@gmail.com
Locality: Essex County
Region: **Eastern**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

District 36, by including Essex County with the Northern Neck peninsula, takes into account nearest medical, judicial, airport, and other services to many NN residents. Three major highways, Hwy 17, Hwy 3, and 360 are intersected at Warsaw and seven miles apart at Tappahannock by the 360 bridge across the Rappahannock River. 360 is the most direct route to Richmond. Essex County makes sense as part of District 36.

Without regard to party or other mitigating factors, I posted the above comment on HOD B3: All the proposed HOD district and the Senate district maps happily cover all counties of the entire Northern Neck peninsula. Thank you for making whole counties a first priority.

The unique nature of the Chesapeake Bay Estuary means we should especially consider the few bridges that exist in the Tidewater area. The Highway 50 bridge and The Bay Bridge/Tunnel connect the Eastern Peninsula. Residents of the Northern Neck and Middle Neck peninsulas generally use two major parallel routes to travel by road: Highway 3 and Highway 17, which are separated by the Rappahannock River.

Along with the bridge across the Rappahannock at Tappahannock, which connects Richmond County to Essex County:

The Highway 3 bridge across from the White Stone area in Lancaster County to the Saluda area in Middlesex County connects to highway 17. The 301 bridge across the northern part of the peninsulas connects to Richmond and to Maryland via the Nice Bridge across the Potomac.

The highway 17 corridor includes Essex County and Middlesex County in the Middle Peninsula. Please include Essex County and Middlesex County in HOD and Senate proposed districts.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 26, 2021 5:03:58 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: SUSAN MASTYL <smastyl@msn.com>
REGION: **Eastern**
LOCALITY: Heathsville

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,

I was unable to attend the hearing on July 22 for the Eastern Region, but would like to add my comments to those already submitted.

My husband and I have lived on the Eastern Shore (Accomack County) since 2005, and enjoy the rural lifestyle here.

There is a strong sense of community and history on the Shore, and we feel proud to call this home.

We have actively participated in elections at the county, state, and federal level since moving here, and support the

Commission's mission to make districts at every level more contiguous and representative.

I noticed that the map the Commission is using includes the "Eastern Region," with Accomack and Northampton counties on the Eastern Shore, along with Essex, King & Queen, Lancaster, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties on the Western shore of the Bay. Although these counties have a lot in common in terms

of the issues we're dealing with (rural nature, demographics, tidal environment, coastal economy), there is one

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major obstacle in combining all of these into a future district (if in fact that is being contemplated). The obstacle is a 30-mile-wide body of water called the Chesapeake Bay -- anyone representing the Eastern Shore along with any of these western counties will spend a lot of time travelling, and less time dealing with the concerns of their constituents. Currently, our representatives travel across the 17-mile CBBT to reach us; to travel from the Shore to some of these Western counties would take the better part of a day. Sen. Lynwood Lewis, our current State Senator, has related his experience in dealing with this issue, since at one time his district included Matthews County along with both Eastern Shore counties. As you know, our current State Delegate, State Senate, and Congressional Districts combine the Eastern Shore with parts of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and beyond. Although this combines our two rural counties with more urban counties, we still have a lot of issues in common -- flooding and sea-level rise, tourism and water-based economies, military installations, poverty. Although specific "tweaking" may be required, please don't burden our representatives unnecessarily for the sake of uniformity. In this case, I would hope that "contiguous" and "compact" will win out over similar demographics. Thank you for your hard work on this important issue.
Susan L. Mastyl
14329 Mears Circle
P.O. Box 112
Harborton, VA 23389
(757) 442-6644
smastyl@msn.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 10:12:14 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: fjkober@aol.com
REGION: Eastern
LOCALITY: Heathsville

COMMENT:
Hello,
Please treat the redistricting plan as non-partisan. Do it with a mathematic algorism that insures a fair redistricting map.
Cheers,
Frank Kober
1701 Browns Store Road
Heathsville, VA 22473

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 6:16:22 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Charlotte Hollings <charlottehollings@gmail.com>
REGION: Eastern
LOCALITY: Lancaster

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioners,
Many of us worked hard to get politics out of redistricting. The old system was unfair in so many ways and when the public was made

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aware of how districts were drawn, they voted overwhelming to move the task away from just politicians. If you start the process with the old maps, we will be moving backwards, not forwards. I hope that you will consider other options that will be more fair and representative of the population than the old system. Thank you for the work that you're doing and please help to rid Virginia of political gerrymandering. Thank you, Charlotte Hollings
Lancaster, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 9:36:46 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Lorraine Horbaly <lorraine@walmerenterprises.com>
REGION: Eastern
LOCALITY: Montross

COMMENT:
I am writing to urge you to keep the commission's process non-partisan. Your bi-partisan efforts have been lacking and could lead to more gridlock and acrimony. I'm heartened that you have voted to scrap the old maps and start anew. Now hire a non-partisan mathematical audit! Virginia voters want fairness and end to partisan gerrymandering. You must deliver.
Lorraine Horbaly
39 Monument Drive
Montross, VA 22520
804-493-8195

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 17, 2021 4:41:54 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Robert Fountain <rrfountain55@gmail.com>
REGION: Eastern
LOCALITY: Northern Neck/Eastern Shore

COMMENT:
Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:
From: Robert Fountain <rrfountain55@gmail.com>
Date: July 16, 2021 at 3:52:31 PM EDT
To: VaRedist@dis.virginia.gov
Subject: Communities of interest
Please do not subdivide such long-time communities of interest such as the Northern Neck of Va and the Eastern Shore in the interest of some other "perfection." RADM Robert Fountain
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 12:26:58 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: John Melton <john@jmelton.net>
REGION: Eastern
LOCALITY: Reedville

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COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners:

I am a long-term subscriber to informational emails from OneVA2021, and I have just been apprised that the Commission is thinking of starting from the existing maps of the old congressional districts in the upcoming redistricting. I have not volunteered at polling places for this organization, and fought to have the constitutional amendment passed only to have you take an easy and quick step which will probably be unfair if you start from existing maps.

Please, please start with a clean slate and not with maps that are already gerrymandered.

Thank you for your attention to my grave concern.

John W Melton

45 Cedar Dale Ln.

Reedville, VA 22539

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:36:51 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Chris DeRosa
EMAIL: chris7307@gmail.com
REGION: Eastern
LOCALITY: Richmond

SUBJECT: University of Richmond GIS team : I vote yes!

COMMENT:

With great interest, I read the responses which the Richmond GIS team provided to questions that were posed to the UR team (by the attorneys or the Commission or DLS?). I am very impressed with their responses - they have a wide-ranging set of technical expertise, a knowledge of Virginia's communities and history, and a clear ability to draw maps for redistricting purposes without a partisan motive or influence. This team should be selected by this Commission to assist with the drawing of our new #fairmaps. Thank you.

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:36:48 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: suzanne.gallagher <econ.fun4teachers@yahoo.com>
REGION: Eastern
LOCALITY: Topping

COMMENT:

I think it's really important to have a nonpartisan mathematical audit. We must end gerrymandering in Virginia.

Thank you for your work toward that end.

Suzanne Gallagher

Topping, VA 23169