

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – WEST CENTRAL REGION
October 7, 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 93

DATE: 10/5/2021 6:29:59 PM
Name: Ryan Conrad
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: dropshot540@gmail.com
Locality: Lynchburg
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Madison Heights

COMMENTS:

I would humbly submit with the Lynchburg seat, that if All of the surrounding areas are closely connected to Lynchburg as has been discussed, why cross a natural boundary like a river whereas other neighboring areas are split between the county and city line in some cases between apartment complexes and townhome developments. In recent memory, almost all the development has been expanding south and west into Bedford and Campbell, not in to Madison heights. Finally, Madison heights should be kept whole.

DATE: 10/5/2021 6:26:59 PM
Name: Chris Faraldi
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Organization: Ward IV Representative
Email: hello@chrisfaraldi.com
Locality: Lynchburg
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

Before offering any comments, I want to do express my deep appreciation to you all, and the legislative staff, for facilitating this process thus far. It must certainly be a challenge and very draining at times; yet, as one who was very publicly supportive of the creation of the body, I know the work you do will benefit Virginians for years to come. So again, on behalf of the folks I represent and the tens of thousands of residents here in the Hill City, I thank you.

I have waited until this point to offer comments so I can hopefully offer these thoughts only once/later in the process with more finalized maps.

Briefly, upon review of the House of Delegates proposals by both the Democratic and Republican proposals, I am glad to see Lynchburg held together in one seat. This is good to see, and the fact both proposals are extremely similar, is encouraging. I hope this can be a basis on which other communities of interest in Virginia can be discussed and worked through.

As the City isn't populated enough for a stand-alone House Seat, I recognize the need to include small portions of the surrounding area to balance the seat. Having lived in the City for some time, I have seen the development of the south and western areas of town, with spill over particularly in the Forest area. Thus, I am further in agreement with the arrangements of the consultants, while there are some very, very small deviations (which I am sure can be addressed promptly and easily).

Also, I believe the Forest area that is included in both situations is fairly compact by itself and is the best scenario to include with the City as it doesn't cross any natural or transportation boundaries, or split any other communities of interest.

As far as the Senate seat, again, my appreciation for keeping the City together. My only thought is I'm not sure what Lynchburg has in common with the Rockbridge area, though I recognize the need for population boundaries.

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While it does cross the mountain range, the proposals are certainly better than what we have now. If memory serves, both consultants have similar proposals at this point on this front as well. To summarize, thank you for keeping Lynchburg whole in all proposals thus far. If the commission were to consider adopting these proposals for Lynchburg, I believe any concerns of mine or others here locally would be quelled to point where the maps would be acceptable. Again, thank you to all of you and the staff for your work. I am praying for you as the deadline looms. I believe in you and know the work can be accomplished!

DATE: 10/5/2021 4:31:32 PM
Name: Ted Koebel
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: tkoebel@vt.edu
Locality: Blacksburg
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

COMMENTS:
One of the key indicators of interrelated geographies is economic: commuting, shopping, etc. Montgomery County, Radford, Roanoke County and Roanoke City are highly interrelated. It makes no sense to me to have Montgomery County separated into a different Congressional District, or State Senate District, from Roanoke County and City. Diminishing the influence of the economic engines of this region will harm this area and the state as a whole.

DATE: 10/5/2021 3:36:35 PM
Name: Carletta Whiting
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: carletta.whiting@gmail.com
Locality: Franklin County
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

COMMENTS:
I am of the position that the maps should remain as they are currently; Franklin coupled with Pittsylvania County.

DATE: 10/5/2021 1:05:52 PM
Name: Vicki L Drew
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: chosen57@gmail.com
Locality: Rocky Mount, VA
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Preferences on voting district
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest description: rural and agricultural interests, but with a need for additional employment opportunities and increased broadband access

COMMENTS:
The rural counties of Franklin and Pittsylvania have similar interests and needs and , therefore could be well-represented by the same person.

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DATE: 10/5/2021 8:57:58 AM

Name: Charles Murphy
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: charlieandseesam@gmail.com
Locality: Roanoke City
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

COMMENTS:

Firstly, I would like to advocate for a single district that contains Roanoke City and Blacksburg on the Virginia State Senate map. The needs of the voters in these localities are much more closely aligned with one another than with the surrounding more rural areas. Creating such a district would group voters with similar interests better both within the district and in the surrounding areas.

Second, I would like to advocate for the least change possible to the Virginia State House districts drawn by special master Dr. Grofman. These districts were drawn by court order to prevent racial gerrymandering in the Richmond and Hamptons Roads areas. Since their implementation, we have proven electoral results that these districts elect the candidate of choice for the protected racial minorities. Changing these districts more than is absolutely necessary to preserve population equality would likely reduce the number of minority opportunity districts to the detriment of the state's ongoing efforts to ensure racial equity.

DATE: 10/4/2021 4:47:49 PM

Name: Steven C. Banks
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: stevecbanks@comcast.net
Locality: Blacksburg
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Commission - Latest B4/6 - Statewide (Democratic Consultant)
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: New River and Roanoke Valleys
Community of interest description: Sharing similar social, cultural, and economic interests in the New River and Roanoke Valleys.

COMMENTS:

I am commenting on the map titled "Commission - Latest B4/6 - Statewide (Democratic Consultant)" for the State Senate.

First, I am surprised that making districts compact and contiguous are not topics of interest - are they criteria for drawing maps?

Having said that, I believe that the New River Valley (Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Radford) and the Roanoke Valley form a "community of interest" in that they share very similar social, cultural, and economic interests. The surrounding counties (Craig, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski) are primarily rural in nature, with strong agricultural economies. On the other hand, the New River and Roanoke Valleys have a strong and growing presence in the educational, medical, and technology fields. The rural counties have little in common with the New River and Roanoke Valley community, and to me it does not make sense to combine them in the same State Senate District.

Thank you.

DATE: 10/4/2021 3:17:20 PM

Name: Barbara Andes
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: bwandes@gmail.com

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Locality: Roanoke City
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Roanoke Valley and New River Valley
Community of interest description: Roanoke Valley and New River Valley belong together in the new redistricting map for the Va Senate. The economic, cultural, physical, higher educational, and environmental relationship and dependence of these two communities are too strong to sever them from one another in this redistricting process.

DATE: 10/2/2021 9:03:42 AM

Name: Austin Pryor
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: austin.pryor@gmail.com
Locality: Roanoke City
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: New River Valley/Roanoke Valley

COMMENTS:

I am a resident of Roanoke City and work for Virginia Tech and commute almost daily to Blacksburg down in the New River Valley. I find great connection between the two areas of the Roanoke Valley and New River Valley. Like me there are many individuals with connections as a result of work, family, and community that link the two regions. These interest would be best represented by one State Senator to jointly represent both communities. I would encourage the commission to consider drawing a map that links the New River Valley and Roanoke Valley into one State Senate District. These two communities have much more in common than with south and eastern Roanoke County with which Roanoke City is mapped in the most recent map drafts.

DATE: 10/1/2021 9:04:39 PM

Name: Jeffrey A Bond
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jabond2468@gmail.com
Locality: Blacksburg
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Roanoke and New River Valleys
Community of interest description: Montgomery County (with Christiansburg and Blacksburg) along with city of Roanoke

COMMENTS:

Blacksburg & New River Valley & Roanoke Valley are 1 community of interest e.g. that's why the regional airport in Roanoke is officially called Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport. Please keep us in one state senate district, and, hopefully, congressional district.

DATE: 10/1/2021 8:40:28 PM

Name: John Wiggins
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: johnthehokiebird@gmail.com

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Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

COMMENTS:

Please keep the Roanoke Valley and New River Valley connected. It just makes sense. Thanks.

DATE: 10/1/2021 5:04:55 PM

Name: James B McCloskey
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jbmcclos@gmail.com
Locality: Roanoke
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: SW Virginia Colleges and Universities
Community of interest description: Mutual interest of the Educational and Health communities and their constituents.

COMMENTS:

The Roanoke and New River Valleys sharing multiple shared resources and values. In addition to the colleges and universities, there are the huge medical community that blankets our region. Not just the Carilion and Lewis Gale health systems but the joint efforts of Radford University Carilion and Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Center the latter of which includes multi-disciplinary project active on both the Riverside and Blacksburg campuses. And, don't forget the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport!

DATE: 10/1/2021 5:04:46 PM

Name: Diana Christopulos
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: dchristop@earthlink.net
Locality: Salem, VA
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Roanoke and New River Valleys
Community of interest description: Cities of Roanoke and Salem, portions of Montgomery county including town of Blacksburg, portions of Roanoke and all of Giles county. Tied together in large part by major health and educational providers, including Virginia Tech and Carilion, Lewis-Gale and Salem Veterans' Administration hospitals. Our interests are far different than those of locales such as Carrol, Wythe, Franklin and Floyd counties.

COMMENTS:

I write to strongly encourage keeping the Roanoke and New River valleys in ONE senatorial district - this reflects the extremely strong economic, geographic and community interests that are not held in common with regions to the east and south. For twenty years, the 21st Senate District has included the Roanoke Valley and the New River Valley. Indeed, the Roanoke Valley and the New River Valley have strong communities of mutual interest which are growing.
For example, the two Valleys have become major health care centers with patients and employees living and working in both Valleys. The medical centers operated by Carilion and Lewis Gale HCA have thousands of health care employees in both Valleys.

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The strong tie between the Valleys is represented, for example, by Virginia Tech's School of Medicine which is located in Roanoke. The Virginia Tech-Carilion Health Sciences and Technology Campus and Biomedical Research Institute are also located in Roanoke. Indeed, Virginia Tech maintains a fleet of buses providing transportation between Blacksburg and Roanoke.

Radford University has its RUC School of Nursing in Roanoke. And the Roanoke Higher Education Center's member colleges and universities include institutions from both Valleys.

The Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport which operates out of Roanoke serves both Valleys. The name was established in 2014, and according to the airport's website, "the new name reflects the growing economic connection between, and interdependence of, the citizens and businesses of the Roanoke and the New River Valleys. Things are really taking off at the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport."

Thousands of commuters travel daily on I-81 between the two Valleys. Many who live in one Valley work, do business and enjoy entertainment in the other Valley.

From shopping centers to entertainment venues to professional and financial services, the two Valleys are interrelated with strong ties. The close communities of interest are social, cultural, economic, and educational. And they include common transportation systems, whether by air, rail, or the Interstate highway.

Perhaps nothing signifies the strong community of interest better than the planned Amtrak passenger rail connection between Roanoke and the New River Valley, which is expected to operate in a few short years.

African-Americans represent some 29% of Roanoke City's population and there are a significant number living in Montgomery County. Combining the two communities is important to allow the minority population to have adequate influence in elections as required under the federal Voting Rights Act. Dividing the two communities would undermine this legal requirement.

Likewise, both the New River Valley and the Roanoke Valley have many members of Asian, Indian, Latinx and other minority communities. Roanoke's annual "Local Colors," Festival of India, Hispanic festivities and Greek celebrations regularly draw large crowds, reflective of the many minority communities in the two Valleys.

DATE: 9/27/2021 6:42:40 PM

Name: James Enoch
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: james@jamespenoch.com
Locality: Campbell County
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: Map #22 Virginia Senate (8-31-21)

COMMENTS:

To members of the Commission: I thank you for your tireless service to getting redistricting done. I wanted to make a comment about Campbell County in the Senate map that puts Campbell in a district moving closer to Richmond, including counties like Amelia, instead of areas like Bedford, or even Pittsylvania County. Residents in Campbell are closer to Bedford, Lynchburg and Amherst and many people work in these neighboring areas.

I believe that the Commission should explore keeping Campbell County in a district that includes areas like Bedford, Lynchburg, Amherst as it makes more sense in these areas share much, like shopping, dining, school sports, etc.

DATE: 10/1/2021 9:34:25 AM

Name: Chris Obenshain
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jcobenshain@gmail.com
Locality: Montgomery County
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

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Map: Statewide HOD maps A4, B4, A5 and B5
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

I ask the Commission to please reconsider splitting Montgomery County between three different House of Delegates districts. This approach does not appear to be guided by considerations of communities of interest or compactness, but rather by political considerations such as incumbent residency. It is entirely possible to limit the split of Montgomery County into two delegate districts. Thank you for your time and effort.

DATE: 9/21/2021 9:18:15 PM

Name: Christopher Jordan Labiosa
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jordan@labiosa.com
Locality: Craig County
Region: **West Central**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Topics of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Craig County - Roanoke
Community of interest description: Craig County's reliance on Roanoke County demonstrates an interest in maintaining a district keeping them together.

COMMENTS:

This comment applies to both the A3 and B3 House of Delegate District proposed maps. I attempted to add my comment to the website map portal but the form froze in the "processing" position so I am unsure if my submission went through.

I was honored that Craig County was the #1 voting locality (81.7%) for the formation of the Redistricting Commission. In part, this was because Craig County is currently represented in the Virginia Senate by a Senator in Lynchburg. Though Senator Newman has done a fine job of representing our values, it is easy to see that Craig County is culturally and geographically different from Lynchburg and interested in different priorities.

It is my assessment that Craig County should be in a Roanoke-based House of Delegates district to maintain our community of interest. I was disappointed to see that Craig County has been drawn into a district weighted overwhelmingly in Montgomery. Though Craig County shares a small border and a backroad with Montgomery, we do not share much else.

Craig County is in the Roanoke Metropolitan Region with a Roanoke-centric population base. A vast majority of our workforce travels to Roanoke County every day for employment utilizing Craig County's primary road, Rt 311, for travel. Rt. 311 is also a road maintained out of the Roanoke-based VDOT Salem residency. Craig County has just one small grocery store and most households rely on Salem/Roanoke as the closest source of broader options and prices. The largest industry in Craig County, a sand mining plant, relies on roads in the Catawba Valley to reach the Roanoke Cement Co. If you dial 911 in Craig County and need transportation to a hospital, the odds are more than 85% in favor of you being transported to a Roanoke-based hospital. Craig County law enforcement is trained at Cardinal Justice Academy in Salem and our allotment of State Troopers serves out of the Area 40 Office (Roanoke and Craig Counties).

Our namesake, Robert Craig, was a Roanoke-based delegate. To remove Craig County from a Roanoke-based district would ignore substantial precedent in the fact that Craig County has never been paired within a district which does not include Roanoke County or Botetourt.

Removing Craig County's Roanoke-based representation in the House of Delegates serves only to detach our interests from representation in Richmond. Craig County should be in a Roanoke-based House of Delegates district and not a district 94.2% (A3) (95.8% B3) weighted in the New River Valley.

DATE SENT: 9/11/2021 11:35:38 AM
FROM: From: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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NAME: Name: James Nicol
EMAIL: Email: nicol.js@gmail.com
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

SUBJECT: Subject: Lynchburg Gerrymandering

COMMENT:

Comment: I second Mr. James Wright's comment. There is no reason to continue to split Lynchburg between multiple districts. The Lynchburg community deserves compact and representative district maps

DATE SENT: 9/10/2021 2:23:52 PM
FROM: From: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Name: James W. Wright
EMAIL: Email: jimrite@mac.com
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

SUBJECT: Subject: Lynchburg redistricting

COMMENT:

Comment: Previous redistricting has divided Lynchburg between tow senate districts and two house districts, thereby unfairly diluting Lynchburg's voice in the General Assembly. We are a community of interest and wish to speak as one voice in Richmond. I ask the Commission to restore Lynchburg's historic position as a single voting district. Thanks to the Commission for its work.

DATE SENT: 9/10/2021 1:24:02 AM
FROM: From: Richard Mr Zimmermann <richardzimmermann@verizon.net>

COMMENT:

The nested DD delegate districts in each congressional district CD can be apportioned in a nearly 'nested' fashion into SD senate districts.
In ten (10) apportioning steps allocating previously nested DD delegate districts within each congressional district CD, two-and-a-half (2.5) DDs can be drawn for each SD senate district (with the only exception the first small CD with ten small DDs which is insufficient to populate four small SDs alone).
Recall from the previous post: an average congressional district = 9 average DDs + 1 average DD = 10 DDs (=2.5 + 2.5 + 2.5 +2.5 DDs) = 4 average SDs
Assume A:
The 1
st
-drawn CD in Northern Virginia should have a small population (average-2%=760,480) uniquely with 10 smallest DDs (ave.-2%=76,048). When one average DD is apportioned from the 2
nd
-drawn CD in NOVA, the total population of those unique 11 DDs equals the minimum population for 4.04 small SDs, leaving an additional margin beyond the nesting scheme range in population (4% v. 5% by law) for district boundary smoothing to four compact SDs

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of 209,135+ each in this unique SD districting case statewide.

Note: The delegate district apportionment is a mechanical procedure unrelated to naming them. Thus, the “inside-the-beltway” congressional district to be VA-08, and the two adjacent congressional districts, one CD north of US-50 to be VA-10, and one CD south of US-50 to be VA-11, so as to maintain their current numbering orientation, allowing for the 19

th

century’s “Fighting Ninth” southwestern congressional district to be given

VA-09, its traditional number that has been assigned there uninterrupted in previous redistricting.

Assume B:

Each congressional district chosen in sequence is adjacent to the previously apportioned congressional district.

Assume C:

The population hub(s) in each congressional district have their largest portion(s) in senate districts that do NOT straddle two or more congressional districts; only the lower density ‘spoke’ localities will be drawn into a ‘straddling’

senate district, while NO delegate district will straddle two or more congressional districts.

- Step #1. The small 1

st CD mapped for SDs: VA-08 = 10 small DDs + 1 ave. DD (CD: 2

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) = 4 SDs (SD: 1

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- Step #2. Next 9 DDs (CD: 2

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) + 1 DD (CD: 3

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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 5

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; (9-1=8)

- Step #3. Next 8 DDs (CD 3

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) + 2 DD (CD: 4

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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 9

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, 10

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, 11

th

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, 12
th
); (9-2=7)
- Step #4. Next 7 DDs (CD 4
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) + 3 DD (CD 5
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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 13
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, 14
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, 15
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, 16
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); (9-3=6)
- Step #5. Next 6 DDs (CD 5
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) + 4 DDs (CD 6
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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 17
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, 18
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, 19
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, 20
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); (9-4=5)
- Step #6. Next 5 DDs (CD 6
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) + 5 DDs (CD 7
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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 21
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, 22
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, 23
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); (9-5=4)
- Step #7. Next 4 DDs (CD 7
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) + 6 DDs (CD 8
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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 25
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, 26
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, 27

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th
, 28
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); (9-6=3)
- Step #8. Next 3 DDs (CD 8
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) + 7 DDs (CD 9
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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 29
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, 30
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, 31
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, 32
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); (9-7=2)
- Step #9. Next 2 DDs (CD 9
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) + 8 DDs (CD 10
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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 33
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, 34
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, 35
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, 36
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); (9-8=1)
- Step #10. Next 1 DDs (CD 10
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) + 9 DDs (CD 11
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) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 37
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, 38
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, 39
th
, 40
th
); (9-9=0, there are
no [zero] DDs unaccounted for in the apportionment into 'nested' SDs.)
Sincerely,
Richard G. Zimmermann, Jr.
1226 Brookside Landing
Chesapeake VA 23320
cell: 703-946-7543
District Charlottesville and Albemarle County
has a combined population of 156,000.

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76% white. 24% non-white. Our largest employers are UVA, UVA Health Systems, State Farm Insurance, Federal and local government and tourism. Many people come to our area to retire, thus Lake Monticello is part of our community of interest. Charlottesville has more in common with Louisa, Orange and Culpeper than we do with southside Virginia. We have even more in common with Rockingham, Harrisonburg and Augusta, Staunton and Waynesboro that are NOT currently in our district than we do with Brunswick, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg or Manassas that ARE in our district. We would like to see districts drawn with fresh maps, make sure the districts are contiguous, compact, communities of interest kept together, and to keep competitiveness while reducing partisanship.

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:34:25 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Libby Allen
EMAIL: libby0819allen@gmail.com
REGION: Valley/Northern/West Central/Central
LOCALITY: Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Lynchburg, Richmond

SUBJECT: District Status Quo is Not Acceptable

COMMENT:
I am asking commission members, regardless of party affiliation, to reject political considerations in designing district boundaries. Please utilize planning district boundaries and exclude addresses of General Assembly members in the mapping criteria. The criteria for voting districts should include compactness, contiguity, racial equity, and representation by communities of interest. Past gerrymandering has unfortunate results, for example my area is split into four Senate districts: two including western neighbors in the Shenandoah Valley, and one from Spotsylvania in the East, and Lynchburg to the south. Likewise, our area is split among five House districts, including two from the Valley and Richmond. Our Congressional District stretches from Fauquier to the North Carolina border. Across the state other glaring examples abound where the communities of interest are split up and not truly represented by a common legislator. The 23 existing Planning Districts, which are created by Virginia statute, could be used as the basis for drawing legislative and congressional districts. The counties and cities in these PDs are contiguous, share a common geography, and have collaborated on common interests, such as housing, transportation, economic development, and waste management. Because the Planning Districts are creations of the state government, using their structure as a template for redistricting is most appropriate. Congressional districts could be fashioned by combining some portions of adjacent PDs. To reach the ideal size for congressional districts, some PDs would need to be combined in whole or in part with adjacent PDs

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DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 8:47:41 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Barbara J Pryor <saoirse2017@outlook.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Amherst

SUBJECT:

COMMENT:

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get Outlook for Android

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 28, 2021 3:35:18 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: jackie bibby <jackiebobby62@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Amherst

COMMENT:

Knowing that the redistricting process is now underway for the USA. I, a registered voter of Amherst County, would encourage that our voting districts be put together and not split by the Blue Ridge Mountain. It is very confusing voting in a split county for citizens.
Thank- you,
jackiebobby62@gmail.com

FROM: janice augustine <augustinejanice@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Amherst

COMMENT:

My husband and I are residents of Amherst County and are politically active. We vote every election.
In the past, Amherst County was divided between districts and remains so today. This causes a lot of confusion when discussing issues and trying to participate in voting on solutions common to our county.
Please put Amherst County back together in one district so we can vote with our neighbors on issues important to us.
Thank you.
Dr. D.C. and Janice Augustine
228 Riversedge Lane
Amherst, VA. 24521
434-944-1218

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:54:48 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Kathy Chase <kchase@sbc.edu>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Amherst

COMMENT:

Please Amherst County back together for the purposes of voting.
Please put Amherst county together on our side of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

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Thank you.
Katharine B. Chase

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 4:06:57 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Nancy LEWIS <2grands2002@verizon.net>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Amherst

COMMENT:
Please put Amherst County on our side of Blue Ridge Mountain, I live on the Route 29. corridor and should be voting with my neighboring counties. Thank you, Nancy Lewis
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 6:54:03 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Edward Kable <nkable@aol.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Amherst

COMMENT:
Please put our County back together! A few years ago the Legislature divided our County between the 23rd and 24th Districts, and our friends in the lower part of the County were lumped in with Lynchburg. Please put us back together, and unite us along the US 29 corridor, instead of joining us with folks on the other side of the mountains, in Rockbridge County.
Thank You,
Edward Kable
156 Patrick Henry Hwy
Amherst, VA 24521

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Amherst

COMMENT:
To: The Virginia Redistricting Commission
From: Amherst County NAACP Branch 7045
We wish to sincerely thank you for taking on this mammoth task.
Our Branch worked very hard with OneVirginia2021 and FairMapsVA throughout the process that finds you on this Commission. It was with the understanding that the result would be that "Voters Choose Politicians, they don't Choose Us".
We appeal to you to examine Amherst County.
Amherst County is divided in two, between the 23rd and 24th House of Delegates.
Amherst County has 11 Voting Precincts, two of them are Split Voting Precincts.
House District 23 represents part of the city of Lynchburg and parts of Amherst and Bedford counties.
House District 24 represents the cities of Buena Vista and Lexington, Bath and

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Rockbridge counties; and parts of Amherst and Augusta counties.

This division of Amherst County guarantees that neither Party can field a candidate capable of winning a seat at the table.

District 22 of the Virginia Senate encompasses all of Amherst County, Appomattox County, Buckingham County, Cumberland County, Fluvanna County, Goochland County,

Prince Edward County, part of Louisa County, and part of the City of Lynchburg.

When electing State representation, Amherst voters in the 24

th HD vote with

people who

live on the West Virginia border all the way east to Short Pump.

Congressional District 6 includes Amherst County, Augusta County, Bath County, Botetourt County, Highland County, Page County, Rockbridge County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, Warren County, portions of Bedford County and Roanoke County. The cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, Roanoke, Staunton and Waynesboro.

With the exceptions of Amherst County and Lynchburg City, all CD6 is on the I-81 Corridor. Amherst County is on the 29 corridor. Route 29 runs through the center of Amherst County and the Town of Amherst, the County Seat.

Amherst County and the 24HD are separated from the rest of CD6 by the Blue Ridge

Mountains and the George Washington National Forest. This can make it very difficult

and sometimes dangerous to attend meetings on the other side of the mountain, especially

in the winter months, at night.

We ask that you put our county back together and put us on our side of the Blue Ridge

Mountains.

We want to vote with our neighbors, with counties on our side of the mountain. We cannot address issues that affect us if Amherst County remains divided and isolated from voters who share those issues and concerns.

Sincerely,

Gloria T. Witt, President, Branch 7045

Beverly Jones, Vice President

Jackie Bibby, Secretary

David Moseley, Treasurer

Suzanne Chambers, Political Action – Redistricting Chair

“Put Our County Back Together” to STOP VOTER

CONFUSION!

Amherst County Branch 7045

434.942.4367

Like us on Facebook.com/AmherstVANAACP

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 6, 2021 5:36:35 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Susanna Trefsgar <maplspng@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Amherst

COMMENT:

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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 in the Northern and Western ends of Amherst County. We are a farming community and tourism is probably our most lucrative industry here. We are bordered by Nelson County to our North. Currently we are part of the 6th Congressional district. We are part and parceled out so much (6th district) that we have very little in interaction with folks on the other of the Blue Ridge. We love them, but the mountains are a dividing line in a sense. They don't shop here, nor us there. Having our representative and our state legislators in Lexington or Roanoke make us seem like the outcast portion of the district. The way the lines have been drawn do NOT represent the actual diversity of our areas and actually ignore those diversities by putting together like thinkers (voters) areas/neighborhoods that really don't live in the same region and not allowing a proper balance if voters. Please stop the gerrymandering!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susanna Trefsgar

683 Maple Run Rd Amherst, VA 24521-3870 mapspng@aol.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 2, 2021 2:22:28 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Christopher Garrett <chris@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Amherst

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.

Our current districts do not even closely represent our community.

I would say for most people in Amherst, the community is east of the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is a mostly rural community.

The activities I participate in include mountain biking, road cycling, and worship. I also enjoy going into Lynchburg for shopping, restaurants and other activities. I never go over the Blue Ridge for anything other than long trips or camping.

If you look at my current district it heads all the way to West Virginia!

My community is the people around me. Our district should be redrawn such that the mountains form a natural border.

Sincerely,

Christopher Garrett

189 Faculty Row Amherst, VA 24521

chris@redcedarapps.com

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, February 26, 2021 3:38:34 PM GMT-05:00
FROM: Gloria Witt <Gloria.Witt@define-success.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Amherst County

COMMENT:

To: The Virginia Redistricting Commission

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Attached is a letter from the Amherst County NAACP Branch 7045 providing districting information as it relates to Amherst County. Should you have any questions or would like to speak to our Chairperson on this topic, Suzanne Chambers, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Gloria T. Witt, President

Amherst County Branch 7045

434.942.4367

Like us on Facebook.com/AmherstVANAACP

pg. 1

February 25, 2021

To: The Virginia Redistricting Commission

From: Amherst County NAACP Branch 7045

We wish to sincerely thank you for taking on this mammoth task.

Our Branch worked very hard with OneVirginia2021 and FairMapsVA throughout the process that finds you on this Commission. It was with the understanding that the result would be that "Voters Choose Politicians, they don't Choose Us".

We appeal to you to examine Amherst County.

Amherst County is divided in two, between the 23rd and 24th House of Delegates.

Amherst County has 11 Voting Precincts, two of them are Split Voting Precincts.

House District 23 represents part of the city of Lynchburg and parts of Amherst and Bedford counties.

House District 24 represents the cities of Buena Vista and Lexington, Bath and Rockbridge counties; and parts of Amherst and Augusta counties.

This division of Amherst County guarantees that neither Party can field a candidate capable of winning a seat at the table.

District 22 of the Virginia Senate encompasses all of Amherst County, Appomattox County, Buckingham County, Cumberland County, Fluvanna County, Goochland County, Prince Edward County, part of Louisa County, and part of the City of Lynchburg.

When electing State representation, Amherst voters in the 24th HD vote with people who live on the West Virginia border all the way east to Short Pump.

pg. 2

Congressional District 6 includes Amherst County, Augusta County, Bath County, Botetourt County, Highland County, Page County, Rockbridge County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, Warren County,

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 6:14:03 PM GMT-04:00

FROM: Lyn Gray <lynhowellgray@gmail.com>

REGION: West Central

LOCALITY: Blacksburg

COMMENT:

To Virginia Redistricting Commission

From: Linda H. Gray, Blacksburg, VA

I am pleased with today's decision to begin the Virginia redistricting map-drawing process from scratch. I ask also that the Commission hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered. This will promote citizen confidence that the resulting maps were done fairly.

Thank you,

Linda H. Gray

Blacksburg, VA

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DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, May 22, 2021 11:21:10 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Sarah Ovink <sovink@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Blacksburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commission,

I am a Virginia resident and I'm tired of living in a non-competitive district. Our congressional representative, H. Morgan Griffith, does very little for our area (District 9) and yet there is no way to hold him accountable, because he easily wins with about 70% of the vote every time. He has even said so himself; he knows he is guaranteed a win no matter how much or how little he does. He has declined to meet with constituents, or hold town hall meetings, because he complains that the district is too large to do so. Our district IS large--it's slightly larger than the state of New Jersey, in fact. Even a key endorsement he received, from a local paper, in 2018, endorsed him only reluctantly, acknowledging the fact that he doesn't work hard for our district, doesn't bring in jobs or talk to constituents or help solve their problems, and spends most of his time posturing to demonstrate his allegiance to the Republican Party, rather than finding out what our district needs and working to help us in measurable ways. The endorsement rested only on the paper's acknowledgement that "most people in the district want a conservative representative," and his was the name with an "R" next to it on the ballot. This situation is frustrating, to say the least.

I hope that the commission will take the trouble to draw district lines that ensure that every district is competitive. Non-competitive districts are good for no one except incumbents; no one even bothered to run against Griffith in 2020, recognizing the hopelessness of the situation, and leaving voters with no choice at all. I hope the commission also makes districts physically smaller, so that politicians can't hide behind the excuse of physical size to avoid meeting with and being accountable to the public.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ovink
Resident of Blacksburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, September 3, 2021 8:42:43 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: SHARON BROCKMAN <sharonbrockman@mcps.org>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Christianburg

COMMENT:

I understand the 9th Congressional District will be growing geographically. I would prefer Franklin County or Botetourt County join the 9th CD over Roanoke City.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sharon Brockman
710 W Main St
Christiansburg VA 24074
dsbrockman@verizon.net

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 7:32:12 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: sally field <sallymfield@hotmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**

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LOCALITY: Fincastle

COMMENT:

I would just like to pass on my opinion regarding the Re-districting Commission's work to draw the new boundaries for the 2021 elections.

I feel VERY strongly that a non-partisan, mathematically based audit needs to be done to give the best chance of making the district lines actually be non-partisan. There are mathematical models available that are able to draw legislative lines free of partisan gerrymandering.

The electorate is to choose the legislature, the legislature is not to choose the electorate.

This process of redistricting CAN be done in an even, transparent, non-partisan way. Virginia passed an amendment to make that possible. Do your job.

Sally M. Field
Fincastle

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 11:45:26 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: E. Whittier <ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Floyd

COMMENT:

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

I'm requesting a non-partisan consultant do a mathematical audit, using an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria, to any maps that are considered.

Thank you,

Edna Whittier

ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com

Floyd, Va. 24091

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, July 10, 2021 1:16:01 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Edna Whittier <ewsoccerwomen@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Floyd

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.

Floyd County is connected to the New River Valley area in terms of library system, hospital and health clinics. The community college is New River CC. Arts and music, -- Floyd Fest, Floyd Country store Friday night Jamboree, Floyd Center for the Arts, Junebug Center for theater plays (adult and children) and after-school dance, computer STEM learning are big activities. Community fundraisers for rescue squad, volunteer firefighters, food banks, New River Valley Community Action for homeless resources, (Floyd does not have housing for the homeless, they have to go to Montgomery County), volunteering for Angels in the Attic thrift shop are service activities frequently attended by the community. Virginia Tech is the easiest, nearest university to Floyd County.

I hope Floyd County will be more attached to the New River Valley for re-districting consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Edna Whittier

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887 Countyline Church Rd SE Floyd, VA 24091-2846 ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 7:40:12 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: Hope Moffa
EMAIL: hope.moffa@gmail.com
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

SUBJECT: Redistricting

COMMENT:

Thank you for taking the time to complete the redistricting of Virginia. I think most will agree that achieving this in 45 days sounds like a daunting task. There are many ways this can be achieved but I hope that you do not pursue the idea of starting from the current map. The current map is a disaster, especially in places like Lynchburg where cities have been carved up. Please take the time to start from a blank map and look at communities of interest along with populations. Lynchburg should be drawn together as we have one city government, one school system, and one transportation system. We would be better represented by one House of Delegates district and one state Senate district. Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing the fair redistricting you will put forth. Sincerely, Hope Moffa Lynchburg

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:22:03 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Patricia Moore
EMAIL: Trishamoo@gmail.com
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

SUBJECT: Redistributing map

COMMENT:

Please hire three map experts to help redraw the voting districts in Virginia, and start from scratch to draw fair and well-apportioned districts, instead of using existing (and, in some cases gerrymandered) districts. I would also like to request that Lynchburg remain totally in one district.

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 16, 2021 1:00:53 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
NAME: Trudy H McDaniel
EMAIL: trudymcdaniel@gmail.com
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

SUBJECT: Don't use the old maps!

COMMENT:

I am so proud of the legislation that will enable VA to redraw districts fairly. The whole nation needs to follow this example. It is necessary, however, to throw out the old maps that were developed to deliver votes to specific candidates by dividing communities. They must

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not be used. Please begin anew following best practices to establish the map criteria so that we can function as whole communities once again. We have voted to enable fairness in the redistricting process and now place our trust in you to create maps that unite rather than divide us. Regards, Trudy H McDaniel Lynchburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 12, 2021 9:15:55 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Julie Smith <jsmith@dls.virginia.gov>
NAME: John McCoy
EMAIL: kev.mc.for.short@gmail.com
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

SUBJECT: One Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Dear Commissioners, The census data released today state that the City of Lynchburg has a population of 79,009, versus a population of 8,631,393 for all of Virginia. Because (1) Lynchburg is socially and demographically distinct from the surrounding counties, and (2) there are 100 seats in the House of Delegates, and (3) the population of Lynchburg is very nearly 1/100th of that of the Commonwealth, I urge you to consider assigning all of Lynchburg to a single district for the House of Delegates. Because the Virginia Senate has only 40 seats, Lynchburg's Senate district will necessarily include a substantial area from nearby counties. However, it is difficult to see why Lynchburg should be divided between two districts. Just as with the House, Lynchburg should remain as one. Sincerely, John McCoy

REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Commissioners,
I encourage the Virginia Redistricting Commission to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any proposed maps that are considered. In the interest of public confidence, I strongly urge you all to move forward with this plan.
Sincerely, a proponent for fair elections and for an end to Gerrymandering
Robert V. Poignant
300 Lansing Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:04:15 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: MaryJane Dolan <maryjanedolanlyh@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Commissioners,
First let me express my deep gratitude for your participating in this important redistricting process. Your value is immeasurable. Thank you.
The city of Lynchburg is a unique legislative district and needs to be looked at with consideration of the

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uniqueness of its geographic divisions. My hope is that you will consider restoring Lynchburg to single legislative district in which it was prior to 2011. Our city is a single community of interest, but it is currently split between two House of Delegates districts and two Senate districts. Due to our unusual way that Virginia allows totally separate jurisdictions for independent cities and counties that surround them, the interest and concerns of Lynchburg and its contiguous counties separate more often than they align.

This system is extremely cumbersome and not conducive to effectively serving out citizens. It is just stunning to think that two city residents of the same Ward could have different representatives in Richmond. A city our size with four Wards and 18 precincts resulting in four different ballots necessary every four years for the City of Lynchburg is not only costly but totally ineffective.

The current map is peculiar and I am asking you that as you begin this process that you restore Lynchburg as a single community of interest..

Again, thank you for your attention to this issue and your service to our Commonwealth.

My best to you as you walk through this process.

MaryJane Tousignant-Dolan, Mayor, City of Lynchburg, Virginia

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 6, 2021 3:46:36 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Niro Rasanayagam <niro_r@hotmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Dear Redistricting Commission Members,

My name is Niro Rasanayagam and I made the following comments at the virtual public hearing last night. I am concerned that not all the Commissioners are required to attend all the public hearings, and would like to share my comments via email here for their benefit.

I have lived and paid taxes in Lynchburg for 18 years. The City of Lynchburg is a small urban city. Lynchburg’s social, cultural and economic interests are DIFFERENT from those of the more rural counties –to whom we have unnaturally been attached to since 2011. The rural counties currently dominate the portfolios of most of our legislators, diluting Lynchburg’s community clout and diminishing our voice in Richmond.

In terms of taxes, infrastructure, economic development, the public school system, environmental and planning pressures, and public safety, the City of Lynchburg’s needs and interests are best advocated by a single House Delegate and a single State senator for whom Lynchburg voters are the bulk of their constituents.

For example, Lynchburg has a significantly higher poverty rate, in some cases almost double the poverty rate, than our nearby rural counties.

Our schools, transportation systems, medical care systems, and housing solutions must work for and serve this higher-needs population.

We need legislators who understand our urban strengths and challenges, and who will respond to and advocate for our urban interests.

The current “cracking” of Lynchburg into four districts, instead of two, is also confusing to voters and is impractical. Currently, many precincts even within the same election wards in Lynchburg are in different districts! This makes no sense and it also makes it more expensive for the City Registrar to administer and run elections.

The basic tenet of the Code of Virginia 24.2-305 which states “each

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election district and precinct shall be composed of compact and contiguous territory and shall have clearly defined and clearly observable boundaries” was not followed for Lynchburg during the 2011 redistricting process after the 2010 census. I urge you now to please rectify that and restore Lynchburg as a single community of interest. Neighbors across the street, or a few doors down, could be in entirely different House and Senate districts! Even the savviest voters have a hard time keeping track of who their representatives are and what district they’re in—because it could be any two of a four-way combination! The only way to know for sure is if a constituent takes the time to put in their address and looks it up online! And even then they will need to know where to look and how to do this. This adds to voter confusion, frustration, and disengagement from the democratic process. I want to stand with my fellow residents from all over Lynchburg on issues that impact us City residents, and right now I’m feeling a little powerless. For example, I care about downtown revitalization, but I have no say there with my Delegate because my Delegate does not cover downtown Lynchburg.

Instead of putting us with fellow Lynchburg residents in a single Senate district, we are lumped in with residents of Craig County, bordering West Virginia on one end, and with residents of tiny Goochland County almost near Richmond on the other end.

No offense to them, but I didn’t even know where these far-flung counties are located (Craig, Goochland, Buckingham, Louisa, Cumberland, Fluvanna). I’ve had to go look them up on a map of Virginia. I have no affinity with these distant rural counties. It makes no sense to me that I’ve been lumped in with them rather than with my friends and neighbors right here in Lynchburg.

Please restore the City of Lynchburg into the single community of interest that we naturally are, with a single HOD and a single Senate district. Thank you for your service to Virginia and please be objective when drawing these maps!

Sincerely,
Niro Rasanayagam
Lynchburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 4:39:04 PM GMT-05:00
FROM: Jennifer Woofter <jennifer@sustainabilityconsulting.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Hello Selection Committee members,
Thank you in advance for your service to advance a fair and effective redistricting process. You have an incredibly important job (as I'm sure you know!) and the citizens of Virginia are counting on you to represent competing and often contradictory interests. I wish you the best in this challenging but worthy endeavor.
It was natural to see that the legislator "short list" of 64 citizens included primarily Republican citizens from rural areas and Democratic candidates from the urban areas -- since that is how our General Assembly is primarily constituted. However, I would like to suggest that you select at least one of Democratic citizen member of the commission from outside of the urban crescent

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area.

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Jennifer Woofter

Strategic Sustainability Consulting, President

VA House of Delegates, 2019 Candidate (HD-22)

ROSEL's List, Co-Chair

League of Women Voters – Lynchburg, Membership Chair

Lynchburg City Schools, Equity Task Force Member

Small Business Development Center, Business Advisor

Mentor Capital Network, Business Mentor

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

1919 Rivermont Avenue

Lynchburg, VA 24503

W: 202-470-3248

C: 202-380-7544

E: jennifer@sustainabilityconsulting.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 9:20:55 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Lawrence Symonds <lhsymonds@aol.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
The audit MUST be non-partisan and mathematical. We spent 5 years working to assure there would be fair redistricting. Anything less would be totally unacceptable.
Thank you,
Lawrence and Ann Symonds
Lynchburg 24502

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, August 23, 2021 8:40:57 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Marvin Wingfield <marvick2@comcast.net>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Dear Redistricting Commission:
Please count me in as another supporter of the proposal to "hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered."
Thank you,

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Marvin Wingfield
Lynchburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, August 22, 2021 10:08:41 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Carla Heath cheath340@icloud.com
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Commissioners,
Please do not let the media naysayers discourage you!!
From my virtual observations of Commission meetings, it has become clear to me that you are well aware of and making good faith efforts to address the challenging task of complying with the US and VA constitutions; the Voting Rights Act and Code of Virginia so as to avoid legal challenges AND taking account of concerns expressed by members of the public as anticipated by the citizens who supported the establishment of the Commission. You have my sincere admiration and respect. .
I do think your task would be easier if you agreed to enlist the help of ONE professional map-making organization. Submitting two maps that are identified up-front as a) Democrat and b) Republican will be confusing for the public surely affect responses from concerned citizens as well as political & redistricting junkies. To me, starting fresh makes the most sense as Census data indicate state districts will have to be re-distributed.
Thank you for considering these thoughts. Good Luck
Carla Heath
Lynchburg

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 2:59:26 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Helen Wheelock <hfwheelock@me.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Redistricting Commission:
Since 2011, Lynchburg has been split into 4 different voting blocks. We were told it would be better because we would have more legislators; however the reality is the four blocks create confusion and dilution of our votes.
My message is simple: Put the City of Lynchburg Back Together. We are a Community of Interest.
We have: One City Government
One School System
One Hospital System
One River-The James
One Transportation System
We have city wide, community supported, entities working on the big issues in Lynchburg; poverty, housing, inequities, hunger, education. We have come together as one city to help support all the citizens. We are one COI.
I appreciate the work the Commission is doing for fair redistricting. It is exciting to see the process as it is happening and having our voices heard.
I do realize recognizing communities of interest will impact some of our legislators' districts.
Thank you for putting in the hard work and making the decisions for fair redistricting.
I hope the Commission will start with a clean empty map and consider hiring professional map

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makers.

Please recognize the City of Lynchburg as one Community of Interest and put us back together.

Thank you for your consideration,
Helen Wheelock
Lynchburg

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:09:02 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Maegan Fallen <mlcrews@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

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?
Lynchburg is a vibrant community that deserves to be united in representation. Please redraw the district map so that Lynchburg is all in one district and our amazing community can share a voice.
Sincerely,
Maegan Fallen
311 Rowland Dr Lynchburg, VA 24503-2619 mlcrews@email.wm.edu

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 11:45:19 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: David Lee <davidnlee1@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

To members of the Lynchburg Redistricting Commission,
As the Managing Director of a local nonprofit company and a citizen of Lynchburg City, I am appalled by the current stratification of Lynchburg City's House of Delegates and Senate districts.
Lynchburg's social, cultural, and economic interests as a small but growing city are different from those of our surrounding, more rural counties. In order to act in our community's best interest regarding taxes, infrastructure and transportation, economic development, the public school system, environmental planning pressures, and public safety, I urgently request that Lynchburg be kept whole as a single community of interest, with one House of Delegates district and one state Senate district. Doing so is not only the best way to ensure the constitutional voting rights of Lynchburg citizens, but it is also common sense. Acting against basic logic to maintain arbitrary divisions in our districts for political ends constitutes an abuse of power. We urge you to act with fairness and integrity by healing our fragmented districts.
Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, otherwise, please take your responsibility as stewards of ALL of your constituents to heart and do the right thing.
Sincerely,
David Lee

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DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 11:28:03 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Javaun Moradi <javaunnpr@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Hello!
I am a longtime resident of Lynchburg, VA, my address is below.
I am thrilled that a bipartisan commission is examining Virginia voting districts. It is inconceivable to me that our growing, thriving city of Lynchburg is split into two voting districts. Our local government doesn't have split representation (of course it doesn't!) and neither should our state representation. We are one city, one tax base, and it's time that our state delegates mirrored our real-world city.
Thank you for your work.
Sincerely,
Javaun Moradi
345 Woodland Avenue
Lynchburg, VA 24503
404-386-8800

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 11, 2021 9:37:27 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Patricia Bower <bowerpatricia2@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Please do not start the map drawing process from the current map. The people voted for a fresh, new process that would not favor incumbent office holders. Please DO keep communities of interest intact. Lynchburg City historically was in one House and Senate district, as is appropriate since the whole city shares the same government, school system and facilities. In 2011 the City was carved up into two House and two Senate districts. This is the gerrymandering that must not happen again.
Thank you for your important work.
Pat Bower
501 VES Rd., Apt. W221
Lynchburg, VA 24503

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, August 5, 2021 10:07:56 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Carla Heath <cheath340@icloud.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Commissioners,
Thank you for serving on this important commission and for making genuine efforts to abide by the Constitution and VA code and to be as open and transparent as possible.
In this regard, as co-chair Greta Harris acknowledged on Tuesday, due in large part to the absence of a professional communications team, public outreach for the Commission has been spotty and left largely in the hands of redistricting advocacy organizations like OneVirginia and the League of Women Voters of Virginia. The VLS staff has tried valiantly to fill the gap but they

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have many other commission tasks to attend to as well.

Given the short time between drafting of new maps and hearings for public comments on the maps, it is imperative that plans for timely, wide-spread publication of those maps are in place and ready for implementation well BEFORE Sept. 20, the proposed date for the first live hearing. Official Commonwealth notices of public hearings such as the one that belatedly appeared in the Lynchburg News and Advance Aug. 5th the day of the FINAL pre-census data hearings, will not be adequate to solicit informed and meaningful public responses to the maps.

Like others who want the exercise to succeed, I wish you the best

Carla Heath
Lynchburg

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 2:34:40 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jennifer W <jenniferkwillis@gmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Hello,

I am a resident of Lynchburg, VA. Our district is split so that our urban core is not one district. This means that our city is split and each part combined with its rural neighboring counties. This takes away the voices and ignores the needs and wants of the citizens of Lynchburg in Richmond.

I ask that you keep Lynchburg whole as a single community of interest, with one House of Delegates district and one state Senate district when new district lines are drawn.

Thank you
Jennifer Wills
Lynchburg, VA 24503

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, July 18, 2021 11:42:55 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Shannon <shannonw481@gmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Please restore Lynchburg to a single house and senate district. It is absurd that the city must print four different ballots to accommodate the current gerrymandered districts. We all live under the same governmental unit.

Shannon Brennan
Lynchburg, VA 24503
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:21:11 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Martha Hicks <marthahicks1950@icloud.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Hello,

I live in the Western part of Lynchburg City. My neighborhood was annexed in the 70's from part of Campbell County. When we moved here Virgil Goode was our Congressman and now we are in

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the 6th Congressional and Ben Cline is our Congressman. The City has two State Senators and two House of Delegate Representatives. Every four years the registrar has to print four ballots. This is expensive and confusing especially to new voters. Please unite Lynchburg into one area with one State Senator and one House of Delegate Representative.

Thank you,
Martha Hicks
108 Yorkshire Circle
Lynchburg, VA 24502
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, August 3, 2021 9:25:31 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Karin Warren <karinw7@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

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. Dear Redistricting Commission members, I am a long-time Lynchburg resident. I am also a scientist specializing in community climate resilience, and so I know how important it is for our interconnected community to be united in developing community-based strategies for preparing for climate change, and for communities facing shared threats to be represented appropriately in state government. Please end the gerrymandering and make Lynchburg City whole as one community of interest, within one House of Delegates district and one state Senate district. We have more in common as a community with our fellow neighbors and residents of Lynchburg than with those who live three counties away in rural areas, or the suburbs of Richmond, and our representation should reflect that. Thank you.

Dr. Karin Warren
Lynchburg Ward 1 Precinct 5
Sincerely,
Dr. Karin Warren
412 Elmwood Ave Lynchburg, VA 24503-4410 karinw7@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:16:38 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Vince Sawyer <lvsawyerjr@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

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? Ten years ago the city of Lynchburg was split into 2 House of Representatives districts and 2 state senate districts. It is very confusing for voters since the lines were drawn so that sometimes voters on the same street are in two different districts. The city has a population of about 80,000 people, and if the city's residents are in one House district and one Senate district, our one Senator and one House member would increase the impact our votes would have when

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legislating the business of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Vince Sawyer

2209 Ridgewood Dr Lynchburg, VA 24503-2933 lvsawyerjr@comcast.net

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, July 25, 2021 2:41:43 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Beau Wright <beau@wrightforlynchburg.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

PO Box 401

Lynchburg, Virginia

24504

July 25, 2021

Virginia Redistricting Commission

Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor

900 E. Main Street

Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Members of the Commission,

First, I want to offer my thanks to each of you for your service to Virginia. You are doing hard, important work, and I'm grateful to you for your leadership, skill, and care as you weigh the many considerations before you.

I write as a Lynchburg native and current at-large member, as well as vice-mayor, of Lynchburg City Council, and urge you to unify Lynchburg into single legislative districts. As you may be aware, until 2011, Lynchburg was wholly encapsulated within the 23rd House of Delegates District and 23rd State Senate District.

That districting arrangement made sense, given that Lynchburg is, as it was then, a single community of interest: a geographically distinct city with a rich history and cultural legacy, a single city council, single school division, single police and fire departments, etc. After 2011, however, our city was split, between two House districts and two Senate districts. Because we are not a unified whole, these lines have had the unfortunate effect of diluting Lynchburg's influence in Richmond. It's also costly — our registrar, for example, has to print up to four ballots for state elections — and is terribly confusing for voters, many of whom live across the street from someone in a different House or Senate district, or both.

Surely, Lynchburg voters have more interests in common with each other than Virginians living not just counties away, but in the case of the 22nd Senate District, nearly 100 miles away.

With approximately 83,000 people of innumerable common interests, Lynchburg deserves to be unified into single House and Senate districts.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this with you and wish each of you the best as you continue your work.

With thanks,

Beau Wright

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 30, 2021 5:50:52 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: J GREENE <greene1204@comcast.net>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

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COMMENT:

Hello,
I would like to add my voice to those who advocate for uniting Lynchburg into one delegate district and one senate district. Our current situation of being divided four ways is absolutely absurd and was clearly created to dilute the city's voting power. This is a clear situation of partisan gerrymandering. Please remedy this!
Thank you for your attention to this.
Dr. J. William Greene
1204 Krise Circle
Lynchburg, VA 24503

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, July 29, 2021 10:12:21 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Sarah Crosby <sls.cby@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Please keep Lynchburg City whole as a single community of interest, with one House of Delegates district and one state Senate district when new district lines are drawn. Lynchburg is not effectively represented when we are split multiple ways. Thank you for ending partisan gerrymandering.
Sarah Crosby
1413 Landon Court
Lynchburg, VA 24503

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 7:40:57 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: michele bauman <cheleb.g@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Committee,
I am writing to request that the city of Lynchburg, Virginia be redistricted to one senate district and one congressional district. The city should not be divided! As a 20 year resident of Lynchburg I feel the best interest of my community come when all the residents fall into one district.
Thank you for your time.
Respectfully,
M. Michele Bauman
Lynchburg resident

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:50:54 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: West, Ken <west@lynchburg.edu>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
Thank you for the time each of you is committing to redistricting our state. I am an Emeritus Professor, after teaching 40 years at the University of Lynchburg (Lynchburg College). Also, I wrote a weekly family column for Lynchburg's News and Advance for 28 years.

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It is my understanding that both Democrats and Republicans, when in power, have divided Lynchburg into districts that might favor their own party. I am hoping that the Commissioners will rise above politics and do what is best for each location.

It is my very strong opinion that Lynchburg would fare best if it was not divided and then placed into different districts that stretch far away from the city. I am hoping that you will see the wisdom of wholly containing the entire City of Lynchburg within two single districts -- one district for the House of Delegates and another for the Senate. Please reunify Lynchburg. Thank you for taking time to read this viewpoint. I hope Lynchburg and all of The Commonwealth's cities will benefit from your work and decisions.

Best wishes,
Ken West
G. Kenneth West, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor, University of Lynchburg

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, July 18, 2021 8:33:12 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Chal Nunn <chalnunn@gmail.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Commissioners:
I have lived in Lynchburg for over 20 years and have been involved in community service all those years, During that time Lynchburg has been divided into meandering districts for state senate and house where the collective community of Lynchburg has been diluted and the people of Lynchburg don't feel they are represented. Also, the 5th and 6th congressional districts visually make no sense and the extreme north to south geography appears to mix communities with little in common.

Many other letters have pointed out the details of how Lynchburg has been carved up. I will not bore you with more data, but I do want to add my voice asking you to draw district lines that keep Lynchburg and other communities of similar interest together in a single district and not divided and diluted.

Thanks
Chal Nunn MD, CPE, FACPE, MMM
Email chalnunn@gmail.com
Cell 434-944-4385

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, July 18, 2021 4:56:28 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Edward S Lovern <ed@lovern.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Please put the city of Lynchburg in ONE DISTRICT for both the Virginia House of Delegates and for the Virginia Senate.
If you are ever able to hold a meeting in the middle of your Commonwealth, I hope you will consider Lynchburg.
Having lived here from 1942 till 1954 and again from 1969 till now, I would be willing to meet with you or speak on any occasion.
Edward S. Lovern
1910 Gaymoor Terrace 24503

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434-401-3811

DATE RECEIVED: Sunday, July 4, 2021 10:20:57 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Carly Eccles Sheaffer <carly.eccles@gmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

As a small city, Lynchburg has different problems than many of the predominantly rural areas included in the four legislative districts into which Lynchburg is divided. Lynchburg has unique physical infrastructure, school district, property tax, economic development, and law enforcement concerns. Lynchburg also has a shared history that makes it a unique “community of interest.”

Before 2011, the entire city of Lynchburg was included in one House District and one Senate district that were answerable to the voters of Lynchburg. In 2011, Lynchburg was split into four elongated, largely rural districts that dilute Lynchburg's political power in the state legislature. This division is extremely confusing for Lynchburg voters, and it makes it difficult to hold any legislator accountable for policies that affect Lynchburg.

We now have a chance to change that, by not dividing up our city into these different districts.

Thank you for your time!

-Carly Sheaffer

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 6, 2021 3:30:19 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Niro Rasanayagam <niro_r@hotmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,
I have lived in Lynchburg, VA for 18 years and I am writing to urge you to please keep the City of Lynchburg whole, as ONE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST when you redraw districts after the 2020 census.

Lynchburg is a small city consisting of about 83,000 residents. Lynchburg should be kept whole as ONE Community of Interest because it is characterized by all of the hallmarks, features, challenges and strengths of a small urban city. Simply put, for all practical purposes, the City of Lynchburg has urban needs and urban issues, and it must be represented by legislators who understand and want to serve this urban profile of strengths and challenges, and our unique set of social, cultural and economic needs. Currently, after the 2010 redistricting, Lynchburg was artificially “cracked” and carved into four artificial districts—two House districts and two Senate districts—which has not worked to Lynchburg’s favor in policy terms. In fact, the current four-district structure has broken up and fragmented Lynchburg’s community clout in Richmond.

Each of the current four districts unnaturally attaches the City of Lynchburg artificially into counties that are far more rural in nature that surround us. These rural counties are currently the bulk of three out of the four legislators' portfolios, thereby these legislators have had little incentive to focus on the urban issues of our urban City.

Artificially slicing Lynchburg into four districts and attaching it with counties with more rural profiles has diluted the interests of Lynchburg City residents and diminished our clout in Richmond. The 2010 redistricting essentially broke up Lynchburg as a community of interest, and I urge you now to put us back together as one community of interest based on our social, cultural and economic needs.

Lynchburg naturally belongs as one community of interest because it has:

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One public school system

One local government (the City of Lynchburg)

One economic development authority

One police and public safety department

One parks and recreation department

Additionally, Lynchburg as a small urban city has a poverty rate that is significantly higher than our surrounding rural counties, and requires the commensurate additional services (housing, medical, transportation, schools) to serve this segment of higher needs population.

Moreover, due to having a more dense, and less wealthy population per capita, the City of Lynchburg also has physical infrastructure and transportation needs that are very different from our more rural surrounding counties. The way property taxes are assessed and weighed, for example, should be different for our urban setting relative to a more rural setting.

The central business district of downtown Lynchburg is also the hub for arts, culture, and economic development. To preserve downtown Lynchburg's clout on these important matters in Richmond it is best to keep Lynchburg as one community of interest predominantly taking up the portfolio of one House of Delegate member and one Virginia Senate member.

With the current 2010 districting, even election wards within the City have been spliced to the point of making elections confusing to voters, and making it more expensive administratively for the City Registrar's office to run and manage. For example, currently City residents of the same ward (living adjacent to each other, or across the street from each other) could have different representatives in Richmond, which makes no practical sense! Additionally currently, the City Registrar's office has to print FOUR different ballots every four years for elections, and it has a different distribution of ballots for precincts even within the same Ward—which again makes no practical sense!

Lynchburg City is a small urban city, facing its own unique and distinct issues. I want my City and me to be represented by legislators who will unabashedly focus on the urban issues of Lynchburg. Currently, our needs are diluted and hamstrung by the rural counties that we're artificially appended to in districting. Please keep the City of Lynchburg whole as the one community of interest that it naturally is based on its social, cultural, and economic needs.

Sincerely,

Niro Rasanayagam

Lynchburg, VA

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, July 7, 2021 8:16:33 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Niro Rasanayagam <niro_r@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: **West Central**
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

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 writing to urge you to please keep the City of Lynchburg whole, as ONE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST.

Currently, after the 2010 redistricting, Lynchburg was artificially "cracked" and carved into four artificial districts--two House districts and two Senate districts—which has not worked to

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Lynchburg’s favor in policy terms as it has artificially appended Lynchburg to more rural surrounding counties ignoring the fact that Lynchburg has more urban interests as a community. With the current 2010 districting, even election wards within the City of Lynchburg have been spliced to the point of making elections confusing to voters, and making it more expensive administratively for the City Registrar’s office to run and manage. For example, currently City residents of the same ward (living adjacent to each other, or across the street from each other) could have different representatives in Richmond, which makes no practical sense! Additionally currently, the City Registrar’s office has to print FOUR different ballots every four years for elections, and it has a different distribution of ballots for precincts even within the same Ward—which again makes no practical sense!

Please keep the City of Lynchburg whole as the one community of interest that it naturally is based on its social, cultural, and economic interests.

Sincerely,

Niro Rasanayagam

2437 Hawthorne Rd Lynchburg, VA 24503-2905 niro_r@hotmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 12, 2021 9:20:13 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: E. S. McCoy <beth.mc.for.short@everyactioncustom.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

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. Lynchburg, as a small city, faces unique issues not shared by its neighboring, mostly rural counties. Due to Lynchburg's denser population and higher poverty rate, we have different needs that the government should be addressing. For the past ten years, Lynchburg has been divided into four political sections, because it is split not only between two different house of delegates districts, but also two different state senate districts. This dilutes the voice of the residents of Lynchburg to the point that we have very little say in what goes on in Richmond. Even the wards are split up making it hard for residents to know which candidates they are eligible to vote for. Lynchburg is a community of interest and deserves to be represented in Richmond that way. I urge you to reunite Lynchburg as it was before the redistricting of 2011. Please, in drawing the new district boundaries, make sure that Lynchburg is contained entirely within both a single house of delegates district and a single state senate district.

Sincerely,

E. S. McCoy

225 Farley Branch Dr Lynchburg, VA 24502-2364 beth.mc.for.short@gmail.com

DATE RECEIVED: Monday, July 5, 2021 7:32:17 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Eloise Mason <eloisemason@gmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Lynchburg clearly is a “community of interest.” As a small city, Lynchburg has unique physical infrastructure, school district, property tax, economic development, recreational facility, and law enforcement concerns that many of the rural areas included in the current four legislative districts do not share. Lynchburg also has a shared history that makes it a unique “community of interest.”

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Please change the current gerrymander of Lynchburg. Thank you.
Eloise

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, July 9, 2021 6:57:32 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Jeffrey Wooters <jwooters03@icloud.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission,
My name is Jeffrey Wooters and I am writing this email to request that the City of Lynchburg be consolidated into one House of Delegates and one State Senate district after this round of redistricting. For the past decade, Lynchburg's voting power has been diluted between two districts. Our representatives are elected to serve not principally the people of Lynchburg but the rural counties around it. Lynchburg is ONE community of interest, not two; the arbitrary dividing lines drawn across city streets do not separate two distinct peoples from each other. My friends and I attend the same schools, eat at the same restaurants, and participate in the same local elections. Yet we live in different districts drawn for no purpose but to deny the people of Lynchburg their voice. I am urging each member of the redistricting commission to consider the facts - that Lynchburg is one community, one voice - and we deserve to be treated like it by being granted our own district.
Jeffrey Wooters

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

On Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 10:19 AM KENNETH HILL <kwhill@verizon.net> wrote:
Lynchburg is a "community of interest" that should NOT be divided up into different districts, like it is currently. The city has a shared history and a common set of interests and concerns. So state representation should not be sub-divided and diluted with rural areas as it is now.

FROM: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

As a citizen of Lynchburg it is my request that you return us to ONE House of Delegates and ONE Senate district instead of the 4 that were imposed on us in 2011 in a move to gerrymander and weaken our vote.
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Thursday, July 8, 2021 10:22:31 AM GMT-04:00
FROM: Gayle Daly <dalygh@gmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners:

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I am a Lynchburg resident and believe that as part of the redistricting process, Lynchburg should be made whole as one district rather than split between the 22nd and 23rd districts. I think this is important because the entire city has shared social, cultural and economic interests that are very different from the rural areas to which each of our current districts are attached. Lynchburg is a small city that has urban interests and issues that are not at all similar to the interests and issues of the rural counties. By making Lynchburg one district, that representative will be able to focus on and address issues unique to Lynchburg.

Sincerely,
Gayle Daly

DATE RECEIVED: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 3:07:40 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Amy R. Cohen <arcphd@gmail.com>
REGION: West Central
LOCALITY: Lynchburg

COMMENT:
Dear Redistricting Commission,
I implore you to keep the City of Lynchburg as a coherent community of interest as you do the important work before you. We are a vibrant and complex city, whose progress and prosperity is often hampered by our being represented in separate voting districts. We ought to be able to appeal with one community voice to an advocate in our legislatures who represents all of us and who understands the shared interests of the city as a whole.
Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all Virginians.
Sincerely,
Amy R. Cohen
~~~~~  
Dr. Amy R. Cohen  
speaker | teacher | director | ancient Greek | ancient drama  
AmyR.Cohen.com  
arcphd@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, July 12, 2021 9:10:53 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Beth McCoy <beth.mc.for.short@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**  
Dear redistricting commissioners,  
I am writing to urge you to reunite Lynchburg as it was before the redistricting of 2011. As a small city, Lynchburg faces unique issues not shared by its neighboring, mostly rural counties. Due to Lynchburg's denser population and higher poverty rate, we have different needs that the government should be addressing. For the past ten years, Lynchburg has been divided into four political sections, because it is split not only between two different house of delegate districts, but also two different state senate districts. This dilutes the voice of the residents of Lynchburg to the point that we have very little say in what goes on in Richmond. Even the wards are split up making it hard for residents to know which candidates they are eligible to vote for. Lynchburg is a community of interest and deserves to be represented in Richmond that way. Please, in drawing the new district boundaries, make sure that Lynchburg is contained entirely within both a single house of delegates district and a single state senate district.  
Thank you,  
E. S. McCoy

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Lynchburg

**DATE RECEIVED:** Saturday, July 10, 2021 7:18:12 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Downs Little <downslittle@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**

As a citizen taxpayer of Lynchburg, I favor the city to have separate representation unto itself because we are a community with mutual interests of many types which will work for common goals if we have the same representation throughout the city.

**DATE RECEIVED:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 4:59:15 PM GMT-05:00  
**FROM:** Neal Sumerlin <neal.sumerlin@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**

As you draw legislative districts, whether they be congressional districts or state legislative districts, please keep the City of Lynchburg intact as a Community of Interest. House of Delegates districts, based on latest Census figures, would ideally encompass 84,545 persons. The population of Lynchburg is 82,168, a deviation of 4%. The addition of some portion of Madison Heights, directly across the James River and sharing many of the economic interests of the city, could bring the total closer to the ideal. A Senate district, however it is drawn, should not split Lynchburg between districts. A Congressional district should include the entire City of Lynchburg regardless of which District (5th or 6th) the City winds up in. Some factors that make the City of Lynchburg a Community of Interest:

- A common public school system
- Common governance that is independent of surrounding counties
- Common economic interests
- Downtown and riverfront development
- Need for affordable housing
- Need for street and intersection upgrades
- Common public gathering places
- E.C. Glass auditorium
- Monument Terrace

Thank you for your consideration!  
Neal Sumerlin  
Lynchburg

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, March 22, 2021 11:02:03 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Carla Heath <cheath340@icloud.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**

Commissioners,  
The City of Lynchburg is my Community of Interest for the following reasons;  
It is a single, unified jurisdictional entity that governs and funds one public school system, one

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police department, one fire department, water, sewage, and trash collection to all homes and businesses within its boundaries.

The City should be a SINGLE state legislative district. The present situation which divides the City into two state senate and two state 'house' districts that are not coterminous is both confusing for the public and irrational.

The attached maps are illustrative of the problem.

Respectfully,

Carla Heath

339 Sumpter St

Lynchburg, VA 24503

**FROM:** VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>  
**REGION:** **West Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 9:59 PM Koring, Heidi <koring@lynchburg.edu> wrote:

This concerns tomorrow's Redistricting Citizen's Engagement Subcommittee meeting. I believe you plan 8 public hearings (half in person and half virtual) before lines are drawn plus 8 meetings (again half and half) before maps go to the General Assembly and that you will require 4 Commissioners to attend each in person meeting.

It's vital that Commissioners hear the full range of public opinion. Issues that rise to a level of concern in one region may be unimportant in another. Therefore all commissioners should attend all public meetings so they can form opinions directly from public input across the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your consideration!

Heidi Koring

Lynchburg, VA

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, August 26, 2021 3:38:26 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
**NAME:** Martha Hicks  
**EMAIL:** medashlily@outlook.com  
**REGION:** **West Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg, Bedford, Campbell  
  
**SUBJECT:** Community of Interest

**COMMENT:**

Lynchburg should not be grouped with Bedford or Campbell Counties. Or city has very little in common with those two counties.

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 9, 2021 5:13:39 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Beverly Jones <bjones69@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** **West Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Madison Heights

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**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 live in Amherst County, Virginia. My county voting districts are drawn up in a way that divides the Black vote. Example: my sister and I live on the same road as well as many of my family members. We vote in different precincts. Districting lines were drawn in our county to minimize the Black vote. We have NO Voice in local elections or representation in elected governing bodies. When we speak out on issues that impact us, we are totally ignored. It is time for your committee to set things right and give us a voice in political decisions that affect US!!  
Sincerely,  
Beverly Jones  
682 Amelon Rd Madison Heights, VA 24572-3103 bjones69@verizon.net

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, August 27, 2021 3:55:53 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Amy French <Trilliumcounseling@hotmail.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Monroe

**COMMENT:**

Commissioners:  
We whole heartedly support the concept of a nonpartisan mathematical audit of Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.  
At present the Commonwealth electoral districts divide Amherst County. We implore you to redistrict all of Amherst County within a single district. Please put Amherst County back together. All community interest, from the western most to the eastern most expanses, are profoundly influenced by our central transportation corridor of Route 29, and further our County's part in the Lynchburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Citizens living in the western portion of the county have far less common interest with the citizens of Lexington and Buena Vista than they do with our citizens east of Rt. 29.  
The current splitting of the county has been a cause of almost constant voter confusion throughout the last decade.  
The Commission has an obligation to correct this existing disservice to our community. Put all of Amherst County in a single voting district. We look forward to the Commission taking a laser like focus on the correction of this existing injustice.  
Dan and Amy French  
Monroe, Va

**DATE RECEIVED:** Sunday, August 1, 2021 7:19:39 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Sara Bohn <sarabohnforsupervisor@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Montgomery County

**COMMENT:**



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To Whom It May Concern,

I am Sara Bohn, Supervisor, District A, on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. 10 years ago I went to a redistricting hearing in Roanoke and shared my perspective about redistricting here in:

Montgomery County  
The New River Valley  
Roanoke and southwest

My perspective and recommendation haven't changed.

Here are my recommendations:

The towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, let alone all of Montgomery County should not be split at all. If anything, the surrounding counties should be split since Montgomery County (including Blacksburg and Christiansburg) have an influx of employees on a daily basis.

The New River Valley should stay as one entity if at all possible. The counties and city have worked hard to become a cohesive group of entities for the outside world. The NRV includes Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski counties and Radford City.

Montgomery County and the New River Valley have stronger ties with Roanoke and the Roanoke Valley versus when compared to southwest. In fact, we have stronger ties with Lynchburg when compared to southwest, primarily because we are more industrially oriented.

Geography is important:

Christiansburg Mountain brings people "up to" the New River Valley (approximately a change of 1,250' in elevation)

The Blue Ridge Mountains are a barrier:

The NRV is west of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Roanoke Valley and southwest are west of the Blue Ridge Mountains

We have more in common with the Shenandoah Valley than the Piedmont  
Present Districts:

House of Delegates' districts - Montgomery County has 3 Delegates. This should not be. Montgomery County only has 100,000 residents. If anything, keep Blacksburg and Christiansburg in one district. From an outsider's point of view, they don't know where Blacksburg ends and Christiansburg starts.

State Senate districts - Montgomery County has 3 State Senators representing it. Please don't do this again! Keep Montgomery County intact and add other New River Valley counties and Radford if necessary.

Congressional district:

Keep the New River Valley intact.

Include the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany planning district, since they have been a planning district, and are most similar to the New River Valley.

We (NRV and Roanoke Valley) have more in common with Lynchburg than southwest or south.

Geographically: stay west of the Blue Ridge and Shenandoah mountains (unless it is possible to include Lynchburg; only exception)

Background Information:

The New River Valley - Planning District - total population 185,098 grew 3.8%:

Montgomery County:

Has two of the largest towns in Virginia:

Blacksburg:

Where Virginia Tech is. Our economic engine.

Has more technology based companies when compared to any area west of Charlottesville.

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Leans strongly Democratic.

Christiansburg:

The retail hub of the county.

Leans moderately Republican.

Population exceeded 100,000 for the first time in 2020, with a growth of 6.3%

County leans Democratic (typically the only blue county in all of southwest Virginia;

Roanoke City is the only other entity that is "blue" in our sea of "red")

Radford City:

Where Radford University (state and public university) is. Its economic engine. Often the second largest economic engine in the NRV.

With a population of 18,120 grew 10.4%.

There is a significant housing shortage in Blacksburg, so families look to Radford and Christiansburg as alternative places to live.

Presently leaning Democratic, but pretty much 50/50.

Pulaski County:

The second largest county in the NRV has a population of 34,2121, shrank, -1.9%.

The second most industrialized county in the NRV with Volvo as the economic driver.

Strong Republican.

Floyd County:

Population of 15,670 grew 2.6%

Even though there are several industrial companies there, they have successfully leveraged their Tourism amenities.

Leans Republican but has many "earthy" people that lean Democratic.

Giles County:

Population of 16,784 shrank, -2.9%

With the New River splitting the county, they have leveraged their natural beauty and the river's recreational opportunities.

It includes Mountain Lake, where the Dirty Dancing movie was filmed.

Strong Republican.

The Roanoke Valley - Planning District - total population 335,039 grew 1.2%:

Roanoke City:

The economic, retail, and recreation center for our region.

Population of 99,795 with growth of 2.8%.

Largest African American population in the area.

Leans Democratic.

Roanoke County:

Surrounds Roanoke City like a donut.

Entity most like Montgomery County in amenities.

Population of 94,224 with growth of 2.0%.

Leans Republican.

Salem City:

Roanoke City, Roanoke County, and Salem City seem like one from an outsider's perspective, although locally there are several distinctions.

Population of 25,522 with growth of 2.9%.

Roanoke College, along with industrial and service businesses.

Leans Republican.

Other comments:

Proponents of splitting Montgomery County, let alone the New River Valley talk about "the number of representatives that we have in Richmond." That representation hasn't "brought the bacon" back to this area. It allows our representative to pick the low hanging fruit outside of Montgomery County, and not deal with the difficult issues in one of the biggest

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economic engines in southwest Virginia (second to Roanoke).

The biggest addition to our economy is the fact that Amtrak will be expanding to Montgomery County. This is only after the expansion to Roanoke that has been more successful than expected (the New River Valley riders are a substantial portion of the ridership).

Virginia Tech, Radford University, and New River Community College receive substantial funding from Richmond, but that would happen anyway despite Montgomery County and the New River Valley being split among elected state level districts.

Please see attached document from the Cooper Center - population information. Virginia Population Estimates | Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks, and best of luck with your tough job.

Sincerely,

Sara

--

Sara R. Bohn

Supervisor, District A

Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, Virginia

(540) 239-0371 Personal

(540) 632-3303 County

Donate to Sara's campaign here: <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/sara4supervisor>

Website: SaraBohn.com

Facebook: Sara Bohn - Supervisor - Montgomery County, Virginia

Twitter: @SaraForSuper

Paid for: Sara for Supervisor

**DATE RECEIVED:** Thursday, January 21, 2021 3:49:32 PM GMT-05:00

**FROM:** Joan Kark <joank48@gmail.com>

**REGION:** West Central

**LOCALITY:** Pearisburg

**COMMENT:**

Dear Redistricting Commission:

I would like to urge you to include the city of Roanoke in the 9th District. Roanoke is the heart of southwest Virginia. Even its airport is named Roanoke-Blacksburg. The rest of Virginia identifies with Roanoke as a gateway to southwest Virginia. Roanoke County and Roanoke are surrounded by mountains so they seem to be the essence of southwest Virginia mountains.

Also, I urge you to draw districts that are contiguous. That is, the districts should include a whole county if possible rather than dividing up one county into too many Virginia delegate or senate districts. For instance, the 12th district House of Delegates included all of Giles County which was a good thing. But, the district only included part of Blacksburg, some precincts in Radford, Fairlawn, and Pulaski District. A more equitable 12th would include all of Blacksburg and then Giles County.

My reason for advocating for contiguous districts is so that constituents in each district should feel a community connection with each other. This connection is stronger if the district is defined by its community and not by arbitrary lines.

Some other recommendations:

1. If a district is too wildly configured into lines that go here and way over there or resemble wildly shaped creatures, you can conclude it does not define a community. So, please reject these type of districts.

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2. The closer a district resembles simple shapes like ovals, circles, squares, or rectangles the better that district will be in representing a community.

3. A district should have some landmark or defining area that is at the core of a district. For instance, it makes sense that Virginia Tech would be the core of the 12th District House of Delegates with surrounding areas included (such as Giles County where so many VT employees live). It makes sense that Roanoke would be the landmark for the 9th U.S. Congressional District with the other landmark being Abington on the southwest Virginia border.

So my emphasis is on creating communities with districts. Thank you for your attention to these recommendations.

Sincerely,  
Joan Kark  
809 Rye Hollow Rd, Pearisburg, VA 24134  
540 921-4055, 540 629-0451 (c)

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 9, 2021 3:50:38 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Kristin Peckman <kris@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Roanoke

**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 would like to see the redistricting commission only look at geographical compactness and not try to second-guess the political implications. For example, let's allow the city of Roanoke and Roanoke County to be in the same district. That would make elections more competitive and if done statewide, allow for less political deadlock.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Kristin Peckman  
8131 Webster Dr Roanoke, VA 24019-2333 kris@peckmanjazz.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Monday, August 2, 2021 10:12:55 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** barbgary@cox.net  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Roanoke

**COMMENT:**  
Dear Citizens and Legislators,  
Communication is important. Constituents need to see and interact with their legislators. Zoom does not have the same impact as a legislator knowing first hand what is happening in a community. Draw lines for Virginians. Everyone that lives in a district is a Virginian. Conversation needs to happen. Districts that are not based on Political parties Republican or Democrat; not based on Rural or Urban....but based on geographic access to a legislator is important.

Central Virginia is NOT Richmond. Central Virginia is Charlottesville and Lynchburg. Charlottesville can be the HUB for the Northern portion of Central Virginia. Lynchburg can be the HUB for the Southern portion of Central Virginia. The New River Valley should be the hub of SW Virginia. The Roanoke Valley should be the HUB of the Valley Region..

I – 81 runs the length of the Valley N – S.  
Please assign districts so legislators are accessible to their legislators.

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Thank you,  
Barbara N. Duerk  
CONNECT NOW  
2607 Rosalind Ave., S.W.  
Roanoke, VA 24014  
540-580-1621  
barbgary@cox.net  
"Challenging YOU TO CHALLENGE YOURSELF"

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, July 9, 2021 1:10:09 PM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Angie Smibert <asmibert@everyactioncustom.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Roanoke

**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. The City of Roanoke is a diverse, moderate-to-progressive, forward-thinking community. On the local level, we've consistently elected diverse, progressive officials--including our delegate, Sam Rasoul, the only Muslim immigrant in the state legislature. Ditto with the city council, the mayor, and sheriff. We're happily led by a mix of women, BIPOC, and LGBTQ individuals. However, on the federal level, our congressional district has always been rolled into (and diluted with) a much more conservative and white population because the 6th district strangely includes the I-81 corridor north past the Harrisonburg area--yet doesn't include Charlottesville. And the result is that we've been consistently represented on the national level by conservative Republicans like Bob Goodlatte. Roanoke has much more in common with Charlottesville and the New River Valley in terms of culture, population, education, and industry. Plus we have educational and financial ties with the NRV through the medical and nursing schools in Roanoke. The former is a joint-venture with Virginia Tech while the latter is with Radford University, both of which are located in the NRV. Over the past 20 years, Roanoke has moved away from being a railroad town to a hip, diverse, outdoor-oriented medical hub--and we deserve a congressional district that values the same things and has similar interests.  
Sincerely,  
Angie Smibert  
1641 Hampton Ave SW Roanoke, VA 24015-5205 asmibert@gmail.com

**DATE RECEIVED:** Friday, July 16, 2021 7:51:25 AM GMT-04:00  
**FROM:** Bill Bestpitch <billbestpitch@gmail.com>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Roanoke City

**COMMENT:**  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
Thank you again for the opportunity to address the Commission during the virtual public hearing on July 15. My comments were:  
My name is Bill Bestpitch, and I serve as a member of Roanoke City Council. Following the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections, City Council heard from numerous voters who waited for extended periods of time to cast their votes. Some said that they were not able to wait due to job or family requirements, so they were

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not able to vote at all.

At that time, Roanoke had 32 precincts, some with fewer than 1,000 voters and some with approximately 3,500 voters. The larger precincts were the ones that experienced the greatest delays in voting, and most of them were majority African American precincts.

Working with the Electoral Board and our General Registrar, we revised our precinct lines so that we now have 20 precincts, with an average of approximately 2,500 voters in each precinct. We have not experienced any significant wait times for voters since the new precinct lines went into effect.

All our elections for mayor, city council members, and Constitutional Officers are conducted at large. All of the City is in the 21st District of the Virginia Senate and the 6th Congressional district. Eight precincts are split between the 11th and 17th House of Delegates districts. We respectfully request that the Commission simply follow our precinct lines when drawing districts for the General Assembly and Congress.

Bill Bestpitch

Roanoke City Council

**FROM:** VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>  
**REGION:** **West Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 8:47 PM Richard Raines <raines6@att.net> wrote:

This is in regard to the hearings you have planned on drawing up the district maps. It is very important to me that you have all, not

just some, of the Commissioners attend all proposed meetings in order that each one hears what we, the public have to say. Our

input is necessary to be heard by all Commissioners, not just a few.

Thank you,

Richard Raines

Lynchburg

**FROM:** VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>  
**REGION:** **West Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 8:45 PM Missy Raines <missyraines@yahoo.com> wrote:

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the meeting you have tomorrow and the meetings you have planned for drawing the district lines, I feel it is

important to have each and every Commissioner attend each and every meeting to be held. The redistricting is extremely important to me. Therefore, I feel EACH Commissioner should hear what the public has to say, not just a few

of them at each meeting.

Sincerely,

Mary Raines

Lynchburg

**FROM:** VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>  
**REGION:** **West Central**  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

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**COMMENT:**

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 9:52 PM Niro Rasanayagam <niro\_r@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear members of the VA Redistricting Commission,  
I am writing to ask that all members of the commission attend all 8 public hearings with citizens (4 virtual, and 4 in-person). Hearing directly from citizens is crucial for making good decisions, and one that each of you pledged to do as part of your responsibilities when you stepped forward to serve on this commission. Your service on this commission is to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a whole, it is not just to specific districts, regions, or parts of the state. Therefore, each commissioner must have the opportunity to hear and consider the full spectrum of public input. I strongly urge all 16 commissioners to attend all 8 citizen hearings so you have the benefit of hearing directly from citizens. Thank you for your service to the Commonwealth.  
Niro Rasanayagam  
Lynchburg, Va

**FROM:** VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>  
**REGION:** West Central  
**LOCALITY:** Lynchburg

**COMMENT:**

On Tue, May 25, 2021 at 5:28 PM Neal Sumerlin <neal.sumerlin@gmail.com> wrote:

This is in regard to the upcoming meeting of the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee tomorrow morning. My understanding is that you are considering 8 public hearings (4 virtual, 4 in-person) before the line drawing begins plus another 8 hearings (4 virtual, 4 in-person) before the maps are sent to the General Assembly, and are leaning towards requiring 4 Commissioners (only) to attend each in-person hearing.  
I am writing to urge you to have ALL commissioners attend ALL public hearings. The important work you are doing is not confined to any one region of the state; neither should what commissioners hear be confined to only a few regions. Each commissioner will bring his or her own perspective to the process, and should not have to rely solely on those of other commissioners. You need to hear directly from the public yourselves.  
Thank you for your consideration!  
Neal Sumerlin  
Lynchburg, Virginia