

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – SOUTHSIDE REGION

November 19, 2021

TOTAL NUMBER OF COMMENTS: 22

DATE: 11/2/2021 1:39:27 PM

Name: John W. Laury
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: johnwlaury@gmail.com
Locality: Buckingham
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Political neutrality

COMMENTS:

Since the majority of voters have represented Democrats, then a fair map should reflect exactly that.

DATE: 10/21/2021 6:39:55 PM

Name: Kevin Horwath
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: kevhorwath89@outlook.com
Locality: Danville
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission

COMMENTS:

I just wanted to reach out to offer both my thanks for each commissioner for their willingness to serve on this historic body as well as my ultimate disappointment in this stalemate. We the voters of Virginia took a bold risk last year to take the redistricting power away from the smoke filled backrooms of the General Assembly to a body that would bipartisan and accountable. I knew that the situation we face now was a risk, but I am confident that the Virginia Supreme Court will act fairly in the transparent process that was laid out. This was the first time this process was used and there are several lessons learned. I was always leery of the fact that while the commission is bipartisan, there was no place for nonpartisans. I believe that if the 2031 commission is to be successful, it must be reformed. One of the reforms must be a place for independents to have a voice. Luckily we have ten years to learn from this experience and make the needed changes to get this right. As painful as this has been, it would be a huge mistake to go back to the smoke filled backrooms of the General Assembly. I once again thank each of you for your willingness to serve, but also urge you to show more of a willingness to compromise and cooperate in future endeavors of public service.

DATE: 10/15/2021 7:23:56 PM

Name: Jeff Stratford
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Organization: Mecklenburg County Democratic Committee
Email: jkstratford@livingstreets.com
Locality: Mecklenburg County VA
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on a map
Map: VA Congressional Map
Topic(s) of interest: Voting rights and political participation

COMMENTS:

Where do I find the link to view the proposed maps? This information is not easy to find.

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DATE: 10/13/2021 10:44:22 AM

Name: Edward Strickler
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: edwardnvirginia@hotmail.com
Locality: Prince Edward County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

Keep working.

That is your sworn public service. Quitters - who are not quitting because of their own or family illness or crisis - are quitting on the public - all of us in the Commonwealth - that they claim to 'serve', contrary to their oath and commitment to serve faithfully. As I believe one of the Commissioners said in yesterday's meeting there is a moral dimension to your work: that moral dimension involves not to quit your public service until a higher authority (the Constitution, the Virginia Supreme Court, etc) tells you to quit or you reach the conclusion that you can reach. It is incorrect to claim - as many 'progressive' media appear to be doing - that your morass is due to 'conservative' partisanship and racist thinking. There has been that, sad to say, but, I believe also, sad to say, because of 'progressives' pushing their own racist thinking and tribalist partisanship, frequently cloaked in prejudicial constructions of 'communities of interest'.

I tried this week to step in with comments that might help by re-focusing your lens on equity among metro and rural areas that are part of any 'community of SHARED interests, shared benefits and burdens of Constitutional governance! I heard too many times metro area commenters unwilling to consider SHARED interests other than shared politically partisan interests. Shame on them. But also shame on the Commission for not calling it out. You will need to answer for allowing commenters to abuse the meaning given by Virginia Code, and in common morality, of 'communities of interest'. Commenters transgressed the specific definition cited at your Commission's website

(<https://www.virginiaredistricting.org/2021/Data/Ref/2021%20Redistricting%20Guidelines%20and%20Criteria%208-19-2021.pdf>).

'Communities of interests' must be

'contiguous'. Many or most Virginia metro areas are contiguous with one of more rural areas. BUT metro area commenters frequently discussed their adjacent rural communities as foreigners, almost as if a different species, who were (implicitly or explicitly) inferior intellectually, behaviorally and morally, and thereby, to the metro area commenters, incompatible, or unworthy of association. Quite a display of 'progressive' tribalist high dudgeon 'drag' ("Whatever you proclaim as your identity here in the material realm is also your drag", RuPaul).

'avoiding unnecessary divisions of those subdivisions' (common sense & common morality for good government) 'geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests shall be maintained to the extent possible'. Many Virginia metro areas - as described below - are dependent upon water resources, waste streams, food and agricultural production, and energy production that are in

adjacent/contiguous rural areas, and most metro areas depend on labor markets coming in from rural areas (especially to do lots of the dirty dangerous work). YET I did not hear metro area commenters discuss these ESSENTIAL 'social, cultural and economic interests'! It was as if 'progressives' had taken a holiday from their 'progressive' ideals about diversity, equity and inclusiveness! And, rather, for the purposes of redistricting, become possessed by anti-ecological, anti-scientific, anti-working class, anti-'green' tribal spirits ... for the sake of political partisanship ... which of course, Virginia Code says they must not be:

"For purposes of this subdivision, a 'community of interest' means a neighborhood or any geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests. A 'community of interest' does not include a community based upon political affiliation or relationship with a political party, elected official, or candidate for office." Va. Code Ann. § 24.2-304.04(5)." [emphasis added]

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The good people of the Commonwealth - by a sound majority - informed you what to do. The Code of Virginia was/is a sufficient guide. And you had/have the high privilege of serving the public in this important matter. You failed, for a time. But Keep Working.

DATE: 10/13/2021 10:42:20 AM

Name: Edward Strickler
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: edwardnvirginia@hotmail.com
Locality: Prince Edward County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

May I respectfully point out a problem with many comments to you that I have noticed.

Many comments, particularly from metro areas, have discussed rural areas adjacent to their metro area as NOT part of their 'community of interest' BECAUSE 'they' 'don't vote like we do'. BUT this is defining a 'community of interest' based upon political affiliation or relationship with a political party and is disallowed by the Code of Virginia, as described on one of the Commission's webpages. How will Commissioners regard or disregard these comments that are contrary to provisions of the Code?

Moreover, many comments have portrayed rural areas adjacent to metro areas as populated by people who are described as if foreigners, or perhaps as intellectually, behaviorally and/or morally inferior. This sort of political tribalism is something you should draw lines to protect against, for the sake of our 'Commonwealth': the social bonds we share in common which is our greatest strength and 'wealth'.

Too many comments denying that metro areas have any 'community of interest' with adjacent rural areas destroys this 'Common-wealth'. Metro areas and adjacent rural areas have much in 'common interest'.

For example:

Waste

How many Virginia metros keep their waste in city limits? Many, perhaps most, dump into rural areas, that are – not incidentally - very often in rural communities of color, and working class communities? Clearly, considering waste streams, many adjacent rural areas ARE IN FACT in a social, cultural and economic 'community of interest' with metro areas, are they not?

Labor

Similarly, metro areas have long been dependent on cheaply paid labor that migrates or commutes from adjacent rural areas. Are the people who do much of the dirty, hard work in metro areas – who commute in from rural areas – not part of these metro commentators' 'community of interest'?

Food

And what about food production? Are the working class people doing dirty, dangerous and poorly compensated jobs of agricultural production, that provide for needs in growing metro areas, not worthwhile in metro commentators' assessment of their 'community of interest'?

Energy

Today we see metro area interests – that need more and more and more energy – preying upon rural landscapes and communities to provide utility-scale solar production of electricity, externalizing the effects and costs of these vast acres of toxic e-waste pollution upon the rural jurisdictions. But we still hear metro area commentators denying any 'community of interest' with adjacent rural areas.

Many metro area commenters have expressed conceptions of 'community of interest' that are politically partisan – which is not allowed by the Code – and many have abstracted adjacent rural areas from their 'community of interest' apparently out of historical blindness, intellectual laziness, or moral indifference.

I propose that your map drawing should not be blind, lazy or indifferent to how, historically and presently, rural areas may be 'communities of interest' in relation to adjacent metro areas. commentators.

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DATE: 10/13/2021 10:40:08 AM

Name: Edward Strickler
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: edwardnvirginia@hotmail.com
Locality: Prince Edward County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: General comment about the conduct of the Commission
Topic(s) of interest: Public Hearings

COMMENTS:

I must relate to you that I signed up in time for two public hearings, including 4PM today, and 4PM tomorrow (Thursday), and received no Zoom invitation for either of the two.
I completed two different forms that received my information and confirmed that it was received. I heard you call my name at the 4PM Wednesday October 6 public health. But, I was watching and received no Zoom invitation to participate. What happened?
I have also apparently successfully signed up for other public meetings
10-14-21, 8:00 a.m. -- VRC Full Commission Mtg -- Public Comment Sign-up
Your response has been recorded.
10-11-21, 8:00 a.m. -- VRC Full Commission Mtg -- Public Comment Sign-up
Your response has been recorded.
But, again, have not received any replies or invitations. Will I be allowed to speak?
Who will ENSURE that I have the invitation - to this email address - to speak tomorrow or at upcoming meeting?

DATE: 10/13/2021 10:12:22 AM

Name: Edward Strickler
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: edwardnvirginia@hotmail.com
Locality: Prince Edward County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on a community in which I do not live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest, Political neutrality
Community of interest name: much of rural Virginia - and especially Southside, Southwest, the Eastern Shore, and areas of the Middle and Northern Peninsulas
Community of interest description: Many rural jurisdictions in Virginia are communities of interest because of the prominent, and sometimes extreme, disparities, inequities, and injustices they endure – and have endured for generations – when compared to metro areas. Getting sick more, and

COMMENTS:

I live in Prince Edward county in the very rural Southside, and have lived in rural Albemarle County, and lived from birth to college age in a rural working class farming community of Rockingham County. My ancestors arrived to the Shenandoah Valley in the early decades of the 18th century escaping genocidal religious persecution in Europe. Some of them carried a rare 16th century family Bible from Switzerland to the Valley (its in the very fine Luray Valley Museum in Luray).
I am a member and past chair of the Ethics Section of the American Public Health Association, am recently retired from the School of Medicine at UVA, and have served on many advisory commissions, committee, boards and other bodies with state, regional or local jurisdiction.
Throughout I have aimed to elevate needs, issues, and concerns of underserved and vulnerable rural populations, who, as anyone worth their salt should know, in Virginia, means many rural residents, and sometimes most households of a rural area census tract, zip code, or entire counties.
I am raising with you a moral imperative to repair the many disparities, inequities, and injustices endured, across generations in many rural areas of Virginia that have transpired, in part, through political line drawing. Line

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drawing should not disadvantage rural populations and instead should tend toward improved equity for rural populations. Here I briefly define equity as the fair sharing of benefits and burdens across society; and I define justice as the morally sound discernment of what fair sharing would be, that involves all stakeholders in conversation together.

I am sad – but not surprised – that your crushing schedule (I am sorry it has been so crushing but that is your public service and we thank you for that!) has poorly engaged concerns about equity and justice (in the terms above). It has been wonderful to hear many comments from persons speaking for themselves and/or for their communities of different colors, races, ethnicities, and cultures. Thank you for welcoming them. Many spoke about historical and ongoing problems from Virginia’s wickedly racialized legal, political, and social histories and their legacies. That is a part of discovering justice (through their engagement in this conversation about redistricting). But, powerful and important, as that is, it gets us not very far regarding equitable sharing or benefits and burdens, across metro area and rural areas Virginia. This is in large part due to how, historically, metro-dominated politics created/s rural areas as subaltern. Subaltern?: subordinate to metro issues, needs, and concerns; because rural people are considered inferior (inferior intellectually, inferior in economic or cultural production, and inferior morally). I have been advocating this summer with the Governor’s Commission on Racial Inequity in Virginia Law (<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/racial-inequity-commission/>). Fortunately I knew some members to breakthrough their crushing and important schedule. My aim was to encourage consideration of rural disparities, inequities, and injustices within their broader discussion, and to recommend out of that discuss, within their mission. I am glad that they appear to be completing a ‘rural’ chapter, with description and recommendations. I believe, from viewing meetings online, that some members were surprised to know how great, and how entrenched, disparities, inequities, and injustices are in much of rural Virginia.

Generally, in most such bodies that I’ve be part of, or advocated with, most appointees had not a clue that the Virginia jurisdictions with the largest proportions of residents of color are rural and very rural counties, not metro areas! Their discussions of racial equity failed to include seriously the disparities, inequities, and injustices across rural Virginia, because of the falsehood that rural Virginians are mostly ‘White’. Which is easily disproved with a single map:

<https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/virginia/black-population-percentage#map> And comparing that map to another set - <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/virginia/2020/overview> - where we see that much of rural Virginia - and especially Southside, Southwest, the Eastern Shore, and areas of the Middle and Northern Peninsulas – are counties, census tracts and zip codes where Virginians get sick more, stay sick (and disabled) longer, and die sooner, than other Virginians – we see another way to understand ‘communities of interest’, ‘racial equity’ and equitable sharing across the Commonwealth. And yet another map - <https://www.vpap.org/visuals/visual/increase-multiracial-identity/> - showing growth in multiracial populations in rural Virginia helps us too.

What can your Commission do about this? Your crushing schedule will not allow you to do much. But you can, when faced with the comments you’ve heard about linedrawing and ‘communities of interest’ recall these legal, political, and social legacies or disparities, inequities, and injustices across much of rural Virginia.

Too many times in the live and recorded public hearings I heard city dwellers and metro area advocates discuss adjacent rural communities as foreigners to their interests and values. I did fewer times hear rural dwellers discuss metro areas as foreigners. Language selected and emphasized by the metro area residents/advocates too frequently, distressingly, veered toward stereotypical and prejudicial belittling, devaluing, and even fear mongering stereotyping of rural voters, rural values, and rural communities.

I lived many years in rural Southern Albemarle County. I heard today many Charlottesville and metro-area Albemarle County speakers relate that they have nothing in common with Buckingham County. So, they appear not to know or not to care that many of the working class and skilled workers at the University, in the UVA Health System and Martha Jefferson Sentara Health Systems. And other workplaces – who do many of the dirty jobs – live in Buckingham County. And also in Augusta County (another county many metro-Charlottesville speakers considered foreigners. But I also heard a Buckingham County Supervisor - who knows more about these strong ties. with Scottsville (in Albemarle County) as the central market, health care, and other center for much of Buckingham County – tell the opposite story: that many Buckingham residents have a common ‘community of

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interest’ with Albemarle County and Charlottesville, where so many work, so many get health care, and so many find services they need.

My impression – formed over decades of work with many advisory bodies - is that affluent metro elites’ preconceptions and prejudicial appraisals of rural Virginia interests and values - as contrary to their interests – is not founded very much in fact but in selfish emotions. It was too hard, and too distressing, to consider that economic patterns that benefited/benefit metro areas for generations, while burdening rural areas for generations, were facts to deal with. Rather, instead, turn the situation around, emotionally, and consider, and sometimes publicly call rural Virginians ‘racists’, ‘rednecks’, ‘White trash’, ‘trailer trash’, ‘country trash’, and the like. Great and abundant public institutions, seated in larger and smaller metro areas, sparingly provide or seldom sustain economic development and outreach, clinics, practitioners, and specialists, educational enrichment and lifelong learning to advance along 21st century career ladders, and other benefits of their abundance into underserved rural areas. Rural need is emotionally distant and easy to put out of mind. Economically, politically, and emotionally, it is very easy for many metro areas to ignore rural needs, concerns and values. While many rural areas, long ago, were economically captured/colonized by metro area economies, and politics, to suit their selfish interests.

I beg you, please, do not put rural Virginians out of mind. Rural Virginians are, in many ways, and in many places, a ‘community of interest’/‘communities of interest’ IN RELATION historically, economically and politically with metro areas, that include generations-long concerns for communities of different colors, races, and ethnicities, residing in rural areas, who have been disempowered by economic and political arrangements that suite metro area elites.

DATE: 10/11/2021 4:14:23 PM

Name: Sheila
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: lewissheila784@gmail.com
Locality: Patrick County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Patrick County

COMMENTS:

DATE: 10/6/2021 2:50:29 PM

Name: Cynthia Ingram
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: cwingram@comcast.net
Locality: Redistricting should be fair and not utilized against lpeople of color from
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: This is directed at republicans who do everything in their power to limit people if color from improving our status in life
Map: Map #173 New Virginia Majority - House of Delegates -- Citizen submitted (9-30-21)
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Voting rights and political participation, Communities of interest
Community of interest name: West end martinsville
Community of interest description: African american

DATE: 10/4/2021 4:47:40 PM

Name: Donna Cosmato
Stakeholder Type: Elected official
Email: dcosmato@gmail.com
Locality: Franklin County VA
Region: **Southside**

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Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Redistricting

COMMENTS:

District maps should remain as they are currently; Franklin coupled with Pittsylvania County.

DATE: 10/4/2021 12:30:20 PM

Name: Will Pace
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: chathamwap@gmail.com
Locality: Pittsylvania County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: N/A
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

My name is Will Pace and I am a resident of Pittsylvania County. I also serve as Mayor of Chatham, which is the county seat of Pittsylvania County. I have been following the efforts of the Redistricting Commission and have been anticipating how the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County would look like. I appreciate the recent changes made to keep the communities of interest intact within Danville-Pittsylvania County.

The Senate District maps (A5 and B4) are perfect for Danville-Pittsylvania County. Don't touch them. Leave them alone.

The House District maps (A7 and B6) are better than the previous versions, so thank you for those fixes. These maps split Pittsylvania County north and south, which is the way it should be done. In addition, these maps maintain for the most part the communities of interest for Chatham, Gretna and Hurt all in one House district while maintaining the communities of interest for Danville in another House district.

Please do everything to keep these communities of interest (COI) intact and leave Senate District maps (A5 and B4) and House District maps (A7 and B6) as is for our region. I have listed the town and cities communities of interest below.

Hurt COI: Town of Hurt, Motley, Renan, Sycamore

Gretna COI: Town of Gretna, Mt. Airy, Pittsville, Sandy Level

Chatham COI: Town of Chatham, Callands, Dry Fork, Java, Riceville, Rondo, and Tightsqueeze

Danville COI: City of Danville, Bachelors Hall, Berry Hill, Brosville, Kentuck, Laurel Grove, Mount Cross, Mount Hermon, Ringgold, Stony Mill, Tunstall, and Whitmell.

Finally, Danville City and Martinsville City should NOT be placed in the same House district as these cities and their surrounding areas are NOT communities of interest. Putting the cities of Danville and Martinsville in the same House district will split their respective communities of interest and will create a Gerrymandered House District. Martinsville's COI are Chatmoss, Collinsville, and Fieldale. A Gerrymandered Danville City-Martinsville City House District will keep Chatmoss, Collinsville, and Fieldale outside of a House district with the City of Martinsville, and will keep Kentuck, Laurel Grove, Mount Cross, Mount Hermon, and Ringgold outside of a House district with the City of Danville.

DATE: 10/4/2021 4:19:39 AM

Name: Brenda Campbell
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: BCAMBELL12@comcast.net
Locality: Ridgeway, VA
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

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Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

I live in Ridgeway just south of Martinsville. Please leave the proposed Senate Districts and House Districts for Henry County and Martinsville City as drawn by the mapmakers as is. As a former member of the Ridgeway Town Council, I can attest that Ridgeway, not Martinsville, shares more similar characteristics with Danville area. As such, I believe that Ridgeway should be with a district that contains the Danville area. That being said, the City of Martinsville should not be in a House district with the City of Danville because such a move would split the communities of interest between both cities. Also, Southern Henry county communities such as Ridgeway should also be in a district with Southern Pittsylvania and Danville. All of these communities border North Carolina and deal with the same crossover jobs, businesses, shopping areas, and even some shared grant money between Virginia and North Carolina border communities. It is unique being on the border with our neighboring state.

DATE: 10/3/2021 4:03:02 PM

Name: Joyce Dianne McMahan
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: diannebrook@yahoo.com
Locality: Mt. Hermon Precinct
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Map: A7 & B6
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Mt. Hermon precinct in Southern Pittsylvania County
Community of interest description: Mt. Hermon

COMMENTS:

I live in Mt. Hermon precinct in Pittsylvania County. Please leave the map the way it's drawn in Southern Pittsylvania Co and Danville district in tact that is with city of Danville not Martinsville

DATE: 9/28/2021 3:33:38 PM

Name: Brady Walker
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: walker.w.brady@gmail.com
Locality: Pittsylvania County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Danville and Martinsville
Community of interest description: Martinsville has a 'Black alone or in combination' population of 48.2%. Danville has a 'Black alone or in combination' population of 53.4%.

COMMENTS:

Currently, House of Delegates District 14 runs from eastern Pittsylvania County, including the city of Danville, to eastern Henry County. Far too often, this area of the state is overlooked, and I fear this is happening again with the proposed maps by both sets of consultants. Consultants should consider drawing a House of Delegates district that includes both Martinsville and Danville.

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Martinsville and Danville are connected via Route 58, share SOVA Health’s hospital system, and are the region’s economic hubs outside of Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Greensboro, NC. Martinsville and Danville represent an area of that state that has suffered significantly from economic and population decline since the textile and tobacco industries became unsustainable. Now, as both cities pivot towards an economy with an emphasis on technology and manufacturing, Martinsville faces the incredibly difficult task of reverting from an independent city to a town. Since 1995, three independent cities, including our neighbor South Boston, have reverted to towns. Though these reversions have been successful in the long term, I feel as though it’s important to anchor Martinsville to Danville with a single delegate, to ensure economic stability and growth going forward.

These two cities also have similar racial demographics, including a large minority population. According to statistics provided by the US 2020 Census, Martinsville has a ‘Black alone or in combination’ population of 48.2%. Danville has a ‘Black alone or in combination’ population of 53.4%. I was able to create an example district that was 48.91% minority and 51.09% White. Though this does not constitute a minority-majority district, it would ensure that minorities would be able to elect a delegate of their choosing. The Readjuster Party, a biracial coalition that formed following the Reconstruction Era, had significant success in Virginia. Danville was able to elect a majority Black council and hired an integrated police force due to expanded voting access from actions taken by the Readjuster Party. Martinsville has two minority city council members while Danville has five. Historical legacy and current racial demographics must be factors in drawing a district that gives a voice to residents of the Southside. Finally, these two cities share similar voting patterns. I won’t go into too much detail here as it is obvious with national polarization that urban areas tend to vote for the Democratic Party while rural areas tend to vote for the Republican party. For the 2020 Presidential Election, Martinsville and Danville voted roughly 61% for Biden to 39% for Trump. State and Federal elections mirror these numbers.

I am concerned by the lack of engagement from residents in this area. My fear is that as this commission scrambles to complete its maps in the coming days, residents of Martinsville and Danville will be ignored at the expense of districts in Hampton Roads, Richmond, and Northern Virginia. A consolidated map that is hastily submitted on a weekend and hashed out early on a single weekday morning will not ensure fair maps for all residents.

DATE: 10/1/2021 11:55:51 AM

Name: David and Jeanette Bell
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: jhbell58@hotmail.com
Locality: Danville
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Population equality, Communities of interest

COMMENTS:

We are residents of the City of Danville and would appreciate your consideration of this community of interest as you are drawing the maps.

Southern Pittsylvania County and Danville City should remain in one House district including Danville's Communities of Interest.

Danville's Communities of Interest include Danville City, Bachelors Hall, Berry Hill, Mount Cross, Mount Hermon, and Ringgold. Many people who live in these areas commute and/or work in Danville.

Also, Southern Henry county communities such as Ridgeway should also be in the district with Southern Pittsylvania and Danville. All of these communities border North Carolina and deal with the same crossover of jobs, businesses, shopping areas, and even some shared grant money between Virginia and North Carolina border communities. It is unique being on the border with our neighboring state.

DATE: 10/1/2021 11:58:04 AM

Name: Dianne McMahon
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: diannebrook@yahoo.com

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Locality: Danville
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Danville; City of Danville, Bachelors Hall, Berry Hall, Mt Cross, Mt Hermon, and Ringgold

COMMENTS:

I am writing to you on consideration of this community of interested you are drawing the maps. Southern Pittsylvania County and Danville should remain in one House district including Danville community of interest. Danville community of interest includes City of Danville, Bachelors Hall, Berry Hill, Mt Cross, Mt Hermon and Ringgold. Many people who live in these areas commute to or work in Danville. Southern Henry County communities such as Ridgeway should also be in the district with Southern Pittsylvania County and Danville. All communities border North Carolina and deal with the same crossover businesses, jobs and shopping. Also some grant money between Virginia and North Carolina. It is a different situation being on the border with a neighboring state. I am resident if Mt. Hermon community.

DATE: 10/1/2021 11:59:24 AM

Name: Gayle Barts
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: gfbarts@gmail.com
Locality: Danville
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Danville City, Bachelors Hall, Berry Hill, Mount Cross, Mount Hermon, and Ringgold

COMMENTS:

Thank you for allowing citizens to request consideration of this community of interest as you are drawing the maps. Southern Pittsylvania County and Danville City should remain in one House district including Danville's Communities of Interest which include Danville City, Bachelors Hall, Berry Hill, Mount Cross, Mount Hermon, and Ringgold. Many people who live in these areas commute and/or work in Danville. I believe the Southern Henry county communities such as Ridgeway should also be in the district with Southern Pittsylvania and Danville. These communities all border North Carolina and deal with the same crossover of jobs, businesses, shopping areas, and even some shared grant money between Virginia and North Carolina border communities. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:01:27 PM

Name: Mary Franklin
Stakeholder Type: Private individual
Email: aidetodwm@yahoo.com
Locality: Pittsylvania County
Region: **Southside**
Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live
Topic(s) of interest: Communities of interest
Community of interest name: Ringgold

COMMENTS:

VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

PUBLIC INPUT REPORT – SOUTHSIDE REGION

November 19, 2021

I am a resident of southern Pittsylvania County (Ringgold) and work in Danville. I have suggestions concerning the communities of interest in our region. Some of the factors that I am considering are jobs, adjoining borders to Danville, use of central services such as hospital, electric service, and regional community events. Please consider: Southern Pittsylvania County and Danville City should remain in one House district including Danville's Communities of Interest.

Danville's Communities of Interest include Danville City, Bachelors Hall, Berry Hill, Mount Cross, Mount Hermon, and Ringgold. Many people who live in these areas commute and/or work in Danville.

Also, Southern Henry county communities such as Ridgeway should also be in the district with Southern Pittsylvania and Danville. All of these communities border North Carolina and deal with the same crossover of jobs, businesses, shopping areas, and even some shared grant money between Virginia and North Carolina border communities. It is unique being on the border with our neighboring state.

DATE: 10/1/2021 12:09:31 PM

Name: Brady Walker

Stakeholder Type: Private individual

Email: walker.w.brady@gmail.com

Locality: Pittsylvania County

Region: **Southside**

Type of comment: Comment on the community in which I live

Topic(s) of interest: Population equality

COMMENTS:

As Delegate Adams touched on this morning, Pittsylvania County should be split on a North/South divide rather than East/West. Splitting East/West along Highway 29 will needlessly separate Gretna, Hurt, and Chatham which rely closely on each other. Additionally, Danville and Martinsville should be in a single district together as referenced in my comments submitted via email on 9/26.

DATE RECEIVED: Saturday, August 14, 2021 10:53:54 AM GMT-04:00

FROM: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

NAME: edward strickler

EMAIL: edwardnvirginia@hotmail.com

REGION: **Southside**

LOCALITY: Farmville

SUBJECT: Just districting to remedy historical and present injustices harmful to rural Virginians

COMMENT:

Rural areas have the GREATEST ADVERSE health, longevity, education, job development, and other disparities, inequities and injustices. In rural communities people GET SICK more, STAY sick and disabled longer, and DIE SOONER than metro areas (see <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/reports/state-reports/2020-virginia-report>). The Richmond based Federal Reserve Bank reports that rural areas have GREATEST LAGGING ASSETS AND OUTCOMES in educational attainment, and employment-to-population ratios, and uplift out of poverty (see at https://www.richmondfed.org/research/regional_economy/regional_matters/2021/rm_03_11_21_landscape_race and other research at the Bank's site). Additionally, in some regions of Virginia, rural counties and communities are plurality or majority Black (

<https://www.indexmundi.com/facts/united-states/quick-facts/virginia/black-population-percentage#map>) which means that racist Progressive Era/Jim Crow history of law making in

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Virginia NEGLECTED these rural areas/regions MOST, producing a legacy across generations of great injustice. Rural Virginians, therefore, suffering MORE injustice, both historically and presently, than metro Virginians, deserve utmost care in redistricting. Thank you. Edward Strickler, MA, MA, MPH, retired, School of Medicine, UVA, and past chair, Ethics Section, American Public Health Association. Farmville VA. els2e@virginia.edu

DATE RECEIVED: Friday, August 13, 2021 4:27:31 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Suzanne Fuhrmeister <suzannefuhrmeister@gmail.com>
REGION: **Southside**
LOCALITY: Henry County

COMMENT:

Dear Commissioners,
I was so happy the day I realized we would have a commission to redraw the electoral districts. As the time rapidly approaches that you must present your redistricting recommendations, with so little time since receiving the census results, I know the temptation would be to use existing maps. Please choose another path. Voters did not turn out and vote to change the process just to work off the same gerrymandered maps.
Please choose another option.
Suzanne Fuhrmeister
Henry County, Va
Sent from my iPhone

DATE RECEIVED: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 1:55:45 PM GMT-04:00
FROM: Janet Demiray <patrickdems@gmail.com>
REGION: **Southside**
LOCALITY: Patrick County

COMMENT:

To the Members of the Commission:
I regret that I was unable to participate in the virtual public comment meeting on redistricting for Southwest Virginia that the Commission held recently. I did wish to contribute a comment that pertains to redistricting as it affects my home community, Patrick County. Patrick County is wholly contained within the 9th Congressional District, the 20th Virginia Senate District, and the 9th Virginia House of Delegates District. I have no particular problems with the first two districts, which have had to become larger geographically over the years, as the population of Virginia shifted away from rural areas, particularly south central and southwestern Virginia. This is true also of the House of Delegates districts, as Patrick lost its "own" delegate and became part of a geographically larger district. Before 2011, this district included all of Patrick and most of Henry County and Martinsville. This made sense from many perspectives: this is an area with historic ties, a shared economy, a major transportation link (Hwy. 58), and shared governmental and public institutions, including the circuit court, the regional public library system and the community college. However, in 2011, the Republican-controlled Virginia legislature went through a redistricting exercise that included redrawing the House of Delegates districts in Patrick County and Henry County/Martinsville, with the result that one district was lost—it just happened to be that of the then-Minority Leader of the House of Delegates, and Henry County/Martinsville was split up among three different House districts. Patrick County was small enough to be kept whole, but it was put into a district with Franklin County and a few border precincts of Henry County. This district, the 9th House District, while not a terrible example of gerrymandering, could and should be made to better represent the people of Patrick and western Henry County by reuniting them in a district with their natural community of

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interest, which includes the rest of Henry County and Martinsville, and separating this area from Franklin County. A district that includes Patrick and Henry Counties and the City of Martinsville would have a population of about 80,000, which is within the current range for House of Delegate districts. This would not only make sense for Patrick County, but would reunite Henry County into one House district; this is especially of interest since the City of Martinsville is in the process of reversion to town status and should be united with Henry County in its state legislative district. I do not believe that such a district would have very much, if any, impact on the partisan makeup of the House of Delegates, at least not in the near future, but would make a district that makes sense for local government, businesses and voters.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Demiray

Patrick County native

Chair, Patrick County Democratic Committee

Former member, Board of Trustees of Blue Ridge Regional Library (Patrick and Henry Counties and City of Martinsville)