

Emailed written public comments submitted to varedist@dls.virginia.gov



comment about redistricting map

1 message

Lesley/Bill Rowe <clubrowe2@aol.com>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 9:03 AM

Reply-To: Lesley/Bill Rowe <clubrowe2@aol.com>

To: "VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov" <VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nelson County should be included in the district with Charlottesville/Albemarle.

They are a major source of employment. We use their doctors, university and college.

We shop there. Even Nelson County weather has more in common with Charlottesville/Albemarle.

PLEASE fix this.

Lesley A. Rowe
4055 River Road
Faber, VA 22938



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Martinsville and Danville HoD District

1 message

Brady Walker <walker.w.brady@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Sep 26, 2021 at 8:03 PM

Members of the Redistricting Commission,

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.

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.

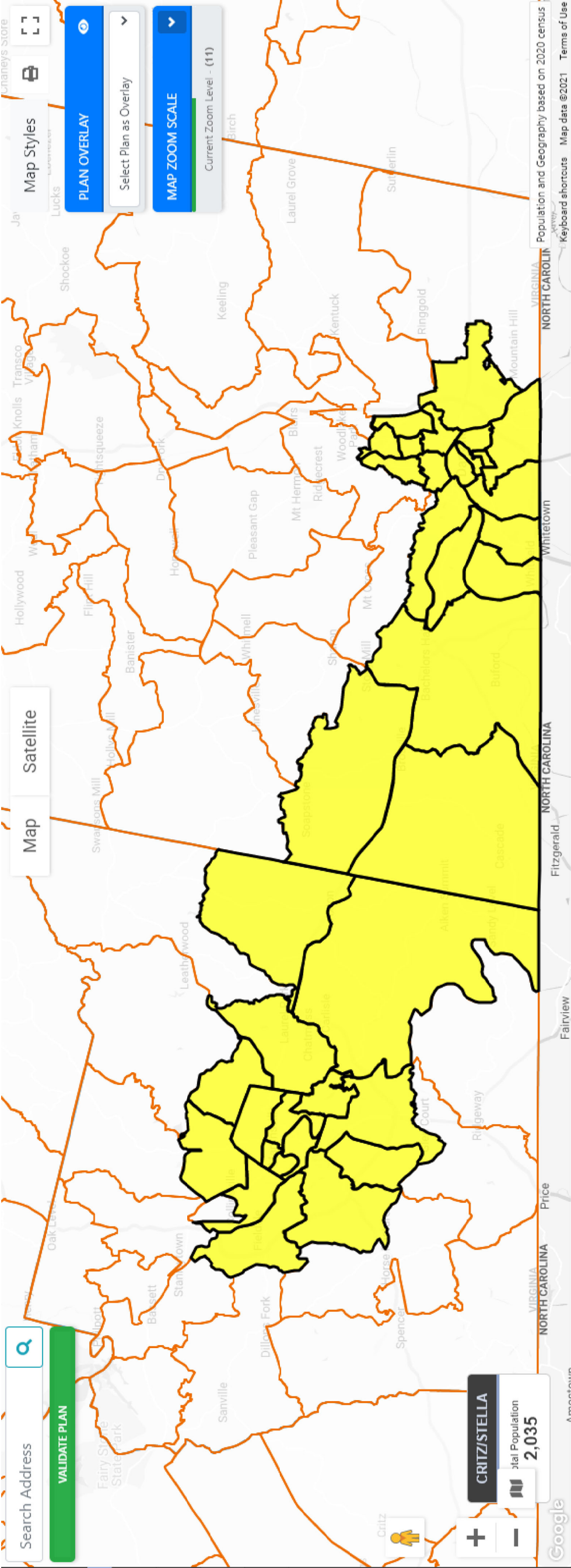
I have attached an example of what a HoD district that includes Martinsville and Danville could look like.

Brady Walker

Dry Fork, Virginia



SouthsideDistrict.PNG
254K



Southside Danville-Martinsville

Counties (Largest geogr

Clear Selection

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Unassign

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Color	#	Name	Parts	SQM	Target	Deviation	Total Pop	Adj Pop	White	Black	Native AM/ALSK	Asian	Others	Hispanic	HAW/PI
		Current Selection	NA	271.4	NA	NA	85,178	86,005	41,348	36,071	342	831	2,628	5,098	11



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comment on Eastern Region map

1 message

Linda Boatman <lspbainter@gmail.com>

Sat, Sep 25, 2021 at 1:04 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Linda S. Boatman

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much for your very difficult work.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Boatman

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

VA Congressional District needs to redrawn

1 message

Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

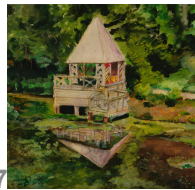
Sat, Sep 25, 2021 at 10:52 AM

To: Virginia Redistricting Commission <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Virginia's fifth congressional district is Virginia's largest U.S. congressional district with an area of **10,181.03 square miles** (26,368.7 km²) and is larger in area than six US states (Vermont, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Hampshire). The 5th District contains counties located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Region stretching vertically across the state from the Virginia-North Carolina Border going 250 miles up to Fauquier County in Northern Virginia, West of Washington DC.

The population of the district as of 2019 was **735,766**. This equates to 72 residents per square mile. Its voter distribution is **64.7% rural and 35.3% urban**. This voter distribution over represents the rural vote which almost invariably votes conservative or Republican. This congressional district must and needs to be redrawn to reduce its square miles and result in a most equitable voter distribution among rural and urban voters.

--
Ken Chasin

**Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887**

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Sep 25, 2021 at 10:36 AM

Reply-To: kenchasin1@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

I am a resident of Albemarle County which as you know is geographically part of Virginia's 5th Congressional District.

Virginia's fifth congressional district is Virginia's largest U.S. congressional district with an area of 10,181.03 square miles (26,368.7 km²) and is larger in area than six US states (Vermont, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Hampshire). The 5th District contains counties located in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Region stretching vertically across the state from the Virginia-North Carolina Border going 250 miles up to Fauquier County in Northern Virginia, West of Washington DC.

The population of the district as of 2019 was 735,766. This equates to 72 residents per square mile. Its voter distribution is 64.7% rural and 35.3% urban. This voter distribution over represents the rural vote which almost invariably votes conservative or Republican.

This congressional district must and needs to be redrawn to reduce its square miles and result in a most equitable voter distribution among rural and urban voters.

Sincerely,

Ken Chasin

975 Pintail Ln Charlottesville, VA 22903-9616

kenchasin1@gmail.com



Redistricting

1 message

Ed Taylor <joycenedtaylor@aol.com>

Fri, Sep 24, 2021 at 8:57 AM

Reply-To: Ed Taylor <joycenedtaylor@aol.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Morning Ladies and Gentlemen: Please kick all the politicians off the committee. Their only interest is keeping their Damn PARTY in power, not what is in the best interest of the COMMONWEALTH and PEOPLE. Tell the politicians that they have lost my vote and other people's votes for their actions. We the PEOPLE are slowly, but surely not voting for any candidates who have served more than two terms. Thanks, from a disgruntled citizen and voter.

Ed Taylor

Edwin C. Taylor Jr.



Sheila A. Olem
MAYOR
T (703) 435-6805
Mayor.Olem@herndon-va.gov

September 24, 2021

Honorable Mackenzie K. Babichenko, Co-Chair;
Honorable Greta J. Harris, Co-Chair; and
Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission
varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

On behalf of the current and former mayors of the Town of Herndon, an incorporated town of consisting of 4.2 square miles, we collectively represent more than **45 years of Town leadership**. This includes former mayors Thomas Davis Rust; Richard C. Thoesen; Carol A. Bruce; Michael L. O'Reilly; Steve J. DeBenedittis; Lisa C. Merkel; and me the current mayor, Sheila A. Olem.

We voice our objection to any proposal that would divide the Town of Herndon into more than one voting district. Such a division would most certainly cause significant confusion amongst our citizens and make it very difficult for our Town government to identify, coordinate, and collaborate district constituents' issues with our General Assembly representatives as needs arise.

There are only three precincts in the Town of Herndon (Herndon 1, 2, 3). For as long as we can recall, the precincts in the Town of Herndon have been the same in House of Delegates, State Senate, and Congress, who have served our citizens well. To have our 4.2 square mile town split between two representatives is illogical, serves no purpose, and would be confusing to the constituents we serve as neighbors would be served by different representatives.

We respectfully urge the Virginia Redistricting Commission to maintain the Town of Herndon in one voting district for the Fairfax County District Supervisor and School Board, Virginia House of Delegates, Virginia Senate, and US Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheila A. Olem".

Sheila A. Olem, Mayor
Town of Herndon, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Albemarle County

1 message

Virginia Daugherty <virginia@papercraft.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 6:05 PM

Dear Commission members,

Please do not put Albemarle County with Augusta County. Put us with one of the counties in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District because we have many issues in common. Getting voters with common interests into the same districts is very important.

Thank you very much.

Virginia Daugherty

104 W High St

Charlottesville VA 22902

434-409-5069



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Albemarle county

1 message

Pat smith <patscville@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 12:18 PM

I object to Albemarle county being placed in district with Augusta. This does not even make sense. The planning district goes east for all cooperative work.

Pat Smith
Charlottesville



Charlottesville and Augusta County

1 message

Anne McKeithen <anne.mckeithen@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 10:05 AM

Please DO NOT lump together these two very different constituencies. They do not represent communities of interest. There is little in common and the two don't "mingle." Look to the Metropolitan Charlottesville area, which does not include Augusta, to find like counties.

Thank you for being sensitive to communities and smaller areas.

Anne McKeithen
233 E Jefferson St.
Charlottesville VA 22902



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Columbia Pike Corridor; Arlington Heights Civic Association

1 message

Kristi Sawert <ahca.ksawert@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 9:52 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Arlington Heights Civic Association ("AHCA"). Arlington Heights is one of Arlington's oldest neighborhoods and home to over 1000 households, more than 50 businesses, the Columbia Pike Library, several public schools, and houses of worship. We are a proud member of the Columbia Pike community, which is our main street, and the South Arlington 22204 ZIP code community-at-large. The 22204 ZIP code is one of the most diverse areas in Arlington, and is home to more than 130 nationalities, as well as the historically African-American communities of Green Valley, Johnson's Hill (now Arlington View), and Butler Holmes (now Penrose). We believe that our diversity and strong sense of community--i.e., "the world in a ZIP code"--makes Arlington Heights and the Columbia Pike corridor a desirable place to live. We strongly urge the redistricting committee to maintain the political cohesion of the Columbia Pike corridor and the 22204 community.

Thank you,
Dr. Kristi Rupert Sawert
President, AHCA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Need for improvement

1 message

Jerry Teplitz <Jerry@teplitz.com>

Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 8:58 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

To the Commission,

I read the story in the Virginian Pilot yesterday.

You need to create maps that are more nonpartisan than the Democratic and Republic leaning maps. That's what the voter's wanted in passing the referendum!

Sincerely,

Jerry Teplitz

Dr. Jerry V. Teplitz dynamic, educational and entertaining keynotes and seminars on Brain Performance Optimization have a long-term impact on performance enhancement and productivity.

Dr. Teplitz is an attorney and has a PhD in Holistic Health Sciences. He is an expert in Brain Performance, Neuroplasticity and Stress Management. He is author of 9 books and has given over 1800 presentations to more than 1 million. Participants report becoming more positive, effective, focused, energized, and more productive.

Dr. Teplitz has earned the Certified Speaking Professional designation from the National Speakers Association. The Canadian Society of Association Executives has designated him an Association Excellence Speaker and the Professional Convention Management has designated him a "Best-in-Class" Speaker. He presents and consults on Management and Leadership Training, Sales Development, Brain Integration and Stress Management.

Jerry Teplitz Enterprises, Inc.

[1304 Woodhurst Drive](#)

[Virginia Beach, VA 23454](#)

800 77-RELAX (800 777-3529)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Map 100A3 & Map 102B3 Treatment of Albemarle County

1 message

Tim Hickey <timhickeyteacher@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 6:46 PM

Commissoners,

As a citizen of Albemarle County and a candidate for the House of Delegates in 2019, I oppose the treatment of Albemarle County proposed in Map 100A3 for the House of Delegates.

Map 100A3 certainly appears to be a partisan gerrymander in our area that flouts the ideals of compactness and maintaining communities of interest. It attempts to keep Albemarle County splintered and dilute our voice in the political process by needlessly dividing our county into 3 sections. First, it lumps the southern & western portions into a long proposed district (HD76) that would stretch down to the southern border of Amherst County. Second, it carves out the northern part of Albemarle County & attaches it with Greene & Orange Counties into a proposed district (HD74) that would stretch all the way to the far eastern tip of Orange. Third, it stretches a Charlottesville District to include parts of Albemarle to the west & north (HD75). These three oddly drawn Districts will harm our ability to participate in the democratic process and further fracture our community.

As a candidate for the House of Delegates in the current 59th District in 2019, my firsthand experience is that the 59th is a gross gerrymander that blatantly violates the notions of compactness and communities of interest. The proposed HD76 and HD74 in Map100A3 are certainly reminiscent of the current 59th District in this regard.

Please do not do this to our community. The treatment of Albemarle County proposed in Map 102B3 is fairer, more sensible, and in keeping with the spirit of fair redistricting.

Thank you.

Tim Hickey



The case for a more two district House of Delegates for Albemarle

1 message

Angela Lynn <angelalynn54@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov
Cc: linda perriello <lindagperriello@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 11:23 AM

My experience working for over 11 years on several Albemarle county boards and working for Albemarle County Public Schools ask that you consider the two House of Delegates map drawing instead of three or more districts.

I served on the following boards and worked for the Albemarle County School District:

Department of Social Service Advisory Board

Forestral and Agricultural Districts Advisory Board

Albemarle County Conservation Easements Authority

Albemarle County Citizens Judicial Reform Advisory Committee

In addition, I ran for the House of Delegates in 2015 and again 2017 in the ridiculously gerrymandered 25th House District that includes parts of Albemarle, Rockingham and Augusta counties

The other counties over the Blue Ridge Mountains have nowhere near the same population, schools and healthcare needs as Albemarle County.

Albemarle county has not only a geographical divide but communication is hampered when you add in counties that do not have close alliances or news outlets publications that service the entire district.

Rural counties are not the same.

We have a completely different view of how we plan to serve the Albemarle population than Augusta or Rockingham has had yet we were lumped in with a representative who lived far from our county and did not share our collective needs or future projections.

Communication as a representative should be in a very shared working and living environment.

Communication with all these constituents in the past was very poor and egregious because of our stark differences.

The result is no representation.

It is imperative that Albemarle County be given more representation than considered just another rural community paired with a far off rural community connected by an arbitrary line.

Our rural areas have many conservation easements, wineries, wedding venues and equestrian facilities that are unlike agricultural facilities in neighboring counties.

These present unique representativeness.

We have a major university population and hospital staff and facilities that have been growing along with a robust Department of Defense employees who have added to our growing need for housing and services.

We are looking forward to having House of Delegates representatives who live in the Albemarle, unlike two representatives in the past county and who understand our unique shared views in serving our growing population and our constant stewardship of the lands and water.

As a former candidate sent over the mountains to speak with constituents from Augusta and Rockingham counties that were connected to our sliver of Albemarle, I may as well have been from Northern Virginia despite my work in Agricultural and Forestal land management at the most affluent of three counties.

Most voters may know where the other counties are but hardly share the problems and concerns that are unique to those counties.

Political, social and economic development is extremely different in the surrounding counties of Albemarle, even if the farm communities exist.

It is not going to be a good pairing with a community that has so many miles and views so far apart that they may not and can not serve the other without compromising the fact they are very different.

That is why two representatives who reside in Albemarle county is best for representation for the House of Delegates.

Respectfully

Angela Lynn



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

A map for your consideration.

1 message

Michael Tabony <miketabony@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Sep 21, 2021 at 8:19 AM

To whomever it applies,

I am Michael Loga Tabony, a resident of Virginia living in area code 24553, Gladstone, VA, and have submitted the Congressional District Map linked to below for the commission's consideration. I attempted to retain communities of interest and equal population numbers but did not look at political or racial data while drawing. IMHO, we should all endeavor to FIRST be Americans and once we start considering other parameters we move away from that goal.

Please see:

www.districtr.org/plan/48525

Thank you,

Mike Tabony



The Final Draw

1 message

Angela Lynn <angelalynn54@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Sep 20, 2021 at 3:37 PM

Dear Redistricting Committee Members

Back in 2015 I ran for the House of Delegate with ending Gerrymandering as part of my platform. I was advised to drop the gerrymandering issue because few voters knew about it or understood it and besides it had been a political tool that wasn't going to go away.

I worked for 1Va2021 as a public speaker educating the public and advocated for a nonpartisan independent commission so we could bring trust and confidence back to our electoral process.

So here you are now holding the map drawing tools to be as nonpartisan and independent of political or power brokers as possible.

I applaud your efforts and feel that the last lap maybe the finish of many years of work for a good outcome. That outcome can be nothing short of having delivered the most unbiased, nonpartisan expert finish.

We ask that the final maps give certain considerations to the populations that have been robbed of a voice and a fair vote of the cities in the Western part of the Commonwealth and not be swayed by your own political views but keep in mind we are capable of handing over the final draw to the most unbiased professional vote and leave the dust of broken promises and half truths in the past by keeping politics bridled by delivering the product the people voted for in fair, compact and contiguous political districts.

If possible forget the district has a political leaning today and that may change tomorrow.

We ask your diligence to bring a map that doesn't look at the scoreboard but the blindness of a just outcome with the most unbiased source.

You are almost there.

Thank you

Angela Lynn



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Alexandria HOD districts 1&2 (map A3) and 4&5 (map B3)

1 message

Giselle Caruso <fgcaruso@outlook.com>

Sun, Sep 19, 2021 at 8:36 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

RE: Alexandria HOD districts 1&2 (map A3) and 4&5 (map B3): I am attaching a plan (PDF) I drew using MyDistricting through the VRC website. It is an alternative plan for Alexandria that includes 12,097 people from Arlington County rather than from Fairfax County. Delegates and senators represent residents and the local governments within their districts. As I have commented before, I am concerned that a delegate who represents Alexandria along with just a few precincts in Fairfax County will have to spend a disproportionate amount of time on Fairfax County issues due to Fairfax County's size and the complexity of the issues the County is facing.

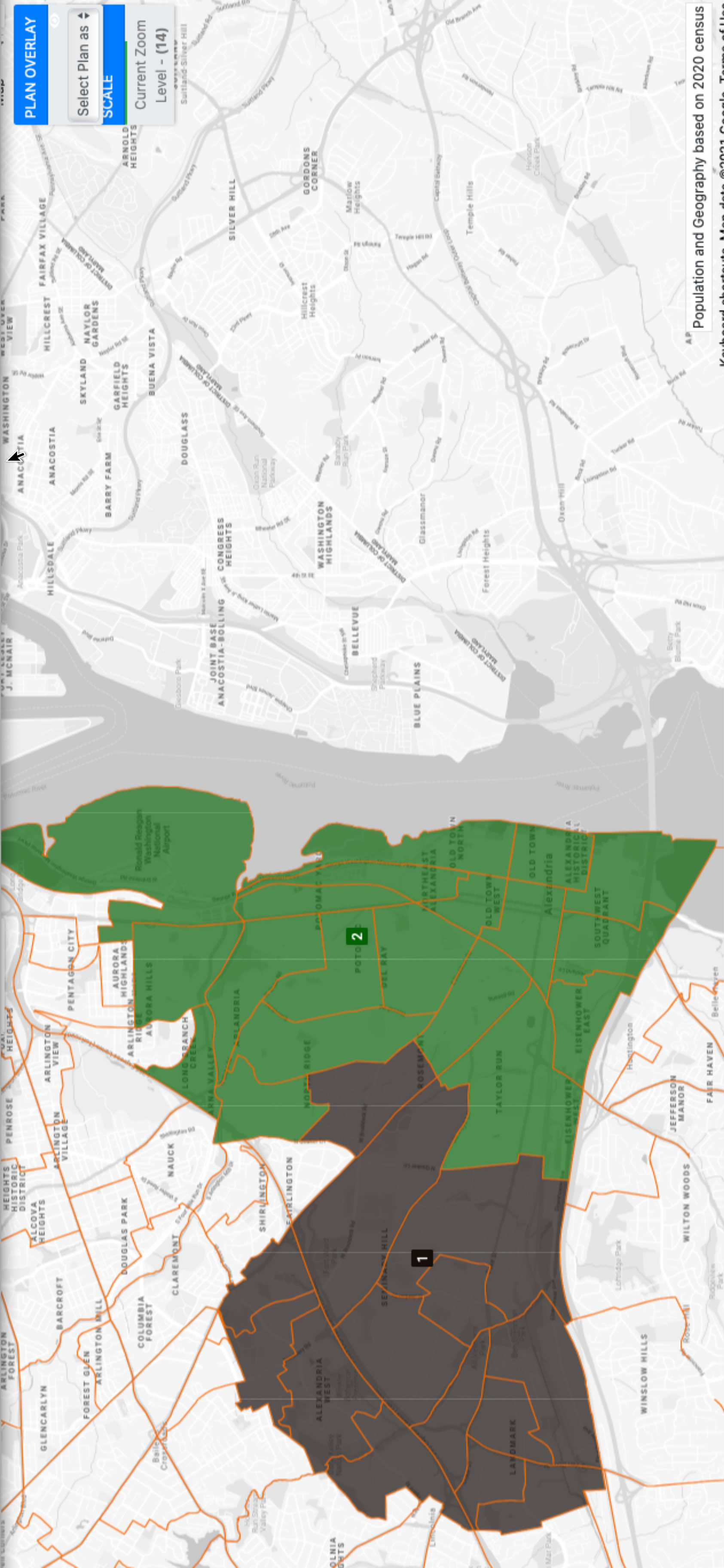
Thank you for your work on the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

Giselle Caruso

Alexandria, VA

**Alexandria-Arlington-HOD_2021-09-19.pdf**

723K



Population and Geography based on 2020 census

Map based on 2020 census data. Map data © 2024 Google. Terms of Use

SQMi	Target	Deviation	Total Pop	Adj Pop	White	Black	Native AM/ALSK	Asian	Others	Hispanic	HAW/PI
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
42,757	0	8,459,738 (0%)	8,459,836	8,459,738	5,119,842	1,574,014	38,970	602,441	430,326	877,902	7,048
8	86,314	☑ -402 (-0.47%)	85,786	85,912	33,986	23,739	546	8,127	9,720	17,521	54
10	86,314	☑ -571 (-0.66%)	85,771	85,743	55,028	9,828	491	4,868	6,604	13,326	54

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VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Va SENATE districts

1 message

Richard Mr Zimmermann <richardzimmermann@verizon.net>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sat, Sep 18, 2021 at 8:15 AM

Commission:

SENATE DISTRICTS, must not arbitrarily atomize Virginia localities with the most people merely because they are densely settled.

- In previous redistricting, several slices of densely populated areas were dispersed into voiceless district-minorities surrounding their city under the apology that 'only one' locality was carved up 'to respect local boundaries'. At the same time, 400 year-old remnant places with only a few hundreds were counted as 'respected boundaries' of places instead an urban government peopled in the thousands.

- CENTER each senate district on dense settlement 'hubs' first, then add sparser populations to avoid 'rotten boroughs', the previous senate districts of urban settlement made into a district-minorities in an urban-majority state.

Sincerely, Richard G. Zimmermann, Jr., [1226 Brookside Landing, Chesapeake VA 23320](#), cell: 703-946-7543.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Suggestions regarding districts 6, 14, and 15 on A2 NOVA HOD map

1 message

Jason Morgan <jvmorgan@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 2:45 PM

Commissioners,

Please consider the suggested changes to district 6, 14, and 15, as presented on the A2 NOVA HOD map (number 61). The suggestions are available at <https://virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/99/1>.

The purpose of these suggestions is to keep the Tysons Urban Center in one district without compromising the viability of the other proposed districts. I believe that the boundaries I've suggested meet these goals and are even more natural and conforming to the goals of redistricting (particularly with respect to respecting communities of interest) than the A2 NOVA HOD map.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--Jason V. Morgan



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comment on Redistricting

1 message

Praveen Meyyan <praveen.meyyan@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 8:58 PM

Dear Redistricting Committee,

As a resident of South Arlington, I think the area south of Route 50 should be kept together as a community of interest. For a long time county officials, state government and local residents have used Route 50 as a natural line for delineation as the areas south of Route 50 have historically been home to many of Arlington's communities of color. Perhaps this could change in the far future but for now, it best serves the interest of this community to have a district that is united both north and south of Columbia Pike with the Pike being the main artery and business center of the district.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Praveen Meyyan



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tysons Urban Center precinct/census block map available for reference1 message

Jason Morgan <jvmorgan@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 16, 2021 at 4:33 PM

Commissioners,

Using the citizen redistricting tool, I put together a map of the precincts and census blocks that I believe best encompass the constituents of the Tysons Urban Center. To the extent practicable, I would suggest keeping these citizens together in the same house, senate, and congressional districts, rather than splitting them up among multiple districts.

<https://virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/98/1>

Furthermore, I want to commend counsel for agreeing to the memorandum "Directions to Mapdrawers on Political Subdivisions, Political Neutrality, and Communities of Interest." Adopting these instructions seems to be a smart way to take the Virginia Redistricting process in the right direction in terms of ensuring that voters are choosing their elected leaders rather than elected leaders choosing their voters.

Although I doubt that these instructions were intended to be binding on citizen redistricting participants, I can confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, this map complies with the Commission's directions to map drawers (i.e., I believe this map avoids unnecessary divisions of existing political subdivisions, I did not consider political data, including election results or incumbent addresses, while drawing this map, and I sought to use the broad definition of "community of interest" set forth in the Virginia Code).

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for the work you are doing.

--Jason V. Morgan

Mark D. Sickles

September 15, 2021

Virginia Redistricting Commission
Department of Legislative Services
Pocahontas Building
900 E Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for taking on a very difficult task and for considering input from various points of view. I write to seek the preservation of the Franconia/Kingstowne part of Lee District in the same delegate district. One initial plan released for Fairfax County would divide the heart of a district I have represented for almost 18 years. I fully understand that my boundary preferences should not be your consideration but I think the following input is valuable regarding the geography and existing communities of interest. I assure you that I share your objective to keep communities together to the maximum extent practicable consistent with the Voting Rights Act and to end the partisan-advantage abuses that have occurred over the decades.

To be clear about what I say below, I will likely run for re-election in a new district that contains all or part of Greater Franconia. I realize that in doing your job, you will necessarily deny *some* voters the ability to vote for incumbents they would rather have represent them. While that cannot be avoided, it can be reduced by fixing obviously partisan gerrymandered districts but not otherwise upsetting communities that have been happily drawn together. (*Why is the North Arlington border sacrosanct when it is impossible for any visitor to even know they have passed into Fairfax County? For the churchgoers in this affluent area of Northern Virginia, worshipers often cross the county boundary, both ways, to attend the Episcopal Church of their choice!*) While your product should not continue partisan excesses of the past decade, your handiwork is important to constituents as well as to future constituents who currently *like* their representatives. Therefore, I urge you to think in terms of correcting partisan gerrymandering (cracking and packing) and avoid making change for change's sake.

A second point to consider: legislatures are organized by seniority. That fact does not change with more sensical districts in someone's estimation. If a voter is now served by a senior member, the Commission's actions on this new plan determines whether the senior member is taken *from* a voter and the voter's community. In the case of a "new 43rd," one map includes five precincts sliced off the district of the longest serving woman in General Assembly history, and, combined with other unnecessary changes, would, as a practical matter, end her service.

That was not a hoped for result of voters at the polls last November. Her constituents *want* to send her back as Chair of the Finance Committee overseeing tax policy for the Commonwealth. Why do this? It looks like change for change's sake.

In 2011, the previously roundish 43rd Delegate District was re-drafted into an even more Democratic-leaning district in elongated form extending deeper into Lorton and the Mt. Vernon magisterial district. The 43rd received 25 percent new voters despite growing at the Commonwealth's growth rate—i.e., considered in isolation, no boundary changes were necessary. Even with 25 percent new, however, the heart of the district remained in Greater Franconia/Kingstowne, and mostly in the Lee magisterial district. Greater Franconia has been in the 43rd district since it was created by the new single-member districts drawn in the early 1980s. Until, possibly, now.

Lee District is made of up three larger “communities of interest” plus a very large HOA Kingstowne having 5,400 homes. The three parts:

‘First, Central Springfield, Mostly West of I-95 and all in 22150,
Second, Greater Franconia including the large Kingstowne HOA and,
Third, the Richmond Highway Corridor

While one draft plan largely keeps Greater Franconia and Kingstowne together, the other plan splits Greater Franconia and the Edison HS pyramid by carving out Bush Hill, Clermont, Rose Hill, Virginia Hills, Cameron, Mt Eagle, and Huntington precincts. Huntington, where I live, has a North Kings Highway/Richmond Highway orientation, but Huntington area students go to Edison HS in the heart of Franconia. Further, by splitting off Rose Hill, the current 43rd district also loses one of the four Kingstowne HOA precincts. Please do not divide these Greater Franconia communities from Van Dorn, Lane, Island Creek, Franconia, Kingstowne, and Villages, for no meaningful reason while dismembering the district of Virginia's most senior woman legislator in doing so.

In another draft, as noted above, map drawers decided to make the North Arlington County line THE sacrosanct boundary. Hence, the “new 48th” population distribution pushes the adjoining districts south through the County, and then through Alexandria City. The 45th loses Arlington's Shirlington area. And by losing Arlington, the 45th is moved further south into Huntington (instead of Belle View). None of these unnecessary changes makes these districts any more or less competitive from a partisan or minority influence point of view. It is simply change. But at least Arlington is not connected to Fairfax in the North!

I want to note that nothing I have said here should be interpreted as wanting the Commission to jettison ANY of the current 43rd District. I have enjoyed working for citizens in South Lorton for these last 10 years, for example, and would be personally happy if the Commission changed nothing. But incumbents should not be drawing their own districts. Best

of luck to you as you try to solve this Rubik's cube and thank you for keeping communities of interest together to the maximum extent practicable in concert with your important obligations under the Voting Rights Act.

On behalf of citizens and constituents in the middle of Lee District, Greater Franconia, and the Kingstowne HOA, please keep this community of interest together in the "new 43rd."

With respect and best wishes,

Mark D. Sickles



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

comment regarding redistricting - falls church city

1 message

patricia aburano <paburano6@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 15, 2021 at 1:34 PM

I am a resident of Falls Church City, and submit this comment for the commission's consideration.

I believe that if the current district boundaries are going to be changed, that it would be better if falls church is joined with merrifield, instead of with arlington. Falls church and merrifield are similar in size, demographics, and have similar recent histories of development. It would have more of a natural "flow" and feeling of community.

thank you.

patricia aburano



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Scottsville Town Limits in Districting

1 message

mlawless@scottsville.org <mlawless@scottsville.org>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 15, 2021 at 11:44 AM

Good morning,

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

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

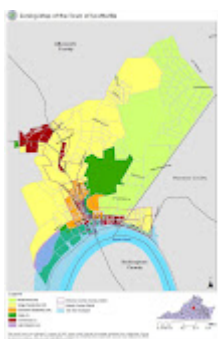
Please be aware of the several towns in similar situations, and keep these geographic quirks as part of the complex work of the commission.

Respectfully,

Matt Lawless

Scottsville Town Administrator
Office: 434-286-9267

[Web](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)



zoning jpeg 2021.JPG
92K



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Competing definitions of compactness

1 message

Pete Costigan <ph.costigan@hotmail.com>

Wed, Sep 15, 2021 at 11:30 AM

To: "district20@senate.virginia.gov" <district20@senate.virginia.gov>, "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>
Cc: "mlamb@dls.virginia.gov" <mlamb@dls.virginia.gov>, "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, Pete Costigan <ph.costigan@hotmail.com>

Commissioners;

Below are the public comments I made at your 9-15 meeting. The second part of those comments address the "competing" definitions of compactness referenced in legal counsel's legal primer on the VRA. Is it possible that legal counsel will be able to address the question on those definitions that I pose below? Thanks Pete Costigan

Comments to Redistricting Commission, 9-15-21

Good morning,

My name is Pete Costigan and I live in Ruckersville, Va. in Greene County

This morning I'd like to make one suggestion regarding the district maps presented for the Commission's consideration. I'd also like to pose one question regarding the "compactness" section of legal counsel's memo entitled the Voting Rights Act Legal Primer which the Commission and legal counsel discussed during the Sept 13th meeting.

My one suggestion regarding draft district maps to be presented at the Sept 20th meeting is that they include state roads. Public comment to date on communities of interest suggests that state roads often serve – or could and should serve - as boundaries for such communities. Having those roads designated on the draft maps would be helpful both to the Commission and the public as they review the draft maps. The inclusion of state roads on the draft maps might also help citizen propose their own ideas for a community of interest in a given district. Finally, since the maps being considered will be of the entire Commonwealth rather than regions, I assume the map drawers will have the ability to zoom in on any district under discussion.

Now to my question regarding the definition of compactness. The compactness section of legal counsel's 11-page Primer on the Voting Rights Act begins at the top of page six and ends midway through page seven. I found this section quite informative and thought provoking - in particular, the second full paragraph on page six which begins, "For some time, there have been two competing definitions of compactness." That paragraph goes on to define a district's compactness as its shape on the map. The smoother a district's border and the more its shape resembles a square or a circle rather than a spider or a string bean, the more it's likely to be deemed compact by those who espouse this definition.

The next paragraph defines compactness in more functional terms. Those who espouse this definition want legislators to be able to explain the boundaries of their districts in simple, common-

sense terms. The memo goes on to say that, under this functional definition, the question is not whether the district is aesthetically pleasing when viewed on a map, but whether it makes sense to the person on the street.

In my view both definitions make sense and both support the objective of fair maps. However, I return to the sentence I quoted a minute ago: "For some time, there have been two competing definitions of compactness." I'm possibly too hung up on the authors' use of the adjective "competing" in this sentence but that word does make me question if each definition's adherents – and especially the courts – see those definitions as mutually exclusive? In other words, compact maps can reflect one definition or the other but not both. I hope legal counsel can assure us all that these definitions need not be mutually exclusive in practice. In fact, I hope the map drawers, the Commissioners and citizens who submit and react to draft maps will see evidence of both definitions of compactness in the maps of all of Virginia's districts.

As always, I thank the Commission and DLS for the efforts you continue to make in your difficult and historic task. Pete Costigan

Please keep Lynchburg
in our community
of interest


Natalie McDonald

Dear Members of the
Redistricting Commission

24 SEP 2021 PM 3:1



Please make Lynchburg one HoD ;
State Senate district! We are a single
community of interest!

Jeffrey Wothers


20219-354899

Virginia Redistricting
Commission
Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor
Richmond, VA 23219
900 E. Main Street

Please keep Lynnhburg ~~as~~
one community of interest

Denita Jennings
200 Banteras Rd
Lynnhburg Va

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Priscilla Godfrey <godfreyblueridge@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 4:27 PM

Reply-To: godfreyblueridge@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 the far western part of Loudoun County. The farms/homes are located on larger lots ten miles from grocery stores, etc. What bonds our community is interest in preserving the acreage here for farming. Loudoun County is losing land to development at an alarming rate. Because of the low number of people in residence here we are often districted with suburban communities to the east. As Loudoun County grows, we will continue to be districted with more densely populated communities. Thank you again for this herculean task ahead of you; you make us all proud serving as the very first commission!

Priscilla Godfrey
LWV Loudoun County

Sincerely,
Ms. Priscilla Godfrey
38395 Snickersville Tpke Purcellville, VA 20132-5023
godfreyblueridge@gmail.com

Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Sep 14, 2021 at 12:51 PM

Hello,

I am drawing maps with RedistrictR.

Here is a map that may work...

<https://districtr.org/plan/46621>

The deviation is .79%

Thank you.

Elly Tucker

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

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Proposed changes to the Freedom Hill and Kilmer precincts in A2 NOVA SD (09-08-2021)

1 message

Jason Morgan <jvmorgan@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 10:23 PM

Commissioners,

I decided to try out the "Citizens Redistricting" tool. Wow, it is really neat to be able to dig in and try going through the redistricting process. This is a difficult task and I thank you for your effort and dedication. I hope that you are seeing other Virginians try out this useful (and educational) tool so that they better understand and can better contribute to the redistricting process.

In trying out this tool, I decided to see how Freedom Hill and Kilmer could be adjusted in the A2 NOVA SD (09-08-2021) map (#40) to better reflect the nuanced communities of interest in this region. In particular, I wanted to see how to avoid splitting the Tysons Urban Center community while also avoiding the splitting of communities of interest near (but not in) the Tysons Urban Center).

My best attempt to draw these improved boundaries is available at <https://virginiaredistricting.org/legdistricting/comments/plan/88/1>.

To the extent the A2 NOVA SD line of proposals, or Senator Barker's proposal, affects the final senate districts in Fairfax County, I hope that this proposed modification to the border can be incorporated into the final set of approved districts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

--Jason V. Morgan



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Professor Chambers - Legal Analysis of Virginia Redistricting

1 message

Chambers, Hank <hchamber@richmond.edu>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 2:57 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "district20@senate.virginia.gov" <district20@senate.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission Members –

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

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

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

-HLC

Henry L. Chambers, Jr.

Austin E. Owen Research Scholar and Professor of Law

University of Richmond School of Law

[203 Richmond Way](#)

[Richmond, Va. 23173](#)

(804) 289-8199

hchamber@richmond.edu

2 attachments



Chambers, The Fight Over the Virginia Redistricting Commission, 24 RICH. PUB. INT. L. REV 81.pdf
598K

9/13/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - Professor Chambers - Legal Analysis of Virginia Redistricting



Chambers, Readyng Virginia, 55 U.Rich.L.Rev 227.pdf

254K

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Feedback on proposed maps

1 message

Andrew Ludwig <luddie@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 2:54 PM

Reply-To: luddie@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

I would like to provide feedback on the following proposed map: B2NOVA HOD.

First off, I think round districts generated by a computer algorithm would be optimal.

Barring that, map B2 NOVA HOD has the suspicious inclusion/exclusion of the Arlington Heights neighborhood -- north of Columbia Pike, but included with everything in the South Arlington district 3 (rather than #2). This feels like gerrymandering. Is there a good reason to include this 'economically disadvantaged' section with the the South Arlington district?

Please consider setting a precedent for the country by creating (mostly) round districts, rather than arbitrary street (or class) divisions.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Andrew Ludwig

3349 Ardley Ct Falls Church, VA 22041-2601

luddie@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Public Comment regarding criteria for drawing congressional districts

1 message

Jim Call <jcall4472@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 2:02 PM

I want to call your attention to an almost “difficult to believe” criteria in the commission guidance for population equality in drawing congressional districts. Hopefully it is a typo, but regardless, it urgently needs to be addressed.

The 2021 Redistricting Guidelines and Criteria state the following under 1-d:

"d. Commission guidance:

- i. Each legislative district should be drawn to be as equal as practicable, with total population variances minimized, with a target of no more than plus or minus 2%, while considering the other principles listed below.
- ii. Each congressional district shall be drawn with a total population of plus or minus one person from the ideal district size. (emphasis added)"

I hope you meant to say one “percent”, not one “person”. If not, this criteria would require the commission to split precincts and actually choose individual households in drawing congressional boundaries. It would certainly wreck havoc with keeping counties and communities of interest together.

I hope this is helpful feedback. Good luck with your important work.

Jim Call
611 E. Alexandria Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22301



Input on Arlington redistricting maps

1 message

Takis Karantonis <takis.p.karantonis@gmail.com>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 9:28 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I am providing comments to the published preliminary redistricting maps for the Columbia Pike (R244) corridor in Arlington, Virginia (Zip-code 22204). I do this as a resident and active community member in this corridor since 2006 and as the former Executive Director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (www.columbiapike.org) from 2009-2016.

The published preliminary maps show Columbia Pike as the dividing boundary between a northern and a southern future district. Such division ignores the fact that Columbia Pike is, in reality, the historic and current central axis of Arlington's most culturally, socially and economically diverse community, the geographic extend of which is mostly congruent with [ZIP code 22204](#). This community has all the characteristics of a "Community of Interest" as defined by Virginia Code and therefore it is important that it is included in one voting district and not divided in two or three as currently proposed.

Columbia Pike is Arlington's oldest main street (chartered by Congress in 1810). With its surrounding neighborhoods it forms a major South Arlington corridor. The arrival of a new federal workforce during the New Deal era and the construction of the Pentagon in 1941 were catalysts for vigorous urban growth along both sides of the Pike. Significant "Garden Apartment" complexes (a typical legacy multifamily housing type in Arlington) were constructed on both sides of the arterial street along with the corresponding neighborhood commercial areas. Still today, Columbia Pike ranks among the 2 or 3 highest ridership bus-transit corridors in the Commonwealth. The combination of available and affordable workforce housing, good transit, schools and other services attracted immigrant communities that began to arrive in the region. Columbia Pike soon became what the Brookings foundation described as "World in a Zip-Code", Northern Virginia's most diverse, multicultural neighborhood.

There are more than 85 languages spoken in Elementary Schools along Columbia Pike. Among others, we have vibrant Latinx, Ethiopian, Mongolian and Middle-Eastern communities rooted on both sides of the Pike. Dividing them politically will be detrimental to their community cohesion.

The unique [Columbia Pike Documentary Project](#) has been documenting these communities for 25 years. There is a [current photographic exhibit](#) at the Virginia Library in Richmond, documenting our community along the Pike.

Arlington County has [planned Columbia Pike always as one district](#), especially since the late 1990s when the County Board adopted the "Columbia Pike Initiative" with the goal of revitalizing the corridor. As a citizen and, later, as the [Executive Director of the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization](#) I was deeply involved with the multiyear community-lead planning efforts. In 2012, the [Columbia Pike Neighborhoods Plan](#) received the [Benjamin Banneker Award for Outstanding Social Commitment and Community](#). As a member of the Committee that co-authored this plan I firmly believe that the proposed political division will be detrimental to the revitalization efforts of our community.

On Columbia Pike, we are one, very tightly knit set of neighborhoods. We face significant common challenges. We are much more diverse and less wealthy than Arlington neighborhoods north of Arlington Blvd (R50). We have experienced disinvestment and lagged economically behind the rest of the County. We are the last in line to see investment in schools, public infrastructure, facilities and services. Columbia Pike is still the largest repository of affordable housing in Arlington and home to a disproportionately high share of moderate and low-income residents.

The existence of long-standing community-institutions like the Pike-Presidents-Group (which is the standing conference of all Civic Association Presidents along the Pike) and the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization is a testimony to the fact that we have to stand and advocate for our community interests as one community.

We should be therefore represented as ONE district in the General Assembly.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With kind regards,

Takis Karantonis

9/13/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - Input on Arlington redistricting maps

1401 S. Edgewood St.

Arlington VA 22204



Current Delegates and Senators Addresses Should Not Be Considered in Drawing of Maps

1 message

Charlie Thomas <chasthos1@verizon.net>

Mon, Sep 13, 2021 at 8:40 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov

Hello,

My name is Charles Thomas and I live in Arlington, Virginia. It has come to my attention that the commission may consider where delegates and senators are living in the drawing of maps. This should not be permitted and would politicize and corrupt the redrawing process. It will also undermine voters' trust in the new Virginia Redistricting Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Thomas

4728 7th Road North
Arlington, VA 22203

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comments on Behalf of the LWV of Virginia

1 message

Chris DeRosa <chris.lwv.222@gmail.com>

Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 11:15 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.govCc: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, district20@senate.virginia.gov

Greetings, members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission and DLS staff!

Once again, thank you for all of your dedicated efforts to bring #Fair Maps to reality to all Virginians, and for the opportunities you are providing to Virginians to participate in the process.

I spoke before you in person, in Richmond, on August 23rd - my remarks, on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Virginia, are attached here so that they might be included in the compendium of comments that will be gathered and organized by the Communications team. It is also for the benefit of the newest members of this Commission. My remarks are also copied below.

Thank you!

Chris DeRosa (she, her)

Co-Coordinator, LWV-VA Redistricting Committee

chris.lwv.222@gmail.com

571-422-6605

Remarks to the Virginia Redistricting Commission

8/23/21**Richmond, VA**

Good morning.

I'm Chris DeRosa. This morning I am here, representing the League of Women Voters of Virginia, including our President, Deb Wake, and over 2200 members of the League.

We have worked hard for #Fair maps for many, many years, including helping to pass the Constitutional Amendment in November. Our position is that we want and need fair maps for the benefit of the voters of Virginia. Virginians want to elect representatives of their choice.

The biggest improvement in the process, we believe, is **transparency** – we are watching and listening to all your discussions and votes with great interest. Pouring sunshine into the process is important. We ask you to be wary of going around FOIA and transparency by allowing any decisions to be made behind closed doors.

Also, we fully support the establishment of other criteria for maps, especially the respect for Communities of Interest(COI) and the rights of ethnic, racial, and language minorities “to elect representatives of their choice”.

Although we would have preferred a nonpartisan, all-citizen commission, we are hopeful that all of you on this commission, being balanced and bipartisan, will work for the benefit of all Virginians.

We hope that you are listening to the voices of the people. We hope that you are reading all of the comments – nearly 400 written comments submitted by email, over 125 in the newest portal, (more than 3/4 of those submitted in the past 10 days). League members have read all comments and note that a few threads have been woven throughout the meetings and hearings. We've heard loudly and clearly that people want their communities kept together rather than split into 2 or more districts unnecessarily. Reunite them into one cohesive community.

Secondly, another thread is that not one person who has submitted testimony has advised the Commissioners to begin with existing maps. Virginians do not want this to happen. Thank you to those of you who put aside partisanship today with your vote.

These messages are from the people of Virginia. Hear their voices. Do what's right for the people, not what's right for the Ds or the Rs, not what's right for partisan interests. What's fair for the people, not for politicians.

You are concerned with "landing this plane" and maps getting approval from members of the General Assembly. You might land the plane, but if the politicians are in the pilot seats and the cabin door is locked, you may not have the approval of the voters sitting in the passenger cabin. We hope that you will keep this in mind: draw maps that the residents of this Commonwealth will approve. You should work for us. And The League is here to work alongside with you.



Chris comments to VRC on behalf of LWVVA 08.23.21.pdf
415K

Remarks to the Virginia Redistricting Commission
8/23/21
Richmond, VA

Good morning.

I'm Chris DeRosa. This morning I am here, representing the League of Women Voters of Virginia, including our President, Deb Wake, and over 2200 members of the League.

We have worked hard for #Fair maps for many, many years, including helping to pass the Constitutional Amendment in November. Our position is that we want and need fair maps for the benefit of the voters of Virginia. Virginians want to elect representatives of their choice.

The biggest improvement in the process, we believe, is **transparency** – we are watching and listening to all your discussions and votes with great interest. Pouring sunshine into the process is important. We ask you to be wary of going around FOIA and transparency by allowing any decisions to be made behind closed doors.

Also, we fully support the establishment of other criteria for maps, especially the respect for Communities of Interest(COI) and the rights of ethnic, racial, and language minorities “to elect representatives of their choice”.

Although we would have preferred a nonpartisan, all-citizen commission, we are hopeful that all of you on this commission, being balanced and bipartisan, will work for the benefit of all Virginians.

We hope that you are listening to the voices of the people. We hope that you are reading all of the comments – nearly 400 written comments submitted by email, over 125 in the newest portal, (more than 3/4 of those submitted in the past 10 days). League members have read all comments and note that a few threads have been woven throughout the meetings and hearings. We've heard loudly and clearly that people want their communities kept together rather than split into 2 or more districts unnecessarily. Reunite them into one cohesive community.

Secondly, another thread is that not one person who has submitted testimony has advised the Commissioners to begin with existing maps. Virginians do not want this to happen. Thank you to those of you who put aside partisanship today with your vote.

These messages are from the people of Virginia. Hear their voices. Do what's right for the people, not what's right for the Ds or the Rs, not what's right for partisan interests. What's fair for the people, not for politicians.

You are concerned with “landing this plane” and maps getting approval from members of the General Assembly. You might land the plane, but if the politicians are in the pilot seats and the cabin door is locked, you may not have the approval of the voters sitting in the passenger cabin. We hope that you will keep this in mind: draw maps that the residents of this Commonwealth will approve. You should work for us. And The League is here to work alongside with you.

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Feedback on proposed maps

1 message

Bret Leslie <bretleslie@everyactioncustom.com>

Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 7:49 PM

Reply-To: bretleslie@aol.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

I would like to provide feedback on the following proposed map: B2 NOVA HOD.

Overall the map has districts that have an overall higher deviation from the target than A2 NOVA HOD and bring together disparate communities (i.e., break apart existing communities). For example District 10, would be a predominantly stretched in a north/south direction and encompass large areas south of Interstate-66, which has been and will be a barrier for communities. In contrast, the A2 NOVA HOD District 14 keeps is elongated east west which is more consistent with neighborhoods north of I-66 and more consistent with the the Difficult Run watershed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bret Leslie

9929 Woodrow St Vienna, VA 22181-3137

bretleslie@aol.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Public comment 9/13

1 message

PAUL BERRY <pberry@ccbellerose.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 6:24 PM

The maps that have been reviewed thus far by both the Republican and Democratic consultants demonstrate a serious risk to the Latino community in the Commonwealth. In the strongest possible terms, I encourage the commission to alter any final result to bring greater equity to bear.

Specifically, the current maps draw the only two elected Latinos *in the entire Commonwealth* out of their districts. While some may argue that doing so still creates majority-minority Latino districts, there is *no guarantee* that Latinos will win in those districts. Indeed, it is more likely that they will not: Latinos are a historically disenfranchised voting group with nearly *zero* presence at any level of civil service in state government, the lowest voter turnout rates, and the highest poverty rates in the Commonwealth.

If the VRC approves maps that make it difficult for the only two legislators in Virginia's history who are Latino to compete in elections there would be a significant disadvantage to the Latino community in the Commonwealth that now numbers over 850,000 or 10.5% of the population. The seniority these two legislators have represents the only political currency of any kind in the General Assembly and it is unthinkable that good governance and equal representation would benefit if they were forced to compete under the maps as currently drawn.

Furthermore, this may be a legal issue. If adopted as the consultants drew them, it could (and likely will) be argued that the maps are creating multiple Voting Rights Act violations. Several state and national Latino organizations are discussing legal strategies to that effect and will be commenting publicly to the VRC in the coming days and weeks. As Chair of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board I ask that you not interpret this as anecdote; there are serious conversations taking place that will emerge as legal challenges if greater attention is not given to retaining what little representative power Latinos have in Virginia.

--

Paul Daniel Berry

Principal
Contra Costa Bellerose



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Feedback on Map Drawing Process

1 message

Bill Millhouser <bmillhouser2010@cox.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 2:52 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you all for your hard work on this complex task and for the opportunity to participate

I am in general agreement with the changes to the map development and review schedule posted by the co-chairs Harris and Babichenko on the VRC website this weekend. I am, however, concerned about several issues.

First, fewer than 24 hours before Monday's Commission meeting, no materials have been provided to the public which explain the "additional specifics to current guidance" to the map drawers being considered. Thus the public is not able to review these materials and provide meaningful public comment prior to the meeting. The Commission is not fulfilling the promise of providing a transparent process when it fails to provide relevant information to the public, particularly regarding agenda items for Commission meetings.

Second, while it may be helpful to provide more guidance to the map drawers, a more significant issue remains, that being how to reconcile the two sets of maps drawn by the Democratic and Republican teams. As can be seen by reviewing the A2 and B2 NOVA maps, each team has taken a completely different approach to drawing the maps in the counties beyond Fairfax. These differences cannot be resolved easily by making adjustments to one or the other map. Also, Citizens I talked with are completely confused as to why there are A and B maps and two versions of each, as the website has no explanation of the various maps. This problem will become much worse if you proceed with drawing two set of statewide maps for each chamber. I therefore urge you to direct the map drawing teams to work together and produce a single draft statewide map for each chamber. Only in this way will the Commission and the public have a single starting point to review the draft maps.

Third, the website needs to be updated to provide a schedule of key events and milestones in addition to just the list of meeting and hearing dates now provided. This issue was discussed at the last Commission meeting where it was noted that the website contains only a list of upcoming meetings and hearings, but no indication of when the Commission intends to submit maps to the Legislature. I urge the Co-chairs to outline the schedule of events and milestones for the next four weeks at Monday's meeting and direct the staff to update the website to provide the public with a more complete schedule.

Sincerely,

Bill Millhouser
Fairfax County



ReDist Comments -public integrity & incumbent participation

1 message

Peter Evans <riverswork@yahoo.com>

Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 2:25 PM

Reply-To: Peter Evans <phe@riverswork.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thank you for the opportunity to add comments for your consideration and for the official record. I'm impressed that your mapping consultants are off to a good start, and the Commission Co-Chairs are effectively leading the deliberations.

I hope you can assure that the same **sorting capabilities** that are developed for the Commission's use in locating & organizing official comments will also be available for the public to use as well.

Second, **adding "tags" later** for the sorting/organization of comments is a bad idea, one that may be extremely confusing, if they wouldn't be applicable to all comments, including those submitted earlier. Give your Staff time to propose the "tags," these aren't the critical path milestone yet. Clearly, some tags could include several related topics (e.g., comments that reference *incumbents* and those that refer to *gerrymandering*).

Third, I applaud your attention to the Commission deliberations and hope that you will overtly **avoid using your cell phones** during the Commission's mapping deliberations because, otherwise, it could easily appear to The Public that you are getting secret instructions from unidentified advocates by phone in the middle of the meeting. The apparent integrity of this Commission deliberation will set an historical standard for future Commissions to meet/exceed, and I urge you to set the highest standard possible.

Finally, and most important, I am grateful for the comments offered by Delegates Simon and Barker concerning the implications that the "start from scratch" approach may have for **incumbent legislators**. I can understand and appreciate their concerns, and I'm very grateful for their speaking out about the interests of the legislators who will be asked to approve the maps recommended by the Commission, but I object to those incumbent concerns being considered in the Commission's mapping efforts.

My prayer is that you Commissioners, every one of you, are wise enough to understand and accept that protecting incumbents, even the very best, is not an appropriate consideration for the Commission in serving the interests of We the People. There are a few flaws in the new Constitutional amendment that you are working to implement, but **nothing will diminish the apparent integrity of this new approach** as much as any appearance that outside influencers might have a role in your recommendations to the General Assembly.

Thank you, again, for your dedication to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Peter Evans, [505 N Ivy St, Arlington VA 22201](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

VA Redistricting

1 message

DONNA BARTH <donna.don@comcast.net>
To: "VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov" <VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sun, Sep 12, 2021 at 11:30 AM

I feel everyone can agree that the Virginia Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment was ratified by the public to assure the districts were fair to all, be NON-PARTISAN with no gerrymandering and the districts were to be drawn so NO legislator would gain the upper hand with the new maps.

I understand the map drawers have already been selected, one selected by the Republicans and one selected by the Democrats and have started their work.

In order to make sure the maps are non-partisan (as we all voted on) someone must act to coordinate/rectify the differences in the maps. Moon Duchin is that person. She is non-partisan and has refused to be hired by either political party. She has impeccable credentials and has a history of working as a non-partisan party to draw other states' district lines.

In order to fulfill the intent of the Constitutional Amendment, someone must be the coordinator/rectifier and Moon Duchin is that person, thus I am requesting she be hired immediately.

Thanks you
Don Barth

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Feedback on proposed maps

1 message

James Mast <jandbmast@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 8:53 PM

Reply-To: jandbmast@aol.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

I would like to provide feedback on the following proposed map: B2 NOVA 22. As drawn the western quarter of this district is misaligned - we gravitate toward Manassas, not Woodbridge wrt transportation, shopping, dining, church, entertainment, etc. We have little if anything to do with the Lake Ridge/Woodbridge/Potomac Mills area.

Sincerely,

Mr James Mast

6107 River Forest Dr Manassas, VA 20112-3046

jandbmast@aol.com



Withdrawal from providing virtual public comments on 9/13 + written comments

1 message

Jason Morgan <jvmorgan@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 8:45 AM

Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I submitted a request to provide virtual public comments on September 13. Unfortunately, because public comments are taken at the end of the meeting, rather than at the beginning, and because I have scheduling conflicts later that afternoon, I must withdraw my request to provide such comments.

Instead, I would like to share my thoughts in writing.

First, I am optimistic about this process. I have looked at the initial proposals and they all seem to show that there is a good faith effort taking place to come up with districts that are fair, that meet the constitutional requirements for Virginia legislative districts, and that would ensure that the Virginia General Assembly is a legitimate representative lawmaking body rather than something engineered to be a partisan organ carrying only the façade of democracy. Please make sure that you continue to act in good faith and that you carry out your duty successfully. I'm sure none of you want this commission to fail and for the Supreme Court of Virginia to have to step in, which would lead to more uncertainty and less transparency.

Second, I want to draw attention to a small, but meaningful bit of seemingly arbitrary border drawing evident in the current Virginia Senate districts (map 22), the A-line of proposed Senate districts (maps 36 and 62), and Senator Barker's proposal for Senate districts (map 60). The border I find upsetting is evident in, for example, map 62, just south of Tysons between districts 6 and 4 in the area between Chain Bridge Road, Leesburg Pike, and I-495.

In this region, district 6 extends down rather arbitrarily, cutting through neighborhoods with no apparent reasoning. I have been trying to make sense of this particular border and the best I can come up with is that it may have been influenced by an old (early 2000's) census designation for Tyson's Corner. If so, then this border is based on an obsolete understanding of these neighborhoods and it needs to be revised in future proposals to ensure that close-knit communities of interest are not arbitrarily split.

At this point, I can think of two reasonable options for borders in this region. One option would be to follow the borders shown on map 1 (page 2) of the 2017 Edition of the Comprehensive Plan for the Tysons Corner Urban Center. https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/sites/tysons/files/assets/documents/pdf/comprehensive_plan/fc_comp_plan2017ed_tysons_amended04_04_2017.pdf. This would be a good option as keeping the Tysons Corner Urban Center together as a community of interest makes a lot of sense.

The second option would be to extend the border of district 6 in this region to go all the way out to Chain Bridge Road, Leesburg Pike, and I-495. This is not as ideal as following the borders for the Tysons Corner Urban Center. But it would seem to be less arbitrary than what is evident in the current and proposed maps identified above.

I really do appreciate the time and effort that is going into the redistricting process. And I appreciate that the public has a meaningful opportunity to participate in this process, including identifying potential communities of interest, questioning unusual borders, and challenging potentially outdated assumptions.

Thank you all for your hard work. I look forward to seeing this process as it continues to unfold.

--Jason V. Morgan



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

2 maps for COI for Charlottesville Area

1 message

Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Sep 11, 2021 at 8:20 AM

Hello,

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

Thank you for the work of the Commission.

Elly Tucker

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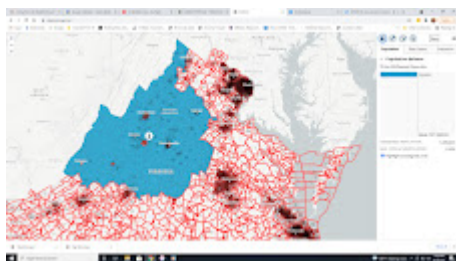
--

Elly Tucker
Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor
[111 Reynard Dr.](#)
[Charlottesville VA 22901](#)

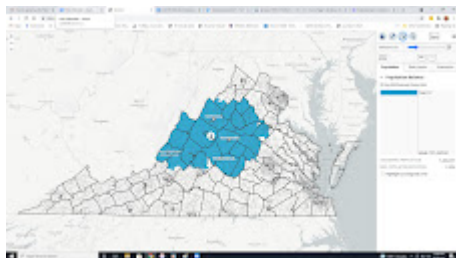
phone: 434-293-3500
fax: 434-979-1800
www.BeMovedDance.com



2 attachments



map congress 8-10.jpg
678K

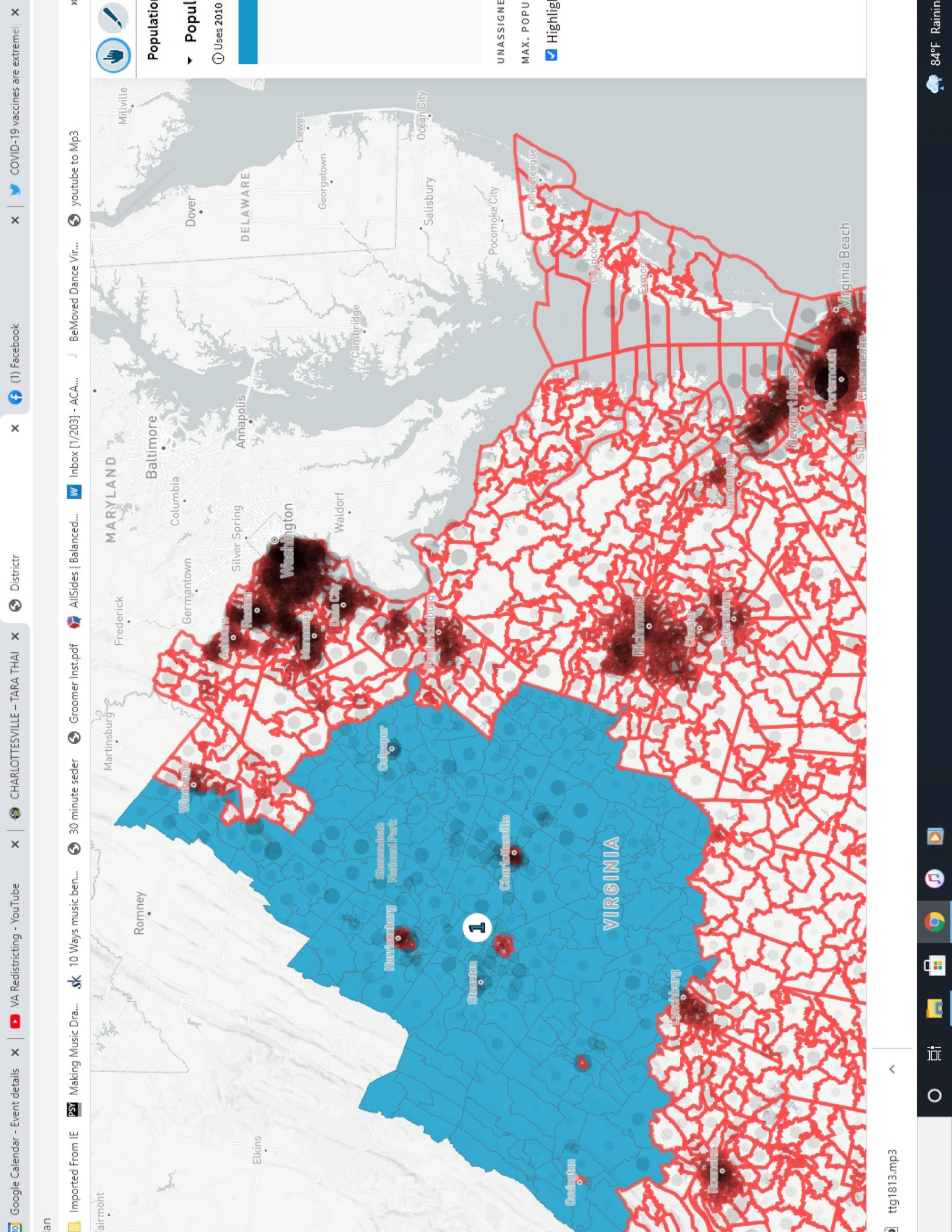


Map congress2 8-10.jpg
535K

From: Elly Tucker

9/11/2021

Charlottesville and Albemarle County has a combined population of 156,000. 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.





Apportion SD senate districts in 'Nesting' congressional district CDs

1 message

Richard Mr Zimmermann <richardzimmermann@verizon.net>
 To: VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
 Cc: Jeremy Lazarus <mauryand19th@yahoo.com>

Fri, Sep 10, 2021 at 1:24 AM

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 1st-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 2nd-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 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 19th 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 1st CD mapped for SDs: VA-08 = 10 small DDs + 1 ave. DD (CD: 2nd) = 4 SDs (SD: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th);
- Step #2. Next 2 DDs (CD: 2nd) + 1 DD (CD: 3rd) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th); (9-1=8)
- Step #3. Next 8 DDs (CD 3rd) + 2 DD (CD: 4th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th); (9-2=7)
- Step #4. Next 7 DDs (CD 4th) + 3 DD (CD 5th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th); (9-3=6)
- Step #5. Next 6 DDs (CD 5th) + 4 DDs (CD 6th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th); (9-4=5)
- Step #6. Next 5 DDs (CD 6th) + 5 DDs (CD 7th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 21th, 22th, 23th, 24th); (9-5=4)
- Step #7. Next 4 DDs (CD 7th) + 6 DDs (CD 8th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th); (9-6=3)
- Step #8. Next 3 DDs (CD 8th) + 7 DDs (CD 9th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 29th, 30th, 31th, 32th); (9-7=2)
- Step #9. Next 2 DDs (CD 9th) + 8 DDs (CD 10th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 33th, 34th, 35th, 36th); (9-8=1)
- Step #10. Next 1 DDs (CD 10th) + 9 DDs (CD 11th) = 10 DDs = 4 SDs (SD: 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th); (9-9=0, there are no [zero] DDs unaccounted for in the apportionment into 'nested' SDs.)

9/10/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - Apportion SD senate districts in 'Nesting' congressional district CDs

Sincerely,

Richard G. Zimmermann, Jr.
[1226 Brookside Landing](#)
[Chesapeake VA 23320](#)
cell: **703-946-7543**



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

C. TODD GILBERT
POST OFFICE BOX 309
WOODSTOCK, VIRGINIA 22664

REPUBLICAN LEADER

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
FINANCE
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE &
NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES

September 9, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Dear Commissioners:

I have been observing the meetings of the Virginia Redistricting Commission and the release of the partial redistricting maps prepared by the map drawers. To date, these partial redistricting maps have been released on the day of or the day before the actual meetings, which restricts the ability of the public and others to review them and prepare comments and input for the Commission to consider. Were the Commission to vote now on these partial maps, it would do so without having given the public a meaningful opportunity to comment.

In addition, voting on subparts of the map necessarily distorts the process of drawing an entire map. Each partial map of course impacts the partial map adjacent to it, and it is impossible to intelligibly approve or reject a partial map without seeing it in context. Moreover, the redistricting criteria approved by the General Assembly includes criteria that require reviewing the map as a whole. When reviewing a partial map it is impossible, for example, to determine compliance with criteria #8, which states that "*A map of districts shall not, when considered on a statewide basis, unduly favor or disfavor any political party.*" Again, the public cannot review a map's compliance without having the entire map before it and the apparent imminent action of the Commission to vote on these maps in this manner lacks both transparency and the opportunity to view a viable, legal map taken as a whole.

Therefore, on behalf of the House Republican Caucus, I request that the Commission not approve or adopt any partial map or partial maps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Todd Gilbert".

C. Todd Gilbert
House Republican Leader



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

"Nesting Scheme" redistricting, cont. CALCULATIONS

1 message

Richard Mr Zimmermann <richardzimmermann@verizon.net>

Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 6:07 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Cc: Richard Zimmermann <richardzimmermann@verizon.net>, Jeremy Lazarus <mauryand19th@yahoo.com>

"Nesting Scheme" Statewide population calculations for redistricting.

Virginia = 11 CDs = 100 DDs = 40 SDs

Virginia population = 8.536 million =

11 CDs = smallest 760,480 to largest 791,520 (calculate: ave. 776,000 ea, +/- 2%* range) =100 DDs = smallest 76,048 to largest 79,152 (calculate: ave. 85,360 ea with a +/- 2%* range) =40 SDs = smallest 209,135 to largest 217,665 (calculate: ave. 213,400 ea with a +/- 2%* range).

On average, in each "nesting scheme" CD there will be 9.1 DDs.

It turns out, that 99 of 100 DDs can be nested with 10 CDs comprised of 9 DDs each,
and only 1 small CD = 10 small DDs
(see calculations graphed below).

Assumption: Northern Virginia will have the largest population growth over the 2020 – 2030 decade, so of the eleven congressional districts, one CD in Northern Virginia should have the smallest 2020 census congressional district with 10 of the smallest delegate districts.

Every 1 CD + 1 DD = **10 DDs = 4 SDs** (except 1 smallest CD = 10 smallest DDs, see **bold** above)calculation graphed:

"nesting scheme" redistricting	= 1 CD
(----- 1 congressional district -----)	= 9 DDS
(2 DDs + 1 DD + 2 DDs + 2 DDs + 1 DD + 1 DD)	= 9 DDs
(2 DDs) + (0.5 DD + 0.5 DD) + 2 DDs + (2 DDs) + (0.5 DD + 0.5 DD) + (1 DD) + (1DD)	= 10 DDs
(1 SD) + (1 SD) + (1 SD) + (1 SD)	= 4 SDs

Sincerely,

Richard G. Zimmermann, Jr.
 1226 Brookside Landing
 Chesapeake VA 23320
 cell: **703-946-7543**



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

four general guidelines

Richard Mr Zimermann <richardzimermann@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 8:03 PM

I. Four (4) redistricting guides as provided by law and good public policy:

- **GUIDE #1: Draw districts compact and contiguous.**

- **GUIDE #2: Draw districts "equal" in population, where**

"equal" is by law a range of 5%, or smallest (average - 2.5%) to largest (average + 2.5%)

* in the DRAFT "**Nesting Scheme**" examples, use a range of +/- 2.0% : smallest CD = 760,480 & smallest DD = 76,048.

- **GUIDE #3: Draw districts by "communities of interest":** by policy aggregate "communities of interest" by how the citizens reside in elementary PK-5 school zones, whether those "communities of interest" are found by aggregating like cultural & social, commercial & economic, or geographic & historical settlement population characteristics.

- **GUIDE #4: Draw districts to clarify and unify neighborhood communities represented in each district:** (a) respect locality boundaries wherever possible and (b) nest smaller districts within larger, so that

(i) most neighborhoods attending the same PK-5 schools are within the same delegate, state senate & congressional district.

(ii) most living in the densest settlements are within the same delegate, state senate & congressional district, and

(iii) most residents in their neighborhoods within the largest population localities, reside within the same nested delegate, state senate, and congressional district, even when the very largest localities must be apportioned to draw districts of equal populations.

II. Assumption for applying redistricting guidelines: In a democratic republic, the voting people in their in their political communities are themselves a "community of interest",

- NOT as self-interested organizations for self-serving partisan interests,

- but AS NEIGHBORS in a common social contract that they enter into by geographic proximity within districts that are:

(i) contiguous (as resolved by the 1842 Jacksonian Democrats in Congress),

(ii) in compact (as resolved by the 1872 Lincoln-Republicans in Congress), and

(iii) of equal population (as resolved by the 1911 Progressives in Congress [in a coalition of Teddy Roosevelt-Republicans & Grover Cleveland-Democrats]).

III. Using the "Nesting Schema" as proposed, all delegate districts will be nested entirely within a congressional district (9 per district for 10 districts, the smallest CD with 10 smallest DDs). That will leave generally only 1-2 delegate districts in each congressional district apportioned into a senate district straddling two adjacent congressional districts.

- HOWEVER, those delegate districts in senate districts within two congressional districts will intentionally be drawn within the same economic-residential SMA (Standard Metropolitan Area) in each case, so as to provide a continuous economic, commercial and commuting "community of interest" for those residing in neighborhoods of the same PK-5 school zones whenever the "straddling" senate district is drawn.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Zimermann, Jr.
1226 Brookside Landing
Chesapeake VA 23320
cell: 703-946-7543



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Reject Incumbent Protection

1 message

Jack Houston <jackhouston2012@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 6:58 PM

Commissioners,

I was and still am a supporter of this commission. Additionally, the draft maps put forward this week are encouraging. However, it's extremely upsetting that a member of the commission would state his opposition to maps that place him in a different district. This is NOT what Virginians voted for. These maps should be politically neutral and focus entirely on what benefits Virginia's voters, not politicians. I can assure you that if the corrupt practice of incumbent protection is employed, the voters will remember this during the next election.

Please do what you were placed on this commission to do and prioritize Virginians over any partisan preferences or your own incumbency,
Jack Houston



Virus-free. www.avg.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Reston as a Community of Interest

1 message

PAUL BERRY <pberry@ccbellerose.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 3:08 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to submit public comment.

The *B2 NOVA HOD 9-8-2021* draft includes a map labeled #18 that is inconsistent with the concept of "Community of Interest". I ask that draft maps be reconsidered in such a way that Reston is not divided between multiple House of Delegates districts.

As Chair of the Fairfax County Redistricting Advisory Committee, I and the other commissioners are closely following the Community of Interest concept in order to maintain historical neighborhoods and communities that traditionally share commonalities. Reston is one such area.

This is not simply a conceptual designation. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors explicitly considers Reston as a community that should not be divided when undertaking the magisterial district reapportionment process. Logic follows that equal representation and provision of services for General Assembly reapportionment should align with this.

Reston is a planned community with clearly defined boundaries that has existed since 1962. It has grown into a nationwide case study in architectural design, a well-managed transportation system, and a geographic and social entity possessing special qualities distinguishing it from the rest of Fairfax County. Please consider these factors when designating new district lines.

Thank you,
Paul Berry

Chair
Fairfax County 2021 Redistricting Advisory Committee



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Resident Input on Redistricting

1 message

Mindy Ring <mindyvt13@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 8:19 AM

Hello,

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

Thank you,
Mindy Ring

September 7, 2021

TO: Julie Smith, Division of Legislative Services
FROM: George Barker, Senator, Member of Virginia Redistricting Commission
SUBJECT: First Drafts of Maps

At the September 2 meeting of the Redistricting Commission I expressed opposition to maps for State Senate seats in the Alexandria-Arlington-Fairfax area that unnecessarily placed two incumbents in the same draft districts. Each map drawer placed two incumbents in one district, and I was the incumbent placed in a district with another incumbent by both map drawers. The map drawers indicated that they did not consider where the incumbents lived in drawing the districts and that the placement of incumbents in the same district was not intentional.

Mr. Morgan asked me for information addressing the issue. He placed me in his District 6 along with Senator Petersen. In his discussion of his draft of District 6, Mr. Morgan referred to it as the Petersen district, which indicated he knew enough about where Senator Petersen lives to know that Petersen lives in that draft district. Mr. Morgan also indicated he did not know that I live in the draft district.

Mr. Morgan asked for my suggestions to his proposed districts. There are nine Senators who live in the Alexandria-Arlington-Fairfax area and enough population for all or part of eight districts in that area. However, two of those nine Senators, Senators Howell and Saslaw, have indicated that they will not run for re-election in 2023. Consequently, there are no more than seven incumbents from that area who may run in 2023. Therefore, there is no need to place two incumbents in any of the eight districts that are all or partly in the Alexandria-Arlington-Fairfax area.

Furthermore, placement of both Senator Petersen's and my home precincts in Mr. Morgan's draft District 6 hardly would be part of a fair map. That draft district has 37 precincts that are currently in Senator Petersen's district but only 2 precincts that are currently in my district.

There is a simple solution to this issue. By moving only six precincts among Mr. Morgan's draft Districts 3, 6, and 7, there would be no draft district with two incumbents intending to run for re-election in 2023. The proposed shifts would be as follows:

- 1) Move Clifton and Woodyard precincts from District 6 to District 7;
- 2) Move Kings Park and Signal Hill precincts from District 7 to District 3; and
- 3) Move Gallows East and Woodburn precincts from District 3 to District 6.

This would result in the following:

- 1) I would no longer live in a district where Senator Petersen had about three dozen more precincts than I did;
- 2) I would live in District 7, where I would have a dozen more precincts than Senator Marsden;
- 3) Senator Marsden would live in District 3 where he has precincts in both Mason and Braddock magisterial districts;
- 4) Senator Saslaw would not be affected because he is not running in 2023; and
- 5) No further adjustments would need to be made because the population in proposed districts 3, 6, and 7 would still be within 2 percent of the average district.

Please provide this information to the map drawers and let me know of any questions or concerns they might have.

Thank you.



ReDist Comments -public integrity & incumbent participation

1 message

riverswork@yahoo.com <riverswork@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 7:51 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to add comments for your consideration and for the official record. I'm impressed that your mapping consultants are off to a good start, and the Commission Co-Chairs are effectively leading the deliberations.

I hope you can assure that the same **sorting capabilities** that are developed for the Commission's use in locating & organizing official comments will also be available for the public to use as well.

Second, **adding "tags" later** for the sorting/organization of comments is a bad idea, one that may be extremely confusing, if they wouldn't be applicable to all comments, including those submitted earlier. Give your Staff time to propose a good set of "tags;" these aren't the critical path milestone yet. Clearly, some tags could include several related topics (e.g., comments that reference *incumbents* and those that refer to *gerrymandering*).

Third, I applaud your attention to the Commission deliberations and hope that you will overtly **avoid using your cell phones** during the Commission's mapping deliberations because, otherwise, it could easily appear to The Public that you are getting secret instructions from unidentified advocates by phone in the middle of the meeting. The apparent integrity of this Commission deliberation will set an historical standard for future Commissions to meet/exceed, and I urge you to set the highest standard possible.

Finally, and most important, I am grateful for the comments offered by Delegates Simon and Barker concerning the implications that the "start from

scratch" approach may have for **incumbent legislators**. I can understand and appreciate their concerns, and I'm very grateful for their speaking out about the interests of the legislators who will be asked to approve the maps recommended by the Commission, but I object to those incumbent concerns being given any consideration in the Commission's mapping priorities.

My prayer is that you Commissioners, every one of you, are wise enough to understand and accept that protecting incumbents, even the very best, is not an appropriate consideration for the Commission in serving the interests of We the People. There are a few flaws in the new Constitutional amendment that you are working to implement, but **nothing will diminish the apparent integrity of this new approach** as much as any appearance that outside influencers might have a role in your recommendations to the General Assembly.

Thank you, again, for your dedication to the Commonwealth of Virginia and its ReDistricting Commission.

Sincerely,

Peter Evans, [505 N Ivy St, Arlington VA 22201](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fyi

1 message

Earl Rogers <earl.rogers1661@icloud.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 12:15 PM

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

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

Respectfully submitted;

Earl M. Rogers, M.S., P.D.
LTC USAR ret
North chesterfield Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Quick observation from viewing the 9/2 meeting video

1 message

David Robie <robodave53@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 6:31 PM

First, thanks for placing that link for those of us who were not able to watch in real time.

As for the meeting itself, I couldn't help but notice that the legislator members of the commission have a disproportionate, outsized input to the proceedings. They tend to forget that we are all the beneficiaries of this process.

Dave Robie
Falls Church
Fairfax County
Haycock Precinct



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Map comments - Alexandria (initial maps released 9/2/21)1 message

Giselle Caruso <fgcaruso@outlook.com>

Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 5:00 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Cc: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>

I am grateful for the time and energy that you are putting into this historic redistricting effort.

I urge the Virginia Redistricting Commission to avoid including Fairfax County in districts that are primarily Alexandria districts. Instead, include Arlington County areas to "fill out" Alexandria districts. There are a few reasons to take this approach: First, Alexandria and Arlington have recently worked closely on the Crystal City (Arlington County)/Potomac Yard (Alexandria) "National Landing" area where the Amazon Headquarters 2 and the new Virginia Tech Innovation Campus will be. The relationship between the two jurisdictions over this geographic area will continue for many years to come.

The second reason is population size. Alexandria has a population of 159,467 and Arlington's is 238,643. Fairfax at 1,145,670 is so much larger than either Alexandria or Arlington. Fairfax County's challenges are more numerous and more complex. A delegate or senator who represents both Alexandria and Fairfax County will likely have to spend a lot of time on Fairfax County issues although she or he represents only a very small part of the county's residents. Make the combination Alexandria-Arlington County, not Alexandria-Fairfax County.

Finally, under no circumstances should a delegate or senator have to represent constituents in Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax County. That elected official will have to split her or his time too many ways if she or he has to work with those three local governments' legislative agendas.

Thank you again for your work on Virginia's redistricting.

Giselle Caruso

Alexandria, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non partisan map maker

1 message

Donna Morris <dmm622@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 11:34 AM

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Hire Duchin

1 message

Donna Morris <dmm622@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 11:08 AM

Moon Duchin sounds like the perfect answer to prepare non partisan maps for Virginia.

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

redistricting commission

1 message

Paulson and Shirley Kurtz <Kurtzes@hotmail.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Sep 6, 2021 at 8:48 AM

Dear members,

I write to let you know I am concerned that your work be done fairly. To me, "fairly" means dividing the population into geographical districts without consideration to a particular political party. I look forward to a fair redistricting.

Thank you for hearing my concern.

Paul N. Kurtz
Broadway, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Grandfather incumbents

1 message

Mitchell, Trey (am6se) <treym@virginia.edu>

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 7:41 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

I'm responding to this Virginia Mercury story (link below) about the newly proposed districts.

I understand why incumbent legislators would oppose being drawn out of their own districts.

Rather than adjust the lines for the convenience of current legislators, I think it would be better to "grandfather" in the incumbents and allow them to continue to serve regardless of home address.

Drawing the lines based on whoever happens to currently be in office just doesn't make any sense.

The voter's needs should take priority over the convenience of incumbents.

Albert Mitchell

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/09/02/virginias-redistricting-commission-has-its-first-draft-maps-they-look-normal/>

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

On Redistricting

1 message

Lareta Finger <laretafinger@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Sep 4, 2021 at 2:14 PM

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission,
I understand that Virginia voters have adopted a state constitutional amendment to depoliticize the redistricting process.

I want to assure you that voters are paying attention to this process. The country went to a great deal of effort and expense to do the census count. For something that happens only every 10 years, doing proper, honest, fair redistricting is exceedingly important.

I'm sure it is a challenging job, but, if all of you believe in democracy and making every vote count, can't you figure out what is fair without hiring lawyers from each political party to fight with each other?

As a mother of boys and a former grade-school teacher, I know how important fairness is--that each party or person feels that the process has been fair, even though neither side completely got its way.

Gerrymandering has no place in a true democracy.

I can only hope that enough of you in either party have the integrity not only to work conscientiously, but to work so that, by the end, each person and party feels that the results are fair to both.

Lareta Finger
Rockingham, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

We care about redistricting!

1 message

Ruth Stoltzfus Jost <ruthsjost@gmail.com>

Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 2:11 PM

Reply-To: ruthsjost@gmail.com

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I object to use of political data, which will distort performance of your job.

You were established to free us of gerrymandering.

Please do your job honestly and draw lines for compact communities of interest, not political boundaries.

Yours,

Ruth Jost
Harrisonburg VA
540.271.4014



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Electorate cares about Redistricting?

1 message

Yvette Munnikhuysen <ymunnikhuysen@hotmail.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 9:50 AM

Please do not think for one moment that no one cares about the results of your Redistricting effort. We are watching to be sure the process follows the wishes of the Virginia voters.

Sincerely,

One of the voters you disdain.....

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

9th Congressional District

1 message

SHARON BROCKMAN <sharonbrockman@mcps.org>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Sep 3, 2021 at 8:42 AM

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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting in VA

1 message

Jon Rogers <jprogers53@yahoo.com>

Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 1:15 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Good afternoon,

I support the non-political redistricting that was approved by the legislature.

I request that you do not consider political data when redrawing district boundaries.

New district boundaries should be based on compact "communities of interest," not politics.

Sincerely,

Jon Rogers,

[292 Abbington Road](#)

[Swoope Va](#)

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fwd: I CARE

1 message

Scott French <sierrawhiskeyfox@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 12:00 PM

please find the message below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Scott French** <sierrawhiskeyfox@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 11:57 AM

Subject: I CARE

To: <varedist@dis.virginia.gov>

I care. Please do your job as directed by the voters of Virginia. The vote results indicate voters do not want your continued political gerrymandering.

Scott French

[865 Neyland Dr.](#)[Harrisonburg VA](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

redistricting testimony

1 message

Sue Rosenberg <sue.rosenberg@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 5:44 PM

My name is Sue Rosenberg.

I want to speak about the concept of communities of interest, in particular, defining religion as a community of interest. When you say "religion" I hear "ghetto." I urge you not to turn districts into ghettos.

Gerrymandering is another issue. A good test for gerrymandering is the number of split precincts in a district. I've looked at existing split precincts in Virginia, and there are several where one precinct has an 80/20 split between districts, and an adjacent precinct is split 20/80 with the same districts. This is a clear case of gerrymandering, and I urge you to minimize splitting precincts.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

A solution for the lack of map transparency for racial groupings

1 message

Jamaa B. K. H. <jamaa.bickleyking@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 12:12 PM

I have seen the proposed Northern Virginia Maps. I find that having maps presented with the proposed lines, but without weighted representations of the racial demographics at the block level in and around the new districts visibly shown. You lack visual proof that you are not illegally or otherwise unfairly breaking up communities of interest with the new proposed district lines.

I propose the following to help build more positive consensus and support for the commission's maps that include but are not be limited to:

1. Having every proposed map include views where the lines of the region's proposed district maps are present, but underneath them are block-level and precinct-level visualizations of percent racial concentrations of every racial group. Done in a way where each proposed map includes a map version displaying each of the following:
 1. Non-Hispanic White percentage,
 2. Non-Hispanic White raw number,
 3. Non-Hispanic Black percentage,
 4. Non-Hispanic Black raw number,
 5. Non-Hispanic Asian Percentage,
 6. Non-Hispanic Asian raw number,
 7. Hispanic percentage,
 8. Hispanic raw number,
 9. Multi-ethnic percentage,
 10. Multi-ethnic raw number.
2. Highlighting the prominence of Asian Americans in the analysis. Much of what was presented did not highlight the critical masses of Asian Americans in the Northern Virginia area. As a demographic, that is rapidly growing and increasing they should have more visibility so that they are being properly served as a community coming into increased representation.

If you can fix the GIS data visualizations to show where the racial communities reside in conjunction with the proposed new districts AND the communities in and around the new districts, it can go a long way to help gain public confidence and support for this commission and its mission.

--

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VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Aug.17 commission vote

1 message

Milla Wisecarver <wisecams@yahoo.com>

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 2:29 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thanks to each of you for serving on this commission, which will end partisan gerrymandering that is so harmful to everyone's best interests.

I am looking forward to the de-politicalization of the process by which state House, state Senate, and congressional House district boundaries are drawn. The boundaries are going to be based on "communities of interest," not politics. That is indeed good news.

The action this commission took on Aug. 17 seems VERY counter to what was intended by the state constitutional amendment. You MUST NOT DO THIS!

I was appalled to learn that a member of the commission seemed to dismiss concern about public reaction to this action because only a "very small segment" of voters care about redistricting.

First off, I CARE.

But more importantly, the notion that you can get away with this nonsense because so few people "care" is alarming, ludicrous, and frankly simply UNBELIEVABLE.

It's time for all of you to commit to making the changes that voters chose in 2020. That is YOUR JOB, not find a way to revert to past practices.

I look forward to all of you doing the RIGHT THING, not because "no one cares" but because it is THE RIGHT THING.

Milla Wisecarver
Harrisonburg, Va.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Lucille Omeara <lomeara@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 1:30 PM

On August 17 your commission voted to illuminate barriers to considering political data when re-drawing district boundaries. That is not what we voted for. New district boundaries were meant to be based on compact communities of interest, not politics. We are paying attention and we are tired of gerrymandering. Do what you were supposed to do and what we voted for.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Paying attention to redistricting

1 message

Meribeth Kraybill <meribethkraybill@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 11:34 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

As a Virginia (Harrisonburg) constituent/voter, I want to register my support for redistricting lines to be drawn to meet the interests of specific communities rather than political agendas. Political gerrymandering does not serve that purpose. Virginia can do better and be a model for other states.

Thank you,
Meribeth



gerrymandering

1 message

Esther Stenson <estherstenson@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 11:26 AM

To the Redistricting Commission:

I am writing with concern upon learning that you voted to eliminate barriers to considering political data when redrawing district boundaries.

So you still want to play political games rather than make voting more fair for everyone? I am appalled and disappointed.

The district I live in, which includes Harrisonburg and other distant communities, is shaped like some kind of monster--- which it is. There's nothing fair about it.

Go back and reconsider what you are doing. We want to have confidence that our districts have been re-drawn fairly and honestly.

Sincerely,

Esther Stenson

Harrisonburg, Virginia

Competitive Congressional Districts

1 message

Mike Clancy <michaelclancy1@verizon.net>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Wed, Sep 1, 2021 at 7:06 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Best wishes for the speedy recovery for the member with COVID and best wishes for the continued health of all members.

As emphasized by OneVirginia, the League of Woman Voters, other voting advocacy groups and virtually every single citizen who has testified or submitted comments, the voters want politically competitive districts. Voters want their vote to have meaning. Indeed that is the point of elections: Government by the people. While competitive districts may not be possible in every locality (for example, in Arlington, Alexandria and southwest Virginia), the Commission should strive to maximize the number of competitive districts, including in northern Virginia.

The decision to disregard the current districts and draw districts based on a blank map is a key first step to eliminating gerrymandered districts and maximizing competitive districts.

Focusing on the Congressional districts, please strive to establish competitive districts in northern Virginia. Here is a link to a map showing competitive districts.

See <https://districtr.org/plan/41238> The proposed map is also attached, but the link provides a better view because it can be enlarged to see the precincts.

Blue is the new competitive 10th. It encompasses Reston, Herndon and precincts west and south, and reflects a mix of Democratic party majority and Republican party majority precincts.

Green is the new 11th, which is more competitive than the current 11th.

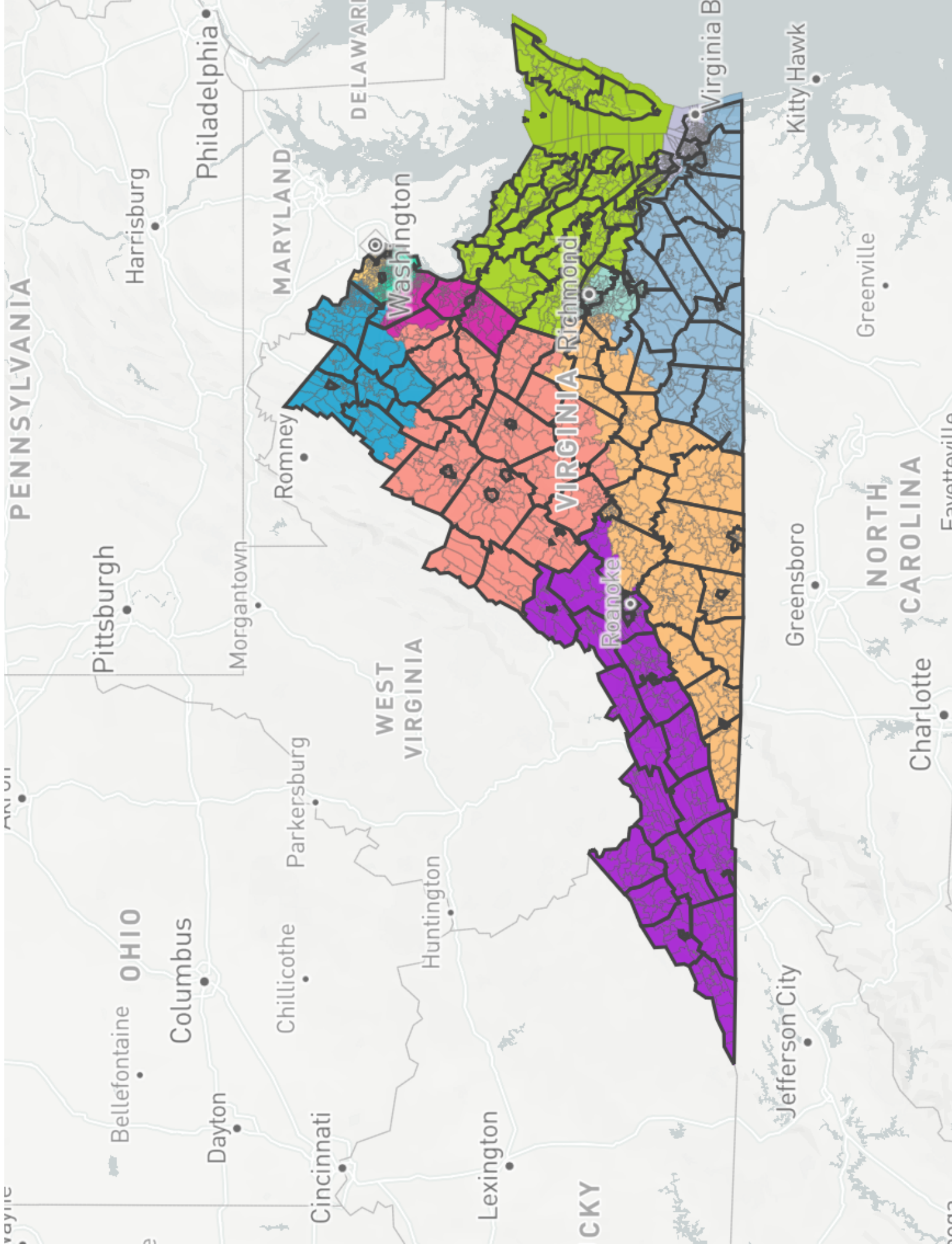
Mauve is the new competitive 1st.

Yellow is the new 8th. It encompasses Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Vienna and McLean.

Thank you for your consideration and your dedication to this project of redistricting.

Michael Clancy

 **Proposed Redistricting_Map A_ 9.1.2021.docx**
826K



Richard M. Alvey

Attorney at Law
2063 J.D. Hwy.
Suite 23
Stafford, VA 22554
703-390-9306
alvey@gmail.com

August 26, 2021

DLS atten: Claire Waters
Pocahontas Bldg., 8th Floor
900 Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Redistricting Map

Dear Ms. Waters:

I wrote the enclosed tongue-in-cheek anecdote as a way to introduce my suggestion of a method to eliminate gerrymandering. But, seriously, I suggest this is a true method to remove politics from redistricting.

If you plug in certain perimeters into a computer, it should develop a fair set of districts. Those perimeters are:

1. Place a map of Virginia in a box.
2. Set the desired population for each district.
3. Place a vertical line at the horizontal center of the map.
4. Moving east and west from the center set a uniform distance between each vertical line.
5. Allow a district to "jump" a vertical line only once.
6. Set the number of desired districts.
7. Place horizontal lines, setting the boundaries of each district and providing for equal population among the districts.

Some districts may appear to be a big box, geographically and others might look small. Each, however will have an equal population. Gone, forever, will be squiggly lines.

I suggest this Committee has an historical opportunity. By utilizing this plan, politics can forever be removed from redistricting. There will be no more gerrymandering. Most importantly, this "Virginia Plan" could become the blueprint for the rest of the country and other democratic states. The fact is, any political jurisdiction, no matter its shape, can be redistricted fairly by using this method.

I respectfully request you submit this suggestion to the committee for their consideration.

Sincerely,



When I was a little boy, I became an expert critter catcher. I used to chase fireflies and put them in an old mayonnaise jar with holes punched in the lid. I'd turn over rocks and logs to find hibernating frogs. Turtles were easy to catch. Be careful catching grasshoppers because they spit brown stuff on your hands. Fish, green snakes, crickets, crawdads, birds, I caught them all. My one strict rule was to never harm the critter.

I guess the hardest critter to catch was the salamander. That slippery, slimy lizard would scamper every which way. It wasn't until I asked my dad for advice that I finally learned the trick to catching salamanders. He told me you have to box it in. So, as soon as I spotted one, I corralled it with old boards. Then I chased it to a corner and grabbed it.

It seems to me that boxing in a salamander to control the critter would also work on its cousin, the gerrymander. I mean, all you got to do is take any state, county or map and put in a box. Then draw a vertical line at the center. Put additional vertical lines on both sides at fifty mile intervals. A gerrymander might be able to jump one of these lines, but, never two. To finish boxing the gerrymander in, simply place horizontal lines at whatever heights that would allow an equal distribution of the population within each district.

If you do it this way, you won't kill the gerrymander, but you will control it. Now that the Commonwealth of Virginia is forming a commission to set voting districts, there's going to be a lot of manipulating to get districts with majorities of Democrats or Republicans. There will be an effort to dilute the voting strength of each party and minorities. That's what gerrymanders do. Maybe the commission will take my dad's advice and box the gerrymander in.



PUBLIC COMMENT FOR SEPT. 2, 2021 MEETING OF THE VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING COMMISSION RE NORTHERN DISTRICT

1 message

Kristine Gregory <kristinegregory@yahoo.com>

Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 1:55 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

My name is Kris Gregory and I am a resident of Fairfax County. My family was redistricted in 2011 from the 53rd Delegate District in Fairfax County to the 48th Delegate District. We were also redistricted from the 10th Congressional District to the 8th Congressional District. I urge you to correct this mistake.

My immediate neighbors and I have a Falls Church mailing address even though we pay taxes for the McLean Community Center and technically are McLean residents. The results of the 2011 redistricting divided the McLean area of Fairfax County between 4 delegate districts and 2 Congressional districts. Many voters in McLean are confused about who represents them and it is not their fault.

The current 48th Delegate District is located approximately 1/3 in Fairfax County and 2/3 in Arlington County. Our Delegate Rip Sullivan (D-48th) is a friend and does a great job since he lives in the Fairfax County section of his district. Having to split his time between 2 counties limits the time he can spend on Fairfax issues through no fault of his own.

The VA 8th Congressional District is currently made up of Alexandria City, Arlington County, Falls Church City, and most of the Fairfax County areas with Alexandria and Falls Church mailing addresses. Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA 8th) has family and business ties to McLean and Falls Church City so he has been a great representative for the entire 8th Congressional district. However, the majority of McLean residents are in the 10th Congressional District and many voters who live in the 8th Congressional District mistakenly assume that they are too until they vote.

I regret that my own Delegate Rip Sullivan will probably lose his seat but please redistrict me into McLean and Fairfax County majority districts. And I want to keep my Falls Church mailing address!

Thank you.

Kris Gregory
Longfellow Precinct Captain
Dranesville District Democratic Committee/DDDC
Fairfax County Democratic Committee/FCDC

Please schedule hearings in Charlottesville

2 messages

Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 12:34 PM

Hello,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to give testimony. There are several of us in Charlottesville that would like to request that some of the hearings for the Redistricting Committee to be held in Charlottesville when you hold them in the Central Region. Before we got the data, there were many meetings held around the state, but none in Charlottesville when it was the Central region's turn. Please have Charlottesville be one of your sites. If you need help to secure a location, let me know and I will attempt to help find a location.

Thank you,
Elly Tucker

--

--

Elly Tucker
Certified Artistry BeMoved® Instructor
[111 Reynard Dr.](#)
[Charlottesville VA 22901](#)

phone: 434-293-3500
fax: 434-979-1800
www.BeMovedDance.com



Betty Tabony <btabony@gmail.com>
To: Elly Tucker <ellytucker@gmail.com>
Cc: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 30, 2021 at 12:48 PM

Hello,

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

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Tabony
[920 Henry Ave.](#)
[Charlottesville, VA 22903](#)
btabony@gmail.com
434-942-2862

[Quoted text hidden]

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Amherst County Redistricting

1 message

jackie bibby <jackiebibby62@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 28, 2021 at 3:35 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, Gloria Witt <gloriawitt@comcast.net>

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,

jackiebibby62@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

JOAN OBERLE <obejoan@mac.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Aug 28, 2021 at 9:26 AM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to remind VRC members that the vast majority of the of Virginians support, and have overwhelming voted for non partisan redistricting.

I beg to differ with Sen. Barker's open mic comment that the public is not following the "sausage making". We have been working towards fair redistricting for over a decade, and voted for such.

Please know that now, we will continue to watch and demand the committee's commitment to achieve truly fair redistricting.

Sincerely,

Joan Oberle
Richmond VA

Sent from my iPhone



August 27, 2021

Virginia Redistricting Commission
Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor
900 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Fredericksburg Branch NAACP, thank you for your service on the Virginia Redistricting Commission and for spending your time and energy on the complex task of drawing Virginia's new legislative districts. And while the rest of the Commonwealth may be challenging to organize, Fredericksburg is not. You simply need to keep Fredericksburg together.

There is no clearer community of interest in our region than the city of Fredericksburg. We are 28,000 people in 10.5 square miles, arranged in small neighborhoods and brought together by the love of community, nature, art, and culture. We care for our neighbors, whether their family has been here for generations or they made a choice to become a part of our community. We have an independent city government, public school system, emergency services, and many more services and concerns unique to Fredericksburg and common to all our residents. Please keep Fredericksburg together.

Fredericksburg is a unified community in so many ways, but we are divided in one profound way. While Fredericksburg's congressional and state senate districts both include the entire city, a previous General Assembly split the city between two House of Delegates districts. Where our votes should be most consequential, our voice is divided and unfairly overwhelmed by the surrounding counties. By reuniting Fredericksburg into a single house district and keeping us in single congressional and state senate districts, you will enable simpler elections, remove split precincts, and prevent the dilution of Fredericksburg's unique concerns before the General Assembly and Congress. You have this one opportunity to keep Fredericksburg together in all our legislative districts.

As you evaluate the needs of the Commonwealth's many communities, we trust that you will give Fredericksburg back its voice in the House of Delegates and keep Fredericksburg together.

Charlyne Jackson-Fields
President, Fredericksburg Branch NAACP

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Audit

1 message

Mary Barhydt <barhydt@cox.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 3:21 PM

Thank you for deciding to start with a blank slate. I feel a little better about your work. Now, could you take the next step and choose a nonpartisan consultant for the audit? I am a little confused by your stance that you 'could not' find nonpartisan experts in other areas of your work. How hard did you look? Did you ask University resources for suggestions?

Mary Louise Barhydt
[5555 Lakewood Drive](#)
[Norfolk, VA 23509](#)
757-855-1440
barhydt@cox.net

*Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;
It's about learning to dance in the rain.*



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mathematical, nonpartisan audit

1 message

VIRGINIA SIVIGNY <sivigny@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 1:13 PM

I believe it is crucial that you hire a nonpartisan consultant to conduct a mathematical,nonpartisan audit.
Virginia D. Sivigny
Burke, VA

Sent from my iPad



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

recommendations for name legislative districts

1 message

plphillips33@reagan.com <plphillips33@reagan.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 27, 2021 at 11:57 AM

My experience as a candidate leads to these observations. The currently gerrymandered and numbered districts create confusion among voters. For example, when I ran in the 33rd Senate district the district overlapped with eight House of Delegate districts and 11 Board of Supervisor districts in two counties.

In general, many voters are unfamiliar with the state legislature. The reference to State Senate is often confused with our US Senators from Virginia. The House of Delegates can often be confused with the U.S. House of Representatives. There are several ways the Redistricting Commission could reduce the confusion moving forward.

#1 Because the Senate is 1/40th of the state population and the House of Delegates is 1/100th of the population there should be 2 1/2 House of Delegate districts in one Senate district. This alone would greatly reduce the confusion. Currently during campaign season, voters will see campaign signs, ads, news articles, and internet email and advertising for candidates in whose districts they do not reside.

#2 The numbering of the districts could also be used to reduce confusion. The numbering of House of Delegate districts should not be the same, or close to the US House of Representatives seat for that district. For example, the 10th House of Delegate district resides in the 10th Congressional District. This major redistricting effort provides the opportunity to totally re-number the districts. The same follows for numbering the Senate districts. Likewise, it would be ideal for the House and Senate districts not to overlap in their numbers. For example, the 33rd Delegate District currently resides in the 33rd Senate District the 32nd district being right nearby also often gets confused with the Senate district. A suggested number naming plan that would avoid this confusion follows.

#3 When referring to district numbers for the House of Delegates, State Senate and US House of Representatives, a letter should be placed in front of each district number to help voters understand which race is being discussed. For example, a "D" should be placed in front of the district number for House of Delegates, an "S" for Senate District, and an "H" for the House of Representative district. While that information might seem superfluous on the voter's voter registration card it would help them to become accustomed to the new nomenclature. Hopefully campaigns, websites, government entities would all be informed and encouraged to use the new nomenclature. Introducing the new nomenclature would also help to clarify new district compared to old districts.

Suggested Numbering/Name of Districts

U.S. House of Representatives	State Senate	House of Delegates
11	40	1
	40	2

	40/39	3
	39	4
	39	5
	38	6
	38	7
	38/37	8
	37	9
1	37	10
	36	11
	36	12
	36/35	13
	35	14
	35	15
	34	16
	34	17
	34/33	18
2	33	19
	33	20
	32	21
	32	22
	32/31	23
	31	24
	31	25
	1	26

	1	27
10	1/2	28
	2	29
	2	30
	3	31
	3	32
	3/4	33
	4	34
	4	35
	5	36
9	5	37
	5/6	38
	6	39
	6	40
	7	41
	7	42
	7/8	43
	8	44
	8	45
3	9	46
	9	47
	9/10	48
	10	49
	10	50

	11	51
	11	52
	11/12	53
	12	54
4	12	55
	13	56
	13	57
	13/14	58
	14	59
	14	60
	15	61
	15	62
	15/16	63
5	16	64
	16	65
	17	66
	17	67
	17/18	68
	18	69
	18	70
	19	71
	19	72
6	19/20	73
	20	74

7	20	75
	21	76
	21	77
	21/22	78
	22	79
	22	80
	23	81
	23	82
	23/24	83
	24	84
	24	85
	25	86
	25	87
	25/26	88
8	26	89
	26	90
	27	91
	27	92
	27/28	93
	28	94
	28	95
	29	96
	29	97
	29/30	98

8/27/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - recommendations for name legislative districts

30	99
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30	100
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Patricia Phillips

571-243-5800

PPhillips33@reagan.com

Potomac Falls, VA

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Lori Keenan <keenanlori@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Aug 26, 2021 at 8:15 PM

Reply-To: keenanlori@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 husband and I live in northern Fauquier County, near Rectorstown, north of Warrenton and north of I-66. This area is in the Goose Creek watershed which is part of the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. We have more in common with Loudoun County to the north, where the Goose Creek runs through Loudoun County into the Potomac River, than with southern Fauquier or areas further south. We live in horse country which is fairly prosperous and well educated. We value our environment and conservation, but our elected officials do not and haven't for a long time. As such we feel unrepresented, except by our statewide elected officials. Our state delegate and our US Representative do not represent our values, and haven't for a long time.

Look at the Goose Creek watershed, running from Linden, through Marshall and Delaplane to Upperville and into Loudoun County, as a community that should be kept together so that we can work together with our elected officials to preserve and protect this very beautiful, resource rich part of our county and return the Goose Creek to a recreational level of cleanliness. Today it is imperiled, even though it is a State Scenic River. We need elected officials who value clean water and do what it will take to return the Goose Creek to the level of cleanliness we need to ensure this way of life.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lori Keenan

PO Box 312 Rectorstown, VA 20140-0312

keenanlori@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Drawing the new Districts

1 message

jonxgrainger <jonxgrainger@protonmail.com>
Reply-To: jonxgrainger <jonxgrainger@protonmail.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thu, Aug 26, 2021 at 7:59 PM

Good Morning,

Thankyou for voting to start redistricting from scratch. To be fair to all we a non partisan's touch using a fair mathematical model to try and make all voters count in subsequent elections.

Regards

Jon Grainger

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Maps from the Public?

1 message

Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 26, 2021 at 8:04 PM

To: Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Del Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Del Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Del. Delores McQuinn" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Marcus Simon <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, Greta Harris <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, Richard Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, Ryan McDougale <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator Stephen Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, Virginia Trost-Thornton <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commissioners -

Have you given consideration to how and when you will use maps that are submitted to the Commission from the public? Will you accept maps using Representable, Districtr, and Dave's in addition to the Citygate software? Many citizens are drawing their "communities of interest" using Representable.

If you wait until the end, it may be too late to incorporate these ideas into maps being prepared by the map drawers. It would be a terrible waste of time and energy and a disappointment for citizens if their suggestions are dismissed off-hand.

On that note, when will the communications and outreach consultants begin their work?

Thank you!

Fran Larkins
Fredericksburg, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Put Amherst County back together in the same district!

1 message

Barbara J Pryor <saoirse2017@outlook.com>

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 8:47 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, gloriawitt <gloriawitt@comcast.net>

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-Partisan Mathematical audit

1 message

Nathan Bynum <nathanbbynum@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 9:44 PM

Dear commission,

Please fulfill your charge and do your part to ensure a non-partisan, mathematical audit to assure fair voting districts where neither party will wind up with a disproportionate number of wasted votes.

-Nathan Bynum

<https://nathanbynum.com/teaching>

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Reunite Amherst County!

1 message

Edward Kable <nkable@aol.com>

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 6:53 PM

Reply-To: Edward Kable <nkable@aol.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan mathematical algorithm to help redraw the districts

1 message

suzanne gallagher <econ.fun4teachers@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 12:36 PM

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

Thank you for your work toward that end.

Suzanne Gallagher
Topping, VA 23169



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Put our county Back Together (Amherst)

1 message

Nancy LEWIS <2grands2002@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 4:06 PM

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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting: non-partisan, mathematical audit

1 message

Pam O'Rourke <pam.orourke@indoff.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 3:13 PM

Dear Commissioners:

As members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission you will soon be making a decision about the map drawing process.

This should not be a partisan fight. If you feel you cannot cast unbiased votes, and are influenced by your political party, then I suggest you resign for the good of our Commonwealth.

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

Thank you.

**Pam O'Rourke**

Marketing Consultant | Indoff

o: 804-330-3713

c: 804-338-6947

p: pam.orourke@indoff.com8138 Grimsby Road
Richmond, VA 23235www.indoff.com
[Link to Indoff Promo Research](#)



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VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Amherst County Redistricting

2 messages

janice augustine <augustinejanice@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 2:45 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: "Witt, Gloria" <gloriawitt@comcast.net>

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Commission - Amherst County VA

1 message

Gloria Witt <Gloria.Witt@define-success.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 1:52 PM

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.

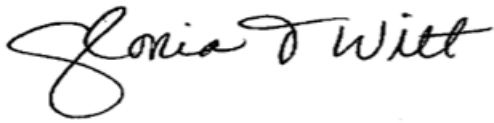
Congressional District 6 includes Amherst County, Augusta County, Bath County, Botetourt County, Highland County, Page County, Rockbridge County, Rockingham County, Shenandoah County, Warren County, portions of Bedford County and Roanoke County. The cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Lynchburg, 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](https://www.facebook.com/AmherstVANAACP)

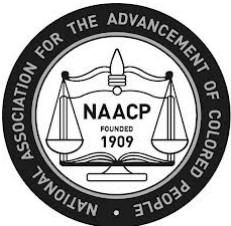




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8K

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Request for Nonpartisan Mathematical Audit

1 message

Jennifer Moseley <jennifer.moseley2@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 11:37 AM

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

Please vote yes to a nonpartisan mathematical audit.

Thank you,
Jennifer

--

Jennifer Moseley
[10700 Purcell Road](#)
[Glen Allen, VA 23060](#)
(804) 539-9856



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fairness

1 message

Lorraine Horbaly <lorraine@walmerenterprises.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 9:36 AM

I am writing to urge you to keep the commission's process **non-partisan**. Your bi-partisan efforts have been lacking and could lead to more gridlock and acrimony. I'm heartened that you have voted to scrap the old maps and start anew. **Now hire a non-partisan mathematical audit!** Virginia voters want fairness and end to partisan gerrymandering. You must deliver.

Lorraine Horbaly
[39 Monument Drive](#)
[Montross, VA 22520](#)
804-493-8195



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Your Recent Vote to Map Draw from Scratch

1 message

Ian Cook <ian@888fulcrum.com>

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 8:09 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

As someone who supported the efforts of OneVirginia2021 and pushed for our state to finally adopt the enlightened stance to move redistricting out of the direct control of either party, I applaud your latest move to start on the new map from scratch.

I am an immigrant from Canada where, due to the existence of independent redistricting commissions in every province, the issue of gerrymandering just was not an issue in the political arena.

I urge you all to look beyond party benefit, look long-term, and construct an edifice for creating electoral maps that enable more competitive races around more contiguous voter-driven interests and expectations.

Thank you for your work for all of us.

Ian Cook
1711 Pine Valley Drive
Vienna 22182

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mathematical audit of maps1 message

Mary Horne <mary1852@me.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 7:23 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Please hire a non-political, neutral organization to apply mathematical analysis of proposed maps for redistricting.

I am very interested in the Commission accomplishing the drawing of competitive districts in a non-partisan fashion prior to the deadline. I do not think we've come this far to end up with the Virginia Supreme Court having to draw maps.

Please carry on and do good, impartial work for Virginia and it's democracy.

Thank you,

Mary Horne
Henrico, Virginia
mary1852@me.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Requesting a non-partisan, mathematical audit

1 message

E. Whittier <ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 11:45 PM

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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Yes, hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any proposed redistricting maps1 message

Robert Poignant <socjusticeadvocate@verizon.net>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 9:36 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thanks for "starting from scratch."

1 message

Geo.Allen Johnston <geoallenjohnston@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 5:39 PM

Thanks for the super majority vote in favor of drawing district lines from scratch.

As part of the process, it's imperative to have independent expert 'number crunchers,' to make a 'more perfect' set of new maps. Let the numbers and the criteria steer the process and the rest will fall into place.

George Allen Johnston
York County Voter
571.451.9757

Sent from my iPad



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

ONeVirginia20211 message

Barbara Allen <info@calvarypres.org>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 4:27 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: info@calvarypres.org

Dear Commission Members,

First, let me congratulate you for your willingness to serve us. This has to be a very challenging task for each member as you serve all of the residents of our Commonwealth of Virginia. I've been following the discussions and actions being taken by the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

I'm very pleased that the Commission has taken a vote to begin the map-drawing process from scratch, without regard for existing electoral maps. This vote is most uplifting and may be the most prudent action taken thus far.

I sincerely hope that the Commission will now hire a nonpartisan consultant to provide a mathematical audit for all of Virginia's maps. Please continue to observe and implement transparency throughout this process.

Stay safe, healthy, honest and upbeat as our Virginia Redistricting Commission!

Sincerely,

Barbara Allen

Alexandria, VA Voter



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Harold Spotts <hspotts@aol.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 3:13 PM

Reply-To: Harold Spotts <hspotts@aol.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please make the audit fair and bi-partisan.

Harold L. Spotts

[10106 Oat Lands Place](#)

[Fredericksburg, VA 22408](#)

Tele: (540) 898-6072

Cell: (540) 220-5689



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please use non partisan mathematical formula to determine VA districts!1 message

Hank McEntee <hankmac77@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 2:57 PM

Greetings:

Please take the Dems And Republicans out of the Redistricting process. Apply a formula to determine the shape of districts. Of course geography, as well as shapes of population centers can be a factor leading to strange shaped districts. But let's take the influence of both parties out of the line drawing.

Thank you,

Henry McEntee

3625 Tenth St N
Unit 604
Arlington, Va 22201

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Keep up the good work!

1 message

Katrien Vance <msorion@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 2:09 PM

Hello, Redistricting Commission!

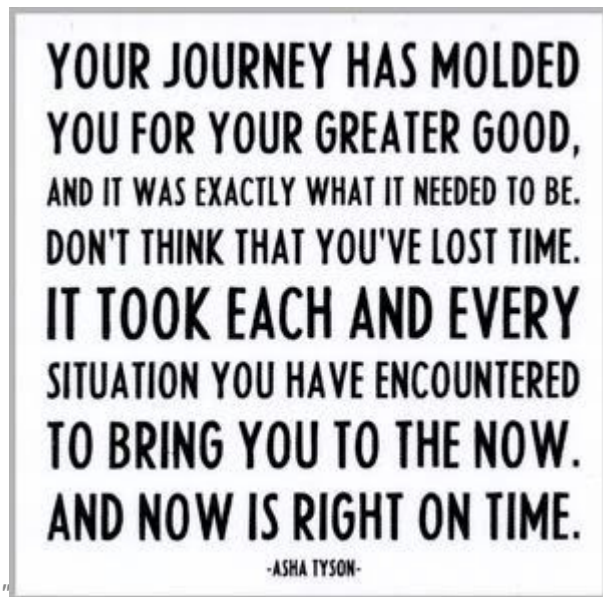
I am one of those ordinary people who worked with OneVirginia2021 to convince voters to vote to create an independent redistricting commission. It's the only cause I've ever participated in because I am a middle school teacher, and I try to stay as neutral as possible. But this cause was a no-brainer, and I did many activities with my class that brought them to the realization that districts drawn by the politicians trying to get elected to those districts were silly!

Anyway, I know your work has been hard, and it probably feels frustrating and unappreciated. I just wanted to let you know that I appreciate your willingness to serve on this commission very much. Thank you for helping Virginia make its voting maps more logically represent the people.

With regard to that logic, I love the idea of bringing in a mathematician to apply an algorithm. He doesn't get a vote, but he can provide information for you. More information is a great thing! I hope you'll vote to use this service.

Thank you again for your work!

--

Katrien



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting - Drawing the New Maps - Please Git it Right!

1 message

Kimberly Lewis Gibson <kklgibson@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 1:28 PM

To The Committee,

Virginia finally has a chance to abolish the horrific gerrymandering that has taken place in our Commonwealth and which has distorted the ability to fairly elect our legislators.

I IMPLORE you -- do what is right for the voters, not the politicians!

Truly democratic elections must prevail. It's the right of every citizen of Virginia (and the entire U.S.) to be confident that voting districts are logically and fairly established.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of all of us.

Kim Lewis Gibson
Warrenton, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan mathematical audit

1 message

Bev Schlotterbeck <editorbev@icloud.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 1:17 PM

I supported and campaigned for a non-partisan redistricting commission, and I am writing now to support the hiring of a nonpartisan consultant that would use an algorithm based on the state's criteria to any maps that are considered. I appreciate your hard work and the challenges you face. Please continue in your quest to make all votes count as much as possible.

Beverly A Schlotterbeck
[7118 Wayne Dr.](#)
[Annandale, VA 22003](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fair Districts for a Bright State

1 message

E. Bryant <ebryant784@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 1:14 PM

I am a concerned citizen of America and a voting resident of Virginia. In simple terms, do not allow partisanship to taint our democratic processes. In other words, hire a nonpartisan consultancy to apply a strict mathematical algorithm to any districting proposal you may come up with. I would also like the algorithm vetted by a third party, to ensure it is as neutral as possible. I believe strongly that Virginia can lead the southern states in showing how to run fair elections and redistricting.

You may contact me further if you have any questions,

Emille Bryant



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

We are counting on you..

1 message

Mary-Margaret <mmargcash@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:50 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

...to make this a non-partisan effort, based on math and communities of interest. An elected legislator's personal interest (i.e. preserving his/her district) should not be a factor in decision making. I am disappointed in the partisan wrangling over who should draw proposed maps. That very disagreement shows the ugly truth that some legislators have their own best interests in mind, rather than that of citizens.

Mary-Margaret Cash

Bon Air, Va.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Emily McPhie <ebm7554@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 12:49 PM

Please ensure that Virginia's district boundaries are based on geographically sensible lines and not on a partisan gathering of like-minded voters. Personally, I want to live in a district where I have a REAL CHOICE BETWEEN REASONABLE CANDIDATES from each party, hopefully both of whom are more to the middle of their parties' platforms rather than one candidate only, chosen by that party's extreme wing.

Please stop the partisan wrangling and let us be able to choose the best and most reasonable candidates! Virginia can be a leader in a return to greater political sanity in the U.S. if you show the way by your rational, non-partisan actions.

Thanks -- Emily McPhie



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

citizen voice

1 message

Laura Fabian <9550birmingham@gmail.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 12:36 PM

I moved into the first congressional district in 2020. I have lived in Virginia all my life. When I became aware of the first district boundaries I was shocked. This small portion of Prince William county has nothing in common with the balance of the district. We are a true suburb of Washington, D.C. while the rest of the district is in rural, even farming communities.

Our portion of the district is racially, ethnically and religiously diverse. We work in government and government related entities. My interests do not coincide with small, far flung towns with little interest in the vast cultural and entertainment opportunities near to us in Prince William County. Their transportation interests are vastly different from ours in this truly metropolitan area of the first district.

I do not feel represented in any way by my congressman. He lives in the rural area of the district. I feel that when I take his surveys or otherwise communicate with him he dismisses me out of hand. I am certain others in this area of the first district feel the same. I believe the vote history in Northern Virginia will show Prince William County voting one way and Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula a very different way. I also fear that some of my neighbors may not be aware of their lack of representation in Congress.

Laura Fabian

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please decide on a nonpartisan mathematical audit1 message

Karen Kallay <kakallay@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 12:20 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.govCc: liz.white@onevirginia2021foundation.org, Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

We have seen how easily doubt can be cast on even the most rigorously conducted elections. I fear something similar will be tried in the Commission's work.

I believe that the strongest resistance to such an attempt would be if you hire a nonpartisan source to conduct a mathematical audit of proposed maps.

Sincerely,

--

Karen Kallay, kakallay@gmail.com

(c) (540) 845-5545

Fredericksburg, VA 22401



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mathematical audit

1 message

Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 12:10 PM

Please make sure the mathematical audit is a **nonpartisan** audit. As statisticians know how to lie with numbers, a mathematical audit can be skewed to reach a predetermined result. The Commission seemed to rediscover it's purpose August 23rd. The number of considerations that have been added through legislation, in addition to the raw head counts will complicate audit's mission. Some concessions will no doubt have to be made. The Commission will need to take pains to make the necessary compromises without the taint of partisanship.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan Consultant

1 message

Jessica Larsen <jtrojak@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 12:04 PM

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for voting to begin the map-drawing process from scratch.

I'm writing to urge you to hire a nonpartisan consultant to apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered and to ensure the redistricting process is as transparent and non-partisan as possible.

A Virginia Voter,

Jessica Larsen



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

redistricting

1 message

Rosemary Eckert <rmeckert@hotmail.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 11:52 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Pleased to learn of the vote to begin redistricting from scratch. Please continue to work in a non-partisan manner using a mathematical redistricting audit.

Thank you

Rosemary Eckert

Warrenton Va



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non partisan redistricting

1 message

Barbara Lidell <barbhawaii2@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:52 AM

I'm an 80 yr old,, active citizen who wants our voting districts to be non partisan. I realize creating boundaries for districts is a very difficult job due to many factors including density, topography and biases that we all have.

But I trust that those in charge love our country and want to do their best. Thank you for taking this on and good luck. You have a difficult, but very important task with many pressures.

Thank you.

A lot of people are praying for you and sending good wishes and hope.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Cathy Brinkley <bereacat77@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:49 AM

I am writing today to encourage you, as a committee, to consider only reasonable districts based on location and numbers. Do not let whether my party or someone else's gets an advantage. That is not what the founding fathers intended and certainly not what we deserve. Please, be as forthright and unbiased as any human can be in fulfilling this duty.

Thank you,

Cathy A Brinkley



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan, mathematical districts

1 message

David Drachsler <ddrachsler@comcast.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:39 AM

I urge you to abide by the spirit of the constitutional amendment setting up the commission and draw districts based on the nonpartisan criteria in the amendment.

David A. Drachsler
250 S. Reynolds St.
Apt. 1310
Alexandria, Va 22304

Sent from my iPad



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Be fair1 message

Daniel Giesy <dpgiesy@netscape.net>
Reply-To: Daniel Giesy <dpgiesy@netscape.net>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>
Cc: Daniel Giesy <dpgiesy@netscape.net>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:22 AM

Please include a non-political mathematical audit in the redistricting process to evaluate proposed redistricting maps so as to insure that all voters have equal voices.

Thank you.

Daniel Giesy
dpgiesy@netscape.net



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Hiring a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria for maps

1 message

Randy Freed <jrandallfreed@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:09 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Cc: Liz White <liz.white@onevirginia2021.org>, Trish Freed <freedsrt@verizon.net>

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

Thank you for your recent vote to start afresh with maps, rather than making incremental adjustments to the existing district lines.

As you move forward into the next critical phases of your work, I urge you to

- Hire a nonpartisan consultant to create the maps
- Direct the consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria.

Using a modeling process to optimize across the multiple criteria is a clean, peer-reviewable, verifiable approach that can give citizens – and legislators – confidence that the maps are being drawn in an objective, fair way.

Multicriteria decisionmaking has been around since the 1960s ([Multiple-criteria decision analysis - Wikipedia](#)) and the map-drawing software that is now available can create boundaries that are based on algorithms for multicriteria decisionmaking. These algorithms can evenly distribute population by district, maximize overlap with existing political boundaries, maximize conformity with the “compact and contiguous” objectives, and maximize competition within districts.

As a voter, I earnestly seek a fair system of voting. Fairness starts with fair maps. A fair approach for drawing maps would be to first agree upon the criteria; then agree on the relative weighting of each criterion; and then to use an impartial model (with algorithms to mathematically operationalize the criteria) to draw the boundaries.

Keeping the process as transparent and mathematically clean as possible will give citizens and legislators assurance that our democracy is based on the principle of fairness.

Thanks for your consideration, and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

J. Randall Freed

[6151 Hemlock Ct](#)

[Manassas VA 20112](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Virginia

1 message

fjkober@aol.com <fjkober@aol.com>
Reply-To: fjkober@aol.com
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:12 AM

Hello,

Please treat the redistricting plan as non-partisan. Do it with a mathematic algorism that insures a fair redistricting map.

Cheers,

Frank Kober
1701 Browns Store Road
Heathsville, VA 22473



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mathematical audit

1 message

Nancy Ernst <neernst@centurylink.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 9:46 AM

Bravo on your recent decision to start from scratch on the redistricting in Virginia. I am writing you to encourage you to hire an independent auditor to mathematically apply an algorithm to the new districts that are drawn. Many Virginians have worked long and hard to end gerrymandering in this state, and now you have the opportunity to really get it right. My best wishes to all of you in your continuing efforts to make the state of Virginia a model for fair voting districts.

Nancy Ernst
Lake Frederick, VA

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VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan consultant

1 message

freedsrt@verizon.net <freedsrt@verizon.net>
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 8:30 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I'm asking you to respect the wish of the voters and appoint a non-partisan consultant who will apply a logarithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are under consideration.

We elected a bipartisan commission to act in the interests of the voters not the politicians and are watching and hoping to see if you will comply with the wishes of Virginians.

Let's cut out the partisan haggling and get on with the process of producing a fair and unbiased redistricting map.

Thanks very much,

Patricia Freed

Manassas, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

We're counting on you

1 message

Lynn Dolnick <lynn.dolnick@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 8:07 AM

You took a huge step toward making elections fair by starting with a clean slate. Thank you! Now please be sure to use the best auditing system to be sure where the voters are - a nonpartisan mathematical one. Thank you for your service.
Lynn Dolnick



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Drawing of districts

1 message

Marcia McDuffie <secondwind@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 8:03 AM

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

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

Marcia McDuffie
[1936 Emblys Gap Rd.](#)
[Roseland, VA 22967](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fair redistricting

1 message

Ann McMillan <annhmcmillan@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 7:39 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

I'm one of the many who volunteered with OneVirginia 2021 over several years. I went to polling places and talked to voters about how both parties gerrymander - enabling those in power to choose their voters and not the other way around.

Only one person out of hundreds ever told me they favored gerrymandering!

When my party came into power and some wanted to go through the process all over again, I urged my legislators not to let the perfect be the enemy of the good. And so I care a lot that good should come out of this.

Please - adopt the fairest model of drawing district lines that is out there. Help Virginia model the democratic process for the rest of the nation.

We are counting on you.

Ann McMillan

23238 Henrico voter



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Support for scientific basis for fair redistricting

1 message

Harriet <harrietmcguire@earthlink.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 6:33 AM

I'm in favor of your hiring a mathematical/statistical guru who can apply the same rigorous criteria to non-partisan analysis of every proposed district map.

Harriet McGuire
3007 Russell Road / Alexandria VA 22305
Text: 703.298-9759

PTBWMZPYZMBRGWAUUS



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Susan Thompson <susanthom816@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 6:22 AM

Thank you for your continued work toward a non partisan mathematical audit for redistricting.

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

gynbarb@gmail.com <gynbarb@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 6:19 AM

Dear commission,
Thanks, in advance, to you all for your hard work to come. Please continue to rectify the very unfair system that we have, re. Gerrymandering. Thank you so much!
Sincerely,
Virginia Barber, MD

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Audit

1 message

Michael Pan <71pan@cua.edu>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 6:13 AM

It is time for an audit right now.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

mathematical audit

1 message

Thomas Van Tiem <dtvantiem@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 5:30 AM

I urge you to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any redistricting maps that are considered.

Thomas Van Tiem
[9541 12th Bay St](#)
[Norfolk, VA 23518](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION VIRGINIA

1 message

Claude Simmons <crsimmons@mgwnet.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 4:48 AM

I've been advised the Commission voted 12 – 4 to agree to begin w/ a blank slate to redraw boundaries of Virginia's boundaries for US House of Representatives. I'm pleased to hear the news of your agreement on this matter. I pray it signifies that the Commission appreciates the value of Congressional Districts that reflect as fairly as possible the will of their population. US House of Representatives also should reflect a similar support. Gerrymandering, whether imposed by Republicans or Democrats, destroys our democratic system. It is incumbent on the Redistricting Commission to ensure that Congressional District Boundaries fairly reflect the statewide will of our population as closely as possible.

I know you've got a tough job but it's critical to our USA democratic system. Your work is appreciated.

Claude Simmons

Churchville, VA

6th Congressional District



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan

1 message

Jim Walsh <jamesdwalsh@comcast.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 2:42 AM

Let's have a want a nonpartisan, mathematical audit!

--

Jim Walsh

900 Pendleton St

Alexandria, VA 22314

Email: jamesdwalsh@comcast.net

Ph or SMS Text: 347-450-5344

Cell or Text: 703-589-4944



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

I want a non-patisian, mathematical redistricting

1 message

William May <wmay13241@yahoo.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 6:36 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan mathematical audit

1 message

Mark Cochrane <mcochranebooks@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:00 AM

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

Mark Cochrane

22030



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please continue the good work with a non partisan redistricting

1 message

holt edmunds <holtedmunds@yahoo.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 10:33 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

My understanding is your commission will draw lines regardless of existing districts. And this is a good thing.

Please do a good, non-partisan job. So many voters are cynical about how laws and districts and patronage and revolving door government works. It will be a tribute to your decency and patriotism to redistrict in an equitable, non partisan way.

Holt Edmunds
Richmond



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Support for Non-Partisan Redistricting Plan

1 message

Joshua Greene <kiddush18@yahoo.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 11:51 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I am grateful that the Commission voted on August 23, 2021 to do a "from the ground up" redistricting plan. I urge the Commission to proceed in a non-partisan manner while respecting the need to reflect minority groups in any final redistricting plan.

Sincerely,

Joshua Greene



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Using algorithms to determine fair redistricting

1 message

Lisa Coker <lisa_coker@yahoo.com>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 12:21 PM

Reply-To: Lisa Coker <Lisa_Coker@yahoo.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

The non-partisan mathematical audit the commission discussed is a must for fair redistricting. I have been a resident of Virginia since 1982, and am proud of the progress in equality and transparency I have been seeing in recent years.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

audit of any redistricting proposal

1 message

Carol Esteki <maryam1472@yahoo.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 2:20 AM

Dear Redistricting Committee,

I would like to express my support of a nonpartisan mathematical audit of any redistricting proposal that the committee comes up with. All of us, whether Democrat, Republican, third party, or independent, need to know that the process has been properly audited to insure as fair a map as possible.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Carol Esteki
Sterling, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Map preparation consultant hiring

1 message

KATHERINE HOFFMAN <kobbyhoffman@aol.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 24, 2021 at 2:03 AM

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

Thank you.

Regards,

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Hire a nonpartisan mapping consultant!

1 message

Eric Johnson <ericejohn@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:58 PM

I just got word that the commission may soon decide to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on our expected criteria to any maps considered. YES! Please move forward with this plan. My current (HoD) district runs from Chesapeake through rural Virginia up to Petersburg. There is nothing binding by this district. Keep up the good work.

Eric Johnson



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Independent Evaluation Prior to Final Redistricting Recommendation

1 message

Ken Berger <kenbergerrva@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:49 PM

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I believe your decision to start from scratch to determine redistricting, rather than starting by utilizing the existing districting map as the basis, is the correct one.

It is my understanding that, in addition to utilizing partisan consultants for developing redistricting options, the Commission is considering using a nonpartisan consultant to utilize an algorithm based on criteria you establish to evaluate proposals and that you will publicly present the results prior to selection of a final recommendation. I strongly support the use of an independent nonpartisan consultant to make this type of evaluation and to make those results public before your Commission makes a final recommendation.

Should you require additional clarification, please contact me.

Thank you for your efforts.

Ken Berger



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

redistricting

1 message

Lynn Haynes <lynnhaynesaccess@yahoo.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:20 PM

We have to have fair elections. We have to have nonpartisan elections. We must have districts determined only by math, not parties.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

consultant

1 message

Annabel Gunsallus <agunsallus12@yahoo.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:25 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please proceed with your plan to hire a consultant who will apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria for drawing fair electoral maps.

Thank you.

Annabel G. Gunsallus



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan Mathematical Audit

1 message

Gayle <gturn52@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:37 PM

Dear Commission Members,

I am writing to advocate support and to request your commitment to ensuring transparency and fairness by securing the services of a non-partisan mathematical audit contractor for any/all proposed district maps as soon as possible.

This non-partisan contractor should apply an algorithm based solely upon our State's criteria to all considered maps moving forward. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Gayle Turner
Resident North Chesterfield, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

VA Redistricting process

1 message

barbara george <barbarageorge40@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: barbara george <barbarageorge40@yahoo.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:59 PM

Hello,

As an active and registered voter in Virginia, I am strongly in favor of the use of nonpartisan consultants to mathematically apply an algorithm based on VA's criteria to any new maps that are considered. It is essential that we get this right--fair, just, and ensuring representation and an equal vote for everyone who is eligible to vote.

Barbara George
Alexandria, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mathematical, nonpartisan audit

1 message

frances lee-vandell <fleevandell@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:13 PM

To the commissioners of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,
You have an incredible chance to redraw the lines for voting districts using the best in technology.
Our eyes are on you, while we applaud your decision to remake the lines.
Virginia has Planning Districts that are compact, contigual and historically join together for their grouped governmental grants and oversight. These boundaries also could be referred to as already shared and acceptable lines drawn for counties.

Respectfully,
Frances Lee-Vandell
[2860 Pea Ridge Road](#)
[Charlottesville, VA 22901](#)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting map

1 message

Amy Wharton <amyannwharton@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Amy Wharton <amyannwharton@yahoo.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:39 PM

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for voting to start the redistricting process from a blank map. I support a fair and equitable mathematical approach to redistricting. As you know, the Virginia Constitution requires voting districts to be "compact and contiguous." We haven't had real compliance with that mandate for as long as I can remember. I support the creation of districts that comply with both the letter and the spirit of that mandate. Virginians must join their voices together with those of their neighbors, not strangers 100 miles or more away from them.

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

Best regards,
Amy Wharton
Albemarle County



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Drafting the districts

1 message

ROGER SOLES <MABRES@aol.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:38 PM

I understand you've made progress on a non-Partisan basis. Congratulations in reflecting the will of the people.

While we all wait to see the draft the non-partisan consultant's algorithms produce, I personally am less concerned with maintaining "communities of interest" as versus districts where communities are encouraged by their district lines to have to work together to represent the best interests of all the citizens.

How weird the district's borders appear Geographically is not the crux of the issue. We Americans must learn to live & work together for our common good. Good gerrymandering can help develop well balanced districts where no special group/race/ or interest has power over others and we must all work together.

Go for it.

Sincerely,

Roger E Soles

Sent from my iPhone
Roger E. Soles
703-314-5561 cell
703-527-0305 home



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Partisanship for Virginia

1 message

Steve Fitzgerald <fitzunc1fan@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:32 PM

There must be equal and fair representation in Virginia with bipartisan input for the committee to follow in the redistricting process! To start rmapping from scratch is a step in the right direction!

Steve Fitzgerald



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Kudos and Hope

1 message

MusicAlchemist <mostalalchemist@aol.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:23 PM

Reply-To: MusicAlchemist <mostalalchemist@aol.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Cc: "director@onevirginia2021.org" <director@onevirginia2021.org>

Greetings VRC Commissioners,

Thank you for voting to start Virginia's redistricting map with a "clean slate" in order to get it right.

So far, there has been transparency in this process, so I commend you for letting citizens know what is going on.

Next, I expect the VRC to hire a nonpartisan consultant who will apply a mathematical algorithm, that is based on our criteria, to any maps that are considered.

Keep up the good work and I look forward to your next step in this process. Average citizens, like me, care and are paying attention!

One Average Citizen, Jonathan



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

For a nonpartisan mathematical audit

1 message

Carlisle Levine <carlisle.levine@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:18 PM

Hello!

Thank you for the work you are doing helping to create fairer districts in Virginia. I applaud your plan to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.

Sincerely,
Carlisle J. Levine, PhD
Arlington, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non Partisan Consultant

1 message

Kathy Barnard <kgbarnar@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 10:09 PM

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

Thank you

Kathy Barnard
Springfield, VA

Sent from my iPad



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan Mathematical Audit

1 message

dirich111 <dirich111@comcast.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:58 PM

Please move forward with a plan to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.

Thank you,
Dianna Richardson

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Maintain a nonpartisan redistricting process

1 message

Jodi Fisler <jfisler@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:48 PM

First, I would like to thank the members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission for taking on the crucially important -- and excruciatingly difficult -- task of redrawing Virginia's legislative districts in an independent, fair, and nonpartisan manner. I know you all volunteered for this task, and I suspect it is proving to be even more challenging than you imagined when you signed on for the job. I heartily appreciate your efforts.

I would just like to voice my support for the Commission hiring a nonpartisan consultant and applying a mathematical algorithm to the remapping process. I know it has been difficult for you to reach agreement about acceptable nonpartisan advisors. I urge you to continue working together to identify people who can help move this process along in the way Virginians intended when we voted to approve the redistricting amendment. I hope I'm not naive in thinking the Commission can serve as a model for breaking through the intense political polarization that is staining our democracy.

Keep the faith, and thank you again for your perseverance.

Jodi Fisler



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Use mathematical, nonpartisan audit criteria to evaluate the maps you consider1 message

Tim Huson <tim@huson.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:37 PM

Dear Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for your noble work. I live in Arlington and have been following your progress.

I encourage you to go ahead with the proposal to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically audit any maps that you consider using an algorithm that reflects Virginia's criteria.

Best of luck,
Tim Huson

2101 N Kenmore St
Arlington, VA 22201
tim@huson.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan Mathematically Created Voting Districts

1 message

cindy cartwright <cindycartwright@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:37 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for voting today to start redrawing our voting districts from scratch. I trust you will continue, as a commission, to remain transparent and listen to public input.

Please choose to hire a non-partisan, experienced consultant to apply a mathematical algorithm in the drawing of Virginia's new voting districts. Math is a non-partisan subject that can insure each district is developed without bias.

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

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

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

keep it simple

1 message

Judy marie Johnson <renaissancewomyn@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:26 PM

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Audit

1 message

Lawrence Symonds <lhsymonds@aol.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:20 PM

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Support for nonpartisan mathematical audit

1 message

Karen Miller <ksmillr@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:03 PM

Thank you for your work on the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

Please count my vote for support of a non partisan mathematical audit of any redistributing plans you are considering. It is important that Virginia shows we can redistrict in a nonpartisan way even though we have a bipartisan commission.

Thank you,
Karen Miller



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Make the process nonpartisan!

1 message

Bob Killebrew <rbkillebrew@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 9:01 PM



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Make fair maps

1 message

OAH <OAH@vyndicar.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:53 PM

Please work on a blank slate and don't Gerrymander to either side.

Cheers, Olga Hernandez



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

redistricting - a mathematical non-partisan audit1 message

egkirstein@aol.com <egkirstein@aol.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:48 PM

Reply-To: egkirstein@aol.com

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Cc: egkirstein@aol.com

I commend the Virginia Redistricting Commission's bipartisan vote to start mapmaking from a blank slate. As Board President Sharron Kitchen Miller said, "An overwhelming majority of Virginians voted for a redistricting process with unprecedented levels of transparency and public input, and today's vote embodied this mandate."

Please continue to ensure the redistricting is done in a transparent way beginning with a mathematical, non-partisan audit.

Edward Kirstein
7000 W Grace St
Richmond, VA 23226



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan consultant

1 message

Marvin Wingfield <marvick2@comcast.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:40 PM

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,

Marvin Wingfield

Lynchburg, VA

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thanks for starting from scratch on the districts.

1 message

Don Boileau <dmboileau@verizon.net>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:37 PM

Reply-To: Don Boileau <dmboileau@verizon.net>To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

As a Virginia resident for the last 40 years, I was pleased that you are starting from scratch. I hope that you had looked at the PROCESS that students from 5 universities in the Commonwealth did one year to draw state and congressional districts. Each School team used different assumptions on what made a district. Thus, I know it can be done without any data from precinct voting records.

Don Boileau

dmboileau@verizon.net

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan Mathematical audit

1 message

Susan Miller <susan.miller1417@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:34 PM

To Virginia Redistricting Commission; I am following the redistricting process with interest and great hopes for a non-partisan, transparent and fair result. Thank you for voting to start with a blank map. Now please choose a non-partisan consultant to apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria.

Susan A Miller MD

susan.miller1417@gmail.com

1417 Grove Ave Richmond, VA 23220



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Stephanie Theofanos <stephanie.theofanos@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:06 PM

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I urge you to hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered. In the interest of public confidence, please move forward with this plan.

Sincerely,

Stephanie S. Theofanos



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan, mathematical audit

1 message

Louise Kenny <lkenny1208@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:00 PM

Hi all of you smart, dedicated, forward-thinking members of the redistricting commission. You are serving Virginia and your fellow Virginians so well by serving on this commission. You are truly doing the will of the people. Many, many thanks.

I did want to really encourage you to apply a mathematical audit to the redrawn maps to make sure they are fair, non-partisan and in the best interest of allowing citizens to choose their legislators. Please don't allow yourselves to get dissuaded from this important step.

We are really counting on you to break new ground and make our redistricting process and resulting maps all they can and should be. You have it in your power. Go for it.

Louise Kenny, Alexandria

Sent from my iPad



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

please choose a nonpartisan mathematical audit1 message

Mary-Helen Sullivan <sulgray4@verizon.net>
Reply-To: Mary-Helen Sullivan <sulgray4@verizon.net>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:49 PM

I very strongly urge the commission to hire a consultant to apply an algorithm, based on Virginia's criteria for fair redistricting maps, to the map that the commission draws up. Virginia voters want a fair and transparent process and fair maps.

Thank you,
Mary-Helen Sullivan



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

audit

1 message

Dee Pendley <drdeep3@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:44 PM

Please hire a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically audit any maps produced.

Dr. Dee Pendley
Linden, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

NON-PARTISAN Audit

1 message

sally field <sallymfield@hotmail.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:32 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Audit

1 message

John Surr <jvsurr@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:25 PM

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

John Surr
jvsurr@gmail.com
250 Pantops Mtn. Rd., Apt. 7504
Charlottesville, VA 22911-8720
phone (434) 972-2854



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

We want maps to be nonpartisan

1 message

Gmail <joanna.hickman11@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:17 PM

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

Joanna Hickman
Louisa VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan map

1 message

Jan Erkert <janerkert@spanglererkert.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:16 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear commission,

Thank you for voting to make the map a blank slate! Please hire a nonpartisan mapping company to fulfill the will of Virginia voters!

Sent from my iPhone and I have to



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

a mathematical nonpartisan audit

1 message

Connie Porter <connieportertemp@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:07 PM

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

Constance Porter
Resident
Charlottesville, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Maps

1 message

Tom Edmondson <tome50@verizon.net>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:08 PM

Reply-To: Tom Edmondson <tome50@verizon.net>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please use a nonpartisan, mathematical audit in considering proposed redistricting maps. Allowing the commission to descend into bipartisan gridlock or back-scratching like the Federal Election Commission is not at all what most Virginians had in mind in voting for the commission. Today's vote was a step in the right direction. Thank you.

T. Edmondson
Alexandria



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Virginia Redistricting Commission

1 message

Thomas A. Wilson <tomwilsoncatalpa@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:06 PM

I really want our Commission to take Virginia forward with steps that meet the voting requirements of the US Constitution and that push forward a Vigorous Virginia that is built for all of us.

Yes, use good math intelligently and fairly without partisanship.

Tom Wilson

Thomas A. Wilson
taw@catalpa.org



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please do the right thing for the PEOPLE not the politicians.1 message

Ned Michie <nedmichie@aol.com>
Reply-To: Ned Michie <nedmichie@aol.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>
Cc: Ned Michie <nedmichie@aol.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:57 PM

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

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

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

Ned

Edmund R. Michie
Attorney at Law
PO Box 11
Charlottesville, VA 22902-0011
Ph# (434) 296-1198

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VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Public Comment Regarding Dissemination of Mapmaking Data and Analysis

1 message

Green, Rebecca <rgreen@wm.edu>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>
Cc: Robert Rose <rrose01@wm.edu>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 7:05 PM

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission:

My colleague Rob Rose and I have co-taught a legislative redistricting and GIS class at William & Mary for the last 3 years and we are doing so again this year. We are very much looking forward to our students engaging in this process in real time.

To that end, we request that the commission make all data used (including the Racial Vote Analysis, and the reattribution of prison data) available in useable format for members of the public in general and our students in particular to use to draw compliant maps along with the Commission. Our students plan to submit their maps to the Commission for consideration and can only do so effectively if they can access the same data the Commission is using. The public can meaningfully take part in this process only if the Commission makes a commitment to making all data it uses and produces immediately publicly available.

As you know, Virginia law, both in spirit and letter, requires immediate release of the all data and analysis the Commission considers. Section 30-396(D) of the code requires that "All data used by the Commission in the drawing of districts shall be available to the public on its website. Such data, including census data, precinct maps, election results, and shapefiles, shall be posted **within three days of receipt** by the Commission." (emphasis added)

Thank you very much for your commitment to fair maps and to your dedication to a fair process. We very much look forward to being part of this historical redistricting cycle.

All best,

Rebecca Green & Rob Rose

Rebecca Green
Professor of Practice
Co-Director, Election Law Program
William & Mary Law School
757-221-3851
rgreen@wm.edu



Robert A. Rose, Ph.D.
Executive Director
[Institute for Integrative Conservation](#)
William & Mary
Tel: 1-757-570-2050



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan mathematical audit

1 message

Leslie Cochrane <lesliecochrane@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:55 PM

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

Leslie Cochrane
23188



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thank you for your vote

1 message

Elizabeth Christeller <echristeller@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:52 PM

Thank you for voting for a mathematical audit based on the new census. It may be a tough transition for some legislators but starting from scratch is the right thing to do.
Elizabeth Christeller



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Audit

1 message

Wesley Craig <wescraig@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:48 PM

I support a non-partisan mathematical audit of redistricting maps.

:wes



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Support for Monday's Vote & a Nonpartisan Mathematical Audit

1 message

Steven Vogel <steven.j.vogel@earthlink.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:44 PM

Greetings:

I applaud the Virginia Redistricting Commission's vote Monday to begin the map-drawing process from scratch, without regard for existing electoral maps.

I understand the Virginia Redistricting Commission soon will be making a decision about hiring a nonpartisan consultant to mathematically apply an algorithm based on Virginia's criteria to any maps that are considered.

In the interest of public confidence, I strongly urge the Commission to move forward with this plan.

Sincerely,

Steven Vogel

Falls Church, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please hire a NONPARTISAN consultant to evaluate proposed maps1 message

Anne Geraty <moss8350@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:42 PM

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

Thank you!

Anne Geraty

Crozet, VA 22932



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

MARY DYKES <mdykes3805@aol.com>
Reply-To: MARY DYKES <mdykes3805@aol.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:34 PM

I am very concerned about the redistricting process. We live in a horribly gerrymandered district and I hope that will be corrected. But all of the partisan bickering within the commission leaves me pessimistic. I believe the agreement to start from scratch could be a good sign. Let's hope so. Virginia, of all places, should be sure that everyone's vote will matter.

I was told before the election that this whole process is a charade, leading to an ultimate inability to agree and turning it over to the state supreme court. I'm praying that that is not true and that we have some true believers in democracy on the commission.

Thank you for serving on this important group and please don't let Virginia down.

Mary

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

nonpartisan mathematical audit!

1 message

mchristina <mchristina@mm.st>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:31 PM

Thank you for all the good work you're doing. As a long time supporter of Virginia 2021 at every step of our redistricting effort, I urge you to take the next strong step. Thank you, Marion Nelson



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

NonPartisian Audit

1 message

Gail Kropf <gailkropf@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Dear Commission,

Please vote for a Non-partisan Mathematical Audit to continue the process.

Thank you so very much for all you have done thus far.

Gail Kropf

[7507 Elba Road](#)
[Alexandria, VA 22306](#)
[240-418-0797](#)
gail.kropf@gmail.com
[Vaccination saves lives!](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

The virginia voters want a non partisan , equitable redistricting of Legislative districts

1 message

Earl Rogers <earl.rogers@comcast.net>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:21 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: Crady <rcacrazy@aol.com>, Marcia Phillips <marcia_phillips@verizon.net>, Jane Newell <jane.newell@comcast.net>, Carol Stephens <carterstephens69@icloud.com>, Edward <mazur2309@verizon.net>, "noberger@aol. com" <noberger@aol.com>, Ken Berger <KenBergerRva@gmail.com>, dulce Lawrence <dulcelawrence9967@yahoo.com>, Marsha <marshakingcarter@gmail.com>

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

The Virginia voters have spoken and formed the VRC, AND DEMAND A FAIR, EQUITABLE, NON PARTISAN Redistricting process of our legislative districts.

PLEASE DO YOUR JOB.

Respectfully;

Earl M.Rogers , M.S.,P.D.
LTC USAR ret
North chesterfield Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan Mathematical Audit

1 message

Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:20 PM

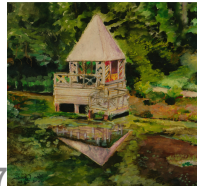
To: Virginia Redistricting Commission <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Cc: Liz White <liz.white@onevirginia2021.org>

I vote 'yes' to do the redistricting process by starting from a blank slate and creating all new Virginia election maps.

--

Ken Chasin



Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Today's Vote

1 message

Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:20 PM

Thank you for the vote taken today to honor the wishes of the voters who voted for Question 1, praying that it would end the political gerrymandering that has characterized previous redistricting. Until today, I thought we had been deceived. The vote to start with a blank slate and work with the census data within the parameters of the law without consideration for how incumbent politicians would be effected restored credibility to the Commission.

There are politicians on the commission who treat politics as a blood sport. Please don't let them distract you. Stay on the trajectory you approved today, and make Virginians proud.

Bob Wilson

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Nonpartisan mathematical audit—yes!

1 message

Marian Lapp <marianlapp@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:17 PM

Re: redrawing voting district lines:

This is one voting household in favor of a nonpartisan mathematical audit.

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non-partisan mathematical audit1 message

Lyn Gray <lynhowellgray@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:13 PM

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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Non partisan entity to draw non-gerrymandered redistricting maps1 message

Elliott Dubin <elliottj1@verizon.net>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:09 PM

Reply-To: Elliott Dubin <elliottj1@verizon.net>To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Virginia voters overwhelmingly voted for a commission that would draw non-gerrymandered congressional district, VA House of Delegates districts,an VA Senatorial districts. I wholeheartedly support this.

I suggest the Commission investigate whether any faculty members and/or advanced graduate students at any VA university are willing and/or able to perform this task. It would be much less expensive than private consulting companies.

Elliott Dubin

elliottj1@verizon.net



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Commission

1 message

Lois Sandy <ljsandy@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:07 PM

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

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

Lois Sandy
Charlottesville/Albemarle County



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

I vote yes on the non-partisan commission to work to establish new, fair,

1 message

Martha McCaslin <mimimccas@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:07 PM

population mapping for Virginia.voters.

Martha McCaslin
Fredericksburg, VA 22406



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

good

1 message

Lwaddill <lwaddill@aol.com>

Reply-To: Lwaddill <lwaddill@aol.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:07 PM

A good decision today. Thanks.

Lorraine Waddill

North Chesterfield, 23236



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Stewart Brown <stb199@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 6:03 PM

Bravo on throwing out the old map and starting from a neutral "scratch" position! Best news I've heard all month.

Stewart Brown

Winchester, VA 22601



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Vote today

1 message

Benjamin ragsdale <benragsdale@verizon.net>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 5:59 PM

From a pretty partisan Democrat: Keep the politics out of this process.

Thank you for that 12-4 vote today.

Ben Ragsdale



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Support a nonpartisan, mathematical audit

1 message

Carolyn Henly <cphenly@comcast.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 5:57 PM

I am writing in support of your decision to begin the redistricting process from scratch, rather than using the terribly gerry-mandered map we currently have. I am in complete support of a fair redistricting based in data, not in political partisanship.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of all Virginians.

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn P. Henly



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

One of a 'Fairly small segment'

1 message

Amy O'Callaghan <whitead3@gmail.com>
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 8:58 AM

Dear Redistricting members,

In a time when partisanship seems to rule the day and our existing framework appears deigned to push us ever more toward extremes, the redistricting committee was a breath of fresh air and hope.

Democrats would have had the opportunity to redraw the maps, a group that I most often align with in voting as of late. I supported giving that power to the committee instead, hopeful that this would pave the way to a better path. I am now beginning to regret my support for the committee.

Please show that hope was not misplaced. Our politics cannot continue to function like this. Our country needs to allow it's people to choose their representatives fairly.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,
Amy O'Callaghan

--

Amy O'Callaghan
804.683.1596 - Whitead3@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Is the "Fox guarding the hen house?"

1 message

Fran Larkins <franlarkins40@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 22, 2021 at 4:28 PM

To: Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Del Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Del Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Del. Delores McQuinn" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Marcus Simon <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, Greta Harris <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, Richard Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, Ryan McDougale <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator Stephen Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, Virginia Trost-Thornton <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

To our Commissioners -

One of the reasons so many Virginians (65%) voted for the Constitutional Amendment to establish the Virginia Redistricting Commission is that they no longer wanted politicians to draw their own legislative districts and choose their own voters. If you ignore current maps, there should be less reason to be concerned about incumbent protection.

I realize some of the citizen commissioners may feel the legislators on the Commission will give you the best advice on redistricting which can be a very complicated process. Please consider, however, in this instance, whether the "fox may be guarding the hen house."

Please vote on Monday that districts will not be drawn using the current maps that are so terribly gerrymandered.

Thank you for your service on the Commission!

Fran Larkins
Fredericksburg, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

VA Redistricting Commission: Using incumbent addresses to draw maps1 message

Jeffrey Elhai <elhaij@vcu.edu>

Sun, Aug 22, 2021 at 12:58 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov

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

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

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

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

Nothing says 'representatives choosing their voters' so vividly as a process that protects incumbency. You can best serve Virginia by listening to the millions of citizens who voted this Commission into existence and barring the use of incumbent addresses.

Jeff Elhai

--

Jeff Elhai
Richmond, VA 23229
E-mail: ElhaiJ@VCU.Edu
Web: <http://www.people.vcu.edu/~elhaij>
BioBIKE: <http://biobike.csbc.vcu.edu>

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Lots of us are watching

1 message

Jerry Swerling <jerry.swerling@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 22, 2021 at 12:39 PM

Reply-To: jerry.swerling@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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

Gerald Swerling

Richmond

--

Jerry

Jerry Swerling

Professor Emeritus, University of Southern California

Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

310-430-8689

jerry.swerling@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Map making

1 message

Carla Heath <cheath340@icloud.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Aug 22, 2021 at 10:08 AM

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

WE DO CARE about Fair Voting!

1 message

Sarah Dixon <sbirdwd@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 22, 2021 at 7:42 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: Mo <sbwd@msn.com>

Dear Committee,

I am a very concerned citizen (along with MANY others) that wants to have fair elections in Virginia. My district was unfairly sliced up during the last "drawing of the lines" and it goes from Tidewater to Fredericksburg.

PLEASE work together to allow ALL Virginians to have their voices heard and let every vote count. STOP Gerrymandering and show the rest of America how fair elections can be held in our state. Let the lines be drawn by a non-partisan committee.

WE DO CARE.

Thank you.

Sarah Dixon

104 Kathryn Court

Williamsburg, VA 23185

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Your work

1 message

Mary Barhydt <barhydt@cox.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Aug 21, 2021 at 11:48 AM

To: all members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission
From: a concerned citizen

I poured a lot of my life into the work that led to the creation of this commission. Now, I am 83 and unable to attend your meetings, but I watch and listen and am extraordinarily disappointed by your partisan behavior. While I am disappointed in the work of the Commission as a whole, my disappointment is strongest when listening to the elected officers of the government, both Democratic and Republican. While you posture and blame each other, you each need to reread the "raison d'etra" for the this commission. But you appear to be so busy worrying about your side losing in the elections following your work, that you are sabotaging the will of the people who voted for this commission. We wished to have you represent us and our communities, not protect currently elected officials.

It is equally disappointing that some of the citizen commissioners follow along with you, but it is your lack of bipartisan leadership that is setting the example for them. Please remember why you really are there, and do the work of the people of Virginia.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mary Louise Antieau Barhydt
[5555 Lakewood Drive](#)
[Norfolk, VA 23509](#)
757-855-1440
barhydt@cox.net

*Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass;
It's about learning to dance in the rain.*



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

VA Redistricting Commission: How to cope with two map-drawing entities

1 message

Jeffrey Elhai <elhaij@vcu.edu>

Sat, Aug 21, 2021 at 12:47 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov

Hello VA Redistricting Commission members,

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

There is a way, inspired by our common experience.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jeff Elhai

Palmer M, Schneer B, DeLuca K (2021). Working paper. A Partisan Solution to Partisan Gerrymandering: The Define-Combine Procedure. [https://maxwellpalmer.com/research/Palmer_Schneer_DeLuca_Define_Combine_Procedure.pdf]

--

Jeff Elhai
Richmond, VA 23229
E-mail: ElhaiJ@VCU.Edu



Palmer-2020-Define-Combine-competitive-redistricting.pdf
1210K



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sad thoughts

1 message

stuart dopp <stuardopp75@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 9:38 PM

Having participated in One VA 2021 campaigns both at the polls and in other ways, I am distressed to see the politicization of this redistricting process. I live in one of the most gerrymandered districts in the Commonwealth, a ridiculous configuration that snakes through the country side from Jamestown to above Fredericksburg with no rhyme or reason other than the ambitions of politicians. This kind of selfishness is a disgrace to our democracy and an affront to those who have worked so hard to bring a more fair and rational approach to this sticky wicket.

I cannot be in Richmond on Monday morning, but will be there in spirit.

Thank you for serving and for, hopefully, honoring the best interests of **all** of us,

Virginia Stuart Dopp
[5182 Rollison Drive](#)
[Williamsburg, VA 23188](#)

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Jacqueline Roberts <j2302r@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 6:15 PM

Reply-To: j2302r@verizon.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

I live in Eastern Henrico sandwiched between Laburnum Ave, Cedar Fork road, Creighton Road and Nine Mile Road.

Pleased with the support of the school board (Henrico), Real Estate value, programs for citizens, etc.

Jacqueline L. Roberts

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jacqueline Roberts

5103 Bending Branch Ct Richmond, VA 23223-3362

j2302r@verizon.net



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Public Interest in Redistricting

1 message

Kathy Utgoff <kathy.utgoff@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 6:06 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

It is wrong to say that there is little interest in redistricting. That may have been true in the past because the citizens never had a say in the process. Virginia voters are now much more aware of gerrymandering because they been shown the contorted maps at many venues across the state and there has been much more media attention to the issue in Virginia and in the US as a whole. Gerrymandering is no longer an arcane term. Two thirds of Virginia voters a transparent commission. Now they are watching.

Kathleen Utgoff
6345 Waterway Dr.
Falls Church VA 22044



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Citizen Interest

1 message

Hoogakker, John <jhoogakker@wlu.edu>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 4:42 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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

Sent from my iPad



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

For the information of all of Virginia Redistricting Commissioners; from a concerned Virginia citizen1 message

Earl Rogers <earl.rogers1661@icloud.com>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 4:40 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: Earl <Earl.rogers@comcast.net>

Speaker Filler -Corn
Delegate Adams
Senator Chase

Please see the below editorial in the Friday, August 20, 2021, Washington Post.

You are my elected officials representing me in the Virginia Legislation.

I need yall to encourage our Virginia Redistricting Commission to DO THEIR JOB!
This is ridiculous and is petty and juvenile, and must stop.

If our Redistricting Commission cannot get their act together and do the right thing for Virginia (and not their respective party);
then PLEASE WORK TO REVERSE OR CANCEL THIS LAW
and we will go back to the bad ole days of Gerrymandering!!

Or reconstruct the Redistricting law to OMIT our legislators and appoint only non-partisan, non- legislator civilians. They can not do any worse!!

I had such high hopes (as so many Virginians had) for this commission to develop rational , non partisan legislative districts , so it is particularly painful for me (and Virginia) to see it devolve into such a petty , partisan ploy.

Feel free to share this with all 16 Redistricting commission members. Maybe such criticism will spur them to DO THE RIGHT THING AND SERVE VIRGINIA FIRST.

Respectfully;

Your constituent:

Earl M. Rogers, M.S.,P.D
Northern Chesterfield Virginia

Begin forwarded message:

From: Earl Rogers <earl.rogers1661@icloud.com>

Date: August 20, 2021 at 3:41:30 PM EDT

To: earl.rogers@comcast.net

Subject: [The Washington Post] Opinions | Virginia's new redistricting panel was supposed to make democracy work better — but partisanship stands in the way

Opinions | Virginia's new redistricting panel was supposed to make democracy work better — but partisanship stands in the way

Before devising a single voting map, the system is stuck in partisan gridlock.

Opinion by the Editorial Board

The Post's View^[P]Opinion: Virginia's new redistricting panel was supposed to make democracy work better — but partisanship stands in the way^[SEP]Sen. George L. Barker (D-Fairfax), a member of Virginia's new redistricting commission, on Aug. 2 in the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. (Bob Brown/Richmond Times-Dispatch/AP)^[P]Opinion by the Editorial Board^[SEP]August 19 at 3:42 PM ET^[SEP]When Virginians voted nearly 2-to-1 last fall to establish a bipartisan redistricting commission, the idea was to embrace a fairer method of drafting the state's political maps. There was certainly reason to hope for an end to the brazen incumbent-protection racket that had prevailed for decades, enabling sitting lawmakers, helped by ever-more-deft technological gizmos, to choose their own voters. But even before the commission has drawn a single state legislative or congressional district, it is engulfed in tribal partisan skirmishing, precisely the opposite of the compromise and consensus it was designed to encourage.^[SEP]First, the 16-member panel — split evenly between Republicans and Democrats, citizens and state legislators — was unable to agree on hiring a single, nonpartisan lawyer to guide its work, settling instead for one affiliated with each party. Then, at a similar impasse over hiring a firm to draft boundaries for congressional and state legislative districts, it opted for two firms, each partisan. So much for consensus.^[SEP]Some members still express optimism that compromise will win out in the end. But the dysfunction so far suggests a stalemate is likely this fall, when the deadline arrives for the commission to produce agreed-upon maps.^[SEP]"They are going to bomb us for this," said Brandon Hutchins, a citizen commissioner from Virginia Beach, evidently worried about a public backlash and not imagining his words would be caught on a hot mic in a meeting this week. Not to worry, state Sen. George L. Barker (D-Fairfax) reassured him, adding that only a "fairly small segment" of the electorate is paying attention.^[SEP]That bit of cynicism nicely encapsulates the commission's work to date, which, if it continues down the split-lane highway of polarization, will end without producing agreed-upon maps to present to the General Assembly for up-or-down votes. If that happens, it will mark a failure, the latest bit of evidence that democracy is fraying throughout, and that elected officials are ill-equipped to fix it.^[SEP]The commission's rules allow any two of its legislator members of either party to block a proposed map, a structure intended to promote compromise. If instead the outcome is an impasse, the enterprise will be turned over to Virginia's Supreme Court, which will hire its own experts to do the job. That could lend Republicans a partisan advantage; a majority of the court's judges were appointed by past GOP-led legislatures, although some have shown an independent streak.^[SEP]Democratic opponents of the commission warned of that scenario. Yet even with its evident problems, the new system, which is mostly transparent, is unlikely to produce maps as skewed as the old one, in which voting districts were drawn in secret by majority-party lawmakers. That produced maps, crafted by Republicans after the 2010 Census, that diluted minority voting clout so blatantly that they were struck down, twice, by the U.S. Supreme Court. If this year's effort ultimately falls to Virginia's Supreme Court, it is unlikely to subject its own prestige to a similar humiliation.^[SEP]"I don't think we did a referendum to do the same thing we've done in the past," said Greta J. Harris, a citizen commissioner from Richmond. That's exactly right: The panel was given a mission by Virginia voters to strengthen and improve democracy. It is a charge the commissioners should start taking more seriously

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/08/19/virginias-new-redistricting-panel-was-supposed-make-democracy-work-better-partisanship-stands-way/>

Download [The Washington Post app](#).

Please stop the partisan posturing!!

1 message

Barbara Anderson <iowabja@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 2:40 PM

I was very pleased and hopeful when the Redistricting Commission Amendment was passed overwhelmingly in last year's election. Virginia voters sent a clear message that we wanted the decennial redistricting process taken out of the hands of a partisan state legislature and into the hands of a more evenly represented bipartisan group of legislators and citizens. By a 2-to-1 majority, Virginia voters said that they no longer wanted redistricting to be a partisan process.

It is distressing and infuriating to observe that you are still functioning in a partisan fashion, rather than as an even-handed, collaborative group with a common goal of establishing congressional districts as objectively and fairly as possible.

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

Sincerely,
Barbara Anderson

[3109 Stony Point Road, Apt. C](#)
[Richmond, VA 23235](#)

Congressional Districts Northern Virginia

1 message

Mike Clancy <michaelclancy1@verizon.net>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 10:57 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commissioners:

As you draw the Congressional district maps, please address the 10 and 11th congressional districts in northern Virginia to make them politically competitive so that the voters can choose their representatives not vice versa. The overwhelming goal of the League of Women Voters, OneVirginia and the voters is politically competitive districts. The 11th is especially egregious. It was intentionally drawn, zig zagging across Fairfax County splitting neighborhoods and then turning south into Prince William County in order to heavily favor the democratic party incumbent. It will be a total failure of this process if the 11th district is not redrawn fairly to provide for a competitive electoral process instead of the current exercise of simply anointing the incumbent. It is simple to do: remove the Prince William County precincts, remove all the precincts inside of the Beltway (to the east of the Beltway), and move the district west/outside of the Beltway and incorporate precincts from Loudoun County. Each of you can easily draw districts at <https://districtr.org/virginia>. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to the important work ahead.

Michael Clancy



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Commission Guidelines and map drawers

1 message

Mike Clancy <michaelclancy1@verizon.net>

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 9:26 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please post the final version of the Commission Guidelines document on your website.

Also, please identify the two map drawers.

Let me tell you about my community

2 messages

Stephen Morris <stephenrmorris@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 10:10 PM

Reply-To: stephenrmorris@comcast.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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? Here is another question -Why does Augusta County continue having 3 Delegates and only 1 Senator --1 Delegate has Craigsville -Augusta Springs -Stuarts Draft and Bath County -None of Highland County were Senator Deeds has Highland --Delegate Avoil has Highland - Delegate Campbell should have Highland with Senator Deeds -No reason Augusta County should continue having 3 Delegates ,

Sincerely,

Stephen Morris

203 Hotchkiss Rd Churchville, VA 24421-2425

stephenrmorris@comcast.net

Stephen Morris <stephenrmorris@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Aug 19, 2021 at 7:45 AM

Reply-To: stephenrmorris@comcast.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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? A friend attended the local Republican meeting and was told by a member of the Electoral Board that I continue to complain about the polling place being Churchville Fire -I was the person who wrote the Department of Justice and they came inspected all the polling places in Augusta County and most if not all FAILED ADA ---Big time -I continue working to get our MY community back into 1 district which will serve the citizens much better --Once again Churchville Fire is in t Pastures District not the North River District where citizens have to vote --this makes NO sense --where these districts can be drew different and this can be CORRECTED --t Pastures -Beverly Manor & North River can be changed to do just this -Let me also point Beverly Manor School is used for a polling place for the Pastures and the County is planning on closing this school in the near future built 2 new middle schools at t High Schools also note its not called Beverly Manor polling its called Cedar Green located in the Pastures not the Beverly Manor -If you all pull Churchville Fire up and look at the parking places -very few NO more then 25 and the poll workers take 4 of them -so not many for 1200 voters -sad that people have to park across the street and walk -being Churchville Ave -Rote 250 which is very UNSAFE -Thanks for any all help with this .

[Quoted text hidden]

Redistricting

1 message

Patricia Johnson <pavj1025@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 1:13 PM

Hello, I am concerned that the state committee consider the following points when drawing the new voter district maps:

-
- **District maps should start from scratch, without regard to prior district lines**
- **Hire professional map makers to draw maps**
- **Disregard incumbent legislators addresses when drawing maps.**

Using these guidelines will assure that Virginia's voting districts give all citizens an equal chance to cast their votes and that our elected officials best represent ALL voters. I vote for fair, unbiased elections without gerrymandering!

Thank you,
Patricia A Johnson
Virginia Beach, VA
Sent from my iPhone



Redistricting the City of Fredericksburg

1 message

Meghan OConnor <meghanoconnor@hotmail.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 11:39 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Good day. Congratulations on being selected for the redistricting committee for the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are very lucky that Virginia has made the decision to embrace this method of redistricting as a better way to support all Virginians as they select people to represent their local concerns.

As a resident of Fredericksburg for almost thirty years I am repeatedly struck by the perverse manner in which this relatively small city is divided into two different voting districts for General Assembly representation and for US congressional representation. As the commission begins its deliberation for redistricting, please consider making the city of Fredericksburg ONE district for representation at both the Virginia General Assembly and the US Congressional level.

A single district would better reflect the political desires of this city and its needs.

Thank you for your work

Meghan O'Connor

Fredericksburg, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Gianna Miles <giannamiles@comcast.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 18, 2021 at 10:38 AM

To Whom It May Concern?

It is vital that district lines be drawn by a TOTALLY non-partisan body in a TOTALLY non-partisan manner. Districts MUST be drawn for the good of the people and the state and not for ANY partisan group or advantage. I urge in the strongest terms that this be the case.

Thank you,

Georgianna Miles

Virginia Beach



Please treat Fredericksburg as a "community of interest"

1 message

Tres Seaver <tseaver@palladion.com>

Tue, Aug 17, 2021 at 5:04 PM

Reply-To: Tres Seaver <tseaver@palladion.com>

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners:

First, thank you for the work you are doing on behalf of the Commonwealth: I know that your job can present thorny problems, working to balance different interests to achieve a fair and representative map of Virginia's voting districts.

As a resident of the city of Fredericksburg, I am writing to request that you classify Fredericksburg as a "community of interest" for redistricting purposes.

My small city (28,000 residents, 10.5 square miles), is currently split between House districts 28 and 88, which dilutes the city's voice in the legislature, and creates confusion among voters (the lines between the districts even split precincts, and divides the University of Mary Washington).

Thank you for your consideration,

Best regards,

Kenneth W. "Tres" Seaver III
20 Pawnee Drive
Fredericksburg, VA 22401-1111

Comments Regarding Today's Meeting

1 message

info@nbnro.org <info@nbnro.org>

Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 11:11 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransonerredistricting@house.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov
Cc: Michael Futrell <thefutrells2@gmail.com>, Tavorise Marks <tavorise.marks@gmail.com>, "L Maiden-McCray - Bridging Gapz, LLC" <lois@maidenmccray.com>

The National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization provides the following comments in response to The Virginia Redistricting Commission's meeting on August 16, 2021.

1. The Virginia Redistricting Commission (VRC) should issue a clear statement as it relates to the consistency of the Census data released on August 12, 2021 and the data that will be released on September 30, 2021. If the Commissioners are unclear as to the difference in the data being released, and they should not be, then the VRC should expect the same from some members of the public.
2. If the Commission is seeking to gain public confidence in its final determination, it must do a better job explaining its actions and its determinations to the public in better detail.
3. If the Racial Polarization Data is key to complying with the Voting Rights Act, then how can the VRC start drafting boundaries on August 26, 2021 without the Racial Polarization Data that will not be made available until August 31, 2021?
4. Whose going to be checking the data provided by the VRC's contractor On August 26, 2021 to ensure the accuracy of that data and compliance with Virginia law? If it is determined later that this data is flawed, then the whole process will be flawed.
5. Why hasn't the VRC's legal counsel provided a detailed legal opinion as to why August 12th, August 26th or September 30th is the legally sufficient date to start the 45-day time line? In its February 12, 2021 press release, the U.S. Census Bureau announced that, "it will deliver the Public Law 94-171 redistricting data to all states by Sept. 30, 2021." There should be a written legal opinion stating that the data released on August 12, 2021 complies with Public Law 94-171 if the Commission intends to rely on that data to draw its redistricting maps.
6. The VRC should be cautioned with tying its redistricting decisions to political considerations such as maps being approved by a lame duck General Assembly session. If this is a concern, the VRC should consider going to Court and seeking a stay in its final determination until a new General Assembly is seated in January 2022. There is a legitimate legal argument that can be made that such a delay is reasonable based on the delays in the release of the census data because of Covid.
7. Will VRC legal council provide a legal opinion as to the sufficiency of the Racial Polarization Data provided to the Commission?
8. Since both legal counsels were unsure as to whether they or the Virginia Attorney general's office would be defending the VRC's actions in Court, it would seem reasonable to provide a clear statement as to which counsel would be representing the VRC in a legal challenge.
9. Will the proposed subcommittee meetings be open to the public?
10. Is the VRC subject to the Virginia Open Meetings laws?
11. Overall there seems to be quite a bit of confusion on the Commissioners' part as it relates to process and requirements which is to be expected being that this is the first time a Commission has been tasked with drawing redistricting maps. The VRC has hired four highly qualified attorneys who can provide the VRC with sound written legal opinions and guidance to ensure its actions are legally sufficient and comply with State law. Seeking counsel advice during a public hearing does not suffice for sound legal analysis and opinions. In the end, a good legal team can and will pick apart this Commissions' decisions and decision-making process apart if the VRC's determinations lack sound legal foundations. The VRC should seek to ensure that all of its actions are done with an understanding that its determinations may be challenged in a Court of law and that they will be setting a precedence for future redistricting commissions. Thus all effort should be made to develop a sound process that can be defended and provide the foundation for future redistricting.

We hope that these comments are helpful. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know.

Phillip E. Thompson, Esq.

Executive Director

National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization

Cell: 301-535-0488

Fax: 202-905-0057

Notice: E-Mail is not a secure method of Communication. By sending communications by e-mail, you have consented to such method of communication. In addition, some communications may be privileged and confidential. All steps will be made to protect all privileged and confidential information.

Dear Commissioners,

I am a citizen who grew up in Fairfax County writing to you to express my strong support for hiring the Spatial Analysis Lab and the Digital Scholarship Lab at the University of Richmond as your single nonpartisan mapdrawer; and my strong opposition to hiring two partisan mapdrawers. Hiring two partisan mapdrawers to draw maps is a sure way to either create dysfunction or to create an incumbent protection gerrymander.

First, it is unclear how two partisan mapdrawers would even work together. Would they each draw their own maps and then the Commission would have to select one of the two maps as its choice? Would they at first draw their own maps and then compromise on one map after seeing each other's ideal maps? Would they work together from the start to draw one set of maps? If the first option, as Delegate Simon said, there is no way a supermajority of the Commission would vote for either map. If either of the latter two options, this seems likely to lead to an incumbent protection gerrymander, as the two mapdrawers come in with partisan goals and "compromise" on protecting incumbents from both of their parties. In addition to being morally wrong and the antithesis of what the people of Virginia expected from this Commission, those maps would also be unlikely to clear a supermajority threshold, as a clear majority of citizen commissioners have made clear they will not vote for any kind of gerrymander. In short, hiring two sets of partisan mapdrawers is very likely to lead to failure.

Hiring the Spatial Analysis Lab and the Digital Scholarship Lab at the University of Richmond as your single, nonpartisan mapdrawer, on the other hand, would set the Commission up for success. These organizations clearly have a high degree of experience with mapping software. They have run innovative mapping projects that often rely on the exact same Census data that the Commission will rely on to redistrict. And they have a lot of experience with the geography, demography, and population statistics of Virginia.

There is further no question about this group's nonpartisan nature—all lawyers have agreed on that. The only real objection is that the Republican legal firm questioned their experience, while the Democratic legal firm did not. This is emphatically *not* a disagreement centered on partisanship. It is simply a technical dispute regarding experience. It is my strong belief that this firm has more than enough experience to do this job well, and also fulfills the difficult criteria of being seen by all as nonpartisan. I implore you not to look at the upcoming vote on mapdrawers as "right vs. left" but rather "right vs. wrong." Hiring partisan mapdrawers would simply be wrong for Virginia. Hiring a well-respected nonpartisan mapdrawer would be the right choice for our state, and that's true whether you are a Democrat or Republican.

Best,
Ankit Jain

"Starting From Scratch" On Drawing Maps Would More Greatly Empower Voters & Satisfy the Spirit of Amendment One

1 message

Jimmy Blackford <prairiegates@hotmail.com>

Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 12:26 PM

To: va redistricting commission off 2021 <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Greetings Commissioners:

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

Yours,

James B Blackford Jr.

[310 S Cherry St](#)

Richmond, VA 2322-



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fwd: mapping

1 message

sghdly@aol.com <sghdly@aol.com>
Reply-To: sghdly@aol.com
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sun, Aug 15, 2021 at 10:16 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sghdly@aol.com
To: varedist@dis.virginia.gov <varedist@dis.virginia.gov>
Sent: Fri, Aug 13, 2021 5:40 pm
Subject: mapping

Virginia voted for a fairer representation system. Please honor that vote by setting up a new system - not an "add-on" to the existing system!



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

basis for redistricting should not be existing boundaries

1 message

Mark Heinicke <markjheinicke@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 12:22 AM

Dear members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mark Heinicke
Ruckersville, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

DONNA BARTH <donna.don@comcast.net>
To: "VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov" <VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sun, Aug 15, 2021 at 5:05 PM

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Donald barth <donna.don@comcast.net>

> To: Don Barth <donna.don@comcast.net>

> Date: 08/15/2021 1:50 PM

> Subject: Redistricting

>

>

> REDISTRICTING

>

> Several thoughts-

>

> We redistrict every 10 years. So it is not too much to ask to start from scratch rather than using the existing maps as a starting point.

> We must employ a company with expertise and unquestionable credentials to draw the redistricting maps using their expertise as well as input from the commission members and citizens. Other states have drawn credible non-partisan redistricting maps, can we not draw from their experiences and draw truly NON-PARTISAN maps?

> Non of our commissioners can be insurrectionists nor anti-democracy people. The legislative members should not be allowed to "bully" the non-legislative members.

The most important thing is to have non-partisan, non racial fair districts so when we vote we are selecting our government official rather than our government official selecting their voter.

Don Barth

>

> Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting of Virginia

1 message

Lena Jackson <flute4god@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Aug 15, 2021 at 8:55 AM

To whom it may concern:

I am a concerned constituent of the 7th district. With all the talk of gerrymandering, I respectfully urge everyone involved with this process to take a close look at the demographics of our communities. We all want to be heard and represented accordingly. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,
Lena Jackson



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Public Comment: Proposed Congressional Map

2 messages

Mark Hergott <m.hergott87@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 9:02 PM

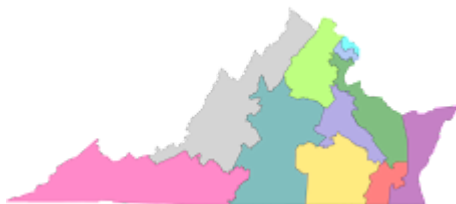
Dear Commissioners,

I am submitting to you a proposed draft map for our state's congressional districts: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/5cd0b205-7c2d-404c-9bc4-8d6a654dfe8b>. Given the demographic changes in the state since 2010, this map creates four majority-minority districts rather than three as we have now. Districts 3 and 4 remain predominantly Black/African American. Thus, this map complies with the Voting Rights Act. Furthermore, this map minimizes splitting municipalities and counties to the extent possible and scores better than the current map on measures of compactness including the Reock and Polsby-Popper metrics. Furthermore, I have tried to unite communities of interest (e.g. major higher ed institutions in district 5- UVA, Liberty, James Madison). This map would also be quite competitive. Five districts would likely be winnable by candidates of both parties. Districts 2, 5, 7, and 10 would have all backed both democrats and republicans in statewide races since 2016. Additionally, democrats over the past 5 years would have generally won District 1 by mid- to high-single digits, meaning that this district is likely winnable by a strong Republican candidate in a favorable environment. To give a sense of the competitiveness of the districts, here are the results of 2016 presidential and 2017 gubernatorial elections by district:

District 1: 51% Clinton, 43% Trump; 54% Northam, 45% Gillespie
 District 2: 48% Trump, 46% Clinton; 52% Northam, 47% Gillespie
 District 3: 62% Clinton, 33% Trump; 66% Northam, 33% Gillespie
 District 4: 61% Clinton, 35% Trump; 63% Northam, 36% Gillespie
 District 5: 50% Trump, 45% Clinton; 51% Gillespie, 48% Northam
 District 6: 63% Trump, 32% Clinton; 64% Gillespie, 35% Northam
 District 7: 49% Trump, 44% Clinton; 51% Gillespie, 48% Northam
 District 8: 71% Clinton, 22% Trump; 74% Northam, 25% Gillespie
 District 9: 68% Trump, 27% Clinton; 68% Gillespie, 31% Northam
 District 10: 47% Trump, 46% Clinton; 51% Northam, 48% Gillespie
 District 11: 64% Clinton, 29% Trump; 67% Northam, 32% Gillespie

I encourage the commission to consider this map for adoption.

Sincerely,
Mark Hergott



map-image (3).png
96K

Mark Hergott <m.hergott87@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Aug 15, 2021 at 5:28 PM

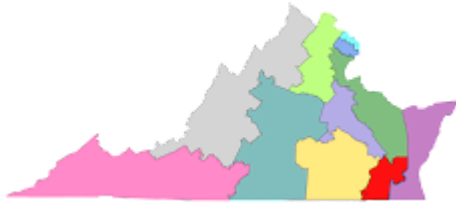
Dear Commissioners,

I have updated my proposed map based on the new 2020 data: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/5cd0b205-7c2d-404c-9bc4-8d6a654dfe8b>. Again, this map creates 4 majority-minority districts including 2 that are predominantly Black. Additionally, 5 of the 11 districts would be highly competitive.

Sincerely,

Mark Hergott

[Quoted text hidden]



map-image (4).png
97K

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Daniel Grogan <groganvision@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Aug 14, 2021 at 1:57 PM

Reply-To: groganvision@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

Please do not start from current Va districts which are atrocious. Rather start with a clean slate to keep communities of interest paramount. Compactness is even more important for the resulting congressional maps. I'm sure your task is much more challenging than most realize and will likely be a memorable but thankless job. It is so very vital to a vibrant democracy.

I live several blocks from the Cville city limits in Albemarle Co. We now have 4 delegates for the greater Cville area which is not good for cohesion and policy making. In the 80s, 90s and 00s we had only one delegate. Perhaps two is the best solution but not a district going to the WV line as is now the case!

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

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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

William Lankford <blankford2@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Aug 14, 2021 at 12:05 PM

Reply-To: blankford2@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

The local community should NOT be the basis for political boundaries. They should be designed to give as many people as possible a chance to cast a meaningful vote. More difficult but worth while.

Sincerely,

Dr. William Lankford

1400 E Market St Charlottesville, VA 22902-5449

blankford2@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting the City of Fredericksburg

1 message

Trystan Bennett <trys.bennett@gmail.com>

Sat, Aug 14, 2021 at 12:06 PM

Reply-To: trys.bennett@gmail.com

To: ++mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, +bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, +deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, +deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, +delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, +delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, +district02@senate.virginia.gov, +gharris@dls.virginia.gov, +jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, +redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, +rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, +sdnewman7@gmail.com, +senatorbarker@gmail.com, +skumar@dls.virginia.gov, +vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident of Fredericksburg City. I am writing to request that the Virginia Redistricting Commission redraw Senate District 28 to include Stafford County, Fredericksburg City, and Spotsylvania County, and that the City of Fredericksburg itself be contained in one House District (28 with Stafford), one Senate District (28) and one congressional district (remain in the first).

Virginia law requires electoral districts to be drawn around communities of interest. Currently, Senate District 28 is a sprawling leviathan that includes communities that have very little in common from Prince William County's Rural Crescent to the shores of Westmoreland County. Residents of these areas have very little in common culturally or economically and, therefore, do not represent a community of interest.

Furthermore, Fredericksburg City's population is only 28,000 and only 10.4 miles in size, yet is currently split into multiple House districts (28 and 88). This split divides neighborhoods, such that on Lee Avenue, one side of the street is in the 28th, and on side is in the 88th.

The current split also divides students at the University of Mary Washington, with on campus students in the 28th and off campus and some University housing located in the 88th. The University is certainly a "community of interest" but housing is spread through different precincts.

The City itself is also absolutely a "community of interest." The City is a regional, national and worldwide destination for lovers of history, nature, art, music, shopping, dining, and entertainment. We are a small community with shared interests of preserving the Rappahannock River, celebrating our diverse community, advocating for increased school funding, for efficient transportation solutions, and supporting our small business community.

As for the Senate District, a more appropriate district should be centered around Fredericksburg City. Stafford County, Fredericksburg City, and Spotsylvania County have a strong community of interest. We eat at the same restaurants, shop at the same stores, our families worship at the same churches, and we all consider ourselves from "Fredericksburg", as does most of the postal system. Senate District 28, therefore, should reflect that strong community of interest and be drawn around Fredericksburg City; and our City should not be divided into multiple House Districts. If the Commission is truly interested in eliminating gerrymandering, as all the pre-election campaigns maintained, then these recommendations should make sense in light of our shared community centered around the City of Fredericksburg.

Thank you,

Trystan C. Bennett
Resident, Fredericksburg, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

New redistricting maps must NOT start from the existing maps!1 message

Tim Huson <tim@huson.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 11:21 PM

Dear friends:

I urge the redistricting commission to NOT start from current maps. Instead they should start with the maps produced by the 2011 Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission, or they should have their mapmaker create NEW initial maps.

The existing maps are based on gerrymandered districts intended to divide up the population taking into account voters' party affiliations, in order to protect incumbents and/or to give an advantage to one party over the other. To start with a district map that reflects the former corrupt gerrymandered process would be to embed that corruption into the new district map. The districts should reflect the priorities intended by the new law passed by the voters, and those priorities should NOT be to help one party, both parties, or current incumbents.

You must not start from the current maps! Do the right thing!

Thank you,
Tim Huson
Arlington, Virginia



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Where to Start

1 message

Kathleen Utgoff <kutgoff@verizon.net>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 9:11 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

I live in Northern Virginia on a small lake that was cut in half by the districts drawn after the 2010 Census. One of the halves is in Senate District 37, a district that has literally been the poster child for extreme gerrymandering in Virginia.

Now that the Census has been delivered and the Virginia Redistricting Commission is charged with drawing the maps in a very short amount of time, I want to express my concern that the Commission has considered starting the map drawing process using the existing maps, maps that have denied my neighbors any semblance of a community that can speak with one voice to our elected representatives. The harm that has been done to this area of Northern Virginia cannot be undone without radical changes to district lines.

I watched the video where the Commission Chair said that the Commission has been advised to start with the existing maps because of time constraints. I believe, however, that the public will not have confidence in maps that started on the wrong foot. There are other maps that can be used. Just one example is student maps that were part of a competition after the last Census. There are other alternatives as well.

I congratulate the Commission on the groundbreaking work that you have done to create maps that are fair to all Virginias. Now that the Census data is available, many important decisions must be made in the next week. One of the most important of those is how to start the process. I hope you will not choose to start with the existing maps, when so many citizens are opposed to that approach.

Kathleen P. Utgoff
[6345 Waterway Dr.](#)
[Falls Church, VA 22044](#)



Please Look At Our Voting District with Fresh, Informed Eyes!

1 message

marcia keener <marcia.keener@gmail.com>

To: VA redistricting Commission <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commission,

Please look at our voting districts afresh and see if we can address the deleterious effects of gerrymandering for our communities---in another recommended way, rather than using the old ge "start" with existing maps and assume that they are valid and just need a little "tweaking." That would be a waste of great civic energy and voter direction and passion. We need the time and

PLEASE START WITH NEW MAPS!

Sincerely,

Marcia Keener
Fredericksburg, VA

--



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

Suzanne Fuhrmeister <suzannefuhrmeister@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 4:27 PM

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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Jonathan Greenberg <MostalAlchemist@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 3:01 PM

Reply-To: MostalAlchemist@aol.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Jonathan Greenberg

2956 Hathaway Rd Richmond, VA 23225-1724

MostalAlchemist@aol.com

As Economic Recovery Coordinator for the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, I would like to express support for preserving the community of interest in the deep coalfields of Southwest Virginia that includes the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Tazewell. These localities share many common goals – as well as common obstacles – that we are advancing and working to address collectively. Among them is significant collaborative work to achieve universal broadband coverage throughout the four counties, an effort that recently received a shot-in-the-arm thanks to a \$15.6 million Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) award provided by the state. This project, which will extend quality broadband service to 13,500 new potential connections, would not have been possible without buy-in and participation from all four localities. Our aim as a region is to continue this important work until universal coverage is achieved by 2024.

This community of interest is also linked by strategically important highways that feed economic development efforts throughout the planning district. Four-lane highways including U.S. Route 19 and U.S. Route 460 both provide connectivity to all major existing industrial development sites within the community. Similarly, State Route 80, another vital transportation vein with significant tourism importance, connects Russell, Buchanan and Dickenson counties from its intersection with U.S. Route 19 to Breaks Interstate Park, our region's most significant tourism asset. It's also worth noting that our sister organization, the Virginia Coalfield Coalition, is working with two of these counties – Buchanan and Tazewell – on the development of several new wireless cell towers to be constructed along U.S. 460 between Richlands and Vansant. This highway corridor provides access to the Southern Gap Business Park to the west and the Bluestone Business Park to the east.

With these and other ongoing collaborative initiatives having considerable impact on economic and community development in the deep coalfields, I urge the commission to consider leaving this community of interest in tact.

Thank you.

Scotty Wampler

Redistricting the City of Fredericksburg

2 messages

Walter Sheffield <wjs@wshefflaw.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 12:38 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "thdeldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <thdeldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>
Cc: Delegate Joshua Cole <deljcole@house.virginia.gov>, "Richard H. Stuart, Sr." <richard.rhspc@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners

August 13, 2021

Please redistrict the City of Fredericksburg as a single unit in your plan.

We have a strong community of interest as a rapidly growing City of the First Class. Among the purposes of having our own Council, constitutional officers, school system, public works and independent taxation are that our issues and problems are distinct from those of our neighbors.

Our voices are simply not being heard as a City because we have been politically eviscerated to minimize any influence we might have at the polls. For many years we have been systemically smothered in Richmond by

politicians who primarily respond to Stafford and
Spotsylvania County.

Thank you,

Walter Jervis Sheffield

Fredericksburg

WJS@wshefflaw.com

[1314 Sophia Street](#)

Fredericksburg

Virginia

[22401-3742](#)

Start fresh with new maps

1 message

Carolyn <praizjc1@aol.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 12:09 PM

Reply-To: Carolyn <praizjc1@aol.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Hello,

I'm writing to convey my disagreement with the suggested use of the existing maps for redistricting purposes. New maps should be drawn. Court intervened for 2 of the 3 sets of maps due to racial gerrymandering. Many of the districts cut through communities in order to provide more racial balance and that court intervention should be considered a temporary fix, like a Band-Aid.

We are long-term Staffordians and we operated our businesses here for nearly twenty years. Our community is changing for the good. Trying to use the old 'jerry-rigged maps will undermine the confidence and pride our citizens should have in our community. Stafford is an equitable community to raise families in and the maps should reflect this accurately.

V/R,

Robert Jenkins

Carolyn Jenkins

[31 Groves Lane](#)

[Stafford, VA 22556](#)

Please Jettison Existing Maps

1 message

Bonnie Hershberg <hersh3b@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 11:03 AM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

I'm writing you as a long-time volunteer dedicated to fair redistricting in Va. I worked hard—as did scores of volunteers—to educate Virginians and end what I considered an “incumbent protection program” in our state. I was elated to see Virginians all over the Commonwealth overwhelmingly support the creation of the Commission to which you've now dedicated yourselves.

Because of my commitment to good governance, fair maps, and transparency, I'm appealing to you to avoid the temptation to use existing maps as a starting point for drawing new maps.

I'm sure you are aware of the multiple reasons to begin afresh but here are the ones that particularly seize me:

—I believe that a genuinely fair process cannot be driven by partisanship. Starting with new maps, Virginia can be less polarized and more pragmatic in its approach to solving the real problems of our citizens. As the fifth worst gerrymandered state in the nation, Virginia would suffer from a real credibility gap if the Commission chose to make only minor changes to the existing maps, perpetuating the problems that the the creation of the Commission sought to solve. A likely result would be voter disillusionment. In other words, failure to start anew will undermine public confidence in not only the ultimate maps but this brand new process.

—My guess is that like me, you're committed to racial and social equity in the creation of our maps. As you know, two of the three sets of maps under which we currently operate are the result of court intervention to undo racial gerrymandering. The regions affected by these changes are living under a band-aid, and many of the districts cut through communities in order to provide more racial balance. You can redress this situation and ensure greater equity by starting with a new process resulting in new maps.

—I believe we have an obligation to set the right precedent for future commissions here and across the country by saying that 45 days is not too short to do anything beyond tinkering. By this reasoning, Virginians will never get a fresh start they voted for.

Many excellent alternatives to “adjusting” existing maps have been proffered so I'll only mention a few. To make your work easier but to produce NEW maps, please consider, among the others, using computer-generated “starter maps,” of which there are several; a “fairness report,” like the one available from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project; or “third-party maps,” like the ones put forward by the Citizen Advisory Board.

I'm grateful that you have taken on this challenging task. You have been entrusted to make important decisions that will affect the lives of all Virginians over the next ten years. I know you're up to the task.

Best regards,
Bonnie Hershberg
Alexandria, Virginia



Starting fresh

1 message

Carolyn Eldred <eldred.carolyn@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 10:49 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you NOT to begin Virginia's redistricting with the maps based on the 2010 Census (with their subsequent tweaking). Instead, I urge you to begin with a clean slate based on the most recent available information. Redistricting should be based on up-to-date population information from the very start of the process, rather than on the "stale" data that informed the prior maps. I do not believe that speed or efficiency are enhanced by starting with the old maps. If anything, a clean slate from the beginning will contribute to a fair and efficient process. Thank you.

Very respectfully, Carolyn A Eldred, [33 Denison Street, Fredericksburg](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Ali Faruk <farukam@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 8:55 AM

Reply-To: farukam@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

I'm tired of elected officials drawing themselves into safe seats so they can insulate themselves from challenges. often I have worked hard to engage communities and involve them in the political process only to see them cut out of districts and marginalized even further.

Sincerely,

Mr Ali Faruk

2811 Griffin Ave Richmond, VA 23222-3628

farukam@gmail.com

Redistricting the City of Fredericksburg

1 message

Robert Keith Thomas <rkthomas2@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 8:42 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, ++mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, +gharris@dls.virginia.gov, +jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, +rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, +bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, +skumar@dls.virginia.gov, +deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, +senatorbarker@gmail.com, +district02@senate.virginia.gov, +redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, +delmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, +sdnewman7@gmail.com, +delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, +vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov, +delmsimon@house.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners,
Please do not start with the present districts. They divide Fredericksburg in half or more. The town is certainly a community of interest. Voters decided at the last election to abandon the gerrymandered districts we now have and vested in you the authority to change them. Start over and do it right.

R Thomas
Fredericksburg city



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

Cynthia Zimmerman <cbascetta@verizon.net>
Reply-To: Cynthia Zimmerman <cbascetta@verizon.net>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 11:23 PM

Over the past decade Virginia's maps have been fifth worst in the nation. To start with them as a template and make minor changes will perpetuate the problems that were the impetus to create the Commission. You don't have to start with a blank slate. There are plenty of alternatives that will yield a fairer result. Please don't start with the status quo! -- Cindy Zimmerman, Stafford

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Elizabeth Kelley <kelleyei@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 8:34 PM

Reply-To: kelleyei@aol.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

The over 55 community I live in is diverse, energetic and dedicated to democracy. We come to the aid of our neighbors and wouldn't think of asking what political party they belong to before that help is given. A democratic society doesn't fear opinions of those different than themselves; they embrace, learn and grow from it. It is not right to redraw districts so one political party has advantage over another and it's not the "self evident" truths that are talked about in the Constitution. Fair and open delineations of districts will help heal the current divide among Americans that are being torn along party lines. When the person with the most votes fairly and honestly wins a district and then goes on to represent those who elected them, our democracy works just the way it should. Please be objective and honest when you take that pencil in hand to draw district lines and make sure those lines do not divide us unfairly.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kelley

2 Ashland Cir Fredericksburg, VA 22406-7492

kelleyei@aol.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Why the Virginia Redistricting Commission Needs To draw new maps without consideration of existing district lines.

1 message

James Minor <jaminor06@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 7:04 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov

Is it true that the Virginia Redistricting Commission is considering using existing legislative maps as a starting point in their map-drawing process because of the 45 day timeframe? I could not believe that in Virginia in 2021 that the legal counsel would even recommend such a fraudulent course of action. It is the coward's way out to accept it.

Virginia deserves better from their Commissioners and the legal counsel. I feel strongly this will undermine not only the ultimate product, but also public confidence. I am hopeful that when presented with options somewhere between starting from existing maps (which is unpopular and not ideal) and starting from zero (which is a daunting task), that you will strongly consider one or more of them.

Why starting from existing maps is not only a bad idea, it is playing into the hands of politicians and corporate interests seeking to protect their political cronies as opposed to protecting each Virginian's God-given right to vote and have fair and equitable representation in their government.

- Over the past decade Virginia's maps have been fifth worst in the nation. To start with them as a template and make minor changes will perpetuate the problems that were the impetus to create the Commission
- In November 2020 Voters were overwhelmingly in favor of a new system established in a constitutional amendment. Fulfilling their democratically determined mandate is crucial for our state to move forward.
- Virginia can be less political and more pragmatic to solve many real problems and get better overall governance if we have fairer elections based on fairer maps.
- 2 of the 3 sets of maps are a result of court intervention to undo racial gerrymandering. The regions affected by these changes are living under a band-aid, and many of the districts cut through communities in order to provide more racial balance.
- It sets a bad precedent for future commissions to say that 45 days is too short to do anything beyond making adjustments. By this reasoning, Virginia will never get a fresh start.
- Starting from existing maps also means starting with incumbent addresses and will make it harder to assure Virginians that the final maps were not put in place to protect incumbent politicians.

You are up against a very big task in just a matter of days and I truly believe that you will follow the harder right rather than the easier wrong in this matter. Some alternative approaches you might consider:

- Computer-generated “starter maps” - using an algorithm based on the legally-mandated criteria, someone like Moon Duchin (Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts University) could quickly and easily create maps to use as a starting point.
- “A fairness report” - using the existing maps but running them through a fairness report like the one available from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. This would point out the biggest problem areas and direct your attention to where the biggest changes need to happen.
- Equal Population map - starting from a map that is just districts determined by population and no other criteria and adjusting from there.

Thank you for your time and attention. Don't let Virginia suffer for another 10 years as has been the result after the last commission.

James A. Minor
COL USA(Retired)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting Fresh

1 message

Juanita Channel <lj67brown@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 6:37 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

I was dismayed to hear that the Commission has plans to start with existing Virginia maps to establish new maps. I don't believe that's what we had in mind when we voted overwhelmingly in November for the Redistricting Commission Amendment. You don't have to fully understand gerrymandering to know something is wrong with the current maps when you view how the lines have been drawn. Fulfilling the democratically determined mandate is crucial for our state to move forward.

Unfortunately, I don't have a solution to this problem, but I hope you will consider a method that will sufficiently address problems with current maps.

Thanks for reading my concerns.

Leta J. Channel
183 Hyannis Pl
[Fredericksburg, VA 22406](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Drawing VA's new maps

1 message

julie ciccarone <julieciccarone@yahoo.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 11:55 AM

To: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Members of the Redistricting Committee,

First I want to thank you for your willingness to serve on the redistricting committee. I know this an awesome responsibility that will take a significant amount of your time.

I am writing to respectfully request that the committee start from a blank slate when drawing our new districts. Starting with a blank slate will accomplish several important things:

- 1) Allow the committee to look at Virginia with fresh eyes which is what is so desperately needed;
- 2) Give confidence to Virginians that the committee truly is independent;
- 3) Ensure all Virginians' votes count; and
- 4) Help moderate the extreme tendencies of both parties by drawing truly competitive districts.

I realize that given the release of the census data, the timeframe to draw the districts is short but I hope you will still commit to starting with a blank slate.

These maps will impact not only the next ten years in Virginia but will be an example to the rest of the country demonstrating the benefits of independent redistricting commissions.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,
Julie M. Ciccarone
Alexandria, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting the City of Fredericksburg

1 message

Danae Peckler <dapeckler@yahoo.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 11:39 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Danae Peckler and I am writing to express my interest in redistricting in the City of Fredericksburg.

As a small but dynamic city with an engaged citizenry, Fredericksburg has been mistakenly divided into two districts and, as a "community of interest" we ought not to be divided so crudely into two halves. It has come to my attention that:

- The split districts divide neighborhoods, for example currently on Lee Ave., one side of the street is in the 88th and the other side is in the 28th.
- The current split divides students at the University of Mary Washington, with on campus students in the 28th and off campus and some University housing located in in the 88th. The University is certainly a "community of interest" but housing is spread through different precincts.
- The City is a "community of interest." The City is a regional, national and worldwide destination for lovers of history, nature, art, music, shopping, dining, and entertainment. We are small community with shared interests of preserving the Rappahannock River and our historic built environment, celebrating our diverse community, advocating for increased school funding, for efficient transportation solutions, and supporting our small business community.

Many thanks for your consideration of my email & your dedication to see in the best interests of the citizens of the Commonwealth, not just it's politicians.

Sincerely,

Danae Peckler

Fredericksburg, VA, resident who is not sure which district she actually lives in...



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

judy rhoday <rhodayjudy@yahoo.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 10:28 AM

Please consider alternatives to starting with the exciting BADLY gerrymandered district maps!

Sent from my iPad



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Fredericksburg

1 message

Rick Pullen <rick.pullen@verizon.net>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 6:23 PM

Reply-To: Rick Pullen <rick.pullen@verizon.net>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrostthornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>

Commissioners,

Please do not allow Fredericksburg to continue to be split between two House of Delegates districts in the future (or State Senate or Congressional Districts). As you know, this caused a major headache during one recent election when voters were handed the wrong ballots. The election was so close, the error might have affected the outcome. It's impossible to know. Please let's avoid this in the future by not splitting up the city.

Also, Fredericksburg is its own community and your task is to keep our community of interest together when we vote.

Good luck and thanks for your attention.

Rick Pullen

PS: If you're ever looking for a good novel to read, I can offer a few by a Virginia writer!

Rick Pullen

Author

Naked Ambition (Best Seller)

Naked Truth (Finalist for Silver Falchion Award)

The Apprentice (First in a Serial)

RickPullen.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

(no subject)1 message

Charlotte Hollings <charlottehollings@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 6:16 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners,

Many of us worked hard to get politics out of redistricting. The old system was unfair in so many ways and when the public was made aware of how districts were drawn, they voted overwhelming to move the task away from just politicians. If you start the process with the old maps, we will be moving backwards, not forwards. I hope that you will consider other options that will be more fair and representative of the population than the old system. Thank you for the work that you're doing and please help to rid Virginia of political gerrymandering.

Thank you, Charlotte Hollings
Lancaster, VA



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh!!!

1 message

Robert Keith Thomas <rkthomas2@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 5:39 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougle.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov

Dear Members:

It is dismaying to hear that the commission is seriously considering using the existing district maps as a starting point in creating new districts. These districts are gerrymandered already which is precisely what we worked so hard to end. There is time to work with existing groups to define new districts. To do otherwise would betray the public that voted to create this commission.

R Thomas

Fredericksburg



Meeting Times

1 message

info@nbnro.org <info@nbnro.org>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 3:42 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov
Cc: Michael Futrell <thefutrells2@gmail.com>

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission Members:

The National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization (NBNRO) is still concerned with the Virginia Redistricting Commission continuing to hold meetings during workday hours. Many of the people who are the least represented in the redistricting process cannot take off one, less known two days straight during normal workhours to attend these important meetings. In addition, holding a meeting at 8:AM in Richmond is all but saying that the Virginia Redistricting Commission is not concerned about citizens and voters who live outside the Richmond area and would need to drive two to three hours to get to Richmond to attend a meeting.

Early morning hearings and meetings were always a tool of the Virginia General Assembly to ensure that public participation on certain legislative proposals would be limited to only the very committed; or those with Richmond addresses; or people with the resources to stay overnight in Richmond. This Commission like those legislators are tasked with doing the people's business. The NBNRO and many of our citizens did not vote for a Constitutional Amendment to create a redistricting commission to only have that commission temper down public participation in the process by holding meetings at inopportune times.

We hope that in the immediate future as this process moves forward the Virginia Redistricting Commission will make the time of its meeting more opportune for those citizens unable to miss work to attend an important government hearing and/or meeting. They say time is money, and many people in this state can't give up that time, so let's please take them into account in your scheduling decisions in the future.

Phillip E. Thompson, Esq.

Executive Director

National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization

Cell: 301-535-0488

Fax: 202-905-0057

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Please don't use existing maps

1 message

Janet Martin <janet5204martin@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 3:36 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Commissioners: I know today is the big day - the data has arrived. Now the hard work starts!

I am taking this special moment to write to you to ask that you DO NOT start this round of redistricting with the existing maps.

I have a number of reasons for asking this:

1) using existing maps will only ensure that current gerrymandering is perpetuated. Our current districts are often drawn in tortured ways to divide communities and ensure incumbent protection. A fresh start would give all of the Commonwealth a better chance at having a truly representative government and give the commission a better chance at keeping communities of interest together.

2) If you start from existing maps that means you will be implicitly starting with incumbent addresses already baked into the process. I implore you to NOT consider incumbent protection either explicitly or implicitly when drawing our new maps. I understand that for the elected officials on the commission this will be an extremely hard ask but I would urge the citizen members to push back as hard as you can so as to give all of Virginians, not just our elected officials, a fair voice in how our districts are created.

I understand that staring at a blank sheet of paper can be a daunting experience. But when it comes to drawing new maps for the Commonwealth that is not your only choice. You have a number of other options, including:

1) a computer-generated "starter map". You could use an algorithm based on the legally-mandated criteria which could quickly and easily create many maps that you could use as a starting point. I understand that Moon Duchin (Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts University) has access to some tools that could be very helpful if this is the option you choose.

2) Another option might be to use "a fairness report" like the one available from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. This would point out the biggest problem areas of our current maps and let you know where changes could have the best impact.

3) You could start with the maps created in 2011 by students in the LWV/Wason Center Competition or the maps put forth by the 2011 Citizens Advisory Commission. While these maps are a decade old - they would be a better start than the current maps (which, by the way, are also a decade old) that were created specifically with political considerations in mind.

I wish all of you the best of luck. The next 45 days could be the beginning of a new era for the Commonwealth. We can show the rest of the United States that Politicians and Citizens can work together to create a more open, fair, and just society by starting with ending political and racial gerrymandering!

All the best,

Janet Martin

Springfield, VA

Drawing Virginia Redistricting Maps

1 message

Robert Choplin <choplinr@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 4:11 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougle.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Redrawers:

- Over the past decade Virginia's political district maps have been poorly designed. Please do not start with them as a template. That perpetuates the problems that have been the impetus to create the Redistricting Commission
- In November 2020, Virginia citizens voted for a constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering. Fulfilling this mandate with entirely new political districts that reflect a balance of differing opinions and voters is mandatory to have the voters pick the candidates as opposed to the candidates picking the voters. This is crucial for our state to move forward.
- An improved balance of voter opinion within a district encourages candidates willing to work with people with differing opinions to solve many real problems and get better overall governance.
- Some of the current maps are a result of court intervention to undo racial gerrymandering. There is still a need to improve these districts.
- Useable, but not necessarily final maps should be developed within 45 days and time for adjustments should be set aside as needed to accomplish the task of redrawing maps that consider previous demographics in an area, current demographics in an area, and projected demographics in an area.
- Suggestions for non gerrymandered maps can be obtained from multiple sources.
 - Computer-generated "starter maps" - using an algorithm based on the legally-mandated criteria, someone like Moon Duchin (Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts University) could quickly and easily create maps to use as a starting point.
 - "A fairness report" - using the existing maps but running them through a fairness report like the one available from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project. This would point out the biggest problem areas and direct your attention to where the biggest changes need to happen.
 - Equal Population map - starting from a map that is just districts determined by population and no other criteria and adjusting from there.

--

Robert H. Choplin



Let me tell you about my community

2 messages

Michael Beer <michaelabeer@everyactioncustom.com>
Reply-To: michaelabeer@yahoo.com
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 3:02 PM

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

PLEASE Start with new maps....not the gerrymandered/current maps. You don't need to know anything about Arlington. Geographical bonds are not that important. There are no communities that have to be kept together. Just help make a lot of competitive districts without making Spaghetti. Penne, Macaroni, even Ravioli are fine. NO Spaghetti! and thank you all for your work.

Sincerely,
Michael Beer
2302 N Kenmore St Arlington, VA 22201-4327
michaelabeer@yahoo.com

Michael Beer <michaelabeer@everyactioncustom.com>
Reply-To: michaelabeer@yahoo.com
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 3:15 PM

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 community has many teenagers who will vote in a few years. Please take them into consideration. Please draw maps that will have numerical equality in terms of voters, not this year, but in the year 2026 half way through the decade. This means that districts with many teens should be smaller by a few percentages (to start off this year), and communities with old people should have slightly higher initial voter numbers. So the goal is to have roughly equal sized districts of voters by 2026. This may advantage republicans slightly, but I think it is worth doing...even though I am a Democrat.

Sincerely,
Michael Beer
2302 N Kenmore St Arlington, VA 22201-4327
michaelabeer@yahoo.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

Jim Robertshaw <jim.robertshaw@cox.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 2:21 PM

I think that the following website has some good descriptions of state-by-state methods as well as court decisions.

https://ballotpedia.org/State-by-state_redistricting_procedures#Federal_requirements_for_state_legislative_redistricting

Good luck
Jim Robertshaw
Jim.robertshaw@cox.net

Sent from my iPad

Deliberate in Public & Start From Scratch, Please!

1 message

Peter Evans <riverswork@yahoo.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 1:01 PM

Reply-To: Peter Evans <phe@riverswork.com>

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

As an American and a recent resident in Virginia, I'm very proud of the mission that you have responsibility for fulfilling! Hurray for our Virginia efforts to stop partisan gerrymandering in this Commonwealth!

I grew up in Colorado, moved to Arlington in 2004 and thank you for bringing your public redistricting hearings around the state. I was able to watch, but not attend, your meeting in Fairfax Co and would like to add the following comments for your record. If these comments seem obvious, please don't take offense, because I appreciate how much you've already started a very strong deliberative process.

I'm retired now, after many years working for and with many state and interstate agencies that were led by citizen boards or commissions, and I want to emphasize the value of the work you do in open, public sessions. With the benefit of internet/virtual meetings, the powerful visibility of your deliberations in public has increased substantially at a time when America needs assurance that our government decisions are sound and not corrupt. Please, in the short time that remains, strengthen our faith and confidence in the democratic process by deliberating at the key junctures in public!

1. **Start From Scratch** -since the existing district maps are widely considered to have been tainted by gerrymandering, it only makes sense to start fresh, without any priority given to preserving existing district boundaries for any of the district maps the Commission will recommend.
2. **Mapping Priorities**, as Bill Millhouser suggested in your Fairfax County meeting, should be clearly articulated and ranked by the Commission in public session. Having the staff work and Commission deliberation in secret will diminish the apparent integrity of the Commission's recommendations.
3. **Single Mapping Consultant** -it would be best if your selected sets of lawyers could agree on a single mapping consultant to support the Commission deliberation. This will help the Commissioners work together and avoid the schism of partisan debate, and should save a considerable amount of time, as well.

4. **Recommended Maps** should be presented to and discussed in public before they get final sign-off from the Commission and are recommended to the General Assembly. Again, having the staff work and Commission deliberation in secret will diminish the integrity of the Commission recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns and recommendations with you. I look forward to hearing your responses and deliberation in future meetings of the Commission.

Peter Evans
[505 N Ivy St, Arlington VA](#)

Please, don't start from existing maps

1 message

Lucia Anderson <leander17@comcast.net>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 12:55 PM

To: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear members of Virginia's 2021 redistricting commission:

Today is the day you get the population data from the Census Bureau that you have been waiting for. Now you can get down to the business of drawing fair election districts for Virginia voters.

I am sure that, with the 45-day deadline you have to complete the state maps, it will be tempting to start with the current maps and just tweak them here and there. PLEASE DON'T.

This would be a huge mistake. The courts had to redo two sets of the current maps in order to fix their racial gerrymandering. The court fixes are a temporary patch and are in no way ideal. Trying to tweak these maps would be putting patches on patches.

Virginia's voters overwhelmingly endorsed a new way of drawing election districts with the constitutional amendment that establishes your commission. The voters are expecting you to Do Things Differently. Tweaking old maps is not Doing Things Differently. Such a course of action will shake public confidence, both in the maps you draw and the whole commission process.

There are better ways to promote good government through fairer maps that will result in fairer elections. There are two that spring to mind. The folks at Tufts University's Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group could prepare computer-generated starter maps using an algorithm based on your legally mandated criteria. Or, you could use the Princeton Gerrymandering Project's fairness report process to pinpoint the biggest problems in the existing maps.

Either way, you'd get analysis from outside observers who have made fair redistricting their business for years. Worth a shot, no?

Please don't let us down. We're counting on you to make our elections fair, to give every Virginia voter an equal chance to affect the outcome of any election.

Lucia Anderson
16007 Laconia Circle
Woodbridge, Va. 22191
leander17@comcast.net



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

Patty May <pattymmay@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 12:35 PM

Please do not use the current district map. When you have the bad visual in front of you I fear it will imprint on your mind and make it very hard to think creative and “outside the box”! Thank you in advance for your work on this important matter !

Patty May (5th district)

Sent from my iPhone

Redistricting

1 message

George Loper <gloper@gmail.com>
Reply-To: george@loper.org
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov
Cc: George Loper <gloper@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 11:41 AM

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

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

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

George Loper
Charlottesville



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Donald and Akice Gross <aliceanddon@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 11:04 AM

Reply-To: aliceanddon@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? The fifth congressional district as now configured is a prime example of gerrymandering. It is by no means compact and definitely needs to be redrawn to include Charlottesville and as much as surrounding Albemarle County as possible.

Sincerely,

Alice and Donald Gross
2600 Barracks Rd., Apt 220
Charlottesville (Albemarle County)

Sincerely,
Donald and Akice Gross
2600 Barracks Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901-2121
aliceanddon@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

mdmlkm73@verizon.net <mdmlkm73@verizon.net>
Reply-To: mdmlkm73@verizon.net
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 11:04 AM

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission:

You have a big job and Virginians are counting on you to infuse confidence in the maps created by this new process. Please don't start from existing maps--start fresh!

Thank you,
Lynne McCay
Stafford, Virginia

Fw: Virginia voters are expecting completely new district maps

1 message

Pete Costigan <ph.costigan@hotmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 9:48 AM

To: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>
Cc: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commissioners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

do see how it might disappoint the many Virginia voters who have pushed for redistricting reform for so long. Thanks for all you do.

Pete Costigan,

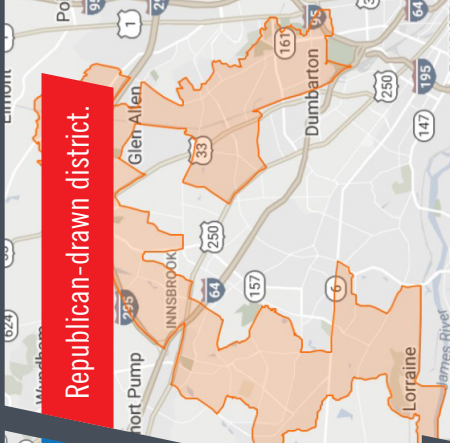
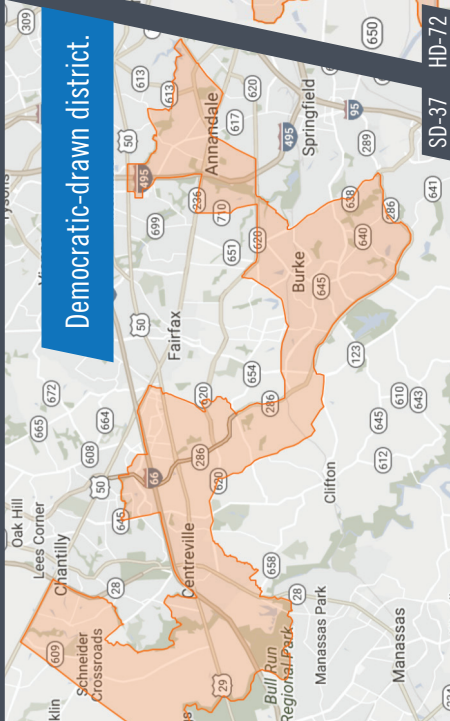
Ruckersville, Va.



Rack Card front.pdf

450K

In Virginia, **POLITICIANS CAN PICK THEIR VOTERS.**



It should be

THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

We believe these districts should belong to *Virginians*, not politicians. Join us.

ONE VIRGINIA 2021
VIRGINIANS FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

William May <wmay17673@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 9:06 AM

Reply-To: wmay17673@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

Please keep counties in the same district. Avoid gerrymandering.

Sincerely,

William May

17673 Four Seasons Dr Dumfries, VA 22025-1838

wmay17673@gmail.com

The fresh approach to Virginia redistricting

1 message

Bruce Falk <bruce.falk@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 8:43 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov

Hello, and happy summer to my friends on the Virginia Redistricting Commission. Thank you for your crucial, historic, precedent-setting efforts to reboot Virginia's broken redistricting process.

After a spring and summer of intensive work and listening, I understand you are ready to begin the drawing process. Notwithstanding the guidelines laid out in the VA redistricting laws, this might seem a daunting undertaking -- a blank canvas -- apparently infinite possibilities. However, it's critical that you take on the challenge in full, to start the process in a manner that clears the field of previous bias.

To do that, you must start fresh and without relying on the current district maps as a starting point. After all, the biases, lawsuits, and inefficiencies of the old maps are precisely the tainted legacy that prompted sustained outrage and constitutional reform. Do not risk squandering the public trust invested in you by going back to the poisoned well. You are empowered, entrusted, and expected to make a new beginning.

How you do this I leave to you, but I would recommend asking a computer to sketch a preliminary map based on equal population that as best as possible preserves the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns. After all, the Commission has to start somewhere, and this approach seems hard to argue with.

Thank you again for doing the heavy lifting. I trust you to produce results all Virginians can be proud of.

Best regards,

Bruce

Bruce Falk
703 969 9358

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Katherine e. Slaughter <katherineslaughter61@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Aug 12, 2021 at 7:36 AM

Reply-To: katherineslaughter61@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

Please do not use existing districts to draw your new map thus perpetuating the existing political division that split cities and counties, cross mountains and rivers to create political districts that satisfy the political status quo but violate the provision requiring communities of interest.

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

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

Sincerely,

Ms Katherine e. Slaughter

1503 Short 18Th St Charlottesville, VA 22902-5477

katherineslaughter61@gmail.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Maegan Fallen <mlcrews@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 8:08 PM

Reply-To: mlcrews@email.wm.edu

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

No "Band-aids" Please!

1 message

Fran Larkins <franklarkins40@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 6:33 PM

To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Del Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Del Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Del. Delores McQuinn" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Marcus Simon <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, Greta Harris <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, Richard Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, Ryan McDougale <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator Stephen Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, Virginia Trost-Thornton <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>

At the last Commission meeting, we learned that "all four legal counsel strongly encouraged the Commission to gain map drawing expertise." Given the short window of 45 days from tomorrow – August 12 - to present the maps to the General Assembly, bringing nonpartisan map expertise on board is certainly wise.

Many are very concerned, however, that the law firms also recommended using current maps as the starting point for redistricting. These lawyers were not there for the eight hearings when the commissioners listened to Virginians plead that their communities, cities, and counties no longer be divided. If they had been, they would never have considered such a recommendation. Virginia's maps have been terribly gerrymandered and there are major problems with our legislative districts that cannot be solved with a "band-aid" approach.

How are you going to decide which districts remain intact and which will need to be moved to another area of the state as population changes are taken into account? Which politicians will benefit? Wouldn't it be less complicated, less political, and actually faster to start afresh? The delegates and senators who represent their constituents well should have no problem winning re-election no matter how the lines are drawn. They may even appreciate how much easier it is to get to know their districts.

As a starting point, you could use computer-generated maps using an algorithm based on the legally mandated criteria. As Sen. George Barker suggested, a racially polarized voting analyst could begin right away looking at data and opportunities for minority representation districts. In addition, our cities and counties should be considered "communities of interest" and kept together as much as possible.

Once again, thank you for listening!



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please don't reuse our old electoral maps

1 message

Greg Delawie <delawiegt5@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 5:36 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners,

I hear you are feeling a lot of time pressure due to the requirement to redraw Virginia's electoral maps within 45 days; I understand this is an awesome responsibility that puts a heavy weight on your shoulders.

However, those of us, like me, who have been fighting for years for fair, democratic, and nonpartisan maps that empower currently under-represented communities will be very disappointed if you do not start from a clean slate. Virginia should not use as the basis for new lines the old maps that resulted from gerrymandering, court cases, or special deals for politically-connected individuals. Failure to completely toss out the old lines will undermine the confidence that the vast majority of Virginia's citizens placed in a new, fairer process when they voted to amend our Constitution last fall.

I have learned over the years that there are specialists and computer software available that can serve as a starting point for new maps that can then be tweaked to meet the new law's requirements and provide fair & equal representation. Please take another look at those possibilities before making a final decision.

Thank you for your time. Virginia's citizens are counting on you!

Sincerely,
Greg Delawie

--

Greg Delawie
Ambassador (Ret)
DelawieGT5@gmail.com
+1-703-899-7541

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redrawing Virginia's districts

1 message

Martha Woody <rfbmmw@comcast.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 4:20 PM

I understand that the redistricting commission faces a daunting task, given that the census data is only now available and the tight timeframe to complete new maps. However, I would strongly discourage the commission from starting with the existing maps. Over the last decade Virginia's districts have been among the most gerrymandered in the nation. To start with such a bad choice would only perpetuate the problems that gave impetus to the creation of the commission.

There are alternatives to 1) starting with the old map and 2) starting all over at square one. I encourage to commission to explore these alternatives.

Mary Martha Woody
rfbmmw@comcast.net



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Please don't start from existing maps

1 message

Christina Wang <christina.z.wang@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 4:20 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,

My name is Christina Wang, and I'm from Herndon, VA. I'm writing to ask you to start fresh, and not build off of existing maps, when drawing new districts. Virginia voters voted overwhelmingly to pass Amendment 1 and establish the redistricting commission in order to have maps that are fair and representative of everyone in the commonwealth. However, Virginia's current maps are extremely gerrymandered, cutting up communities and denying them their vote. To start from these maps would perpetuate the problems of unequal representation and inefficient governance that the commission was created to address. Plus, it would undermine voter confidence in the new redistricting process.

From the commission meetings that I've watched so far, I know that all of you are committed to drawing fair maps and making this new process work. So please, keep to your commitment and start fresh with new maps.

Thank you,

Christina Wang



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

Karen Kallay <kakallay@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 4:11 PM

Dear Commissioner:

I share the opinion of the many friends and colleagues with whom I have visited on this subject of re-drawing the legislative district boundaries.

Please start fresh. So many of the existing boundaries are either the direct or the secondary result of partisan decisions.

From watching commission hearings and seeing decisions to date, I am impressed that general fairness and good will prevail. Yes, the job is daunting, but so many computerized model-forming programs already exist that just need the census data and your ranking of priorities. Then you can experiment with slight adjustments of input and see if the output is consistent with the change, i.e. if the program is reliable.

Please also reinforce existing community boundaries as much as possible. Especially in these days of social isolation and citizen estrangement from civic life, providing a shared legislator can help reverse that trend.

But don't start with current legislative boundaries!

Sincerely, Karen Kallay, Fredericksburg VA 22401

--

Karen Kallay, kakallay@gmail.com
(540) 373-1744 (c) (540) 845-5545
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



map drawing

1 message

Patricia Bower <bowerpatricia2@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 9:37 AM

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](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

With appreciation and continued support for fair maps throughout the Commonwealth

1 message

Sharron Kitchen Miller <skitchenmiller@yahoo.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 6:51 AM

To: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "delmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <delmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

August 11, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Sharron Kitchen Miller, and for the past three years I have served as President of the Board of Directors for the OneVirginia2021 Foundation. As you know, we are a nonpartisan organization that has been instrumental in educating voters across Virginia since 2013 about the need to reform our broken system of redistricting in the Commonwealth.

On behalf of our Boards, staff, and supporters, I write to express my appreciation for all of the work that has been done thus far. The leadership shown by Co-Chairs Babichinko and Harris has enabled the process to be thorough, collaborative, and transparent.

Last week marked the 18th meeting of the full commission - each of which has given members of the public an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns. It is of particular note that the vast majority of speakers have expressed views regarding jurisdictional boundaries and communities of interests so I trust that these areas will be thoroughly discussed and considered. The "sunlight" process achieved to date has been historic and solidifies the foundation for what I genuinely believe is possible for significant reform.

With the release of the U.S. Census data, a new phase of your work is about to begin. Our organization will continue to encourage public participation regarding all aspects of fair and balanced reform through the many educational tools we have assembled and share with all who are engaged in this process.

On behalf of our volunteer base of tens of thousands who reside in every corner of Virginia, I respectfully ask that your members remain mindful that an overwhelming majority of voters supported the creation of this commission in full agreement that all want fair electoral maps - regardless of political party. We have often said that the notion of "fairness" is not about right vs. left, it is about right vs. wrong. Please keep this in mind as you enter the next stage of the critically important work with which you have been tasked.

Thank you again for your efforts thus far and we stand at the ready to assist in whatever way we may be of help.

Sincerely,

Sharron Kitchen Miller
Newport News VA

Sharron Kitchen Miller, OneVirginia2021 Foundation Board President
onevirginia2021foundation.org
skitchernmiller@yahoo.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

I am writing to you today regarding a very important issueRedistricting in Virginia1 message

Brianna Shamsuddoha <briannamsham@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 6:23 PM

Reply-To: briannamsham@gmail.comTo: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Virginia Redistricting Commission,

My name is Brianna and I'm from Arlington, Virginia.

I am writing to document my input about redistricting in Virginia. These maps will be the basis for representation for the next decade and it's important that the maps fairly reflect our communities.

I believe that in order to reflect and represent our communities, the maps must intentionally keep communities together. This means not "packing" and "cracking" communities of color in southeastern and Northern Virginia, it means reducing splits in the districts in Northern Virginia, and also anchoring districts around areas with strong community ties like the University of Virginia and in Norfolk County.

I want to share a bit about my community and the shared interests that unite us, like my public policy concerns and notable local geography.

I believe the next district lines should be drawn in a manner that adequately reflects and fairly represents my community's interests.

Thank you for taking the time to read my public comment.

Sincerely,
Brianna Shamsuddoha
2201 N Pershing Dr Arlington, VA 22201-1446
briannamsham@gmail.com

Starting fresh

1 message

Elaine Braverman <elaine_braverman@msn.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 5:21 PM

I admire the work the Redistricting Commission has undertaken, and the willingness of the citizen Commission members to serve the Commonwealth.

However, I strongly oppose any consideration of beginning the process using existing legislative maps. The entire reason for the Commission's existence is the decades long fight to bring fairer, more transparent mapmaking. Over 2/3 of voters approved the Constitutional Amendment last fall, and recent citizen participation in public hearings and other public comment brought forth strong support for beginning with new maps.

There are other ways to attack the timing constraints resulting from the lateness of Census data. Please consider those (including more independent maps drawn by non-legislative entities in 2011). Using existing legislative maps is the worst choice to make among the several options, in bringing sunshine to the Commonwealth's redistricting process.

Please make the right - not the supposedly "easy" decision.

Elaine Braverman
Arlington, VA

Fresh Start

1 message

Jeffrey Clark <jlbclark@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 3:32 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

I am a concerned citizen who voted for a new system to establish the political maps in Virginia. I am asking that you start from scratch in drawing new maps rather than make modifications to the existing maps.

The current maps have all kinds of problems including that they were among the worst in the nation, needed to be modified through court order which put a band-aid on the problems of racial gerrymandering, and many current districts cut through communities of interest,

Therefore, I am urging you to start over and create new maps rather than make changes to existing maps. To do otherwise will cause people to doubt the integrity of your final product.

Thanks.

Jeffrey Clark
[1501 Bronwyn Rd, Richmond, VA 23238](#)

--

Jeffrey Clark
[1501 Bronwyn Rd.](#)
[Apt. 203](#)
[Henrico, VA 23238](#)
jlbclark@gmail.com

Impending redistricting

1 message

John Melton <john@jmelton.net>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 12:26 PM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougle.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, natorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners:

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

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

Thank you for your attention to my grave concern.

John W Melton

[45 Cedar Dale Ln.](#)

[Reedville, VA 22539](#)



Lynchburg Redistricting Commission Input

1 message

David Lee <davidnlee1@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 11:45 AM

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



Starting fresh

1 message

Sabina Weitzman <sabina@sabinaweitzman.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 11:44 AM

Members, Redistricting Commission –

I write to you today because I'm concerned that you're discussing starting the reapportionment process with existing maps. It is imperative to start fresh, and while it may seem the more difficult path, it is absolutely essential. Trying to 'fix' maps that are products of decades of gerrymandering by both parties will produce more of the "same old same old".

Voters chose the commission path because they wanted better.

Sabina D. Weitzman, Architect, AIA

Design Works Studio

[913 Marye Street](#)

[Fredericksburg, VA 22401](#)

540-899-8003 (office)

540-907-7432 (mobile)

sabina@sabinaweitzman.com

Input on planning

1 message

Loper, Ann B (abl2x) <abl2x@virginia.edu>
To: "VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov" <VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 11:11 AM

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

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

I appreciate your considering these points in your important work.

Ann Loper
Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA



Please remodel, not redecorate

1 message

Gates, Ernie <erngat@cox.net>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 10:45 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

I understand what a challenging task you have, and what a tight deadline, but please do not yield to the temptation to begin our historic redistricting by using the existing districts. Your work represents a watershed opportunity to refresh our legislative maps, not merely tweak them. Time pressure may not allow you to start from a blank page, which would be ideal, but there must be something in between. I know OneVirginia2021 will offer some constructive alternatives.

To begin with the existing boundaries would be like intending to remodel a house but settling for redecorating. A paint job and some new shrubs won't do. Please take a step back and knock down a few walls.

Very respectfully,
Ernie Gates

Williamsburg

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Redistricting starting with current maps

1 message

Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 10:45 AM

To: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, "VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov" <VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov>, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougle.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

The suggestion that the Independent (?) Redistricting Commission use the existing map as their base for redrawing the voting districts in the Virginia will taint your new map with the stench of corruption.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Start Fresh on Maps

1 message

Christina Verderosa <verderosachristina@yahoo.com>

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 10:21 AM

To: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov" <vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

When the voters of Virginia approved the Redistricting Commission, they voted for a fresh start to the redistricting process. Let's make sure it's a fresh start by not just tweaking the old maps. There are several options that are not just a blank piece of paper but provide more options to correct the unfair maps of the past.

Thank you for the work you are doing to build a fair and transparent system.

Christina Verderosa

Starting fresh

1 message

Melissa Ferrell <mwferrell3@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 7:33 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I have volunteered with OneVirginia2021, which has collected troves of information and much wisdom in its years working on fair districting in our fair state.

I realize your tight schedule, but encourage you strongly to go beyond starting with current districts, and seek a compromise to move the process with a fresh approach. Please consider alternatives.

Many thanks for your willingness to take on this vital project and your work that lies ahead.

Very truly yours,

Melissa

Melissa Wimbish Ferrell

[511 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd, Apt.7](#)

[Richmond, VA 23220](#)

“We must use our time and our space on this little planet that we call Earth to make a lasting contribution, to leave it a little better than we found it, and now that need is greater than ever before.”

John Lewis, 2020



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Starting fresh

1 message

Gail Kropf <gailkropf@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 10, 2021 at 7:06 AM

Please consider an alternate way of moving forward because using existing maps will be nothing short of disaster!
You can do this! Start from the beginning and do what is right!
Thanks for all your hard work as it WILL make a difference!!
Gail Kropf

Sent from my iPhone
Gail Kropf
240-418-0797
Please get vaccinated!



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Kristin Peckman <kris@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 3:50 PM

Reply-To: kris@peckmanjazz.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Lacey Parker <lacey.blueridgeparkers@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon, Aug 9, 2021 at 10:13 AM

Reply-To: lacey.blueridgeparkers@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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.

We are in a rural area of Virginia that is primarily agricultural. We feel left behind on issues of technology and economic development.

Our closest city, Staunton, VA, is the main resource for non-agricultural jobs and for shopping, etc. So while we are demographically distinct, this city is really a part of the Augusta County community. It's where we shop, meet up, socialize, and work. We also feel connected to Waynesboro. I don't feel as much of a connection to other local cities like Lexington or Harrisonburg as these are not places that people near me generally work or regularly visit/commute to.

The geography that I feel most tied to are those to the west of me (to the border with WV) and east to about Afton mountain.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lacey Parker

124 Parise Ln Churchville, VA 24421-2833

lacey.blueridgeparkers@gmail.com

August 9, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

At the beginning of this process, our organization, OneVirginia2021, made the very conscious decision to avoid taking public positions on individual decisions the Commission has made. Both laborious and time consuming, it would also give the inaccurate impression we are trying to interfere with the herculean task you have before you.

That said, today we feel compelled to speak on behalf of our supporters as you consider and debate whether to use existing legislative district lines as a beginning point to draw new maps for the next decade. We strongly believe that starting from existing maps will not only harm the final product but will also immediately undermine public confidence in the new maps as well as the new constitutionally mandated process.

We understand that this decision is being considered in the interest of saving time. It was clear by the comments made by several members of this Commission at the August 3 meeting that it seems unfeasible to begin this formidable process from a blank computer screen. But this is not a binary choice, and we want to make it notably clear that there are several viable alternative options that do not involve using the existing electoral maps. The options include, but are not limited to:

1. **Computer-generated "starter maps"** - using an algorithm based on the legally mandated criteria. For example, Moon Duchin (Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group at Tufts University) could quickly and easily create maps to use as a starting point.
2. **"A fairness report"** - using the existing maps but running them through a fairness report such as the one available from the nonpartisan Princeton Gerrymandering Project. This would point out the biggest problem areas and direct your attention to where the most needed changes should occur.
3. **Equal Population map** - starting from a map displaying districts determined by population only, with no other criteria, and adjusting from there.
4. **Third party maps from 2011** - review of maps designed by students in the League of Women Voters/Wason Center Competition or the maps put forth by the Citizens Advisory Commission. Both are obviously a decade out of date, but so too are the current maps.

Any of these options will allow you to save time when compared to beginning without a reference point. We feel very strongly that the Commission should do everything possible to avoid the impression they are using existing electoral maps to protect incumbent legislators -- even if the intent of using this data is to simply meet a looming deadline. In other words, even if this rationale is not nefarious, the optics of it may tell another story.

Finally, we would once again like to thank you for your hard work thus far. The mere existence of this Commission proudly represents the most transparent redistricting process in Virginia's history, and we stand at the ready to assist you with our vast array of resources in any way possible in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,



Liz White
Executive Director, OneVirginia2021



SAMUEL S.-H. WANG

Professor

+1 609 258 0388 (tel)

+1 609 258 1028 (fax)

sswang@princeton.edu

Virginia Redistricting Commission
Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor
900 E. Main St.
Richmond, VA 23219

August 9, 2021

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to the Commission in the important work you all are engaged in, ensuring fair representation and a citizen led redistricting process. We at the Princeton Gerrymandering Project are following your process intently and wish to provide some suggestions regarding the starting procedure for drawing maps for the Commission.

If the Commission wishes to start from existing maps, it may do so, so long as it adheres to the criteria laid out in the enabling law. Va. Code Ann.. Sec. 24.2-304.04 and 30-391, et seq. These criteria include equal population, respect for communities of interest, Voting Rights Act compliance, and avoidance of undue partisanship, as well as the traditional criteria of compactness and contiguity. These criteria can be met by the following procedure.

First, the Commission should score the existing maps for partisan and racial fairness. The Commission may wish to establish its own criteria. The Princeton Gerrymandering Project has devised a fairness report card that grades the existing map, and which will identify core inequities and deficiencies. And of course the Commission must identify areas where district populations are no longer equal.

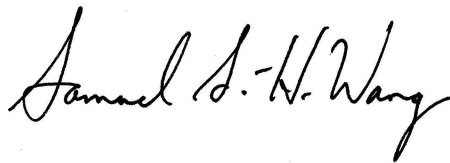
The northern part of the state will need to be significantly redrawn for three reasons: partisan advantage in the existing map, rapid population growth since 2010, and the requirement to respect communities of interest. The Commission should examine the current map for places where it divides communities of interest, which can be obtained from public input and tools like Representable.org. Keeping communities of interest whole improves their chances of gaining representation.



In the southern part of the state, starting from existing districts has the advantage that part of the map was redrawn in the *Personhuballah* and *Bethune-Hill* lawsuits after the community sued claiming the districts were unconstitutionally drawn with race as a predominant motive. These districts have already passed constitutional muster. Adjustments may be potentially small, provided that the existing map is deemed adequately fair to Black communities and ensures equal population. One might want to check for additional Black opportunity-to-elect districts, but this would not require a large-scale overhaul of the districts.

Our team at the Princeton Gerrymandering Project stands ready to provide scoring assistance to maps as the Commission drafts them. We thank you again for the opportunity to offer our thoughts on redistricting in Virginia.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Sam Wang
Director, Electoral Innovation Lab



Adam Podowitz-Thomas
Senior Legal Strategist, Electoral Innovation Lab

A Commissioner's Guide To Redistricting in Virginia:
<https://gerrymander.princeton.edu/virginia-commissioner-guide>

Communities of Interest article to be published in the Stanford Journal of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: https://privpapers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3828800





VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

I feel unrepresented in my current voting districts

1 message

Kay Ferguson <kay@kayzap.com>
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Aug 8, 2021 at 9:48 PM

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

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

I live just west of Charlottesville and my state District 25 is drawn to reach in for just a sliver of my community, divorce it from the cultural center of Charlottesville and dilute it with far flung rural areas that are more traditionally conservative and whose needs concerns and challenges are utterly different from my own.

District 5 is drawn like a zipper to cancel my values and those of most of my community by including rural areas to the north and south that are historically more conservative. There is nothing contiguous about either of these district maps.

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

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

Kay Ferguson
Charlottesville, VA 22901

--

Kay Leigh Ferguson
[Water Quilt Project](#)
[ARTivism Virginia](#)
[Water is life. Protect it.](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comment on redistricting.

1 message

Jackson, Barbara Alice (baj) <baj@virginia.edu>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sun, Aug 8, 2021 at 3:54 PM

Virginia Senator district 58

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

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

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

Thank you.

Barbara Jackson
[1017 Holly Ridge Rd](#)
Keswick, VA 22947

baj@virginia.edu

Dear members of the Redistricting Commission,

I ask that you not start your line-drawing from the heavily gerrymandered existing maps. No matter how much these lines are tweaked, starting from this baseline inevitably will bake gerrymandering into the final product. Your legal counsel has suggested this option because they believe there is not enough time to start from scratch. But if you don't think you can start from scratch, there are numerous alternative options available to you. These options can be grouped into three buckets:

- 1) Have your mapdrawer use an algorithm to generate a computer-drawn map. The algorithm would be based on the ranking of the redistricting criteria the Commission will soon vote on. This map can serve as a starting point for the Commission and the Commission can then adjust that map to make specific changes that commissioners feel necessary. This would allow an algorithm to start the process, and for the Commission to complete the process
- 2) Have your mapdrawer use their redistricting software to generate equi-populous districts that do not take the Commission's criteria into account. This would create a starting point that the Commission can then adjust
- 3) Start with another set of non-gerrymandered maps. Either the 2011 Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission maps or the winning maps of the 2011 Virginia College and University Redistricting Competition would be fine starting points for the commission, as these maps were drawn with fairness in mind

As you can see, there are more than two options available here. The Commission can easily engage in a clean break from the current gerrymandered maps while also giving itself enough time to draw maps by the statutory deadline. I urge you to reject your attorneys' suggestion of starting from the current maps and pursue one of these other options.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Christa Schaertel <cs-trans@everyactioncustom.com>

Sun, Aug 8, 2021 at 11:34 AM

Reply-To: cs-trans@comcast.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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?

Sincerely,

Christa Schaertel

413 S Fayette St Alexandria, VA 22314-5904

cs-trans@comcast.net

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Samuel Perry <sperry2@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Aug 7, 2021 at 10:01 AM

Reply-To: sperry2@richmond.edu

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Samuel Perry

3537 Kendal Crossing Ter Midlothian, VA 23113-3614

sperry2@richmond.edu

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Stephen Morris <stephenrmorris@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 7:16 PM

Reply-To: stephenrmorris@comcast.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? I live in Augusta County -the North River District Its a shame the way our district is drawn -we were in the Pastures until 1991 when we were put in the North River -1st we had to drive to the North River School to vote which was out of the way BIG TIME -so in 1992 we started voting at Churchville Fire which is in the Pastures -Makes NO SENSE that some citizens continue to drive by 1 polling place to vote at another -some out of there way -divide the citizens when we should ALL be back in the same district -a another question is WHY does the village of Churchville have 2 polling places -Yes I have asked questions about all this but continue being told the code allows -this I do not agree with -ADA started in the early 90's and some polling places were NOT ADA so a law was written to allow a polling place out of district to a polling place that was -this is the way it should be -NO local government should be allowed to do different - when all this can be corrected when redistricting is done this time . Also note the Pastures District has Augusta Correctional Center over 1300 inmates which can not be counted like in the past -have to use the last address of each every inmate so this will effect the way this district is drawn this time -lets hope this is done correct . Thanks for ur time Stephen R Morris 203 Hotchkiss Road -Churchville Va 24421 ----540 280 2568

Sincerely,
Stephen Morris
203 Hotchkiss Rd Churchville, VA 24421-2425
stephenrmorris@comcast.net

Virginia Redistricting Commission
Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor
900 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

July 31, 2021

The Honorable Members of the Commission:

My name is John Stone. I have lived in Chesapeake, Virginia, for nearly forty years now and have been represented over that time in the State Senate and the House of Delegates by members of both major political parties. My family and I live in a community which is really made up of parts of the cities of Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Suffolk in Hampton Roads.

It became obvious to me and to many other Virginians some years ago that partisan redistricting/gerrymandering was beginning to make it much more difficult to solve the problems that we have and have had in the Commonwealth. Every time either party had control of the redistricting process, the House and Senate districts were drawn deliberately to keep that party in power. This in turn led to more extreme positions being taken by many of our delegates and senators and a reluctance to compromise on various important issues.

It also led to noncompetitive elections. Since 2003, I have lived in both the 18th and 14th State Senatorial districts. In the 18th District, the incumbent has been unopposed in four out of five elections and won with 70% of the vote in 2003. The incumbent in the 14th District has been unopposed in three of five elections and won the other two with 71% and 60% of the vote. Democracy is always stronger when the voters have a meaningful choice.

Because of all this, I enlisted 15 years ago in the long and exhausting fight to make Virginia's redistricting process bi-partisan or non-partisan. (I am proud to be a member of the OneVirginia2021 Foundation Board of Directors). I believed strongly that we should have an independent citizen-controlled commission to draw the new lines every 10 years. While that's not exactly what has happened, I believe we have the means to make the process more equitable and more transparent. And I salute all of you on the Virginia Redistricting Commission for agreeing to take on arguably the most important task in recent history in our state.

Chapter 1265 of the Virginia Acts of Assembly (SB 717 in the 2020 Legislative Session) requires the commission on which you serve to draw lines that: do not discriminate against racial and ethnic minorities; that preserve communities of interest; that provide for compact and contiguous districts; and that do not "when considered on a statewide basis, unduly favor or disfavor any political party." Those are all important.

I would also urge that you-to the extent possible- respect jurisdictional boundaries. Currently, the incumbent in the 14th State Senatorial district represents portions of seven different cities

and counties, some of them obviously with conflicting interests. The incumbent in the 18th district represents all of or parts of twelve jurisdictions. This does not allow for effective representation, no matter how many hours the senator works or how many miles they must drive.


In addition, the city of Chesapeake is currently represented by three senators and six delegates. That seems like a few too many for me, although it's not as bad as Fairfax County- represented by nine senators and eighteen delegates. Of Chesapeake's nine legislators, just four actually live there.

The city of Suffolk is represented by six legislators, only one of whom lives in Suffolk.

I do not subscribe to the argument that redistricting is necessarily a political task which can be done only by politicians. That narrative puts our legislators in a difficult position in which they are perceived as working to advance their own political interests. I do believe strongly that every seat in the Virginia Senate, the House of Delegates, and the United States House of Representatives belongs not to the elected official who might currently hold it; every seat belongs to the people of Virginia, who have a vested interest in seeing that those seats are held by the individual- Republican or Democrat, male or female-most capable of doing the job.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and thank you for your commitment to this great state of Virginia.

Sincerely,



John T. Stone

757-630-7472



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Lori Keenan <keenanlori@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 1:19 PM

Reply-To: keenanlori@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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? We are bound by a love of horses, gardens, farms and an appreciation for conservation and the environment. We are north of I-66 in Fauquier (northern) and Loudoun Counties. We are well educated and have relatively high incomes. Our boundaries are basically the Goose Creek watershed, which runs from Linden to Delaplane to Upperville and Middleburg up to Leesburg and into the Potomac River near Landsdowne. Our eastern boundary is Route 15 and the western boundary is along the Blue Ridge mountains and the boundary with Clarke County.

Currently, some of us are in the 5th US District which is too big geographically and does not represent us in the northern part of the state. We feel disenfranchised. Please link us up with a more northern/Loudoun district for the US House of Representatives.

Sincerely yours,

Florence/Lori Keenan

Sincerely,

Ms. Lori Keenan

PO Box 312 Rectorstown, VA 20140-0312

keenanlori@gmail.com

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Stephen Mournighan <steve.mournighan@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 12:56 PM

Reply-To: steve.mournighan@verizon.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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?

McLean Virginia is a well defined community: it is defined by the special taxing district within which residents pay a special tax to support the McLean Community Center. That taxing district is bordered on the north by the Potomac River; on the east by the Arlington County / Fairfax County line; on the west by Difficult Run; on the south by Route 66 until it intersects with Rt. 7, at which point Rt. 7 becomes the southern border. One House of Delegates district should be defined by these borders: if more people are needed for equality with other districts, the western border can be moved west to Old Dominion Drive, or Leigh Mill Road, or Walker Road. At present, 4 delegates have a piece of McLean. which is ridiculous.

Sincerely,
Stephen Mournighan
7204 Churchill Rd Mc Lean, VA 22101-2003
steve.mournighan@verizon.net

Communities of Interest

1 message

Robert Wilson <rdwilson837@gmail.com>
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 12:17 PM

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

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

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

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

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

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

sharon moser <slmhorsewm@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 12:09 PM

Reply-To: slmhorsewm@aol.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 community I live in can be described as a microcosm of many different people. The residential area is composed of large lots and nice size houses filled with people from all walks of life. Our interests include highway safety, ecology, voting rights for all and responsive government officials. Effective schools are vital to our growing region.

We are also concerned with pure, clean water and air. These needs are crucial to all communities.

Gerrymandering is opposed. As John Adams in 1788, "State legislatures should be an exact portrait and miniature of the people as a whole".

Thank you for seeking our opinions and thank you for serving the people in honesty and truth. What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community?

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sharon Moser

6121 River Rd Fredericksburg, VA 22407-2248

slmhorsewm@aol.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Susanna Trefsgar <maplspng@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Aug 6, 2021 at 5:36 AM

Reply-To: maplspng@aol.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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

maplspng@aol.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

My thoughts on redistricting

1 message

Carol Parke <cparkerva@gmail.com>
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 7:55 PM

Commissioners:

My name is Carol Parke, and I am following Virginia's redistricting process with great interest. With this email I wish to state my hope for an honest and fair redistricting process. The stakes are immense.

I am a former academic library administrator living in Westover Hills, Richmond since 2004 and newly retired from the Syracuse University Library. Mid-career, I spent eight years at the VCU Library, and earlier I was in charge of Government Publications at the Yale University Library. There I had the privilege of working with faculty, students and ordinary townspeople who needed to find information the government produces and distributes, and to help them understand its content and context. I often needed to clarify the differing roles of the three branches of government, whose actions and publications truly document our priorities and our progress (or not) as a nation. Year after year, the Congress, and Congressional documents, were among our most heavily requested sources of needed information.

The fair assignment of Congressional districts according to law is one of the most important components of good government, and, it seems, one of the easiest to be compromised. We've seen that again and again. Fair and transparent redistricting that permits us to govern according to the needs and wants of all Americans – not just the powerful, not just insiders – is more crucial than ever this year. In the wake of January 6th at the Capitol, we must not lose this rare opportunity we have been given!

It is not so common to see congressional districts fairly-drawn – but a critical mass of citizens here in Virginia seems to have awakened to the reality that the evils of Jim Crow are still with us, and gerrymandering is still rampant. (Covid-like, powerful, swiftly adapting, those evils have had no trouble clothing themselves in newer realities. They have always had their followers, and still do.) Too many of us have not understood how pervasive and tenacious the old, discredited ways of operating can be, and in this, I believe we've been naïve. All eligible voters need to have the same opportunity to vote, and their Congressional districts drawn to make all of their votes count.

Fair and legal redistricting is a foundational component of good government, a first step on which nearly everything else will build. It can rectify old evils, give those who have been silenced a voice, advance the dreams of so many, make a better Virginia for all Virginians, and model for the less enlightened how good governance can work for the good of all.

In Virginia we've made a start, but we must not flinch. Done well, redistricting will move us toward a more equal state and nation. Without it? Just look around you. Without it, I am truly afraid.

Respectfully,

Carol Parke
cparkerva@gmail.com

Redistricting Priorities

1 message

Susan McKinnon <susanmmckinnon@gmail.com>
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov
Cc: Susan McKinnon <susanmmckinnon@gmail.com>

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 3:56 PM

To: Redistricting Commission

From: Susan McKinnon, Charlottesville Resident

Re: Redistricting Priorities

I have made my home in Charlottesville since 1984. During the 37 years I have lived in Charlottesville, my voting district has been outrageously gerrymandered, resulting in a subversion of the democratic process and of fair and equitable representation, and making it exceedingly difficult to meaningfully address pressing regional issues relating to economic development, jobs, housing, infrastructure, transportation, the environment, climate change, and healthcare.

I am excited that we now have a chance to redraw the district lines in a way that is NON-PARTISAN and that will thereby revitalize the democratic process, rather than secure the lopsided victory of the most extreme partisan candidates. I believe this gerrymandering has led to disastrous results not only in Virginia but across the country.

In order to achieve a non-partisan redistricting, I urge you to not to use political considerations in designing district boundaries. Instead, please prioritize the following criteria:

—districts should be compact and contiguous

—districts should be based on communities of interest—and the best way to achieve this is to adopt Planning Districts as a prototype for legislative and congressional districts. The 23 Planning Districts created by Virginia statute provide an excellent, non-partisan means for creating compact, contiguous communities of interest.

—districts should prioritize racial equity to counter the long history of disenfranchisement of racialized minorities in the state of Virginia

--redistricting should exclude political addresses and political considerations.

Thank you very much for your work to produce an equitable and vibrant democratic process in the state of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Susan McKinnon

suggested Congressional District MAP

1 message

Richard Mr Zimermann <richardzimermann@verizon.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 11:22 AM

Dear Commissioners:

Attached is a PDF showing my proposed OUTLINE of eleven Congressional Districts for Virginia.

The "Hub and Spoke" organization was suggested by a citizen at one of the first two panel presentations.

I adopted the principle, and for each numbered district, I have listed an index of the "population hub" for each district. Dotted lines indicate the locality boundaries at the edges of proposed compact districts.

Whenever districts cross the locality boundaries that are remote from population centers, the priority should be to embrace the "community of interest" which is the social and cultural attendance district for a local public primary school. An overlay of Census BLOCKS can be used to closely approximate the numbers of residents in each elementary school district.

Please let me know if there are any clarifications or extensions I can provide to make this submittal more useful to the Commission.

Thanks. Rick Zimermann

Richard Zimermann
1226 Brookside Landing
Chesapeake VA 23320
cell phone: 703-946-7543



A 3.2 Va 2021 Redistrict Outline DRAFT Aug 5.pdf
536K

A Virginia 2021 Redistricting Outline - DRAFT 3.1 August 5, 2021

- Congressional Districts are to be CONTIGUOUS, COMPACT and of EQUAL population of about 784,500, so draft first proposals at by richardzimmermann@verizon.net plus or minus 2%, i.e. district populations within a range of 768,800 and 800,200, or about a 31,400 spread from biggest to smallest.
- Locality boundaries for those serving district majorities in the POPULATION HUBS are to be maintained, providing districts of a 'community of interest' by cities and counties, so delivering the greatest of that public good for the greatest numbers of Virginians.
- Whenever districts cross locality boundaries remote from population centers, districts should prioritize the NEIGHBORHOOD as the governing community of interest - determined in each locality by elementary school attendance districts.

- Key -

3 = Congressional District number

--- = Locality boundaries at edges of compact districts. I-66, VA-7, US-15, US-17
 [] = A "spoke" county, remote from a district population "hub".

[base map found at www.coopercenter.org/demographics]

● VA-08 pop. hub = SMA (P)

* Winchester-Loudoun (P)

- Fauquier & Stafford (P)

- Clarke & Warren Co.

- Rappahannock Co.

- Culpeper Co.

- others southerly - ? -

● VA-03 pop. hub =

I-95 urban corridor, SMA

* Richmond & Henrico

- Hanover Co.

- Spotsylvania Co.

- Fredericksburg

- Caroline Co. (P)

- Louisa Co. (P)

- Goochland Co.

- King William Co.

- New Kent Co.

- Charles City Co.

● VA-07 pop. hub =

I-64 & I-81

SMA (3)

* Charlottesville

* Staunton

* Harrisonburg

- Lexington

- Covington

- Shenandoah Co.

- Page Co.

- Highland Co.

- Bath Co.

● VA-09 pop. hub = I-81

I-77, US-58-58A,

US-19

* Blacksburg SMA

* Montgomery Co.

* Radford

- Southwest Virginia

- Patrick County

- Henry County (P)

- Martinsville

● VA-06 pop. hub = US-460

US-220, US-29, VA-40 SMAs (2)

* Lynchburg & * Roanoke

- Piedmont south to

include Danville - ? -

● VA-05 pop. hub =

I-95, I-85 & SMA (P)

* Petersburg & Chesterfield

- Colonial Heights

- The Southside, from the

Fall Line west to - ? -

● VA-04 pop. hub =

US-460, US-58, SMA (P)

* Portsmouth

- Tidewater south of the

James River

- west to - ? -

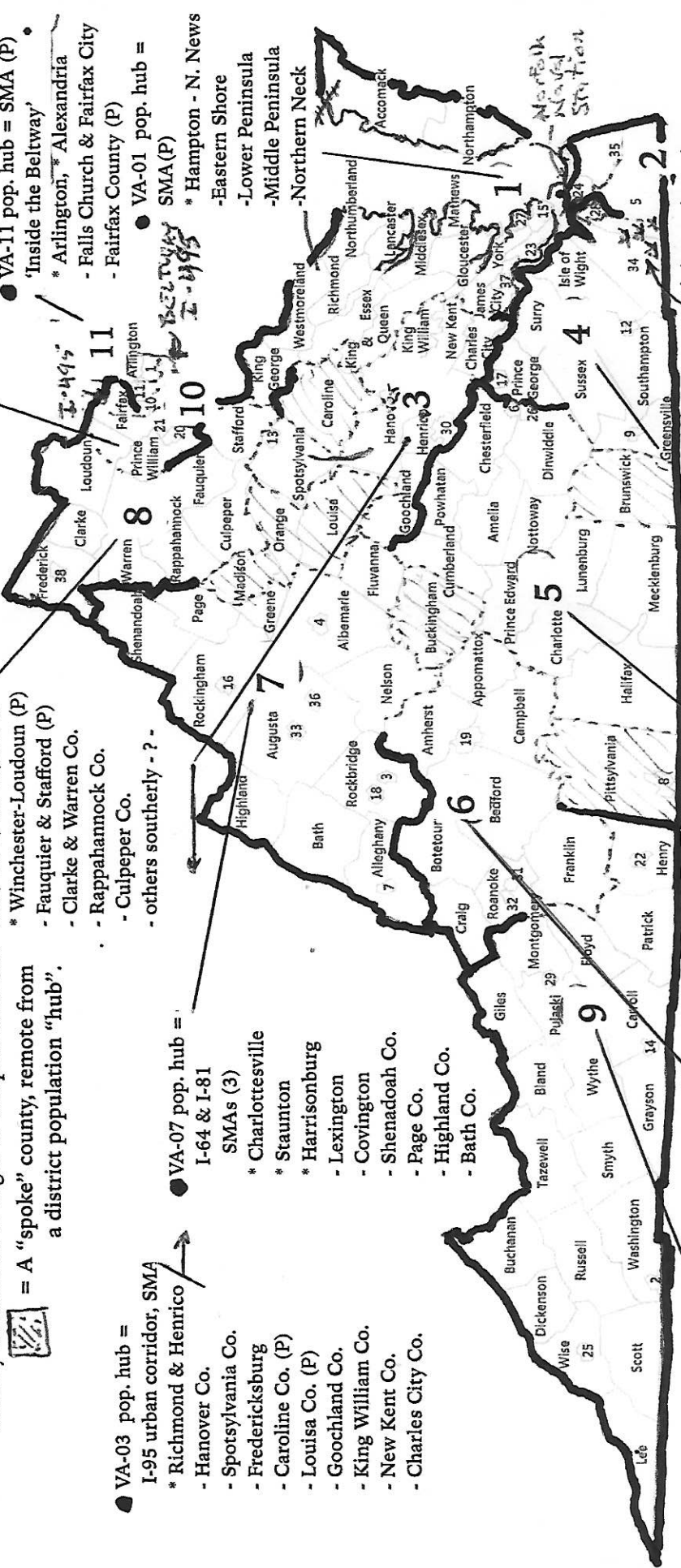
● VA-02 pop. hub =

I-64 loop, I-264, SMA (P)

* Norfolk - Va Beach

- Chesapeake west

to W.Br. Elizabeth R.



LEGEND



Public outreach

1 message

Carla Heath <cheath340@icloud.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 10:07 AM

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 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

County of Henry

P.O. BOX 7
KINGS MOUNTAIN ROAD
COLLINSVILLE, VIRGINIA 24078-0007
www.henrycountyva.gov



TIM HALL
County Administrator

DALE WAGONER
Deputy County Administrator

Board of Supervisors

JIM ADAMS
CHAIRMAN
Blackberry District

RYAN ZEHR
Ridgeway District

T.J. "TOMMY" SLAUGHTER
Reed Creek District

Telephone (276) 634-4601

Board of Supervisors

DEBRA PARSONS BUCHANAN
VICE-CHAIRMAN
Horsepasture District

JOSEPH A. BRYANT
Collinsville District

J. DAVID MARTIN
Iriswood District

Fax (276) 634-4781

August 5, 2021

Virginia Redistricting Commission
Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor
900 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Henry County Board of Supervisors to let you know of their views on redistricting and its impacts to Henry County.

The Board of Supervisors realizes that your job is difficult, and the results of your work will be met with joy from some localities and angst from others. Henry County does not envy you. However, we want to let you know of our preference to remain in the district boundaries that seem logical to our citizens.

These would be the 9th District Congressional district; the District 20 Virginia Senate; and the 9th, 14th and 16th District Virginia House of Delegates districts.

We feel these districts generally are comprised of similar localities, and therefore share similar concerns and needs. This is particularly true regarding the Congressional districts. We believe that including Henry County in what is today called the 9th Congressional District would be the correct community of interest for us rather than the 5th Congressional District, which runs from the North Carolina line to Northern Virginia.

We appreciate, and would like to maintain, Henry County's inclusion in a single State Senate district. This has proven to be very beneficial to the County as we promote the County's interests before the Senate of Virginia.

However, we have received great cooperation and assistance from the House of Delegates' representatives we currently have in the 9th, 14th and 16th districts. We would like to maintain that relationship with these districts.

The Board is very appreciative of the Commission's willingness to consider its views as you complete your work. If we can provide any other information please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Hall". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "T" and a cursive "Hall".

Tim Hall
County Administrator

CC: Board of Supervisors
John Stirrup

Public Comment

1 message

Janet Demiray <patrickdems@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 4, 2021 at 1:55 PM

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 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)



Lynchburg should be one district

1 message

Javaun Moradi <javaunnpr@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Aug 4, 2021 at 11:27 AM

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

Citizen comment for Redistricting Commission

1 message

Robert Spiller <rmspiller@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 3:05 PM

I support re-districting reform in Virginia. I live and vote in Rockingham County, in the Valley Region.

I believe that it is helpful for district boundaries to conform to county and city limit lines, where possible, so that our elected officials will be strongly correlated with local government boundaries. So I suggest that your districts minimize districts that divide counties or cities into separate districts.

As you implement the Constitutional requirements of contiguousness and compactness, please make explicit and public the sub-priorities and criteria you use in your re-districting, to increase the confidence and appreciation the public will have for your important work.

I suggest that "compactness" of various districts might be objectively compared by calculating the ratio of each district's perimeter to the area inclosed, for instance miles of perimeter to square miles of included habitable area (not including bodies of water or swamps, or areas where people are not allowed to reside, such as cemeteries or parks). Please concentrate on existing districts that have narrow "peninsula-shaped" protrusions from their boundaries, and those with many small "wrinkles" in their boundaries, which will inflate their perimeter-to-area ratios.

I support reports that you have announced that you will avoid basing district boundary decisions on where particular incumbents or candidates live, and that you avoid basing such decisions on prior voting patterns.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Spiller, Jr.
Penn Laird

City of Lynchburg is One Community of Interest

1 message

Helen Wheelock <hfwheelock@me.com>

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 2:59 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, vtrost-thornton@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov

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 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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

put Lynchburg in one district

1 message

Jennifer W <jenniferkwills@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 2:34 PM

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



City of Fredericksburg-Action Needed for Fair Redistricting

1 message

marcia keener <marcia.keener@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 1:14 PM

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for serving on this incredibly important Commission.

At last, fair redistricting may come to our City of Fredericksburg. Please do all that is in your power to make our City one district with clear and useful boundaries. We need statisticians and all the necessary experts and tools to do a good job! Let's do the job right with very powerful data and strong recommendations that will bring about desired reforms across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I have volunteered with OneVA at fairs, conventions and voter polling stations to educate voters about the detriments of gerrymandering. This topic has generated much enthusiasm. I went from educating voters with facts, news, and maps—to—pulling out as many forms as I could for several people to sign at one time. People were not only interested—they had already digested the information and were up-to-date as voters and citizens on news about current affairs, and were more than ready to call on their elected representatives for fair redistricting action!

The people wish to vote within properly represented districts with sensible boundaries that help citizens to effectively participate and respond—and to organize efficiently around issues and opportunities pertaining to legislative matters. It has been extremely confusing to have Fredericksburg divided into two different districts. And it drives me nuts the way things are at present—two districts for one small independent City!
Thank you for hearing the people.

Sincerely,

Marcia Keener
603 Pitt Street
Fredericksburg, VA
22401

My assessment of Virginia Redistricting Commission progress/prognosis

1 message

Ken Chasin <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 1:01 PM

To: Virginia Redistricting Commission <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

My assessment of the Virginia Redistricting Commission progress /prognosis

Introduction/Background

The Virginia Redistricting Commission was launched in December, 2020 to the best of my knowledge and its establishment is to be noted due to the tireless work of "One Virginia 2021". I have been actively engaged with the Commission since February, 2021.

I have made comments in each of the Commission's public Zoom meetings since that time. My comments laid out a step-by-step roadmap on how the Commission should go about redrawing any needed state election maps and the criteria to be used in particular for redrawing as needed any Virginia congressional election maps. I packaged all the comments into one comprehensive 10-page Adobe Acrobat document which I forwarded to the Virginia Redistricting Commission via email and they published that document on their Web site.

Additionally, I downloaded U.S. Census Bureau data from the American Community Survey's 5-year estimates for all of the current Virginia congressional districts and stored the data in Microsoft Excel workbooks. I then analyzed the data to discover relevant demographic trends and patterns to help guide redrawing the election maps for Virginia's congressional districts. The Virginia Redistricting Commission requested a copy of my data analysis which I forwarded to them in May of this year via email.

My observations of the Virginia Redistricting Commission's Conduct and Progress

- There is no dialogue between Commission members and the public. Citizens making comments to the Commission are heard but no feedback is provided by Commission members. For example, in the most recent Commission meeting held on Monday, July 19, 2021, "One Virginia 2021" in the person of Liz White and the state representative from the Virginia League of Women Voters, proposed some excellent redistricting tactics and posed some pointed questions. The only response from the chairperson of the Virginia Redistricting Commission was "Thank you".
- The Commission did purchase a robust mapping software package which is very complex and was to receive training on said software in May or June of this calendar year. However, no mention has been made of that in any of their recent Zoom meetings.
- No status reports have been issued by the Commission.
- There is no project plan for doing the redistricting.
- No preliminary redrawn election maps have been developed.
- There is no evidence that any Commission member has any prior experience with redrawing election maps.

- There is no comprehensive, established methodology that the Commission is following for doing redistricting. Instead, Commission members fall into multiple camps as regards redrawing any state election maps:
 - One camp wants to hire outside mapping experts with one set of experts to be hired by the Democrat members and the other set of experts by Republican members.
 - The other camp wants to do at least some of the map drawing in conjunction with the mapping experts.
 - Some Commission members want to start from scratch and draw brand-new state election maps. Other members want to adjust existing state election maps as needed.
 - Finally, some members wanting to adjust existing state election maps, wish do so without incumbent addresses published on the maps.
- The Commission announced in their most recent public meeting that Calendar Year 2020 Census data is due to arrive in the next few weeks. Once the data is received the Commission has 45 days to redraw any needed state election maps:
 - There are a total of 151 state election maps; 11 congressional district maps, 40 Virginia state senate maps and 100 Virginia House of Delegate member maps. If we assume a worst-case scenario of all of the maps needing to be at least adjusted if not completely redrawn, a total of 3.35 maps would have to be produced daily!
 - Currently there exists a limited set of criteria for doing redistricting (e.g.; keeping communities of interest/place intact). However, no set of weighted demographic attributes have been put forth by the Commission for deciding which existing state election maps need to be modified or replaced.
- The Commission has appeared to be transparent in their actions but it is unknown if there are any backroom deals going on.

Prognosis for Success of the Virginia Redistricting Commission

Given the above-mentioned facts that:

1. There are no mapping experts on the Commission as far as known.
2. The mapping software package chosen is complex
3. There is no apparent established methodology for doing the redistricting
4. No preliminary redrawn election maps have been developed.

I forecast a low probability of the Virginia Redistricting Commission being successful in their mission. Most probably there will be some minor tinkering of existing election maps that will satisfy none but the citizens who want things to stay as they are. Further, the task of redrawing any election maps will probably default to the panel of retired judges who are tasked with reviewing any product developed by the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

The one possibility for a limited successful outcome would be to immediately hire out-of-state mapping gurus who are experts in the mapping software chosen by the Commission and let those experts do the redistricting as needed.

--

Ken Chasin



Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Martha Cooper <mcoop08@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 11:42 AM

Reply-To: mcoop08@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 the City of Falls Church. It was inconveniently established to limit access of African American neighbors to its schools back in the late 1940's. It is now a vibrant multi-cultural community that lacks affordable housing. It continues to invest heavily in its schools.

Its citizens vote in elections. I am a bit disgusted by the shapes of the VA Senate and House districts. I realize that reflects of work of Republicans and Democrats. I strongly urge the Commission on redistricting to take the needs of communities not political parties as the basis for their redistricting. The crazy salamander-shaped borders must be radically reduced.

I expect that redistricting will challenge the Commission. I expect you to work for the benefit of all residents in the state of Virginia regardless of political affiliation. Thank you for undertaking this task with diligence and equanimity.

Sincerely,
Martha J M Cooper
Falls Church, 22046

Sincerely,
Martha Cooper
207 S Virginia Ave Falls Church, VA 22046-4129
mcoop08@gmail.com



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Karin Warren <karinw7@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Aug 3, 2021 at 9:25 AM

Reply-To: karinw7@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Christopher Garrett <chris@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon, Aug 2, 2021 at 2:22 PM

Reply-To: chris@redcedarapps.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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



Compact and Contiguous

1 message

barbgary@cox.net <barbgary@cox.net>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Aug 2, 2021 at 10:12 AM

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.

Thank you,

Barbara N. Duerk

CONNECT NOW

[2607 Rosalind Ave., S.W.](#)

[Roanoke, VA 24014](#)

540-580-1621

barbgary@cox.net

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.
 - 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 34,212, 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 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

July 1, 2020 Population Estimates for Virginia and its Counties and Cities

Published on January 29, 2021 by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service Demographics Research Group
<https://demographics.coopercenter.org>

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				Numeric Change	Percent Change
	Virginia	8,001,024	8,586,967	585,943	7.3%
001	Accomack County	33,164	32,694	-470	-1.4%
003	Albemarle County	99,010	110,545	11,535	11.7%
005	Alleghany County	16,250	14,933	-1,317	-8.1%
007	Amelia County	12,690	13,142	452	3.6%
009	Amherst County	32,353	31,851	-502	-1.6%
011	Appomattox County	14,973	16,000	1,027	6.9%
013	Arlington County	207,627	242,465	34,838	16.8%
015	Augusta County	73,750	76,395	2,645	3.6%
017	Bath County	4,731	4,341	-390	-8.2%
019	Bedford County	74,898	78,984	4,086	5.5%
021	Bland County	6,824	6,410	-414	-6.1%
023	Botetourt County	33,148	33,684	536	1.6%
025	Brunswick County	17,434	16,316	-1,118	-6.4%
027	Buchanan County	24,098	21,380	-2,718	-11.3%
029	Buckingham County	17,146	17,162	16	0.1%
031	Campbell County	54,842	55,648	806	1.5%
033	Caroline County	28,545	30,342	1,797	6.3%
035	Carroll County	30,042	29,367	-675	-2.2%
036	Charles City County	7,256	7,036	-220	-3.0%
037	Charlotte County	12,586	11,936	-650	-5.2%
041	Chesterfield County	316,236	355,079	38,843	12.3%
043	Clarke County	14,034	14,522	488	3.5%
045	Craig County	5,190	5,123	-67	-1.3%
047	Culpeper County	46,689	52,494	5,805	12.4%
049	Cumberland County	10,052	9,920	-132	-1.3%
051	Dickenson County	15,903	14,331	-1,572	-9.9%

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053	Dinwiddie County	28,001	28,814	813	2.9%
057	Essex County	11,151	10,849	-302	-2.7%
059	Fairfax County	1,081,699	1,146,163	64,464	6.0%
061	Fauquier County	65,203	70,996	5,793	8.9%
063	Floyd County	15,279	15,670	391	2.6%
065	Fluvanna County	25,691	27,202	1,511	5.9%
067	Franklin County	56,159	56,011	-148	-0.3%
069	Frederick County	78,305	89,790	11,485	14.7%
071	Giles County	17,286	16,784	-502	-2.9%
073	Gloucester County	36,858	37,175	317	0.9%
075	Goochland County	21,717	23,829	2,112	9.7%
077	Grayson County	15,533	15,474	-59	-0.4%
079	Greene County	18,403	20,323	1,920	10.4%
081	Greensville County	12,243	11,393	-850	-6.9%
083	Halifax County	36,241	34,425	-1,816	-5.0%
085	Hanover County	99,863	109,229	9,366	9.4%
087	Henrico County	306,935	331,219	24,284	7.9%
089	Henry County	54,151	51,450	-2,701	-5.0%
091	Highland County	2,321	2,240	-81	-3.5%
093	Isle of Wight County	35,270	37,945	2,675	7.6%
095	James City County	67,009	76,484	9,475	14.1%
097	King and Queen County	6,945	6,940	-5	-0.1%
099	King George County	23,584	26,296	2,712	11.5%
101	King William County	15,935	17,277	1,342	8.4%
103	Lancaster County	11,391	10,808	-583	-5.1%
105	Lee County	25,587	23,833	-1,754	-6.9%
107	Loudoun County	312,311	418,690	106,379	34.1%
109	Louisa County	33,153	37,011	3,858	11.6%

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111	Lunenburg County	12,914	12,266	-648	-5.0%
113	Madison County	13,308	13,342	34	0.3%
115	Mathews County	8,978	8,707	-271	-3.0%
117	Mecklenburg County	32,727	31,031	-1,696	-5.2%
119	Middlesex County	10,959	10,754	-205	-1.9%
121	Montgomery County	94,392	100,313	5,921	6.3%
125	Nelson County	15,020	14,904	-116	-0.8%
127	New Kent County	18,429	23,313	4,884	26.5%
131	Northampton County	12,389	11,898	-491	-4.0%
133	Northumberland County	12,330	12,100	-230	-1.9%
135	Nottoway County	15,853	15,520	-333	-2.1%
137	Orange County	33,481	36,286	2,805	8.4%
139	Page County	24,042	23,983	-59	-0.2%
141	Patrick County	18,490	17,690	-800	-4.3%
143	Pittsylvania County	63,506	61,101	-2,405	-3.8%
145	Powhatan County	28,046	30,305	2,259	8.1%
147	Prince Edward County	23,368	23,082	-286	-1.2%
149	Prince George County	35,725	37,633	1,908	5.3%
153	Prince William County	402,002	468,497	66,495	16.5%
155	Pulaski County	34,872	34,211	-661	-1.9%
157	Rappahannock County	7,373	7,320	-53	-0.7%
159	Richmond County	9,254	9,223	-31	-0.3%
161	Roanoke County	92,376	94,224	1,848	2.0%
163	Rockbridge County	22,307	22,532	225	1.0%
165	Rockingham County	76,314	82,809	6,495	8.5%
167	Russell County	28,897	26,958	-1,939	-6.7%
169	Scott County	23,177	21,995	-1,182	-5.1%
171	Shenandoah County	41,993	43,166	1,173	2.8%

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173	Smyth County	32,208	30,068	-2,140	-6.6%
175	Southampton County	18,570	17,954	-616	-3.3%
177	Spotsylvania County	122,397	137,739	15,342	12.5%
179	Stafford County	128,961	153,392	24,431	18.9%
181	Surry County	7,058	6,600	-458	-6.5%
183	Sussex County	12,087	11,484	-603	-5.0%
185	Tazewell County	45,078	41,431	-3,647	-8.1%
187	Warren County	37,575	40,202	2,627	7.0%
191	Washington County	54,876	53,559	-1,317	-2.4%
193	Westmoreland County	17,454	17,980	526	3.0%
195	Wise County	41,452	37,862	-3,590	-8.7%
197	Wythe County	29,235	28,546	-689	-2.4%
199	York County	65,187	69,792	4,605	7.1%
510	Alexandria City	139,993	159,277	19,284	13.8%
520	Bristol City	17,835	17,165	-670	-3.8%
530	Buena Vista City	6,650	6,479	-171	-2.6%
540	Charlottesville City	43,435	49,447	6,012	13.8%
550	Chesapeake City	222,209	247,564	25,355	11.4%
570	Colonial Heights City	17,411	17,246	-165	-0.9%
580	Covington City	5,961	5,747	-214	-3.6%
590	Danville City	43,055	40,071	-2,984	-6.9%
595	Emporia City	5,927	5,630	-297	-5.0%
600	Fairfax City	22,565	23,937	1,372	6.1%
610	Falls Church City	12,332	14,593	2,261	18.3%
620	Franklin City	8,582	8,321	-261	-3.0%
630	Fredericksburg City	24,286	28,880	4,594	18.9%
640	Galax City	7,042	6,596	-446	-6.3%
650	Hampton City	137,467	136,673	-794	-0.6%

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660	Harrisonburg City	48,914	54,049	5,135	10.5%
670	Hopewell City	22,591	22,814	223	1.0%
678	Lexington City	7,042	7,499	457	6.5%
680	Lynchburg City	75,568	81,266	5,698	7.5%
683	Manassas City	37,821	41,956	4,135	10.9%
685	Manassas Park City	14,273	16,752	2,479	17.4%
690	Martinsville City	13,821	12,892	-929	-6.7%
700	Newport News City	180,966	181,587	621	0.3%
710	Norfolk City	242,803	246,063	3,260	1.3%
720	Norton City	3,958	3,901	-57	-1.4%
730	Petersburg City	32,420	31,622	-798	-2.5%
735	Poquoson City	12,150	12,466	316	2.6%
740	Portsmouth City	95,535	95,137	-398	-0.4%
750	Radford City	16,408	18,120	1,712	10.4%
760	Richmond City	204,214	229,074	24,860	12.2%
770	Roanoke City	97,032	99,795	2,763	2.8%
775	Salem City	24,802	25,522	720	2.9%
790	Staunton City	23,746	25,110	1,364	5.7%
800	Suffolk City	84,585	94,960	10,375	12.3%
810	Virginia Beach City	437,994	454,335	16,341	3.7%
820	Waynesboro City	21,006	22,462	1,456	6.9%
830	Williamsburg City	14,067	15,457	1,390	9.9%
840	Winchester City	26,203	28,310	2,107	8.0%
Total Counties		5,548,355	5,998,192	449,837	8.1%
Total Cities		2,452,669	2,588,775	136,106	5.5%

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Metropolitan Areas							
	Blacksburg		162,958	169,428	6,470	4.0%	
	Bristol combined		95,888	92,719	-3,169	-3.3%	
	Charlottesville		201,559	222,421	20,862	10.4%	
	Harrisonburg		125,228	136,858	11,630	9.3%	
	Lynchburg		252,634	263,749	11,115	4.4%	
	Northern Virginia		2,690,449	3,051,217	360,768	13.4%	
	Richmond		1,186,501	1,296,056	109,555	9.2%	
	Roanoke		308,707	314,359	5,652	1.8%	
	Staunton		118,502	123,967	5,465	4.6%	
	Virginia Beach		1,668,230	1,740,620	72,390	4.3%	
	Winchester		104,508	118,100	13,592	13.0%	
	Total metropolitan		6,915,164	7,529,494	614,330	8.9%	

Micropolitan Areas

	Big Stone Gap	45,410		41,763	-3,647		-8.0%
	Bluefield	51,902		47,841	-4,061		-7.8%
	Danville	106,561		101,172	-5,389		-5.1%
	Martinsville	67,972		64,342	-3,630		-5.3%
	Total micropolitan	271,845		255,118	-16,727		-6.2%

Neither metropolitan nor micropolitan

		814,015		802,355	-11,660		-1.4%
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Planning Districts*

1	LENOWISCO	94,174		87,591	-6,583		-7.0%
2	Cumberland Plateau	113,976		104,100	-9,876		-8.7%
3	Mount Rogers	193,595		187,185	-6,410		-3.3%

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4	New River Valley	178,237	185,098	6,861	3.8%
5	Roanoke Valley-Alleghany	330,918	335,039	4,121	1.2%
6	Central Shenandoah	286,781	303,916	17,135	6.0%
7	Northern Shenandoah Valley	222,152	239,973	17,821	8.0%
8	Northern Virginia	2,230,623	2,532,330	301,707	13.5%
9	Rappahannock-Rapidan	166,054	180,438	14,384	8.7%
10	Thomas Jefferson	234,712	259,432	24,720	10.5%
11	Region 2000	252,634	263,749	11,115	4.4%
12	West Piedmont	249,182	239,215	-9,967	-4.0%
13	Southside	86,402	81,772	-4,630	-5.4%
14	Commonwealth Regional Council	104,609	103,028	-1,581	-1.5%
15	Richmond Regional	1,002,696	1,109,084	106,388	10.6%
16	George Washington Regional Council	327,773	376,649	48,876	14.9%
17	Northern Neck	50,429	50,111	-318	-0.6%
18	Middle Peninsula	90,826	91,702	876	1.0%
19	Crater	496,955	535,351	38,396	7.7%
22	Accomack-Norhampton	45,553	44,592	-961	-2.1%
23	Hampton Roads	1,666,310	1,738,513	72,203	4.3%

* Some counties are members of multiple PDCs

Virginia Redistricting Commission
Pocahontas Building, 8th Floor
900 E. Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

July 31, 2021

The Honorable Members of the Commission:

My name is John Stone. I have lived in Chesapeake, Virginia, for nearly forty years now and have been represented over that time in the State Senate and the House of Delegates by members of both major political parties. My family and I live in a community which is really made up of parts of the cities of Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Suffolk in Hampton Roads.

It became obvious to me and to many other Virginians some years ago that partisan redistricting/gerrymandering was beginning to make it much more difficult to solve the problems that we have and have had in the Commonwealth. Every time either party had control of the redistricting process, the House and Senate districts were drawn deliberately to keep that party in power. This in turn led to more extreme positions being taken by many of our delegates and senators and a reluctance to compromise on various important issues.

It also led to noncompetitive elections. Since 2003, I have lived in both the 18th and 14th State Senatorial districts. In the 18th District, the incumbent has been unopposed in four out of five elections and won with 70% of the vote in 2003. The incumbent in the 14th District has been unopposed in three of five elections and won the other two with 71% and 60% of the vote. Democracy is always stronger when the voters have a meaningful choice.

Because of all this, I enlisted 15 years ago in the long and exhausting fight to make Virginia's redistricting process bi-partisan or non-partisan. (I am proud to be a member of the OneVirginia2021 Foundation Board of Directors). I believed strongly that we should have an independent citizen-controlled commission to draw the new lines every 10 years. While that's not exactly what has happened, I believe we have the means to make the process more equitable and more transparent. And I salute all of you on the Virginia Redistricting Commission for agreeing to take on arguably the most important task in recent history in our state.

Chapter 1265 of the Virginia Acts of Assembly (SB 717 in the 2020 Legislative Session) requires the commission on which you serve to draw lines that: do not discriminate against racial and ethnic minorities; that preserve communities of interest; that provide for compact and contiguous districts; and that do not "when considered on a statewide basis, unduly favor or disfavor any political party." Those are all important.

I would also urge that you-to the extent possible- respect jurisdictional boundaries. Currently, the incumbent in the 14th State Senatorial district represents portions of seven different cities

and counties, some of them obviously with conflicting interests. The incumbent in the 18th district represents all of or parts of twelve jurisdictions. This does not allow for effective representation, no matter how many hours the senator works or how many miles they must drive.

In addition, the city of Chesapeake is currently represented by three senators and six delegates. That seems like a few too many for me, although it's not as bad as Fairfax County- represented by nine senators and eighteen delegates. Of Chesapeake's nine legislators, just four actually live there.

The city of Suffolk is represented by six legislators, only one of whom lives in Suffolk.

I do not subscribe to the argument that redistricting is necessarily a political task which can be done only by politicians. That narrative puts our legislators in a difficult position in which they are perceived as working to advance their own political interests. I do believe strongly that every seat in the Virginia Senate, the House of Delegates, and the United States House of Representatives belongs not to the elected official who might currently hold it; every seat belongs to the people of Virginia, who have a vested interest in seeing that those seats are held by the individual- Republican or Democrat, male or female-most capable of doing the job.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and thank you for your commitment to this great state of Virginia.

Sincerely,

John T. Stone
John.stone344@gmail.com
757-630-7472



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Lynchburg Area

1 message

J GREENE <greene1204@comcast.net>

Fri, Jul 30, 2021 at 5:50 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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](#)

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Tina Morris <tina_m_morris@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Jul 29, 2021 at 6:49 PM

Reply-To: tina_m_morris@yahoo.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

I want a representative who will listen to my concerns. I want a representative who has an interest and a stake in this community, not a 'technically correct' address. Splitting the city leave citizens confused as to who represents them. I support one district for 22401.

Tina Morris

Sincerely,

Ms. Tina Morris

1711 Franklin St Fredericksburg, VA 22401-4507

tina_m_morris@yahoo.com

comments for redistricting commission

1 message

Stan Farthing <stanfarnew@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jul 29, 2021 at 3:47 PM

Dear colleagues:

I am so pleased that the public has the opportunity to have some input into our redistricting process! Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

I think that there are three primary principles that should guide redistricting. In decreasing order of importance, they are:

1. A precinct should never be divided. First, since a precinct is so small, it would be reasonable to say that, by definition, a precinct is all within the same community of interest. Second, it adds so much to the possibility for confusion and mistakes if precinct poll workers have to manage multiple ballots. All voters in a precinct should receive the same ballot.
2. A jurisdiction (county, city, even town) should not be divided unless it is absolutely necessary. Some cases of absolute necessity are easy to discern, for example if the jurisdiction has a population greater than the district is supposed to have. If a jurisdiction absolutely has to be divided, then a division based on communities of interest should be apparent. For example, southern Page might go with Rockingham; or the Fort Vally, in eastern Shenandoah, might go with Page. Elsewhere in the state, eastern Goochland might go with Henrico; or the part of Carroll County east of the Blue Ridge might go with Patrick.
3. A media market should not be divided similarly to how a jurisdiction should not be divided. In somewhat the same way, a Congressional district should not be divided among media markets unless absolutely necessary.

A corollary to all this is that if the above puts two incumbents in the same district, then may the better person win!

Another thing comes to mind as a rule of thumb for testing the contiguity and especially the compactness of a district. Draw a circle which includes the whole district; or draw a square which includes the whole district; or draw a rectangle which is not more than twice as long as it is wide and which includes the whole district. If more than about a third of the figure is outside the district, then the district may need reconsideration. Exceptions may be reasonable if the part outside the district is in another state or is water (such as the Chesapeake Bay).

Members of the redistricting commission, I thank you in advance for your work. My guess is that there will be a lot of sqawking and griping about your work, but here's a test of that: if it's coming relatively equally from both sides of the aisle, then that means you've done a good job!

Thanks!

Stan F

Rev. Stan Farthing

Pastor, Zetta Presbyterian Church, Churchville

Vice President, LDA Creations Inc, Dayton

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Lynchburg City

1 message

Sarah Crosby <sls.cby@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jul 29, 2021 at 10:12 AM

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](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

comment on meeting July 27 at GMU in Fairfax

1 message

sivigny@verizon.net <sivigny@verizon.net>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 4:39 PM

Reply-To: sivigny@verizon.net

To: "VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov" <VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Cc: "ethorp75@gmail.com" <ethorp75@gmail.com>, "mindiw33@gmail.com" <mindiw33@gmail.com>, "director@onevirginia2021.org" <director@onevirginia2021.org>

Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I attended the session in Fairfax on July 27. Thank you for holding these meetings. I agreed with much of what was presented. I live in Senate district 37 and House district 41, both of which are totally absurdly drawn.

One thing, however, disturbed me greatly. Is it true, as one gentleman stated, that in a previous session you announced plans to hire two different partisan firms to each draw a partisan map? If so, I strenuously object. That will only lead to each side drawing a gerrymandered map, intentionally creating party or incumbent protection districts to use as bargaining chips to trade and then declare a compromise. That is no better than what happened 10 years ago when the "compromise" was letting the GOP gerrymander the House and the Dems gerrymander the Senate. Lessons learned should have taught us that we need maps drawn by a non-partisan entity.

I also endorse the request that you release preliminary maps so that community engagement will continue, as opposed to your simply releasing information after decisions have been concluded and set in stone.

Thank you,
Ginge Sivigny
Burke, Virginia



Follow-up to July 27, 2021 Public Hearing

1 message

Elaine Braverman <elaine_braverman@msn.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 3:05 PM

I'm an Arlington resident, and attended the NoVa public hearing remotely. The hearing enabled a variety of views and concerns about communities of interest.

I am adding my voice in strong support of several issues raised by speakers at the hearing.

I urge the Commission to start from scratch in developing maps. In addition, professional map drawers should be engaged. An interesting suggestion was that the Republican and Democratic law firms engaged by the Commission jointly agree on an established entity to draw the maps. There are a number of independent, well-regarded organizations that have already demonstrated their expertise in this area.

Incumbent addresses should have no consideration in drawing districts. If a candidate is not competitive without the advantage of incumbency, then it is certainly to the advantage of the Commonwealth that a better candidate represent us.

As the timeline for redistricting is extremely tight, the Commission should issue its plan for making the maps and engaging the public.

Overall, in all of its actions, the Commission should understand the public's deep skepticism ranging back over decades of redistricting "reforms" that didn't really bring fairness to the process. The Commission really has a history-making role, and I wish you success in achieving it.

Elaine Braverman

Arlington, VA

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Christine Henry <christine.rae.henry@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 2:43 PM

Reply-To: christine.rae.henry@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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.

While I have only lived in the city of Fredericksburg (zip code 22401) since 2016, I have come to value the deep roots of this community and the interconnectedness of the people here. As with many cities small or large, we have many neighborhoods with distinct characters, such as our downtown business district and many of the primarily residential neighborhoods. Each of these areas has both physical and cultural ties that create a shared sense of place. What is truly remarkable about our city is that the individual neighborhoods are also united in the shared identity as residents of Fredericksburg. Having moved from Washington, DC to Fredericksburg I am continually amazed at how many people here love and value our city and seem to agree on what we consider its assets--the river, the historic fabric, and the small businesses that define our city. It is not that every individual always agrees with one another on all questions that pertain to these assets, but instead there is a common understanding of what defines our community. In the current maps, our city is split between two districts and this has resulted in splitting our voice on policy matters that impact the city. It is because of this shared identity and values that I believe our city should be kept together when drawing the new district maps.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Henry

222 Princess Anne St Fredericksburg, VA 22401-6039

christine.rae.henry@gmail.com



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Jean Phillipson <extraphillipsonj@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 10:57 AM

Reply-To: extraphillipsonj@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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.

Clifton, Virginia is a small town with a semi rural surrounding of 5+ acre lots, horses, other farm animals, woods and creeks. We were very connected through Clifton Elementary school, which brought together kids who don't live in traditional neighborhoods where they can walk to each other's houses.

Sadly, the school was closed despite our community's best efforts to fight that. Nevertheless, many of us are parents of former student or former students ourselves and feel strongly connected to the town of Clifton despite being outside of the official town limits. Our community should vote together but we do not. Not only that, our districts change capriciously and I have voted in at least two different locations for my district and my representative changing since I have lived here. I would like all of the Clifton Elementary school are to have the same representative.

Sincerely,

Jean Phillipson

6500 Colchester Rd Fairfax Station, VA 22039-1201

extraphillipsonj@gmail.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Donna Blalock <blalockdonna@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 9:50 AM

Reply-To: blalockdonna@ymail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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.

Fredericksburg is a small, but tight knit community that has been marginalized into insignificance by gerrymandering in the past. I urge you to keep our voters in one district so we have a voice in elections that can be heard instead of silenced.

Sincerely,

Donna Blalock

317 Twin Lake Dr Fredericksburg, VA 22401-7038

blalockdonna@ymail.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Jonathan Stevens <jibstevens@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 9:38 AM

Reply-To: jibstevens@cox.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

The City of Fredericksburg has a great deal of unity of purpose and vision. This is why we moved here in the first place. It has always rankled me however that our representation in Richmond has been split. This should be rectified. We are very proud of our city and wish that we be treated as one community, as we treat ourselves. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jonathan Stevens

303 Braehead Dr Fredericksburg, VA 22401-2211

jibstevens@cox.net



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Congressional District 1

1 message

freedsrt@verizon.net <freedsrt@verizon.net>

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 9:35 AM

To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: Randy Freed <jrandallfreed@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your hard work this far organizing for the census drop of information and subsequent redistricting.

My husband and I live off of Davis Ford Road in Prince William County in a development called Riverview Estates. Our mailing address is Manassas. Yet, our Congressional Representative is Congressman Wittman from Congressional District 1. Congressman Wittman lives in Montross on the Northern Neck, and he represents an area just North of Jamestown and Williamsburg all the way up to Prince William County. We used to be part of the 11th Congressional District which includes Lake Ridge and Dale City as well as the other half of Davis Ford Rd and parts of FFX County. The 10th District includes the other side of our development which is Buckhall and Manassas. We have much more in common with the 10th and 11th Congressional Districts than we do with Congressional District 1. For instance, transportation issues for us are huge. Many of us commute in to DC for work. We don't have much in common with the Northern Neck, Fredericksburg and the more rural points down South off of Rte. 95.

We'd appreciate being in a Northern Virginia Congressional District where our concerns are heard and acted upon. I feel as though we've been without a voice for 10 years.

Thanks very much for all you're doing!

Best,

Patricia S Freed

[6151 Hemlock Ct](#)

[Manassas, VA 20112](#)



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Lynchburg VA

1 message

michele bauman <cheleb.g@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Jul 28, 2021 at 7:40 AM

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

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Jon Gerlach <jgerlach@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Jul 27, 2021 at 5:20 PM

Reply-To: jgerlach@gerlachlawfirm.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 Commissioner,

Thank you for serving on the very first Virginia Redistricting Commission. One of the most important jobs in this role is to listen to the 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 residents of the City of Fredericksburg (zip code 22401) enjoy a strong, shared identity. We are well known for our diverse culture and the unique character of our many small neighborhoods. We may be eclectic, but we are linked by the common thread of being proud residents of the City. We rise and fall on the tide of community, and prosperity. Economically, we are a regional, national and worldwide destination for lovers of history, nature, art, music, shopping, dining and of course professional baseball (Go FREDNats!).

Most members of our City share a sincere concern for the health of the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay, for clean sources of renewable energy throughout the City, for a thriving small business community, for our remarkable history (since 1728, and earlier), for the quality of our City schools, for decent teacher pay, for efficient transportation solutions, and most importantly, for the future of Fredericksburg's remarkable quality of life as we undergo relentless population growth and new development.

We value and protect the "special sauce" that makes our City unique, and having a single voice in the General Assembly will allow us to be heard as a self-identified Community of Interest. We are just 10.4 square miles of wonderful, and here in Fredericksburg, we're all in this together.

Sincerely,

Jon Gerlach

Sincerely,

Jon Gerlach

809 Charlotte St Fredericksburg, VA 22401-5601

jgerlach@gerlachlawfirm.com



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

F. Michael Ashby <fmashby@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Jul 27, 2021 at 4:37 PM

Reply-To: fmashby@comcast.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

I have been voting in the Woodbrook voting district for 30 years. I am an Independent and have voted for candidates from both of the major parties. Over that time, the General Assembly seats have often run unopposed, as has the 5th Congressional District. Initially, our district ran east to west for the Congressional Representative. Later it was changed to its present day north to south. As our district has recently voted more often for the Democratic candidate, we were changed such that our Republican representative in the General Assembly was redistricted out of our district (saying that the district was built for him, not the voters) such that he has run unopposed for years and we were placed in the Democratic representatives district, who also runs unopposed. Similarly, as our Congressional district voted for more Democratic candidates, the 5th district was changed such that the Democratic voters were diluted and overwhelmed by Republican voters in communities with little in common with ours. With the exception of Tom Perriello for 2 years, the 5th District has had a Republican Representative most of my voting life. Our present representative was chosen by a caucus, not a primary. Because of the way the District is drawn, the Republican caucus picked our representative, not the voters. I feel that this Representative in no way represents our Community's beliefs and I believe that our Community should have a representative, who does. I think that the voters, not a party caucus, should choose our representative.

Sincerely,

Dr. F. Michael Ashby

327 Dover Rd Charlottesville, VA 22901-1013

fmashby@comcast.net

Hello Commissioners,

My name is Ankit Jain. I grew up in Fairfax County and I am a citizen hoping the state will finally have fair districts. I submit these comments to supplement the written testimony I will deliver to you at the 7/27 Northern Virginia public hearing. I have two requests for you. First, I want to explain why I am strongly opposed to the suggestion at your last meeting that your two sets of partisan legal counsel will hire their own partisan map drawers to draw district maps.

I worry this is a great way to back into an incumbent protection gerrymander, because each set of partisan mapdrawers will come into the process with the goal of protecting their party, and the two groups then may agree on an incumbent protection gerrymander as a “compromise.” Even if the Commission were to make it clear that is not what they wanted, the partisan mapdrawers could still sneak in partisanship into the maps they send you.

Rather than doing this, you should hire one, nonpartisan mapdrawer. If you are worried you do not have time to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP), you can direct your legal counsel to work together to hire one, nonpartisan mapdrawer as a consultant for both firms. I specifically recommend you either hire or direct your legal counsel to hire Moon Duchin from MGGG Redistricting Lab at Tufts University. Hiring a nonpartisan mapdrawer is the best way for this Commission to ensure that fair maps will come out of this process and to earn trust from the public that this is the Commission’s goal.

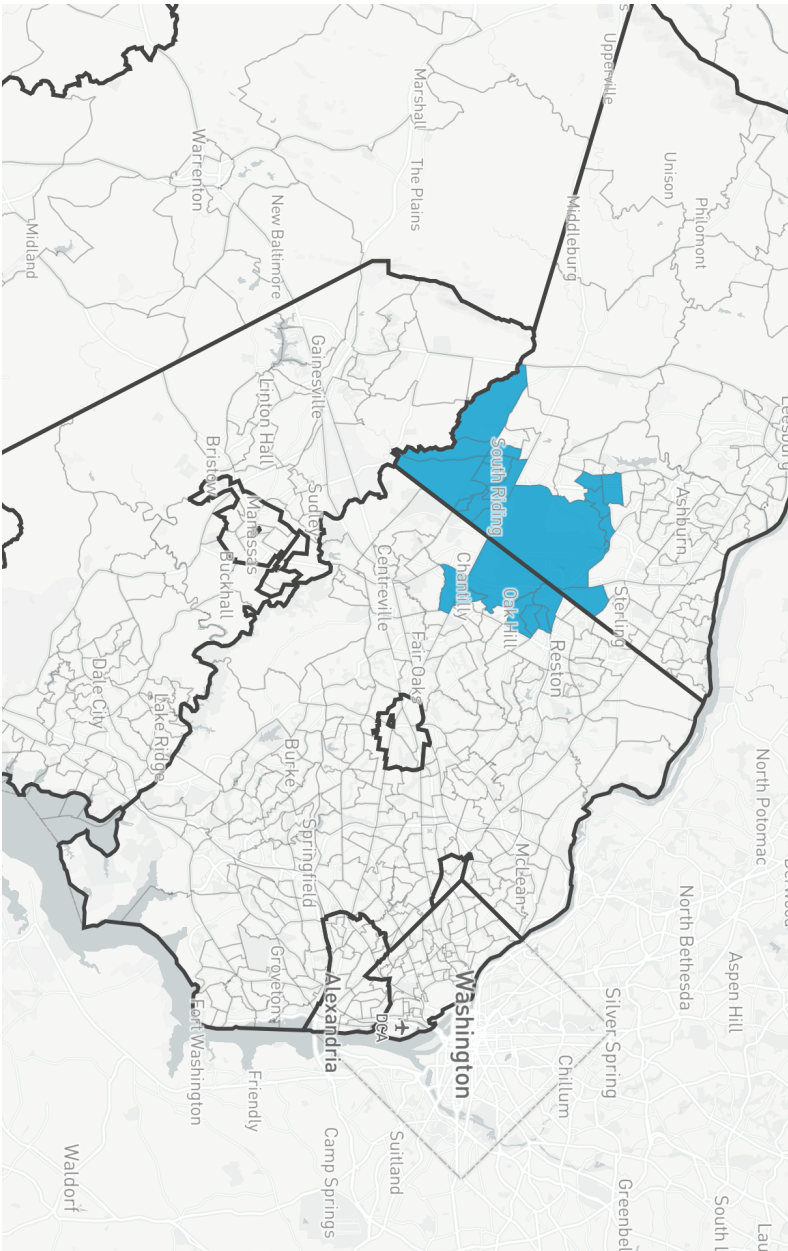
Second, as an Indian-American from Fairfax County, I ask this Commission to draw a House of Delegates Asian opportunity district in either Fairfax or Loudoun County. The first time an Indian-American was elected to the Virginia General Assembly was in 2019—only two years ago. There have still been very few Asian-Americans who have ever been elected to the General Assembly. Fairfax and Loudoun counties now have large Asian-American populations. To ensure Asian-Americans have a proper voice in our state government, the Commission should draw a HOD district that gives Asians the opportunity to elect a candidate to represent them. This is eminently possible—attached to these comments are two potential Asian-American opportunity districts I drew that retain basic compactness criteria. They are also available to

review in more depth at the following links:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DUw7phyywLYM3VgwHdlvCCFypyyuZHdj?usp=sharing>, <https://districtr.org/plan/31036>, and <https://districtr.org/plan/31041>. I hope you will work to rectify the serious lack of influence that Asian-Americans have in state government by creating this opportunity district.

Thank you,

Ankit Jain



Save



About redistricting

About the data

District homepage

New plan

Print / PDF

Export District-JSON

Export plan as SHP

Export plan as GeoJSON

Export assignment as CSV

About import/export options

POPULATION:	1,917,118
MAX. POPULATION DEVIATION:	4.87%

id-virginia-virginia_precincts-100-HouseofDelegatesDistricts	assignment
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Loudoun County Rock Ridge	0
Loudoun County Oak Grove	0
Fairfax County Coates	0
Fairfax County Mcnair	0
Fairfax County Frying Pan	0
Fairfax County Armfield	0
Fairfax County Carson	0
Fairfax County Brookfield	0
Loudoun County Carter	0
Loudoun County Moorefield	0
Loudoun County Lunsford	0
Loudoun County Cardinal Ridge	0
Loudoun County Little River	0
Loudoun County Hutchison Farm	0
Loudoun County Town Hall	0
Loudoun County Pinebrook	0
Loudoun County Buffalo Trail	0
Loudoun County Freedom	0
Loudoun County Liberty	0
Loudoun County Legacy	0
Loudoun County Mercer	0
Fairfax County Floris	0

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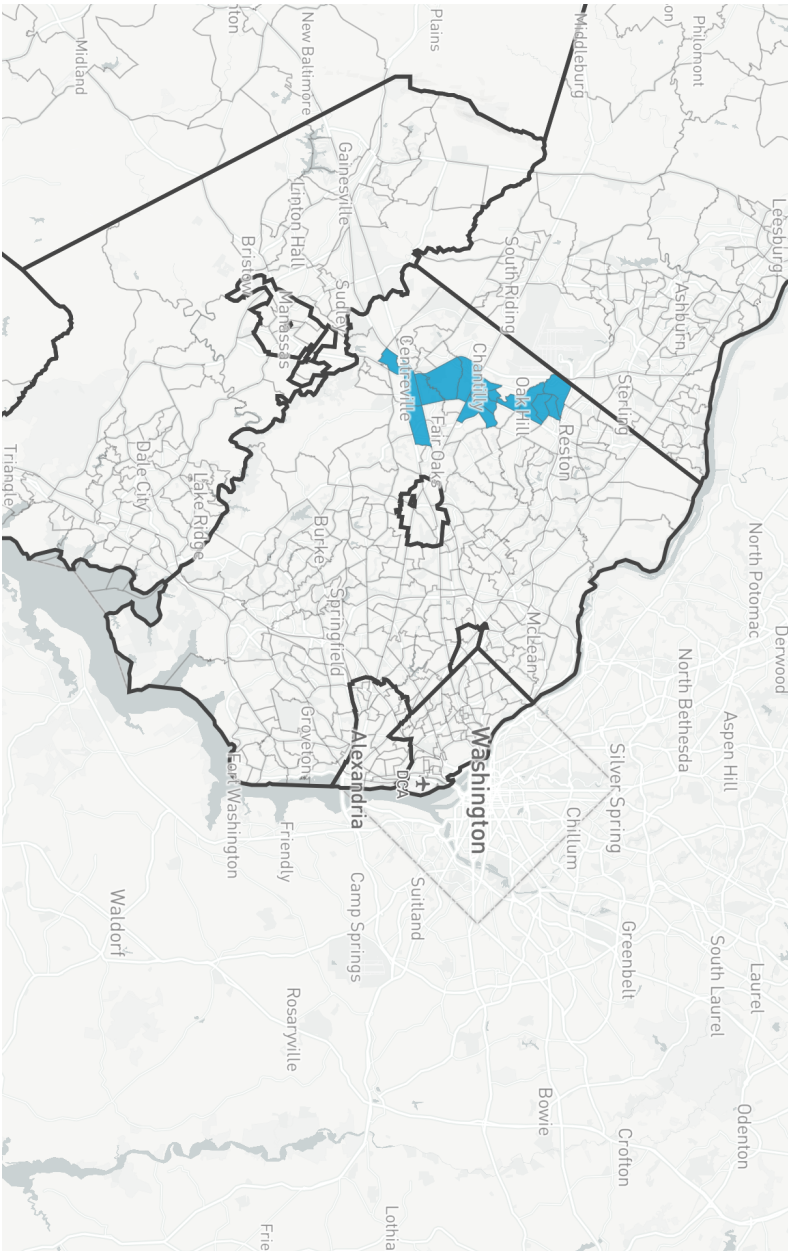
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Save



About redistricting

About the data

District homepage

New plan

Print / PDF

Export Districtr-JSON

Export plan as SHP

Export plan as GeoJSON

Export assignment as CSV

About import/export options

POPULATION:	1,922,140
MAX. POPULATION DEVIATION:	1.41%

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Fairfax County Frying Pan	0
Fairfax County Mcnair	0
Fairfax County Coates	0
Fairfax County Floris	0
Fairfax County Brookfield	0
Fairfax County Rocky Run	0
Fairfax County Poplar Tree	0
Fairfax County Powell	0
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Fairfax County Lees Corner	0
Fairfax County Franklin	0

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SENATE OF VIRGINIA

J. CHAPMAN PETERSEN

34TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ALL OF THE CITY OF FAIRFAX;
AND PART OF FAIRFAX COUNTY
POST OFFICE BOX 1066
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22038
WWW.FAIRFAXSENATOR.COM
FAIRFAX: (703) 349-3361
RICHMOND: (804) 698-7534
EMAIL: DISTRICT34@SENATE.VIRGINIA.GOV



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION AND HEALTH
GENERAL LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

July 27, 2021

Re: Comments for July 27 meeting

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for permitting me to speak today. I am scheduled to be in trial today in my full-time position as an attorney, so I regret that I cannot be present live. However, I did want to share some thoughts in writing.

I have represented the central Fairfax area for 22 years: eighteen as a state lawmaker and four as a City Councilman. One of the things I like about representing this area -- and what I commend to you -- is the contiguity of shape and community of interest currently in place amongst the neighborhoods I represent.

Previously, i.e. prior to 2001, our portion of Fairfax County was subdivided in a very unhelpful way. Communities like Kings Park West and Fairfax City were often divided in two, which was confusing for constituents and lawmakers.

Currently, the 34th Senate district which I represent consists of central Fairfax which is Fairfax City and the County neighborhoods wrapped around Woodson High School, Robinson Secondary School, and George Mason University, as well as the I-66 corridor stretching from Dunn Loring to Centreville. The district also reaches a bit north to take in the Town of Vienna. The Senate district has a wide demographic diversity yet its focus is on local neighborhoods and schools, which is where most people congregate. There are no meaningful geographic features, unless you count the Accotink Creek which most people don't.

Again, the fact that Fairfax City and Vienna are the "two nodes" within this district make it more user-friendly for constituents to find their state lawmakers and speak with them, whether at town halls or community events. Whether that person is me or somebody else, I would humbly request that the core of the 34th Senate district stay in place so that citizens in central Fairfax can be effectively represented.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

J. Chapman Petersen
Member, Senate of Virginia

copy: Members of Vienna Town Council
Members of Fairfax City Council



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Eastern Region

1 message

SUSAN MASTYL <smastyl@msn.com>

Mon, Jul 26, 2021 at 5:03 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

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

My husband and I have lived on the Eastern Shore (Accomack County) since 2005, and enjoy the rural lifestyle here. There is a strong sense of community and history on the Shore, and we feel proud to call this home.

We have actively participated in elections at the county, state, and federal level since moving here, and support the Commission's mission to make districts at every level more contiguous and representative.

I noticed that the map the Commission is using includes the "Eastern Region," with Accomack and Northampton counties on the Eastern Shore, along with Essex, King & Queen, Lancaster, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, and Westmoreland counties on the Western shore of the Bay. Although these counties have a lot in common in terms of the issues we're dealing with (rural nature, demographics, tidal environment, coastal economy), there is one major obstacle in combining all of these into a future district (if in fact that is being contemplated). The obstacle is a 30-mile-wide body of water called the Chesapeake Bay -- anyone representing the Eastern Shore along with any of these western counties will spend a lot of time travelling, and less time dealing with the concerns of their constituents. Currently, our representatives travel across the 17-mile CBBT to reach us; to travel from the Shore to some of these Western counties would take the better part of a day.

Sen. Lynwood Lewis, our current State Senator, has related his experience in dealing with this issue, since at one time his district included Matthews County along with both Eastern Shore counties.

As you know, our current State Delegate, State Senate, and Congressional Districts combine the Eastern Shore with parts of Norfolk, Virginia Beach, and beyond. Although this combines our two rural counties with more urban counties, we still have a lot of issues in common -- flooding and sea-level rise, tourism and water-based economies, military installations, poverty. Although specific "tweaking" may be required, please don't burden our representatives unnecessarily for the sake of uniformity. In this case, I would hope that "contiguous" and "compact" will win out over similar demographics.

Thank you for your hard work on this important issue.

Susan L. Mastyl
14329 Mears Circle
P.O. Box 112
Harborton, VA 23389
(757) 442-6644
smastyl@msn.com



Drawing of legislative districts

1 message

Terry Fowler <tjfowler11@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jul 26, 2021 at 10:09 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

The whole process of drawing districts has long been politicized to the point that both parties have abused the system and the public's trust. I believe that you can use the current districts as a basis starting point but adjust them to reflect obvious and common sense natural boundaries. The Commission should insulate themselves and not take into consideration, racial or political makeup of those areas being considered. Strictly base it on geographical delineations, insuring that all areas of the state are fairly represented and the rural areas are not underweighted and under-represented just due to the heavily populated metropolitan areas.

The voice of the whole state needs to be reflected in the final result ignoring special interests and racial/political lines.

Sincerely,

Terry & Gail Fowler

[618 Barrows Ct.](#)

[McGaheysville, VA 22840](#)

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

PO Box 401
Lynchburg, Virginia
24504

Redistrict of Virginia

1 message

Miss Gina B <missginab2013@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 25, 2021 at 8:18 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

It is sad that the general public of VA is not aware of this process. Your advertising system is systematically unjust to all the public. Your commission to notify all of Virginia's citizens and guest residents is not affluent to every generation, race, and class of people.

At your last commission meeting you shared letters and there was a great suggestion that you hire web designers, communication experts on reaching Virginia to notify of these processes and plans, and model behind the state of Michigan to keep things simplified and open dialogue.

Your process again is systematically and unauthentic.

Change your practices and behavior. You are hindering opportunities for a better Virginia.

I did not know Virginia was in a redistrict process and I work and reside here.

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

RUTH SIEVERS <ruthsievers@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Jul 24, 2021 at 2:33 PM

Reply-To: ruthsievers@mac.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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?

Reston is one of the first planned communities in the United States. Many of us chose Reston because of its unique sense of commitment to community, the desire to live in a place with a sense of equality for all citizens and a respect for nature. Our identity as Restonians is important to keeping Reston as originally conceived by its founder. Keep our community intact please as you draw these maps

Sincerely,

Ms RUTH SIEVERS

11500 Fairway Dr Apt 307 Reston, VA 20190-4454

ruthsievers@mac.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting Comments

1 message

Jean Lee <msjlee@comcast.net>

Fri, Jul 23, 2021 at 12:21 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Members of the Commission

Thank you for serving on the commission to assess the status of redistricting in Virginia. I fully support SB717 and HB1255 and ask that you make certain "communities of interest" are preserved in Virginia. I want a fair map, one that will ensure communities with similar characteristics will remain intact and will not be allowed to be diluted by the way a map is drawn. Redistricting maps should reflect the will of the voters, fairly represent all communities, particularly communities of color. Virginia has taken a step forward and should become a model for the entire country. Thank you, Jean Lee

Jean Lee

Brexton

P.O. Box 293

Millwood, VA, 22646

540-837-1790

msjlee@comcast.net

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Mark Resta <mresta@everyactioncustom.com>

Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 3:30 PM

Reply-To: mresta@dx.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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.

Hello Virginia Redistricting Commission,

I strongly believe that gerrymandering is ruining our democracy, and putting party interests over national interests. This is not the United States of the Republican Party or the United States of the Democratic Party. The United States existed before either of these parties, and will exist after them, too. A true patriot puts national interests before party interests, but we haven't been seeing nearly enough of that lately.

Regarding redistricting, I believe that voting districts should mirror town or city boundaries. I live in Falls Church City, and Falls Church City should be a single district. Other towns and cities should be their own districts. One town, one district.

"One Town, One District"

Thank you,
Mark Resta

Sincerely,
Mark Resta
241 Gundry Dr Falls Church, VA 22046-4117
mresta@dx.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Submitted comment for the Redistricting Commission

2 messages

Teresa Stanley <teresastanleyobx@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 1:50 PM

Will you please let me know that you received this comment below and that it will reach the Commission?

Please redistrict with common sense and try to maintain contiguous government jurisdictions as much as you can. Follow jurisdiction boundaries as much as possible.

Respectfully, Teresa Stanley, Virginia Beach

VA Redistricting <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>
To: Teresa Stanley <teresastanleyobx@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 2:10 PM

Received, thank you! It will be included with all other written comments submitted to the Commission.

Virginia Redistricting Support Staff
Division of Legislative Services

[Quoted text hidden]



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Nigel Ogilvie <nigel_ogilvie@yahoo.com>

Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 6:09 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

You have an opportunity to demonstrate bipartisan honesty as you re-draw our district lines.

Such demonstration of cooperation for the higher good would serve as leadership by example in our bitterly divided political system.

I will be thrilled if you do.

I will not be surprised if you don't.

Sincerely,
Nigel Ogilvie
The Plains, VA (Fauquier County)

Nigel R. Ogilvie, CFA
Nigel_Ogilvie@Yahoo.com
202-730-5288 cell and text messages
"There are no passengers on Spaceship Earth. We are all crew." Marshall McLuhan citing
Buckminster Fuller.



Redistricting Criteria

1 message

hydro4u@aol.com <hydro4u@aol.com>
Reply-To: hydro4u@aol.com
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>
Cc: hydro4u@aol.com

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 2:04 PM

Commissioners,

I consider the following to be most important for your consideration.

Rule 1. Compact and Contiguous – Cities and Counties should not be divided. In legislative or congressional districts, **not more than two cities or counties may be split and not more than two precincts may be split in any district.**

Rule 2. Districts and Precincts shall be as equal in population as practicable (within 2 percent).

Rule 3. Demographics (including age, race, gender, religion, and political party) shall not be considered until after Rule 1 and 2 have been completed.

Carl Anderson
Hampton, Virginia

P.S. It can be done.



Keep Lynchburg in one District

1 message

Martha Hicks <marthahicks1950@icloud.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 1:21 PM

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 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

Lynchburg's future

1 message

West, Ken <west@lynchburg.edu>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 11:50 AM

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.

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



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Vince Sawyer <ivsawyerjr@everyactioncustom.com>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 11:16 AM

Reply-To: ivsawyerjr@comcast.net

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 legislating the business of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Vince Sawyer

2209 Ridgewood Dr Lynchburg, VA 24503-2933

ivsawyerjr@comcast.net



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Input for drawing legislative districts in and around Nelson County

1 message

Constantine Roussos <outlook_C8BB7D1651834759@outlook.com>
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 6:17 PM

Dear Redistricting Commission:

First, I would like to say that this opportunity to draw fair voting district lines is, in my opinion, the most important state-wide initiative of this century.

Nelson County is a lightly populated (population 15,000), geographically compact community bounded primarily by Albemarle County, the James River, Amherst County and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Due to Nelson's small population, organizations tend to have county-wide scope and cooperation between residents from different parts of the county is required for these organizations to be effective.

Charlottesville is the largest nearby city and the one with, by far, the most influence on Nelson's employment, business and culture. Important issues that periodically arise are debated within the county through personal contacts, public, county-wide meetings, letters and articles in the Nelson Co. Times, the Daily Progress and within organizations of county-wide scope. In the past these issues have included the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, county and state ordinances, including those for zoning, dogs and guns, the construction of a state prison, a license for an automobile racetrack, the construction of a nuclear power plant on the James River, a series of low-frequency towers for emergency military communication, a county comprehensive plan and numerous other issues of importance to residents of the county. Many of these issues required the involvement of elected and appointed officials. These include local officials such as those on the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and other elected and appointed boards as well as officials elected to the state legislature.

For the reasons given above it is critical that Nelson Co. not be split among different districts, political and otherwise. Before the previous redistricting Nelson County resided in a single legislative district for the House of Delegates and the State Senate. With the most recent redistricting Nelson became part of two different districts for the House of Delegates. This split has caused numerous organizational problems. The dividing line appears to be entirely arbitrary or drawn for political reasons. Due to Nelson County's small population it is entirely possible for Nelson County to be entirely contained in a single legislative district for the House and the Senate.

I ask that the Redistricting Commission please take special care to draw district lines to keep Nelson Co. whole. I further ask that Nelson be placed in districts that include the City of Charlottesville. I realize that this means including all or part of Albemarle County in such districts. Having lived in Nelson County since 1975, been involved with numerous county organizations and having attended the University of Virginia I believe that I have a knowledgeable perspective on this issue. I also believe that the grand majority of Nelson residents who have looked at this issue agree with me.

Thank you for your kind attention and thank you for volunteering to take on this most difficult and most important task.

Sincerely yours,

Constantine Roussos, Ph. D.

[245 Cabell Mountain Lane](#)

[Arrington, VA 22922](#)

roussos@lynchburg.edu

434-945-3313 (cell)

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Constantine Roussos <roussos@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 6:12 PM

Reply-To: roussos@lynchburg.edu

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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.

First, I would like to say that this opportunity to draw fair voting district lines is, in my opinion, the most important state-wide initiative of this century.

Nelson County is a lightly populated (population 15,000), geographically compact community bounded primarily by Albemarle County, the James River, Amherst County and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Due to Nelson's small population, organizations tend to have county-wide scope and cooperation between residents from different parts of the county is required for these organizations to be effective.

Charlottesville is the largest nearby city and the one with, by far, the most influence on Nelson's employment, business and culture. Important issues that periodically arise are debated within the county through personal contacts, public, county-wide meetings, letters and articles in the Nelson Co. Times, the Daily Progress and within organizations of county-wide scope. In the past these issues have included the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, county and state ordinances, including those for zoning, dogs and guns, the construction of a state prison, a license for an automobile racetrack, the construction of a nuclear power plant on the James River, a series of low-frequency towers for emergency military communication, a county comprehensive plan and numerous other issues of importance to residents of the county. Many of these issues required the involvement of elected and appointed officials. These include local officials such as those on the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission and other elected and appointed boards as well as officials elected to the state legislature.

For the reasons given above it is critical that Nelson Co. not be split among different districts, political and otherwise. Before the previous redistricting Nelson County resided in a single legislative district for the House of Delegates and the State Senate. With the most recent redistricting Nelson became part of two different districts for the House of Delegates. This split has caused numerous organizational problems. The dividing line appears to be entirely arbitrary or drawn for political reasons. Due to Nelson County's small population it is entirely possible for Nelson County to be entirely contained in a single legislative district for the House and the Senate.

I ask that the Redistricting Commission please take special care to draw district lines to keep Nelson Co. whole. I further ask that Nelson be placed in districts that include the City of Charlottesville. I realize that this means including all or part of Albemarle County in such districts. Having lived in Nelson County since 1975, been involved with numerous county organizations and having attended the University of Virginia I believe that I have a knowledgeable perspective on this issue. I also believe that the grand majority of Nelson residents who have looked at this issue agree with me.

Thank you for your kind attention and thank you for volunteering to take on this most difficult and most important task.

Sincerely yours,

Constantine Roussos

Sincerely,
Dr. Constantine Roussos
245 Cabell Mountain Ln Arrington, VA 22922-2323
roussos@lynchburg.edu

July 19, 2021

Good morning,

My name is Liz White, I'm the executive director of OneVirginia2021, a nonpartisan organization focused on fair and representative redistricting in the Commonwealth.

As Virginia enters this new phase in the journey toward fresh legislative maps, I applaud your work on the in person and virtual public hearings held last week and look forward to those in the upcoming weeks. But time is flying and the Census data's projected arrival date is just about a month away.

You all and DLS staff published a very helpful timeline back in the Spring that outlined your work plan for those preparatory months. I encourage you to do the same for the remainder of this process - the more the public can understand your schedule and see when you intend to make some big decisions, the more secure they can feel in this process and the more they can focus on giving you input about their communities.

In the early Spring, OneVirginia2021 and several of our partner organizations sent you a letter that contained a list of questions. You've answered many of them throughout the past few months, and some are still relevant today.

I leave you with a new, shorter, list of questions to consider in the coming days, many of which you've touched on today. I want to clarify that OneVirginia2021 is not advocating for specific answers to these questions at this time, but rather attempting to help guide your thought process.

1. How will you organize all incoming public feedback?
2. If you use map drawers hired by both partisan law firms, will that result in two sets of maps and how do they get reconciled?
3. Whether you choose to employ map drawers or not, do you plan to start from scratch or merely adjust existing lines?
4. Will you engage an outside consultant, such as the team at Tufts University, to evaluate the maps?
5. When will you determine the priority order of the existing legal criteria for the maps, as they aren't ranked in the code?
6. How and when in the process, if at all, do you plan to consider incumbent addresses?

We will send these questions in writing to follow up, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to speak with you all today. Thank you for your time and all of your hard work.

Sincerely,

Liz White
Executive Director, OneVirginia2021



Let me tell you about my community

1 message

M. Rick Turner <mrickt@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 2:22 PM

Reply-To: mrickt@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community

The need for more racial diversity on the downtown mall and on W, Main St In Charlottesville

Particularly, African American

Sincerely,

Dt M. Rick Turner

1663 Brandywine Dr Charlottesville, VA 22901-2801

mrickt@gmail.com



Maps should be strictly non-partisan

1 message

Chris Buchheit <buchheitcjc@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 2:13 PM

Hello VA Redistricting Commission,

I, along with many other volunteers, worked hard to get the amendment passed to establish this commission because we believe that our representation should completely and fully reflect the views, status, and preferences of all voters.

I would ask that every effort is taken to achieve that vision - ideally, every district should be purple, and not designed to protect any particular party or incumbent. That's how democracy works best - when it's genuinely competitive. For instance, please do not implement practices such as combining partisan maps from two parties; this will cement incumbents in particular districts - instead, hire an independent commission to draw the maps.

Please, do all you can to keep the politicians from drawing the maps; the state of our democracy in Virginia depends on it.

Very Respectfully,

Chris Buchheit
Arlington, VA

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Anne Brennan <annieb810@everyactioncustom.com>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 1:18 PM

Reply-To: annieb810@hotmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 Commissioners:

There are many wonderful features about Williamsburg besides the history, beauty, educational opportunities and activities here. I particularly like the various neighborhoods. Both the City and the County do a particularly good job of land-use planning. The neighborhoods are attractive, fairly well varied, and well-populated. I like the variation in ages of residents and the good public lands.

We have several ways in which to connect in this area that I enjoy: the Osher Institute for continuing education is very popular and well attended; we have social events once a month to connect with neighbors in many different interest areas; and the James River is a beautiful waterway for relaxation and kyacks. The campus of William and Mary is open, beautiful, and full of ways to learn and contribute. The young adult population adds much to the environment of the city. Realizing that I am walking the very streets that Thomas Jefferson walked is thrilling.

Though our community can be quite crowded during tourist season, the city works with foundations and the public to make it a city for everyone. Williamsburg and James City County are popular places to live and our population is growing. Many people do not appreciate apartment buildings going up or the fact that recent building does not fit the "colonial" style of the past, but I appreciate that we must move on as creatively as possible and that is what I enjoy here. People are open, smart, eager to act, participate in public life, and help each other.

This is an easy-going area that needs greater racial diversity and opportunity for Black and brown people. Real estate prices are rising and fewer young families can afford to live here. Our population is aging and that calls for additional and different services and housing now.

I feel fortunate to live here. I see redistricting as an important way to ensure that everyone's voice can be heard and that each of us is counted as an important part of the whole. That is why gerrymandering is so destructive to our democracy. Thank you for this opportunity to express my thoughts and please accept my encouragement in making our communities, districts, and state a model for democratic ideals put into action.

Sincerely,

Anne Brennan
159 Lakewood Drive
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Sincerely,
Anne Brennan
159 Lakewood Dr Williamsburg, VA 23185-3176
annieb810@hotmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

redistricting in Virginia

1 message

katie.emmons@verizon.net <katie.emmons@verizon.net>

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 12:33 PM

Reply-To: katie.emmons@verizon.net

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commissioners:

I am a long term resident of the City of Falls Church. I am writing in support of the review of the voting districts in Virginia, particularly in Northern Virginia. I believe that such a review when conducted with definable, non- partisan and uniform criteria and when conducted in a transparent fashion will support fair elections and encourage participation in our democracy. This is a goal which I support wholeheartedly.

Sincerely, Katharine S. Emmons



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Subject: Redistricting

1 message

MaryJane Dolan <maryjanedolanlyh@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 10:04 AM

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 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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Renunification of Lynchburg

1 message

Edward S Lovern <ed@lovern.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 4:56 PM

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
434-401-3811

Members of the Redistricting Commission,

My name is Ankit Jain and I am a volunteer with OneVirginia working to ensure the state passes fair maps. I write to you to ask that you hire a third-party to either draw the district maps or to consult closely with you as you draw them. I further ask that you issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this position as soon as feasible, and that you ultimately select Moon Duchin from MGGG Redistricting Lab at Tufts University to draw or support you in drawing the district maps.

Most members of the Commission have no experience drawing district maps using the redistricting software. It is of course possible for members to learn, but there is no need for that. Members of the Commission were selected so they could imbue the new maps with their values, their understanding of their communities, and their ability to combine that knowledge with what they learn during public hearings. This can be done without members literally drawing the maps themselves. Members can easily lay out the parameters and guidelines of what they are looking for and leave the actual map-drawing to an outside expert. I am worried that if the Commission tries to draw the maps themselves, then the few members who *do* have a lot of experience in map-drawing will dominate the process. This would result in those members' values and understandings having an outsized influence on how the maps are drawn. If the Commission feels strongly that its members should actually draw the maps, it should hire an outside expert to at least consult with as it draws the maps to ensure the Commission is on the right path.

The Commission should hire Moon Duchin and MGGG Redistricting Lab as its outside expert. They are some of the foremost experts in drawing district maps. Ms. Duchin already has experience analyzing district maps for a government entity—she was hired in 2018 to analyze maps in Pennsylvania for fairness after the previous maps were struck down by the state

Supreme Court. She has run a program training others to become expert witnesses in redistricting lawsuits. And she has done groundbreaking research on how to use mathematics to make fair maps. Her reputation as nonpartisan map-drawer is unquestioned—if the Commission hires her, Virginians can rest assured that truly fair maps will come out of this process. If the Commission does not hire Moon, they should hire someone with similar qualifications who has a clear nonpartisan track record and who has not worked with a specific political party in the past to draw proposed maps.

The Commission needs to begin the process of selecting an outside expert to draw the maps ASAP. Census data will be released in less than a month, and the Commission must submit its first set of maps within 45 days of the release of the data. In order to hire an expert in time to actually support in drawing the maps, the Commission should put out an RFP for the position immediately. At the very least, the Commission needs to discuss and decide within the next few weeks who will actually be drawing the maps.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Gerrymandering

1 message

Shannon <shannonw481@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 11:42 AM

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



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting

1 message

Chal Nunn <chalnunn@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 8:33 AM

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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

W. Kathleen Swarthout <wkbs23117@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Jul 17, 2021 at 6:54 PM

Reply-To: wkbs23117@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

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

We enjoy the slower tempo of rural living but want to have the internet speed and communications available in the "city". Our Fire and Emergency Services are quite good, but the County is large and the coverage is spread thin. It may take 30 minutes to get a response to a "911" call and transportation to the nearest hospital takes almost an hour. One area, around Lake Anna, has gotten together to fund a Fire and Rescue Squad site and would like to have an Urgent Care Facility, too. the Board of Supervisors is aware and is facilitating this endeavor.

From what I have observed, most of the county is fiscally conservative and socially outgoing to help others in need, when the need is known. Local farmers and gardeners contribute produce to the Resource Center (Food Bank) to be distributed. Church groups regularly contribute gallons of fresh milk to the Resource Center.

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

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. Kathleen Swarthout

4849 Indian Creek Rd Mineral, VA 23117-3329

wkbs23117@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Fwd: Communities of interest

1 message

Robert Fountain <rrfountain55@gmail.com>
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Jul 17, 2021 at 4:41 PM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert Fountain <rrfountain55@gmail.com>
Date: July 16, 2021 at 3:52:31 PM EDT
To: VaRedist@dis.virginia.gov
Subject: Communities of interest

Please do not subdivide such long-time communities of interest such as the Northern Neck of Va and the Eastern Shore in the interest of some other "perfection." RADM Robert Fountain

Sent from my iPhone

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Fred Diehl <fad@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Jul 17, 2021 at 11:52 AM

Reply-To: fad@virginia.edu

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

My larger community is Charlottesville and my smaller is the neighborhood where I live. Most of us are enthusiastically in favor of redistricting in a fair manner but are frustrated at the well-funded efforts to block change. We feel our 5th VA district is a good example of how redistricting a progressive part of the state into a very conservative southern side blocks us from having equal representation.

We support all efforts at FAIR redistricting and doing away with the current practices which tend to disenfranchise those of us in my area.

Fred Diehl

Sincerely,

Dr. Fred Diehl

104 Key West Dr Charlottesville, VA 22911-8427

fad@virginia.edu



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

Vic nicholls <nichollsvi2@everyactioncustom.com>

Sat, Jul 17, 2021 at 6:34 AM

Reply-To: nichollsvi2@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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?

Greenbrier is the downtown of Chesapeake, Va. We work hard for the money and all we see is nothing in the way of improvements and no one to answer anything on why that is. We want the kids to be educated in the sciences and they're not getting it. We need to create more jobs and businesses (small) but we can't do that with the high taxation and \$3 a gallon gas when less than a year ago I was getting it for \$1.78.

We highly value freedoms, especially of speech, and that's not getting served here. We have more and more crime, where is the protection from the state that we pay higher and higher taxes to? Our community needs leadership that reflects our concerns on the future with proven ways of fixing those problems. We need more than a half baked leadership that only sends us flyers on OUR taxpayer dime at election time.

Chesapeake is known as a bedroom community because we can't get business started here. The commission needs to make it so leadership is responsive to us. We all share wanting to move ahead, so start redistricting back to where we had that in the past but it was redistricted to reflect people who do not have the same goals as the upper middle class has.

[Quoted text hidden]

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Patricia Parkinson <parkinson.pm6@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 9:49 PM

Reply-To: parkinson.pm6@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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? Our community association is strongly Republican, and a smaller percentage is Democate. 4. What connects your community? (Community Activities and Services, Cultural or Historical Interests, Economic or Environmental Interests, Community Needs and Concerns? Stafford community services provide games and activities for +55, kids and residents. The community is growing and it is obvious that it needs the educational and economic funding proposed by Prior Governor McAulife. I prefer that the redistricting be done fairly giving Democate and Republicans an equal chance, and either not be overwhelming.

Fair amount of districting show it is even.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Patricia Parkinson

2 Carson Dr Fredericksburg, VA 22406-8424

parkinson.pm6@gmail.com

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Herbert Loveless <herbert_loveless@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 5:04 PM

Reply-To: herbert_loveless@yahoo.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

I am a member of the Richmond Environmental Film Festival. We are concerned about maintaining the benefits of our environment and preventing the damage to the local area from climate change. While it is extremely unlikely that Virginia will suffer heat domes like that that occurred in the Pacific northwest or the upcoming one in the upper Rockies. Or massive forest fires that are taking place in California. Or the mega drought effecting Arizona, Nevada and Utah, Virginia will suffer from excess rain fall, flooding along the coast line in Virginia Beach and along inland river, and lower agricultural productivity. The people who are in this community of concern are in Chester like myself and my wife and in the Midlothian, west Henrico, Goochland and Culpepper Co. areas.

While this might not meet the standard definition of community, we have many of the same concerns which I believe makes us a community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Herbert Loveless

3817 Seasigh Ct Chester, VA 23831-7324

herbert_loveless@yahoo.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Redistricting: Make Every Election Campaign Stressful

1 message

Andrew Starr <andrewstarr09@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 5:04 PM

Greetings and Salutations,

Please redistrict every voting boundary in a non bi-partisan manner. All districts must have an equal proportion of registered republicans, democrats, libertarians, and anarchist hippie-tarians (green party). This way no congress-person or senator, in the general assembly, can feel "safe" and even fathom to maintain office unless they cow-tail to the whims of the people instead of corporate lobbyist like Chip. D. I know this is impossible as the sole income of the Virginia Assembly derives from undocumented "campaign support" (well, Washington for that matter as well). That is why, to coincide with my proposal, I recommend a minimum annual salary of all elected representatives in the state of Virginia to be 10 Million USA dollars with another 20 Million available (also annually) for campaign funding and general unsupervised shenanigans.

This may seem extreme, but I submit that if you can prevent untalented lawyers from seeking elected office for, well let's call it bribery for now, then a most curious and radical change may take place. The way to sell this "package" is under the inauspicious guise of anti-corruptutorial influence. The public would meet this proposal with unrivaled fan-fare as the salaries are significantly less then those of state funded university football and basketball coaches. Clearly, the potential is endless in this situation, allow me to explain. With the salary being, "so high", many honest workers will make a valiant attempt at running for elected office. Imagine if you will a "Hunger Games" novel like scenario where instead of high-school children fighting to the death, it will be fully grown adults working 100 hrs a week to please the general population's wildest fantasies. And, if I might add, at the very end of course, this salary increase would take place while you yourself are in office! Why you could embrace the demeanor of a true champion of the people and tell Amazon to go launch itself into space.

Paradoxically,

-Well, you have my email address...



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Comments for the Commission

1 message

Bill Bestpitch <billbestpitch@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 7:51 AM

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 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

VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Let me tell you about my community

1 message

Matthew Wilson <matthewcarterwilson@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 5:23 PM

Reply-To: matthewcarterwilson@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Matthew Wilson

2742 Southern Hills Ct North Garden, VA 22959-1639

matthewcarterwilson@gmail.com



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

the City of Lynchburg

1 message

Amy R. Cohen <arcphd@gmail.com>
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 3:07 PM

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](http://AmyR.Cohen.com)

[arcphd@gmail.com](mailto:arcphd@gmail.com)

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## 1st Congressional District Gerrymandering

1 message

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**David** <[david@david.us](mailto:david@david.us)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Tue, Jul 13, 2021 at 6:21 AM

In recent redistricting of the 1st Congressional District Republican state legislatures have sought, quite successfully, to dilute any areas of Democratic support and deprive those of us who live in Fredericksburg and other areas of any true and fair representation in the U.S. Congress.

In 2010, they went so far as to take a part of the city of Fredericksburg across both municipal and geographical (a river) lines to put it in a more Republican area. In the 2017 redistricting, they created a congressional district that runs from Dale City almost to Hampton Roads for the same reason. There is no rationale to have have a district shaped like the 1st Congressional District—it is clearly an extraordinarily long and narrow district, not adhering to any reasonable rule of compact districts or observing the model of honoring municipal boundaries, designed solely to deny Democratic voters fair representation in Congress.

I hope your Commission will have the courage to make the sweeping redistricting changes that should be made in Virginia to eradicate decades of Republican abuse. Voters deserve to be fairly represented. Follow the assumed rules of compact districts, integrity of municipal boundaries, and limitations of geographical boundaries. I live in the City of Fredericksburg, and I feel very aggrieved that my vote has been cast aside by Republican partisan behavior.

David Baker  
[david@david.us](mailto:david@david.us)

Sent from my iPad

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**E. S. McCoy** <[beth.mc.for.short@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:beth.mc.for.short@everyactioncustom.com)>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 9:20 PM

Reply-To: [beth.mc.for.short@gmail.com](mailto:beth.mc.for.short@gmail.com)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

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](mailto:beth.mc.for.short@gmail.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Comment on Lawyers

1 message

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**Richard Hagen** <rhagen12@verizon.net>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 9:11 PM

Hi Folks,

I read a Op Ed in the Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Pilot on the challenges you must face in drawing our maps. It is a daunting task and thank you for taking it on. I have been volunteering with OneVirginia 2021 for the last 4-5 years. I am sure you know that we wanted a 100% non-patrician Commission made of up of only Political unaffiliated Citizens. The Virginia Legislature would not allow that so we have the current commission structure, which far better that what we had before.

One thing I read in the Pilot OpEd that was very disturbing. The Pilot reported that in June the commission decided to allow Democrats and Republicans to hire separate patrician law firms. Why would you do that unless each side is planning to draw patrician maps? It would be much better to let the 8 Citizen members hire an non-patrician law firm. For that matter why do you need a 'law firm'? Shouldn't you be hiring a group who knows the science and has experience drawing fair district maps? They should have NO connection to Virginia at all. There are plenty of states and universities with experience drawing fair maps.

This move has already tainted my and others trust in the Commission. Please try to put all political loyalties aside. For the purpose of this Commission none of you should think of yourself as Democrat, Republican or any other political party. You are simply Virginians.

Please step back and think how important this is for the welfare of every Virginian.

Thank you for your time

Richard Hagen

Virginia Beach, VA

757-343-5678



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Unify Lynchburg

1 message

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**Beth McCoy** <beth.mc.for.short@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 9:10 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov

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  
Lynchburg



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Albemarle County Redistricting maps**

1 message

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**Angela Lynn** <angelalynn54@gmail.com>  
To: VARedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 8:40 AM

Dear Redistricting Commission Members,

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

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

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

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

I respectfully request you no longer allow this to continue.

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

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

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

Respectfully

Angela Lynn

Albemarle County

--

Albemarle County Criminal Justice Citizens Advisory Commission





## Public Comment: Proposed Congressional Map

1 message

**Mark Hergott** <m.hergott87@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 9:02 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am submitting to you a proposed draft map for our state's congressional districts: <https://davesredistricting.org/join/5cd0b205-7c2d-404c-9bc4-8d6a654dfe8b>. Given the demographic changes in the state since 2010, this map creates four majority-minority districts rather than three as we have now. Districts 3 and 4 remain predominantly Black/African American. Thus, this map complies with the Voting Rights Act. Furthermore, this map minimizes splitting municipalities and counties to the extent possible and scores better than the current map on measures of compactness including the Reock and Polsby-Popper metrics. Furthermore, I have tried to unite communities of interest (e.g. major higher ed institutions in district 5- UVA, Liberty, James Madison). This map would also be quite competitive. Five districts would likely be winnable by candidates of both parties. Districts 2, 5, 7, and 10 would have all backed both democrats and republicans in statewide races since 2016. Additionally, democrats over the past 5 years would have generally won District 1 by mid- to high-single digits, meaning that this district is likely winnable by a strong Republican candidate in a favorable environment. To give a sense of the competitiveness of the districts, here are the results of 2016 presidential and 2017 gubernatorial elections by district:

District 1: 51% Clinton, 43% Trump; 54% Northam, 45% Gillespie  
District 2: 48% Trump, 46% Clinton; 52% Northam, 47% Gillespie  
District 3: 62% Clinton, 33% Trump; 66% Northam, 33% Gillespie  
District 4: 61% Clinton, 35% Trump; 63% Northam, 36% Gillespie  
District 5: 50% Trump, 45% Clinton; 51% Gillespie, 48% Northam  
District 6: 63% Trump, 32% Clinton; 64% Gillespie, 35% Northam  
District 7: 49% Trump, 44% Clinton; 51% Gillespie, 48% Northam  
District 8: 71% Clinton, 22% Trump; 74% Northam, 25% Gillespie  
District 9: 68% Trump, 27% Clinton; 68% Gillespie, 31% Northam  
District 10: 47% Trump, 46% Clinton; 51% Northam, 48% Gillespie  
District 11: 64% Clinton, 29% Trump; 67% Northam, 32% Gillespie

I encourage the commission to consider this map for adoption.

Sincerely,  
Mark Hergott



map-image (3).png  
96K



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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## virginia redistricting of 2021

1 message

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**Downs Little** <downslittle@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Jul 10, 2021 at 7:18 PM

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.



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Redistricting 'silver bullet'

1 message

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**Andy Ludwig** <luddie@gmail.com>  
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, Jul 10, 2021 at 1:20 PM

Hello, and thank you for your time/effort to improve voting and representation in Virginia ~

I'd like to make one suggestion, a 'silver bullet' of improving districts, which no one can argue against :

Use computers to make districts as small and circular as possible, so the resulting map looks like a ball pit.

Everything else is subjective, or leads to decisions based on race/income/culture/rural vs. urban -- which are all problematic.

Let it be simply done based on population density (with a random starting point), and you'll have drawn a map no one can legitimately argue is "unfair".

Thank you. My fingers are crossed for you -- and our nation,

-Andy Ludwig  
Falls Church

--

A society grows great  
When old men plant trees  
Whose shade they know  
They shall never sit in  
Greek Proverb

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Andrew Ludwig** <[luddie@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:luddie@everyactioncustom.com)>

Sat, Jul 10, 2021 at 1:14 PM

Reply-To: [luddie@gmail.com](mailto:luddie@gmail.com)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

My 'community' is best defined as those who live closest to me. In that spirit, please define districts in the most compact way possible : circles.

I believe the best, fairest map, will look like a ball pit at Chuck E. Cheese. Let computers do the algorithms, and let the starting point be random. Test it a few times, then let it be drawn publicly, based on a random dart throw.

Computers can help us get away from our polarized, partisan politics. Please use them, and keep the districts as compact as possible -- in all directions (a circle).

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Ludwig

3349 Ardley Ct Falls Church, VA 22041-2601

[luddie@gmail.com](mailto:luddie@gmail.com)

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Edna Whittier** <[ewsoccerwomen@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ewsoccerwomen@everyactioncustom.com)>

Sat, Jul 10, 2021 at 1:16 AM

Reply-To: [ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com](mailto:ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

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

887 Countyline Church Rd SE Floyd, VA 24091-2846

[ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com](mailto:ewsoccerwomen@gmail.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## One district for Lynchburg, VA

1 message

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**Jeffrey Wooters** <jwooters03@icloud.com>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 6:57 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransonerredistricting@house.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov

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

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Beverly Jones** <[bjones69@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:bjones69@everyactioncustom.com)>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 5:13 PM

Reply-To: [bjones69@verizon.net](mailto:bjones69@verizon.net)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

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](mailto:bjones69@verizon.net)

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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**5th District**

1 message

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**Donald Gross** <[aliceanddon@gmail.com](mailto:aliceanddon@gmail.com)>  
To: [VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 2:27 PM

Dear Redistricting Committee,

Please redo part of the highly gerrymandered 5th district to a compact, contiguous district including Charlottesville and Albemarle County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald and Alice Gross  
[2600 Barracks Rd, Apt 220](#)  
[Charlottesville, VA 22901](#)



VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Donald Longava** <[d.longava@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:d.longava@everyactioncustom.com)>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 2:20 PM

Reply-To: [d.longava@verizon.net](mailto:d.longava@verizon.net)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

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 community is a small development, Devonshire, off Spriggs Road, just outside Dale City. We are on well/septic and wooded acre lots. Homes mostly built @ 1980. We are members of Nextdoor.com which connects @ 40 neighbors.

Our most important concern is protecting our environment and the need to understand how the environment is changing. In particular, the Chesapeake watershed and the animals that call it home.

Sincerely,

Mr. Donald Longava

14571 Leilani Dr Woodbridge, VA 22193-3603

[d.longava@verizon.net](mailto:d.longava@verizon.net)

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Emily McPhie** <[ebm7554@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ebm7554@everyactioncustom.com)>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 2:17 PM

Reply-To: [ebm7554@gmail.com](mailto:ebm7554@gmail.com)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

I'm an active and very healthy retiree in Reston. I love living along a stream surrounded by greenery, with walking paths and pools and other recreational amenities within easy reach, among the many other benefits of living here. Since we're part of northern Virginia, and Reston's history in particular is decidedly on the more liberal side (as are most of my friends), our community, I feel, has been gerrymandered to typically give us only the option of electing a Democrat to Congress. While this might well be my choice under any circumstances, my point is that I'd like a real choice, rather than either no opposition or a Republican candidate who clearly has no interest in or running (or perhaps no ability to run) a competitive campaign. I'd like to hear real ideas exchanged, and I'd like to feel there's actually some competition, if for no other reason than to keep the Democratic candidate on his/her toes. My concern is that, with such partisan gerrymandering, the candidates we have to choose from (not just in this district but throughout the state and the country for that matter) tend to be pushed more and more to the extremes rather than toward some sort of more manageable center. We're never going to get beyond this horrible hyper-partisan divide we've got at the moment if we can't start to have actual debates that help us start to think more about what we might have in common rather than all the reasons to try to drive one another apart.

Sincerely,

Emily McPhie

11230 Leatherwood Dr Reston, VA 20191-4607

[ebm7554@gmail.com](mailto:ebm7554@gmail.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Christopher Bates** <bateschapelhill@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 2:06 PM

Reply-To: bateschapelhill@aol.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 our community?

My wife and I, both recently retired, have lived for 15+ years in Braemar, a planned urban development in west-central Prince William County formed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia approximately 20 years ago. I am a former officer and chair of the New Castle Village Homeowners Association, which is a sub-association of the Braemar Community Association.

Braemar residents are all members of the Braemar Community Association, which consists of approximately 3400 housing units, both detached single-family homes and town homes, as well as one of approximately 10 sub-associations. Geographically, our community is bisected by Broad Run (river/large creek) and sits between Vint Hill Road to the South, Linton Hall Road to the North, farmlands that are part of the Prince William County "Rural Crescent" to the west, and adjacent neighborhoods that are situated about 1/4 mile beyond the Braemar Parkway and Garry Glen Drive to the south.

Socially, the Community has a number of organized activities and programs, including a very active swim team for children, two swimming facilities, tennis courts, and extensive internal community sidewalks and internal and perimeter neighborhood walking, running and biking trails. Most children in Braemar attend common local public and private schools that are within 1-3 miles of all residents. Braemar Sub-associations also connect residents with one another on a regular basis. Most if not all Braemar residents vote in one of the two area electoral precincts housed at schools within the community. Local shopping in Bristow and nearby Gainesville further connect residents on a regular basis.

Residents are quite diverse in terms of their race, ethnicity, religion, age and educational backgrounds. Children in particular mix widely and often with those of other races, ethnicities and religions within our community. Political views appear to vary greatly from one household to the next based on the voting patterns in precincts within the Community. Generally, however, we live in a clean, safe and close-knit community and everyone is most focused on maintaining the high quality of life we enjoy in Braemar

We hope this information is helpful to the Virginia Redistricting Community.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. and Mary R. Bates  
12525 Erroll Lane, Bristow, VA 20136-2121

Sincerely,  
Mr. Christopher Bates  
12525 Erroll Ln Bristow, VA 20136-2121  
[bateschapelhill@aol.com](mailto:bateschapelhill@aol.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**redistricting**

1 message

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**Sharon Kilpatrick** <rappedit@earthlink.net>  
To: VaRedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 1:58 PM

I live in Rappahannock County, Virginia.

I do not expect to ever feel truly represented because the folks around me are far more conservative than I am.

However, I do not feel Rappahannock County should be in either the Congressional District or State Senate District we are currently in.

We are the only county in our State Senate District on the East side of the Blue Ridge mountains. We should be in a district that is east of the mountains.

In the 5th Congressional seat, we are in the extreme North of a district that mostly slumps on the North Carolina border.

We have been in the 7th and 10th before, and either would make more sense than this.

Sharon Kilpatrick  
Washington, Virginia 22747

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Angie Smibert** <[asmibert@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:asmibert@everyactioncustom.com)>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 1:09 PM

Reply-To: [asmibert@gmail.com](mailto:asmibert@gmail.com)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

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](mailto:asmibert@gmail.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**EARL Rogers** <earl.rogers1661@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 1:08 PM

Reply-To: earl.rogers1661@yahoo.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

I live in Smoketree subdivision , near Monacan HS, in north chesterfield county.

This community wants a FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRICT. One that we voters get to pick their delegate and senator, rather than a district that is unfairly drawn to favor one party over the other.

DRAW A FAIR AND EQUITABLE DISTRICT.

EARL ROGERS

Sincerely,

Dr. EARL Rogers

11524 Stillbrook Rd North Chesterfield, VA 23236-2408

[earl.rogers1661@yahoo.com](mailto:earl.rogers1661@yahoo.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**Teresa Spigle** <tsvande@everyactioncustom.com>

Fri, Jul 9, 2021 at 12:32 PM

Reply-To: tsvande@gmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

What does the Redistricting Commission need to know about your community? Crozet is a booming community. I love the variety of restaurants here, the library, small shops and services available. SMALL is the keyword. I've lived in Crozet off and on since 1985 when I met my first husband. We watched large tracks of acreage change from beautiful rolling farmland to Old Trail, Highlands, Gray Rock etc.. on and on with the development. Now there is a walking mall proposed. This must be the end of the development or our SMALL town will no longer be SMALL and class sizes will be more overwhelming. My son attended Brownsville Elementary, Henley Middle and Western Albemarle and each location had children attending classes in trailers, walking outdoors to get to class, often, in less than ideal weather conditions. Please limit the growth in Crozet to keep it SMALL and manageable for the limited resources we have, including water, affordable housing and schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice concerns.

Teresa Spigle, CCM, RN, MSN, BSBA

Sincerely,

Ms. Teresa Spigle

5911 McComb St Crozet, VA 22932-3023

[tsvande@gmail.com](mailto:tsvande@gmail.com)

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

1 message

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**brianna adams** <[b.adams15380@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:b.adams15380@everyactioncustom.com)>

Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 3:23 PM

Reply-To: [b.adams15380@gmail.com](mailto:b.adams15380@gmail.com)

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

I hate to say it but numbers say it all these days. Looking at the districts it's not very fair and I would go as far to say some even have the upper hand. Although race doesn't matter it simply needs to be more fair and more competitive even if that means redrawing the lines not to benefit any one party but to allow them to have an equal chance. Without redrawing the lines it's unfair to areas like where I live we are simply out numbered please help us by fixing the lines.

Sincerely,

Miss brianna adams

15380 Greenwood Church Rd Montpelier, VA 23192-2924

[b.adams15380@gmail.com](mailto:b.adams15380@gmail.com)





VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Redistricting in Lynchburg

1 message

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**Gayle Daly** <dalygh@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jul 8, 2021 at 10:22 AM

Dear Commissioners:

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



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Let me tell you about my community

2 messages

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**Niro Rasanayagam** <niro\_r@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 8:12 AM

Reply-To: niro\_r@hotmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

I have 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 interests.

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: 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.

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 interests.

Sincerely,

Ms. Niro Rasanayagam

2437 Hawthorne Rd Lynchburg, VA 24503-2905

[niro\\_r@hotmail.com](mailto:niro_r@hotmail.com)

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**Niro Rasanayagam** <niro\_r@everyactioncustom.com>

Wed, Jul 7, 2021 at 8:15 AM

Reply-To: niro\_r@hotmail.com

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 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,

[Quoted text hidden]



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

## Keep Lynchburg City whole as one community of interest

1 message

Niro Rasanayagam &lt;niro\_r@hotmail.com&gt;

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 3:30 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

Cc: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov" <mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>

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:

- 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



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## V Redistricting Commission

1 message

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**Chris D** <[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)>

Tue, Jul 6, 2021 at 11:07 AM

To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Cc: [mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov), [gharris@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:gharris@dls.virginia.gov)

Thank you for today's meeting and thoughtful discussion.

Could you please remind all speakers to use their microphones and identify themselves by name. Senator McDougle didn't have his microphone on at any time (was it broken?) so it was difficult to hear him. Sometimes staff forgot to use microphone as well.

Also, please consider allowing Virginians to "testify" virtually. By allowing only those who can travel to Richmond for a workday meeting, you are shutting the door on many engaged persons.

Or perhaps someone can summarize written comments that have been submitted.

Thank you.

*Chris DeRosa (she, her)*

[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)

Arlington, VA



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Link to Weldon Cooper Maps

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**Fran Larkins** <franlarkins40@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 5:36 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

The public might find it very helpful to have access to the maps for the eight "regions" where the hearings will be held. Perhaps under "FAQs"?

<https://demographics.coopercenter.org/virginia-regions>

Thank you!

Fran Larkins

Fredericksburg, VA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Request for information about VRC Public Hearings

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Chris DeRosa <chris.lwv.222@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 1:17 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, district02@senate.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov

Greetings.

I hope that all of you enjoyed a festive, relaxing Fourth of July weekend.

The League of Women Voters of Virginia is informing its members as well as community partners about the upcoming public hearings, which are scheduled to begin on July 13th. We are sharing this information via email, social media, and more. We strongly believe that an actively engaged public is critical to the success of this redistricting process!

We have some questions and suggestions, and hope that the full Commission will clarify and finalize the public engagement guidelines when it meets on Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup>.

- (1) Please allow online pre-registration for in-person hearings. This will allow working people and others with transportation challenges to ensure that they are able to speak at in-person hearings.
- (2) Some information is unclear in your announcements and flyers. Please clarify:
  - a. Will people be able to "attend" **any** public hearing? It is important that people have this option to select the day, time, and location that is most convenient for them. (Many have planned vacations that will take them away from their homes when their regional meetings are held, so they will need other opportunities.)
  - b. Will people be able to sign up online, ahead of time for any of the public hearings? We do not see a pre-registration link on the website.
- (3) Have you arranged for locations where people can use a computer to participate "virtually" in any of the hearings? (This was discussed in an earlier Commission or Public Engagement subcommittee meeting as an option to support the public during virtual meetings)
- (4) Please provide further information : will people representing groups or organizations be allowed more than 3 minutes to speak? (This was discussed in an earlier subcommittee meeting)
- (5) Please provide more details for the public hearings so that we can inform the public. We are preparing graphics, LTEs, posters, flyers, and postcards and would like to include more information. In order to allow enough time for design and printing, we would appreciate having this information ASAP.
  - a. Time that each virtual hearing will begin.
  - b. Specific location for each in-person hearing : which campus building? Thank you very much for your service and your dedicated and diligent efforts on our behalf. Thank you for your attention and responses.

Thank you very much for your service and your dedicated and diligent efforts on our behalf. Thank you for your attention and responses.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)  
Co-Coordinator, LWV-VA Redistricting Committee  
[chris.lwv.222@gmail.com](mailto:chris.lwv.222@gmail.com)





VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Lynchburg has more power as one community of interest

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**Eloise Mason** <eloisepmason@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 5, 2021 at 7:32 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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.”

Please change the current gerrymander of Lynchburg. Thank you.

*Eloise*



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**(no subject)**

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**Carly Eccles Sheaffer** <carly.eccles@gmail.com>

Sun, Jul 4, 2021 at 10:20 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Let me tell you about my community

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**Janet Ross** <[ajross31@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ajross31@everyactioncustom.com)>

Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 8:03 AM

Reply-To: [ajross31@hotmail.com](mailto:ajross31@hotmail.com)To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Dear Commissioner All Commissioners,

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

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

I find it quite disconcerting that we cannot see the commission members during commission meetings. At the very least, members should be introduced at each meeting.

Also how many commission members have completed the training for Citygate ? This is very important to the process !

Dr Janet Moore Ross  
Williamsburg, Va.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Janet Ross  
117 Roffinghams Way Williamsburg, VA 23185-8915  
[ajross31@hotmail.com](mailto:ajross31@hotmail.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Request for posting of Guidelines for Public Participation in Upcoming Hearings**5 messages

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**Candace Butler** <candy@edandcandy.com>

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 10:39 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: Bill Millhouser &lt;bmillhouser2010@cox.net&gt;, Sara Fitzgerald &lt;sarafitz@aol.com&gt;, Chris DeRosa &lt;chris.lwv.222@gmail.com&gt;, Fran Larkins &lt;franlarkins40@gmail.com&gt;

Please post the guidelines for Public Participation that were approved by the Commission at its June 7 meeting on [virginiaredistricting.org](http://virginiaredistricting.org). It would be very helpful to everyone who would like to attend and/or participate in these hearings.

Many thanks,  
Candace Butler

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**Chris DeRosa** <chris.lwv.222@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 10:45 AM

To: Candace Butler &lt;candy@edandcandy.com&gt;

Cc: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, Bill Millhouser &lt;bmillhouser2010@cox.net&gt;, Sara Fitzgerald &lt;sarafitz@aol.com&gt;, Fran Larkins &lt;franlarkins40@gmail.com&gt;

Its frustrating and incomprehensible that we have to make all these suggestions...

[Quoted text hidden]

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**VA Redistricting** <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 11:21 AM

To: Chris DeRosa &lt;chris.lwv.222@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Candace Butler &lt;candy@edandcandy.com&gt;, Bill Millhouser &lt;bmillhouser2010@cox.net&gt;, Sara Fitzgerald &lt;sarafitz@aol.com&gt;, Fran Larkins &lt;franlarkins40@gmail.com&gt;

Dear Ms. Butler and Ms. DeRosa,

Thank you both for your emails. The public participation guidelines were posted under the May 26th meeting materials on page 12 of the materials packet.

Regards,

---

Virginia Redistricting Support Staff  
Division of Legislative Services

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Candace Butler** <candy@edandcandy.com>

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 11:43 AM

To: VA Redistricting &lt;varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

Cc: Chris DeRosa &lt;chris.lwv.222@gmail.com&gt;, Bill Millhouser &lt;bmillhouser2010@cox.net&gt;, Sara Fitzgerald &lt;sarafitz@aol.com&gt;, Fran Larkins &lt;franlarkins40@gmail.com&gt;

Respectfully, they should be posted much more prominently and easily accessible. At least on the FAQ page.

Candace Butler  
[Quoted text hidden]

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**VA Redistricting** <varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov>

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 12:03 PM

To: Candace Butler &lt;candy@edandcandy.com&gt;

Dear Ms. Butler,

Thank you for your response. When the guidelines were created and edited by the staff at the direction of the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee, the document was sent to the Commissioners and the public promptly before the May 26th meeting.

As staff, we are working diligently to complete the Commission's requests as well as finalize the locations and times for the public hearings. Once the public hearings are finalized, all documents will be posted in a more accessible tab option.

We appreciate your participation and patience in this process.

Regards,

Virginia Redistricting Support Staff

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Virginia Redistricting Support Staff  
Division of Legislative Services

[Quoted text hidden]



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## City of Lynchburg

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**KENNETH HILL** <kwhill@verizon.net>

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 10:19 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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.



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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## Lynchburg gerrymandering

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**Pamela Easterbrook** <pamela.easterbrook@yahoo.com>

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 8:29 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

## 2011 Calif. & Az. commissioners as a resource/sounding board

**Pete Costigan** <ph.costigan@hotmail.com>

Sun, Jun 27, 2021 at 8:28 PM

To: "mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov" <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, "gharris@dls.virginia.gov" <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, "jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov" <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, "jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov" <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, "mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov" <mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov>, "rharrell@dls.virginia.gov" <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, "bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov" <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, "skumar@dls.virginia.gov" <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, "district02@senate.virginia.gov" <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, "redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com" <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "sdnewman7@gmail.com" <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, "delmcmquinn@house.virginia.gov" <delmcmquinn@house.virginia.gov>, "delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "delmsimon@house.virginia.gov" <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, "deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov" <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "senatorbarker@gmail.com" <senatorbarker@gmail.com>  
Cc: Pete Costigan <ph.costigan@hotmail.com>, "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, "awade@dls.virginia.gov" <awade@dls.virginia.gov>, "bbraun@dls.virginia.gov" <bbraun@dls.virginia.gov>

Dear Commissioners:

After having zoomed in on all the full committee's meetings as well as most of the sub-committee meetings, I want to congratulate you on the committed and professional way you have approached your history-making responsibility to date. The many Virginians who voted this commission into existence last November now look to you to map districts that - at long last - will fairly represent the interests of those voting within their borders.

You may recall that, during your May 10th meeting, DLS staff attorney Brooks Braun presented a very informative comparative overview of citizen-led redistricting commissions that have been established in ten other states. The commissions in at least two of these states - California and Arizona - have already drawn maps based on data from the 2011 census.

I have watched a one-hour zoom discussion, hosted by One Virginia 2021, in which three of the 14 California citizen commissioners answered questions and offered insights about their redistricting experience. I also watched a 45-minute interview with the Chair of the five-citizen Arizona redistricting commission. Both discussions can be accessed in the link below.



<https://www.onevirginia2021foundation.org/news-notes/nuts-and-bolts-of-redistricting>



### Nuts and Bolts of Redistricting — OneVirginia2021 Foundation

On May 12, 2021, OneVirginia2021 and the League of Women Voters of VA hosted a virtual conference - "A Redistricting Deep Dive." This section focused on the details and logistics of going from a blank page to a fair and representative map. The discussion featured: Gil Ontai, Jeanne Raya, Andre Par

[www.onevirginia2021foundation.org](https://www.onevirginia2021foundation.org)

I'd like to recommend that the Virginia commission consider contacting these four individuals as resources in the coming months. Although these two discussions took place in Dec. 2020 and were initially intended to encourage Virginia citizens to apply to be commissioners, I think you'll find many of their comments are quite relevant to you who now serve as commissioners. These commissioners have already dealt with many of the issues you are likely to face. Furthermore, these commissioners may well be among the very few individuals who were required to do their precedent-setting redistricting work in full view of an interested and involved public. In short, as the number of critical decisions you must make increase and the time frames in which to make them shrink, their input could benefit Virginia's citizen and legislative commissioners alike.



Thanks for considering my recommendation.

Pete Costigan  
Ruckersville, Va.



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

## Outreach for Hearings and Map Drawing Services

**Fran Larkins** <franlarkins40@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 26, 2021 at 12:17 PM

To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Del Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Del Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Del. Delores McQuinn" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Marcus Simon <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, Greta Harris <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, Marvin Gilliam <mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov>, Richard Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, Ryan McDougale <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator Stephen Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>

To our Commissioners -

1. I am an active volunteer for several Virginia organizations with a major interest in redistricting in our state. I understand there are problems with recruiting a Communications and Outreach Services coordinator for the Commission. Please don't wait for this Coordinator to be hired before starting outreach for the hearings.

Many of us stand ready to immediately help alert the public to the upcoming hearings in July but need further information and clarification.

- What time will the four virtual hearings begin on July 15, 22, 29 and August 5?
- When will links to those virtual hearings be advertised on the website?
- Where will the public go to sign up to speak at both the in-person and virtual hearings? How far in advance does this need to be done?
- Was a decision made on whether speakers can sign-up for any of the in-person and/or virtual hearings?
- Was a decision made about how to handle groups that wish to speak?
- How much time will individuals and/or groups be allowed to speak?
- Will the in-person meetings also allow for speakers to do so virtually?

2. I would also suggest the Commission start preparing the RFP and advertising for a "map drawer" now. We are only eight weeks away from the tentative date for delivery of the Census data. Your time for drawing the maps will be very short but there are very qualified experts to help guide you through the process. I realize there are several legislators who have experience and may feel comfortable drawing maps but Virginians are expecting more than easy "tweaks" and slight boundary shifts from the Commission for 2021. Please don't let "oh we ran out of time" be the excuse for wasting this historic opportunity.

Experts such as Moon Duchin with nonpartisan Tufts University could swiftly guide you through the various components of map drawing from meeting concise population demands to requirements of the Voting Rights Act to prioritizing criteria including Communities of Interest. They could also make it easier to compare various maps that may be drawn in order to achieve your desired outcome.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fran Larkins  
Fredericksburg, VA

June 25, 2021

To the Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission,

At the June 7 meeting of the Virginia Redistricting Commission, it was suggested that the Commission maintain their biweekly meeting schedule but retain the option to cancel the meetings if there's no pressing business to discuss. This suggestion was made concrete when the June 21 Commission meeting was canceled. This decision was not publicized or explained - members of the public could only find out that the meeting had been canceled (and stop checking the website, waiting for an agenda to be posted) by emailed DLS staff directly.

The individuals and organizations who have co-signed this letter encourage the Commission, in the strongest possible terms, to continue meeting regularly. This process happens once every ten years and will affect Virginians for the next decade. As a brand new Commission, you all have been gifted several extra months to figure out how best to work with members of the public to create historically representative maps - please take advantage of that time. Even if there are no scheduled votes to be taken, these meetings are unique opportunities for citizens to engage with the process and provide comments and feedback to the Commission's work.

To deny the public any available opportunity would be a disservice to the voters of Virginia, and would go against the spirit of transparency the constitutional amendment mandates. Even without new agenda items, we ask that the Commissioners treat these previously scheduled biweekly meetings as listening sessions. In the absence of the U.S. Census data, we feel this is the best use of the Commission's time.

We look forward to the subcommittee meetings this week and the full Commission meeting on Tuesday, July 6, and continue to offer our support and our services to aid you in this momentous task.

Sincerely,

Liz White, Executive Director, OneVirginia2021

Luis Aguilar, Virginia Director, CASA

Suzanne Almeida, Redistricting and Representation Counsel, Common Cause

The Hon. Michael Futrell, President, National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization

Da'Quan Marcell Love, Executive Director, Virginia State Conference NAACP

Matthew Scoble, Executive Director, Unite Virginia

Phillip Thompson, Executive Director, National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization

Deb Wake, President, League of Women Voters of Virginia



**TONY O. WILT**

POST OFFICE BOX 1425  
HARRISONBURG, 22803

TWENTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

**HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

RICHMOND

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
LABOR AND COMMERCE  
AGRICULTURE, CHESAPEAKE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
PUBLIC SAFETY

June 24, 2021

Virginia Redistricting Commission

RE: Bridgewater Split Precinct

Dear Co-Chair Babichenko, Co-Chair Harris, and Commissioners:

As you get underway with your map drawing responsibilities in the coming months, we wanted to bring to your attention an existing split precinct between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> House District in the Town of Bridgewater that we hope can be addressed in the upcoming redistricting.

While we are certain you have every intention to minimize the number of split precincts, both in terms of eliminating existing split precincts and avoiding the creation of new split precincts, we felt it would be prudent to register our position and concerns. These are concerns that have also been shared with us by our local registrar, the electoral board, and other officials.

The split precinct between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> House District came about as the result of a friendly annexation by the Town of Bridgewater that occurred around the same time as the 2011 redistricting. Currently, there are roughly 75 voters impacted that live within the town boundaries and vote at the West Bridgewater (401) precinct, but they are within the 26<sup>th</sup> House District. All the remainder of Bridgewater lies within the 25<sup>th</sup> House District. While multiple legislative attempts were made to correct the issue, they were ultimately vetoed by the Governor. He took the position that no such corrections should be made outside of the decennial redistricting.

As you may expect, this split precinct has caused voter confusion, additional complications and expense for the registrar's office, and has increased the prospect of errors in the voting process. While not a problem unique to the Bridgewater split precinct, it presents its challenges, nonetheless.

We recognize should newly proposed district lines move from this general area entirely it may be a moot point. If they remain roughly the same around the town's northern border, we hope you will give these concerns your attention and work to address this issue. Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we might provide any additional information. Please know that we appreciate your service to our Commonwealth performing this important work to facilitate our representative democracy.

Sincerely,

Tony Wilt  
Delegate, 26<sup>th</sup> House District

Chris Runion  
Delegate, 25<sup>th</sup> House District



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Counties as "Communities of Interest"

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**Fran Larkins** <franlarkins40@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 24, 2021 at 9:29 AM

To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>, Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Del Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Del Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Del. Delores McQuinn" <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Marcus Simon <delmsimon@house.virginia.gov>, Greta Harris <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, Marvin Gilliam <mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov>, Richard Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, Ryan McDougale <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator Stephen Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>

As "Communities of Interest," our counties need more cohesive representation. I reside in Stafford County which has three House Districts and three State Senate districts. (On the other hand, my Delegate for the 88<sup>th</sup> House District represents four jurisdictions – Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Fauquier Counties and the City of Fredericksburg.)

In 2021, the Commission should use this historic opportunity to divide counties and cities into as few districts as practicable. In addition to keeping "Communities of Interest" together, it would also be more compact – another constitutional criteria.

I am attaching a copy of a report from Virginia's 2011 Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting. On Page 8 of *The Public Interest in Redistricting*, they describe testimony received at one of the Public Forums -

"The splitting of municipal and county jurisdictions drew the ire of citizens, who gave numerous examples of how several delegates and more than one senator represented one, sometimes small, locality. Understandably some might argue that localities may gain more effective representation by having more than one legislator look after their interests, but that was not the position of most, if not all, citizens who testified on this point. Instead, they pointed out the difficulties that citizens have in knowing who to contact, who to hold accountable, and who among several legislators should coordinate or lead the representation of local city and county interests in the General Assembly. Citizens who testified feel that cities and counties receive more effective representation from unity rather than diversity or multiplicity of representation."

I hope you will take the time to read the full report (43 pages) from 2011. It also includes model maps recommended by the Commission which you may find helpful as you begin our 2021 redistricting.

Thank you for your service to all Virginians.

Fran Larkins  
Fredericksburg, VA

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 **Redistricting-Commission-Final-Report\_04\_04\_2011.pdf**  
1820K

## Introduction

### Background

In 2020, a Virginia constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering in the state was passed and a Virginia Redistricting Commission was established. The Virginia Redistricting Commission's mission is to redraw as needed the state's election maps for both its congressional districts and for its state legislative delegates. This document was developed in response to public comments on the redistricting process being encouraged by the Commission.

### Guiding Principle for Redrawing Virginia Election Maps

The overriding principle for redrawing Virginia's election maps should be that it is "**data driven**" not partisan driven. Key demographic factors such as ethnicity, race, industry, occupation and educational levels of residents should be the driving forces in shaping any new state election maps.

## Redistricting Criteria for Congressional Districts

### Overview

Any new Virginia congressional district maps needing to be drawn should be guided by the following criteria:

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

### Communities of Interest/Communities of Place

The *Virginia Redistricting Commission* has established that one of the criteria for redrawing any Virginia election map is that the map represents a "*community of interest*" or "*community of place*". The *National Conference of State Legislatures* (NCSL) has also established this criterion for every state in the United States. Communities of interest share similar historical, cultural, or economic interests.

**However, they should not be defined by political affiliation.**

Wikipedia defines a community of place as such:

*"A **community of place** or **place-based community** is a [community](#) of people who are bound together because of where they reside, work, visit or otherwise spend a continuous portion of their time.<sup>[u]</sup> Such a community can be a [neighborhood](#), [town](#), [coffeehouse](#), [workplace](#), [gathering place](#), [public space](#) or any other geographically specific place that a number of people share, have in common or visit frequently...."*

### Contiguous Space and Equal Populations

Per past U.S. Supreme Court rulings, each congressional district's land area must be contiguous and each district within the same state must be of approximately equal size in population. In the case of Virginia, this implies that each newly designed district's population must be within a 5% +/- range of one-eleventh of Virginia's current population (currently at **784,201**). At the present time, the following Virginia congressional districts do NOT fall within a 5% +/- range of 784,201: VA-01, VA-02, VA-05, VA-09, VA-10.

### Racial fairness

The redrawn congressional district maps should not intend to or have the effect of diluting the power of minority voters or their ability to elect candidates of their choice.

### No Political Party / Candidate Advantages

The newly redrawn Virginia congressional district maps must not give a partisan edge or advantage to any one political party, candidate or incumbent.

### Preserve Existing Geographic Boundaries

The newly redrawn Virginia congressional district maps should adhere to the guideline of not splitting existing city, town, or county boundaries as much as possible.

### Reflex U.S. Census 2020 data

Unless the U.S. census data 2020 for Virginia indicates otherwise, the number of Virginia congressional districts will remain at eleven (11).

### Reflective of Key Demographics

The newly drawn congressional district maps must take into consideration percentage breakdowns of the following demographics:

- a) Race/Ethnicity % Distribution (White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)
- b) Industries and Occupations
- c) Urban/Rural breakdown
- d) Education (Enrollment/Level of Educational Achievement)

## Rationale/Criteria for Redrawing a Congressional District Map

The overriding rationale for redrawing the map for any particular Virginia congressional district is to have its demographic attributes fall within a 95 % to 105% range of the averages for those demographic attributes for all of the state congressional districts.

The demographic attributes recommended to be used as benchmarks for redistricting are:

1. Urban versus Rural percentage breakdown of a congressional district
2. Congressional District Population (use actual count not averages)
3. Land Area (square miles)
4. Median Household Income
5. Race/Ethnicity %s Distribution (White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)

## Redistricting Decision Matrix for Virginia's Congressional Districts

The primary data source used to develop the Decision Matrix was the most current data available from the US Census Bureau for zip codes/ZCTAs from the American Community Survey's 2019 5-year estimates.

| VA Congressional District | Current population within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population? | Urban Land Area – Rural Land Area Breakdown within 95%-105% of state-wide averages?                    | Ethnicity Balanced?                                                                                                                                         | Land Area relative to Average state CD Land Area                                                             | Candidate for Redistricting? |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| VA-01                     | No – Has excess of <b>48,945</b> residents.                                   | <b>No</b> - Urban Land Area deviates from state-wide average of <b>75.51%</b> by negative <b>5.97%</b> | <b>No</b> -Current % of Whites exceeds state-wide average by <b>6.83%</b> .                                                                                 | Minor Deviation from state-wide average ( i.e.; 94.28 square miles)                                          | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| VA-02                     | No -; shortfall of <b>52,070</b> residents.                                   | <b>No</b> - Urban Land Area exceeds state-wide average by <b>16.99%</b> .                              | Yes                                                                                                                                                         | Shortfall of 2,598.32 square miles                                                                           | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| VA-03                     | Yes                                                                           | Yes                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                                         | Shortfall of 2,642.92 square miles                                                                           | <b>No</b>                    |
| VA-04                     | Yes                                                                           | Yes                                                                                                    | Yes                                                                                                                                                         | Exceeds state-wide average by 720.28 square miles                                                            | <b>No</b>                    |
| VA-05                     | No - shortfall of <b>40,231</b> residents.                                    | No - Urban Land Area falls short of state-wide average by <b>40.21%</b> .                              | <b>No</b> - * Current % of Whites exceeds state-wide average by <b>9.41%</b><br>* Current % of Hispanics falls short of state-wide average of <b>5.5%</b> . | Entire Land Area is 10,030 square miles which exceeds all of other congressional districts total land areas. | <b>Yes</b>                   |



# VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING STRATEGY PROPOSAL

| VA Congressional District | Current population within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population? | Urban Land Area – Rural Land Area Breakdown within 95%-105% of state-wide averages? | Ethnicity Balanced?                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Land Area relative to Average state CD Land Area           | Candidate for Redistricting? |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| VA-06                     | Yes                                                                           | Urban Land Area falls short of state-wide average by <b>11.17%</b> .                | <b>No</b> –<br>* Current % of Whites exceeds state-wide average by <b>18.07%</b> .<br>* Current % of Blacks falls short of state-wide average by <b>7.83%</b> .                                                                    | Exceeds state-wide average by 2,339.98 square miles        | <b>Yes</b>                   |
| VA-07                     | Yes                                                                           | Yes                                                                                 | Yes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Shortfall of 813.62 square miles from state-wide average   | <b>No</b>                    |
| VA-08                     | Yes                                                                           | <b>No</b> - Urban Land Area exceeds state-wide average by <b>24.2%</b> .            | <b>No</b> -<br>* Current % of Whites less than state-wide average by <b>9.49%</b> .<br>* Current % of Hispanics exceeds state-wide average by <b>9.74%</b> .<br>* Current % of Asians exceeds state-wide average by <b>6.51%</b> . | Shortfall of 3,440.82 square miles from state-wide average | <b>Yes</b>                   |

# VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING STRATEGY PROPOSAL

| VA Congressional District | Current population within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population? | Urban Land Area – Rural Land Area Breakdown within 95%-105% of state-wide averages? | Ethnicity Balanced?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Land Area relative to Average state CD Land Area           | Candidate for Redistricting? |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| VA-09                     | No - shortfall of <b>71,919</b> residents.                                    | No -Urban Land Area falls short of state-wide average by <b>33.76%</b> .            | No –<br>* Current % of Whites exceeds state-wide average by <b>25.62%</b> .<br>* Current % of Blacks falls short of state-wide average by <b>8.33%</b> .<br>* Current % of Hispanics exceeds the state-wide average by <b>9.74%</b> .<br>* Current % of Asians exceeds state-wide average by <b>6.51%</b> . | Exceeds state-wide average by 5,523.88 square miles        | Yes                          |
| VA-10                     | No - excess of <b>81,696</b> residents                                        | No - Urban Land Area exceeds state-wide average by <b>10.02%</b> .                  | No –<br>* Current % of Blacks falls short of state-wide average by <b>12.62%</b> .<br>* Current % of Asians exceeds state-wide average by <b>8.96%</b> .                                                                                                                                                    | Shortfall of 2,217.82 square miles from state-wide average | Yes                          |

## VIRGINIA REDISTRICTING STRATEGY PROPOSAL

| VA Congressional District | Current population within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population? | Urban Land Area – Rural Land Area Breakdown within 95%-105% of state-wide averages? | Ethnicity Balanced?                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Land Area relative to Average state CD Land Area           | Candidate for Redistricting? |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| VA-11                     | Yes                                                                           | No - Urban Land Area exceeds state-wide average by <b>24.46%</b> .                  | No –<br>* Current % of Whites falls short of state-wide average by <b>15.79%</b> .<br>* Current % of Hispanics exceeds state-wide average by <b>9.43%</b> .<br>* Current % of Asians exceeds state-wide average by <b>13.81%</b> . | Shortfall of 3,404.92 square miles from state-wide average | Yes                          |

## Blueprint for Redrawing Virginia's Congressional District Maps

### Overview

Any Virginia's congressional district map needing to be redrawn should be based on a **hub-and-spoke** architecture where the hubs are Virginia's 25 most-populated counties and the spokes are adjacent smaller populated counties. The proposed overall congressional district maps architecture is modeled after how the **Virginia Association of Counties -Regions** ("**VACo**") is organized which currently has thirteen designated state regions and a subset (80+) of all existing counties in the state of Virginia.

### District Architecture -the Hubs

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

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

### District Architecture – The Spokes

Each district hub will have attached to it adjacent smaller populated counties going out in wider arcs until a congressional district population of one-eleventh of the total population of Virginia is achieved. The total population of Virginia as of 2020 was: **8,626,210**. The total population of the twenty-five (25) most populated counties in Virginia is: **5,756,900**.

Candidates for the adjacent counties must satisfy the following criteria:

- Either be adjacent to the congressional district hub and/or each other to be in compliance with the "contiguous" rule.
- Should have similar demographics as much as possible as regards:
  - a) Race/Ethnicity % Distribution (White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)
  - b) Industries and Occupations
  - c) Urban / Rural breakdown
  - d) Education (Enrollment/Level of Educational Achievement)

## Tactics for Redrawing Virginia Election Maps

### Develop a Preliminary Set of Election Maps Prior to Receiving 2020 Census Data

Virginia has a total of **151** distinct election maps that comprises:

- 11 Virginia congressional districts
- 40 Virginia state senator maps and
- 100 Virginia House of Delegate member maps

If all of Virginia's election maps will have to be at the very least modified (or perhaps completely redrawn) this means the Redistricting Commission would have to produce a daily average of 3.35 new or modified election maps once the 45-day mapping period begins!

To address this time crunch, once the Redistricting Commission has completed the training on the "**CityGate GIS**" mapping software it is recommended that they develop a preliminary set of new election maps using the U.S. Census data for Virginia from the "**American Community Survey 2019 5-year estimates**". Then once the US census data for 2020 is received, modify as needed the preliminary set of maps.

### "Divide and Conquer" Methodology for Redrawing Virginia Election Maps

Consider having the 16 members of the Redistricting Commission be divided into three (3) teams of five members each with each team having its own project leader and a sixteen-person chosen as the overriding Project Manager:

1. Team #1 would be devoted to redrawing if needed the state's congressional district maps;
2. Team #2 would be devoted to redrawing if needed state senator election maps and finally
3. Team #3 would be devoted to redrawing if needed Virginia's state delegate election maps

## Resources for Redrawing Virginia Election Maps

### "CityGate GIS" Mapping Software Training Support

The "**CityGate GIS**" mapping software is a very robust software product but also quite complex. Given the constraints that the Redistricting Commission is operating under (time, learning curve to use the mapping software and possible number of election maps to be redrawn) it is recommended that the Commission reach out for help to other state agencies that have experience with this particular mapping software or similar mapping software. The best likely resource would be the GIS/Demographic Departments of the major populated Virginia counties that are currently using "**CityGate GIS**"; for example, Prince William County.

### Assistance in Defining Communities of Interest/Place

The Redistricting Commission might consider contacting local school boards, real estate associations, civic organizations such as Rotary Clubs, the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations and regional Chambers of Commerce for their ideas on this topic.

## Redistricting Efforts to Date

### Demographics Data Collection/Organization

As of March, 2021, I have downloaded U.S census data for 2019 for the state of Virginia as it pertains to the existing congressional districts of Virginia and its twenty-five most populated counties. The data has been organized into a set of multiple separate Microsoft Excel 2019 workbooks. Each Excel workbook contains multiple worksheets presented in several formats; raw data, data ranges, tabular and charts (e.g., funnel charts) The data that has been captured includes:

- Congressional district population counts, median incomes and land areas in square miles
- Current political party representing the Congressional district
- Urban/Rural Percentage breakdowns of Congressional districts
- Congressional district ethnicity percentages and population counts
- Congressional district educational levels and resident counts
- Congressional district income brackets and resident counts
- Congressional district industry types and corresponding employment counts
- County population counts, median incomes and land areas in square miles
- County ethnicity percentages and population counts
- Henrico County Programs & Services
- Compilation of a list of all the community colleges in Virginia; enrollment counts and location

### Data Sources for Redrawn Congressional District Maps

- Most current data available from the US Census Bureau for zip codes/ZCTAs is from the American Community Survey's 2019 5-year estimates.
- Demographic / GIS data sourced from the GIS departments of the twenty-five most populated counts
- Virginia Regions Study Guide
- Authoritative articles found in Wikipedia
- Virginia County Map from “*Maps of World*” organization
- *Virginia Demographics by Cubit*

## Appendices

### About the Author (Ken Chasin)

- Resident of Charlottesville, Virginia
- Retired senior-level Information Technology professional
- Areas of expertise include business intelligence solutions, data warehousing and data analysis
- Have worked in multiple industries that include:
  - Computer Manufacturing
  - Health Care (HMOs)
  - Insurance (Property & Life Liability)
- Have developed strategic planning documents for large multi-million-dollar corporations.

### Virginia Association of Counties – Regions (“VACo”)

The Virginia Association of Counties exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, and promote the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia. It currently represents over eighty (80) Virginia counties.

For more information about the Virginia Association of Counties-Regions, please visit the Web site <https://www.vaco.org/county-profiles/vaco-regions/>. This Web site includes the following information:

- County Employment
- County Profiles
- Rural Caucus
- Regions



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Watersheds as a 'Community of Interest'

1 message

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**Richard Mr Zimermann** <richardzimermann@verizon.net>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 3:40 PM

Commissioners:

- Each WATERSHED is a 'community of interest' by its geography:  
for (1) colonial county boundaries for Rs, and (2) 21st century climate change for Ds.
- VA-09 The 'Fighting Ninth' CAN BE the Southwest counties draining into the New River.
- VA-05 CAN BE anchored on the 'hubs' of Roanoke, Lynchburg & Danville.
- Watershed: all but L'hbg-part drain into the ROANOKE-DAN RIVER.
- Planning: all are in contiguous Planning Districts 4-5-11-12.
- SMA: the Roanoke SMA crosses the Blue Ridge SE following the Roanoke River.
- Highways: north-south by US-220 (ROA-DAN) & US-29 (LYH-DAN);
- Highways: east-west by US 460 (LYH-ROA) & US-58 (DAN).

Sincerely,

Richard Zimermann, [1226 Brookside Landing, Chesapeake VA 23320](#).



June 4, 2021

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

Following its meeting this past week, I was concerned that the commission's Budget and Finance Subcommittee voted, 5-3, to recommend that the commission issue RFPs seeking legal counsel only from lawyers affiliated with each of the political parties. While I have previously submitted public comments on this issue, I am concerned about how this divided decision could be perceived by the public—and opinion leaders throughout the Commonwealth—at this important point in the commission's process.

As Sen. Newman said, the commission will take a vote and it will be time to move on. But up to now the commission has worked hard to take a bi-partisan approach. It should continue to search for compromise among all the sides that are represented at the table. Hiring partisan counsel may make it easier to sell a redistricting plan to legislators. It may, however, make it more difficult to sell a plan to the citizens of Virginia, some of whom remain deeply cynical about whether our voter-approved redistricting process can work. In addition, political commentators will likely point to the decision as a victory for the same old supporters of political gerrymandering.

Some observations:

- 1) The subcommittee rejected the idea of issuing an RFP for non-partisan or neutral counsel. Issuing these RFPs would be the easiest way to confirm, as some of the legislators insist, that there is no such thing as a non-partisan redistricting expert. However, by refusing to even issue the RFPs, the commission is sending a message that its mind is already made up, and it's not open to any other approach. What kind of a message does that send to Virginia citizens before the commission has even scheduled its first public hearing? Are your minds already made up? Are you willing to even consider approaches other than those taken in the past by commission members, who, as members of the General Assembly have now set themselves up as the "experts" on redistricting?
- 2) The commission has been more than happy to accept non-partisan legal advice from the lawyers who work for the Division of Legislative Services and/or the Office of the Attorney General. Why is this legal question so different? Can't you at least pose the question to the legal profession and see who offers their services?
- 3) Over the past decade, Virginia taxpayers have been forced to bear many of the costs associated with legal battles over gerrymandered districts. As some commissioners noted, hiring two counsels to represent the parties' views may make it easier to sell a plan to partisan legislators, but it will amount to a continued waste of taxpayer money. If the parties need to hire counsel to provide advice from a partisan perspective, let their respective caucuses foot the bill. If helpful, let those lawyers testify before the commission—or submit public comments—just like the rest of us will have to if we want our views to be considered. If the partisan lawyers raise valid points, the commission, can, as a whole, consider their opinions and respond.

So far, the commission has come up with many creative ideas for preserving its bi-partisan approach, and has done an admirable job of keeping politics out of its deliberations. The judicial selection panel did the same thing with the applicants that it reviewed. As a matter of course, you should always ask yourselves: is a compromise possible? While decisions on RFPs were delegated to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, this is, in fact, a “bigger” decision than just a procurement document, and one the whole commission should discuss thoughtfully.

May I offer a compromise approach that will keep YOUR options open for a brief period of time and communicate that you are more open-minded than your initial vote suggested:

- 1) Issue the RFPs for neutral or non-partisan legal counsel (as well as the partisan RFPs).
- 2) Try to make a choice from among the respondents to the first group of RFPs. If the choice cannot be unanimous, at least follow the same guidelines that you will have to follow when you approve your ultimate plan, namely that the lawyer or law firm must be the choice of a super-majority of commission members.
- 3) If no lawyer responds, or responders to the non-partisan RFP are not qualified, then proceed to award contracts to two party-affiliated firms.
- 4) If commissioners don’t feel they have the time to scope out the partisan leanings of lawyers purporting to be non-partisan, publicize their names and let other partisan activists do it for you.
- 5) If the commission still cannot decide on a single counsel, let commission members affiliated with each of the parties pick a firm from those that responded to the non-partisan RFP.

While time is of the essence, this decision is important enough that it should not be rushed through the full commission on June 7. There will still be time to make a decision from a bigger pool of respondents by early July. This approach will provide commission members with two more weeks to reflect on the issue and hear from the public, and to more carefully determine what kind of legal advice is actually available.

In the end, the commission may still end up hiring partisan counsel. Following this kind of approach, however, will at least communicate to the public that members are trying to keep an open mind on the issue—and still trying to seek a consensus. In all of your deliberations, that should be your ultimate goal.

Sara Fitzgerald

Falls Church, VA.



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Site comments

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**alnath14308** <alnath14308@gmail.com>

Sat, Jun 5, 2021 at 2:41 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Did Republicans design this site? It is extremely hard to use, slow to respond, and fails to make clear what current districts are. It appears to be an excellent voter suppression tool, at least as implemented on iPhones.

Poor job. It's about what the current political environment is expected to deliver.

TH



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Citizen Engagement - Hearings and Guidelines

1 message

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**Fran Larkins** <franlarkins40@gmail.com>  
To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 3:39 PM

Commissioners -

1. The draft RFP for Communications and Outreach Services asks for a workplan that would identify "Appropriate hours for meetings for each target community to accommodate all residents (e.g., regular business hours, on weekends, or during evening hours)." **The proposed hearing schedule does not allow for consideration of weekends.**
2. The Note under the schedule for "Virtual Public Hearings" states "Virtual public hearings provide members of the public from all regions the opportunity to speak." I don't believe this was the intent of the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee. There was much discussion at their May 26 meeting about the importance of focusing on each region. I agree with Del. Adams who suggested having the in-person not confined to region because map lines may make it easier to get to another site. However, he would make the virtual hearings regional and use libraries for online access. Mr. Harrell added "if virtual meetings are open to all, the same people could speak every time." He also suggested priority be given to the locality in virtual meetings.
3. **Signs at hearings?** The "Rules of Conduct" under "Public Participation Guidelines" prohibit "Banners, Signs, bullhorns, or similar devices . . ." There may be members of the public who would like to use a sign to indicate their "Community of Interest" or suggestion for districts. (For example: I have an 24" x 18" map on a sign to accompany my presentation.) Signs of this type should be allowed.
4. Please ensure there is a method for persons who sign up to speak to know when their time is approaching. We could then be ready to quickly come to the podium. This would also be much more efficient for virtual hearings.
5. There should also be a way for all commissioners at the virtual hearings to be viewed at the same time. It has been less than ideal for those of us who are now watching the live-streaming of Commission meetings. Unless we are signed up to speak in person, the live-stream shows only the speaker, not the full commission.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Fran Larkins  
Fredericksburg, VA



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Map Drawing Services and Starting Point for Maps

1 message

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**Fran Larkins** <franlarkins40@gmail.com>  
To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 3:51 PM

Commissioners -

### Budget for Map Drawing Services -

1. As you consider the line item in the budget for "map drawing services," I hope you will not see this as a place to cut pennies.
2. There are many very qualified experts to guide you through the various components of map drawing from concise population demands to requirements of the Voting Rights Act to prioritizing criteria such as Communities of Interest.
3. From the very first meeting of the Commission, there has been discussion about the process of map drawing.
4. Some legislators have considerable experience with drawing maps and feel the Commission can "come up with maps fair to everybody."
5. While several citizen commissioners have taken advantage of an opportunity to train on Citygate software, their experience seems to have been mixed.
6. The Commission needs to hire as many experts as would be necessary to ensure all commissioners – citizens and legislators - are comfortable with the map drawing process.
7. Most importantly – citizens should feel that their voice is heard as maps are drawn. Legislators that have drawn maps in the past have not made the interest of voters their top priority.

### What should be the starting point for map drawing?

1. While it would perhaps be considered less expensive and time-consuming to "tweak" existing maps, fair redistricting for Virginia must begin with a fresh map.
2. The problems of gerrymandering, e.g. split precincts have resulted from simply shifting lines every ten years just enough to benefit a particular party or incumbent.
3. As Communities of Interest, our counties need more cohesive representation. I reside in Stafford County which has three House Districts and three State Senate districts. The Commission should use this historic opportunity to divide counties into fewer districts.
4. Many Virginia cities also want to no longer be divided into multiple districts.
5. The needs of these and other citizen-drawn COI would be much easier to accommodate if the map was started from a blank slate.
6. If current districts are just "tweaked", it would be too easy to draw the map to accommodate a single legislator. If created with COI as a priority, there would be no need for legislator addresses.

Thank you for your consideration.

Fran Larkins  
Fredericksburg, VA

June 6, 2021

Ms. Greta J. Harris  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
gharris@dls.virginia.gov

Ms. Mackenzie K. Babichenko  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Ms. Harris and Ms. Babichenko,

We applaud and appreciate the time and effort on the part of all Commissioners and Division of Legislative Services staff to address needed contractual and budget issues and to develop Public Participation Guidelines during the seven subcommittee meetings held over the last three weeks.

We are writing today to address several concerns regarding the Communications and Outreach Services Request for Proposal (RFP), improvements to the Commission website , and the need for an effective public outreach campaign to maximize public participation in the public hearings proposed to be held beginning in July.

The draft RFP describes a broad “scope of services” including traditional press/public relations, social media presence development/management, public input compilation/maintenance in a database/periodic reporting and analysis to the Commission and public hearing management. *(see draft Request for Proposal – Communications and Outreach Services, pp. 3-4)*

The RFP also requires a work plan that will include strategies to increase public engagement and input in the development of draft redistricting maps, with particular focus on communities of interest, underserved communities and communities historically disengaged from the redistricting process, appropriate translation services, website enhancements to maximize interest, user friendliness, traffic and engagement, a media and public relations strategy, a variety of tools to solicit broad and diverse community input and a methodology for producing useful and appropriate data for drawing district maps from public comment and other sources of information *(see draft Request for Proposal – Communications and Outreach Services, p. 6)*

This is a significant portfolio, a broad range of responsibility. And the work starts, at the very earliest, on July 12, one day before the first public hearing is to be held, according to the draft public hearing schedule.

The work of the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee should continue in earnest between now and July 12. And much of the focus should be on the Commission website.

#### Capability to receive comments and proposals from citizens on the Commission website

The content and design of the Commission website needs to be improved to more effectively meet the statutory requirements to receive and consider public comments.

To make a live public comment: There are two ways website visitors can currently accomplish this –

1) From the website Home page, click ‘About Us’, then click on ‘FAQ’ . If the website visitor does not know where to find this, they will probably click on several of the top level links until they find it. Then they must click back to the Home page, select ‘Meetings and Hearings’ and follow the instructions provided in ‘FAQ’.

2) To actually register to make a public comment, from the website Home page, a visitor clicks on ‘Meetings and Hearings’, locates the specific meeting date, clicks on the Agenda and selects the link to register. (Occasionally, there will be a separate link to register to speak without opening the Agenda, but this option is not available on a regular basis).

To submit a written comment:

There is no explanation of how to make a written comment on the ‘FAQ’ page.

The only location that offers guidance on how to make a written comment is within the Agenda for each meeting:

*Members of the public who wish to comment on an agenda item may also do so by sending an email to [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov). The comment will be posted on the Division's website at: <https://virginiaredistricting.org/>. Please note that comments will be posted in full including the name of the commenter and any contact information provided.*

Written comments are then attached only to the meeting dates proximate to the date of their submission; they are not organized by content. Also, timely posting of written public comments is crucial.

Adoption of Public Participation Guidelines and their inclusion on the website and in public notices will provide much needed clarification. However, these guidelines should be amended to describe how citizens can provide place-based geographic recommendations regarding community of interest (COI) or State or Congressional election district(s) in the form of shape files. Public comments in the form of shape files need to be compatible with the map-drawing software to be used by the Commission. This gap needs to be addressed as the Commission will rely on citizen input to assist in meeting the community of interest criterion contained in the Virginia code.

Also, citizens can provide COI input at any time; such input does not need to be based on new census data, as COI input is an individual or a group’s definition of their community. Therefore, citizens can provide meaningful COI input now and throughout the summer, including during the first round of public hearings scheduled to begin on July 13.

We also urge the Commission to enhance the website to include a module or portal dedicated to accepting and organized citizen comment and proposals and address the concerns noted above. We fully support the recommendations of previous commenters that the Commission

implement a function similar to the Michigan Redistricting Commission's "Public Comment Portal" <https://www.michigan-mapping.org>.

The Michigan portal is a well-organized user-friendly process for submitting text comments as well as shape files for either communities of interest or election districts. Public comments are uploaded in real time, are searchable by tags and are not linked solely to a particular commission meeting. Although it would be beneficial if this feature is available at the earliest possible date, we urge the Commission to make sure that the development of such a module is one of the key tasks of the Communication and Outreach specialist.

#### Update and reorganize other parts of website

The website needs a basic overarching narrative of the process and description of the Commission's core activities as well as a detailed timeline of events and milestones. Both are necessary to effectively inform citizens about the redistricting process, and how and when citizens can participate. This is particularly important for providing information to interested citizens who may be unfamiliar with the new redistricting process in Virginia.

The website also needs regular updates to keep citizens informed of major developments and future milestones. For example, the most recent item in the "News" tab is dated February 12, 2021.

Significant news items such as the announcement of the July public hearings should be prominently featured on the Home page of the website and not under a tab. The 'FAQ' section of the website also needs to be updated on a regular basis and more prominently featured on the Home page.

Other sections of the website such as 'Publications', 'Criteria', 'Maps and Data' and 'Plan Reports' are basically files from previous redistricting cycles; they are of limited value to the 2021 redistricting cycle. These should be organized under a heading/title that so indicates to avoid confusion with current law and criteria.

In conclusion, we urge the Commission to pursue a robust public outreach effort, including targeted website improvements, to maximize citizen participation in the July public hearings and the overall redistricting process. To that end, we suggest the Commission work closely with the Communications and Outreach Services contractor to fully implement the work plan elements laid out in the RFP.

We appreciate your consideration of these points,

Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA  
Candace Butler, Annandale VA

cc:

Commissioner Hutchins  
Commissioner Feliciano  
Commissioner Abrenio

Commissioner Barker  
Commissioner Locke  
Commissioner McDougale



Commissioner Kumar  
Commissioner Gilliam  
Commissioner Harrell  
Commissioner Les Adams

Commissioner Newman  
Commissioner McQuinn  
Commissioner Simon  
Commissioner Ransone

Claire Waters, DLS Staff

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## The new redistricting website

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**Carolyn Caywood** <[cacaywood@cox.net](mailto:cacaywood@cox.net)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Sun, Jun 6, 2021 at 4:27 PM

The new website is very attractive. However, you have a problem with the links both from DLS and within the website itself. The website URL is <http://www.virginiaredistricting.org/> and all the links should begin that way. Instead, the links are written with <https://> in the URLs. The result is that I get an error message: Warning: Potential Security Risk Ahead.

Some users may not have their browsers set up to warn about security risks while others may not be able to access your site at all. I've encountered the problem before so I tried dropping the s off http and found that worked.

You need to do one of two things. Either correct all the links to http or else correctly make use of [https](https://) which ensures a more secure connection. Since you are collecting emails for a mailing list, you really should choose the latter, more secure method. The sooner this is done, the better, but certainly before you begin to accept uploaded Communities of Interest maps.

I appreciated your responsiveness to my request for closed captioning and I hope to see this fixed quickly as well. Thank you for all your support as we Virginians jointly map our future.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Caywood  
[873 St. James Drive, Virginia 23455](#)



## Public engagement and transparency

1 message

Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 12:45 AM

06.07.21

I have spoken and written to you before, but I think it's important to share my ideas again as you make some key decisions today.

**Transparency** is a key strength of this new redistricting process. Virginians voted – they clearly want this process to be fair, open and as non-partisan as possible.

### Public Engagement

- We are pleased that a **listserv** has been created to improve communications with the public; however, I have received only one email so far. I hope we will receive them more frequently in the future.
- **The stand-alone Commission website** is a step in the right direction, but it definitely needs improvement. Please consider **hiring a webmaster** to create and maintain a high quality website. Michigan's redistricting website is, in my opinion, the "gold standard". I know that at least two Commissioners have visited the website and agree that it is an effective one. One key feature is the public input portal which is like a Google form -- it is so easy to submit comments, shapefiles and Comm of Interest maps; there is no need to use an email address. The comments appear to be automatically uploaded into a "Gallery" in "real time. In the Gallery, Commissioners and the public can sort comments by region, date, or topic, and view every submission. There is no need to wait until a couple hours before a meeting begins to read the comments.
- I recommend that the Commission **hire a communications director** who can determine how best to reach all Virginians - whether it's print media, radio, or social media. Use our tax dollars wisely. It should not be necessary to spend \$160,000 on print media (which most of us never saw). Keep in mind, too, that the League of Women Voters, OneVirginia2021, the NAACP, VCET and other organizations are ready to help inform the public of important hearings, etc.
- **Schedule as many public hearings as possible** to hear from Virginians. I hope that you will consider using the 21 Planning Districts, rather than the 8 Weldon Cooper regions as you schedule hearings. I urge you to consider holding 8 in-person hearings **before map drawing begins**. It's vitally important to hear citizens' input and respect that input as you begin to draw lines. **In-person hearings should also allow for virtual participation as well.**
- Keep in mind that some regions are dense in population, so be prepared for many hours of testimony. (Note that Michigan held its first or 16 public hearings in May – over 150 people signed up to speak!) Other regions may have fewer people, but in-person hearings are very important for the many residents who have broadband and/or transportation issues.
- **Consider adding evening and weekend hours**, which would allow working Virginians to attend hearings. Many people cannot "attend" Commission hearings because they are working at 10 am and 2 pm. Do not shut them out from the hearings as well.
- I think it is important that **all Commissioners attend every public hearing** either in-person or virtually (as is required of Commissioners in Michigan and California). In order to understand what Virginians want, you must listen to us.

### Drawing the maps

- The Commission should **hire a special master** to draw the maps for the House, Senate and Congressional districts. It's important for those maps to be **drawn "from scratch"** – incumbent protection should not be a consideration (which it will be if partisan (legislator) Commissioners take control of the map-drawing process). Because of the 45-day time constraints, a special master may be more efficient in this new map-drawing process.
- Just **one special master (or two if necessary)** (rather than 3 separate map drawers) should be responsible for drawing all 3 sets of maps. This would allow the House, Senate and Congressional districts to be coordinated as much as possible so that precincts, municipalities, cities and counties are not split unnecessarily.

### Legal Counsel

6/7/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - Public engagement and transparency

I have written about my disappointment in the highly-partisan discussion about hiring two sets of legal counsel. I still hope that RFPs can be issued for a neutral, non-partisan legal team – as well as two RFPs for Democrat and Republican legal teams.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. And thank you for your dedication and hard work!

Christine DeRosa (she, her)

Arlington, Virginia



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## "Divide and Conquer Strategy" for redrawing Virginia State Election Maps

1 message

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**Ken Chasin** <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 6:51 AM

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

I would like to comment on the process and timeline the Redistricting Commission is using to redraw if needed the state's election maps.

Virginia has a total of **151** distinct election maps that includes:

- 11 Virginia congressional districts
- 40 Virginia state senator districts (representing an equal number of single-member constitutional districts) and
- 100 Virginia House of Delegate member maps.

Assuming the worst-case scenario that all of Virginia's election maps will have to be at the very least modified (or perhaps completely redrawn) this means the Redistricting Commission would have to produce an average of **3.35** new or modified election maps per day, once the 45-day mapping period begins!

I would like to propose a "**divide and conquer**" strategy for how the Redistricting Commission approaches how it will redraw any election maps. Consider having the 16 members of the Redistricting Commission be divided into three (3) teams of five members each with each team having its own project leader and a sixteen person would be chosen as the overriding Project Manager:

1. Team #1 would be devoted to redrawing if needed the state's congressional district maps;
2. Team #2 would be devoted to redrawing if needed Virginia's state senator election maps and finally
3. Team #3 would be devoted to redrawing if needed Virginia's state delegate election maps.

Thank you for your time.

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**Ken Chasin**



Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Hub-and-Spoke Architecture for redrawing Virginia's congressional district maps

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**Ken Chasin** <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 7, 2021 at 9:03 AM

To: Virginia Redistricting Commission &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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

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

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

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

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

Candidate adjacent counties must satisfy the following criteria:

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

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**Ken Chasin****Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887**



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Citizen concerns**

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**GRACE** <gfwhite@mindspring.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Fri, May 28, 2021 at 12:44 PM

As someone who supported Amendment One, attending committee hearings at the General Assembly and talking with voters at the polls about redistricting reform over several elections, I am thrilled to watch Virginia's new redistricting commission as you work through the process.

I do have a few concerns. First, unless a citizen registers to make a public comment, it is not possible to get a gallery view of all of the commissioners. This definitely detracts from the value of virtual meetings.

Second, I have been following the discussion of whether to hire a single attorney/law firm or hire two - one that leans Democratic and one that leans Republican - and do not find it credible that it is impossible to find a non-partisan firm. I think the issue is how to find a firm that is acceptable to all sides.

Third, I am concerned that an insufficient number of public hearings are proposed and that insufficient attention is being paid to those areas of the state that don't have good broadband to allow citizens in those areas to have input without imposing significant travel on them.

Respectfully -

Grace White  
Woodbridge, VA



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Comments for Commissioners and DLS

1 message

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**JoAnn Flanagan** <j.flanagan1224@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 9:04 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov, mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov, gharris@dls.virginia.gov, jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov, jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov, mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov, rharrell@dls.virginia.gov, bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov, skumar@dls.virginia.gov, deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov, senatorbarker@gmail.com, redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com, deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov, sdnewman7@gmail.com, delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov, delmsimon@house.virginia.gov

Dear Commissioners:

Congratulations and thank-you for your service on the Virginia Redistricting Commission.

As you finalize your budget, **please include funding for map drawers**. Time is short for this redistricting cycle. The Redistricting Amendment clearly emphasizes public participation, through citizen commissioners and through public engagement. But map drawing for the entire state requires in-depth technical skill best left to seasoned professionals rather than citizen or legislator Commissioners. Your time is needed for listening closely to the needs of Virginia's people and choosing maps that most closely meet our needs and the priorities of the redistricting process.

In addition, it is crucial that the map drawing process is free from bias toward any present or future candidates in Virginia elections. **Drawing maps without the influence of current incumbent addresses will be a major victory for election fairness** throughout this entire redistricting cycle.

Thank-you for your attention to these matters,

JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan

Fairfax, VA





VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Virtual and In-Person Hearings

1 message

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**Neal Sumerlin** <neal.sumerlin@gmail.com>

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 5:28 PM

To: Redistricting Commission <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Public hearings

1 message

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**Carla Heath** <[cheath340@icloud.com](mailto:cheath340@icloud.com)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 5:36 PM

Comissioners,

As you plan for public meetings, I strongly urge you to hold LIVE sessions in each of the 21 Planning districts with ALL commissioners present. Many of us who have been playing with redistricting map-making software have found that Planning Districts are pretty representative of Congressional district size communities of interest.

Carla Heath

[339 Sumpter St](#)  
[Lynchburg, VA](#)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Tomorrow's meeting**

1 message

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**Missy Raines** <missyraines@yahoo.com>

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 8:45 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Redistricting

1 message

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**Richard Raines** <raines6@att.net>

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 8:47 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**for the Citizen Engagement Subcomm and full Commission**

1 message

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**Chris DeRosa** <chris.lwv.222@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 9:47 PM

Public engagement and transparency are the two most valuable requirements in this new redistricting process. I have several suggestions that I hope that you will consider seriously to engage robustly with your constituents and provide maximum transparency. I apologize for the length of this comment, but these issues are very important to me and others.

**Rename the subcommittee.** Please consider changing this subcommittee's name to **PUBLIC Engagement**, rather than Citizen Engagement. Using the term "public" is more inclusive and invites all Virginians, not just US citizens, to participate because they are all stakeholders.

**Create and maintain a user-friendly, robust website.** Hire a webmaster who can create and maintain an informative, well-organized, and user-friendly website. I applaud DLS' creation of a new website that is dedicated to the Redistricting Commission. That is a step in the right direction, but it can be improved. We recognize that DLS staff are devoting many hours to support this Commission and this process; contracting with a professional webmaster would improve public engagement while relieving the DLS staff of this task, allowing them to focus on the other tasks they are charged with.

As Ms. Babichenko and Mr. Abrenio have suggested, the Michigan Redistricting Commission's website is excellent! I urge you to take a look : <https://www.michigan-mapping.org/> One of its key features is a user-friendly **Citizen Portal** to submit comments; it's front and center on the landing page. It is designed as a google form which allows the public to enter the information directly and easily. No one needs to search for the email address. The submissions appear to be uploaded into the website's **Gallery** in "real time". This **Gallery** shows all of the submissions for everyone to view. Submissions are tagged and sortable by topic. Currently, Virginia's public comments are uploaded just hours prior to meetings, which is not enough time for Commissioners and citizens to review before the meeting begins. They are "attached" only to the meeting(s) held that day/week.

**Schedule numerous public hearings in all regions of the Commonwealth.** It is vital to hold as many public hearings as possible, in person, as well as virtually. It is vital that you schedule many more public hearings **prior to drawing the lines**. You need to hear from Virginians about their Communities of Interest, which you must respect when drawing maps. I submit that 8 hearings are inadequate.

**It is important to hold hearings in different geographic areas** – especially where broadband and internet are not reliably available to all. Using the 8 Weldon Cooper regions may be appropriate, but do not rely solely on those categories. Please consider using the 21 Planning Districts of Virginia, which provide naturally-organized regions. If a region or district is geographically large and requires long hours of driving, you may need to schedule a second or even third hearing in that area. If a region or district (e.g., Cooper's Northern region) has a very large population, you may need to schedule an extra hearing to accommodate all the citizens who may want to testify.

Also, please realize that each hearing may need to last longer than 3 hours. Michigan's first public hearing a few weeks ago attracted 150 speakers! Also – some or all hearings should be held in the evenings or weekends to allow working Virginians to fully participate. Note that Michigan's 16 hearings are all scheduled for the late afternoon and evening. California's meetings and hearings are likewise scheduled to allow more public participation.

**Attendance should be required of all Commissioners at every hearing**, either virtually or in person. Note that Michigan and California Commissioners are expected to attend ALL hearings **in-person**. Michigan Commissioners who cannot attend must file a "Notice of Remote Attendance" that explains why (s)he cannot attend. For Virginia, I strongly believe that at least half (8)

Commissioners should be present, in-person, at every hearing. All others should attend remotely. I agree with this subcommittee's recommendation that there should be a balance between citizens and legislators, Democrats and Republicans.

Yes, this will require more driving and more time of each Commissioner. Transportation and accommodation costs will be acceptable expenses if they allow the public full access to the Commission and this redistricting process.

All California Commissioners traveled to every hearing throughout their state, with few absences in 2011. They felt that their presence was important.

**Outreach is critical, but it doesn't need to be expensive.** Learning that \$160,000 was spent on publicity by the Selection Committee in December was surprising, even shocking. **I wonder how many of the eight citizen Commissioners learned of the application process via those paid ads.** In other words, were those ads effective and worth the money?

**Hire a communications expert** to determine the best ways to reach the most Virginians as you begin your engagement with the public.

**We also suggest that you utilize the network of organizations** that have, and continue to, inform the public about the redistricting meetings and process. The League of Women Voters has been reaching out to its members and to the greater public on redistricting for many years. Our efforts to get the word out about the Constitutional Amendment and the Citizen Application process have been strenuous and effective. We continue to attend every Commission and subcommittee meeting, sharing notes via our website and on social media. It is not necessary to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Other community organizations such as VCET, NBNRO, and OneVirginia2021 stand ready as well. Press releases should be widely utilized. Libraries, community centers, government buildings and other public spaces can post flyers. The Commission should also establish its own robust social media presence in order to engage with Virginians.

**Accessibility should be improved.** As I have mentioned before, sharing information in different languages, and providing accurate closed captioning are vital to reaching many Virginians.

I hope that you will seriously consider all the recommendations that I have provided here.

Thank you for your kind attention, and for your dedicated efforts to make fair maps a reality in Virginia.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)

[Chris.lwv.222@gmail.com](mailto:Chris.lwv.222@gmail.com)

Arlington, VA



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Urging all commissioners to attend all 8 public hearings**

1 message

**Niro Rasanayagam** <niro\_r@hotmail.com>

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 9:52 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Concerning the Redistricting Commission

1 message

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**Koring, Heidi** <koring@lynchburg.edu>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 9:59 PM

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





VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Costs for Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission Web Portal?

1 message

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**Fran Larkins** <franklarkins40@gmail.com>  
To: VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 10:47 PM

At a previous meeting of the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee, I was delighted to hear several references to the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission Web portal.

The new Redistricting Commission Web page is quite nice with lovely pictures and easy to navigate, but it really lacks the capability to organize and share input from the public. Have you approached the Michigan Commission to learn the cost for their page? I believe it was developed with the assistance of Moon Duchin of Tufts University's MGGG Redistricting Lab. It might be good to determine the cost for this before your budget is finalized.

As you look further for consultants to assist the Commission, you may also want to discuss with the MGGG Redistricting Lab their capability to evaluate and compare maps from COIs particularly with minority communities in mind. They are a highly respected, nonpartisan group of mathematicians, data scientists, geographers, software developers, and civic researchers that could make a valuable contribution to the Commission's efforts. Ms. Duchin could be reached through [contact@mggg.org](mailto:contact@mggg.org).

I became familiar with the work of the MGGG Redistricting Lab while volunteering for redistricting reform in Virginia. If I had been selected as a Citizen Commissioner, that is one of the first contacts I would have suggested for the Commission. I am quite happy though to watch as you all begin progress toward fair maps for Virginia and am also pleased to assist in any way in getting the word out to all Virginians.

**Note - A version of this suggestion was sent immediately after the May 20 subcommittee meeting, but I didn't receive a response from DLS. A second similar email was sent May 23. This is the third attempt to share my suggestion that the Commission investigate costs for a Web portal similar to that of the Michigan Independent Redistricting Commission. I have received no response and they have not been published under "Comments."**

I sincerely hope it will be easier to communicate with Commission members in the future.

Fran Larkins

Fredericksburg, VA



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**For the Budget Subcomm and full Commission**

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Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 11:37 AM

To members of the Budget & Finance Subcommittee, and the members of the full Redistricting Commission:

**There has been discussion about hiring lawyers. That is a separate topic that I have already addressed. Here are my recommendations for the Commission :: please consider hiring experts in:**

**Mapping** – someone who may be a mathematician and/or political scientist who understands how to draw maps, as well as how to evaluate maps for criteria such ethnic/language/racial- minority representation and compactness, as well as Communities of Interest. Two such experts that I am familiar with are:

**Moon Duchin**, Tufts University : MGGG Lab\_(Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group)  
<https://mggg.org/people/mduchin/>

**Bernard Grofman**, mathematician and political scientist University of California, Irvine. Mr. Grofman was hired as the special master who was hired to re-establish boundaries for Congressional District 3 in 2015, as well as re-drawing the lines in 2019 for the eleven (11) House districts that were racially gerrymandered.

**Communications** – someone who knows how to provide information to the public in an effective manner. The Commission is charged with providing timely notice in a variety of languages to Virginians. You need an expert in this field to help the Commission accomplish this mandated goal. We, the citizens, were surprised and not pleased to learn that the Selection Committee spent \$160,000 to advertise the Citizen Commissioners Application process. No one that I know ever saw a Selection-Committee's paid media ad or article about this. We wonder how many of the current citizen members of the Commission were motivated to apply because of paid advertising?

One communications consultant that I am aware of is **Beau Cribbs** <https://www.linkedin.com/in/beaucribbs>

**Website development** – to create and maintain an effective, user-friendly website dedicated specifically to the Commission and its work. I would highly recommend the website for the Michigan Redistricting Commission. It is extremely user-friendly and provides information, including a Citizen portal with a user-friendly, fillable "google-form" collects information from the public and automatically uploads the submission into a "Gallery". This Gallery, also very user-friendly, " is a collection of public comments which are sortable by tags ("COIs" "Districting Plan" " Written Testimony " ). We are very pleased that DLS has created a separate website that is dedicated to the Commission. It is a step in the right direction. However, improvements can be made. (For one thing, the print on the page is very small; this is difficult for older folks like me to read easily) Currently, public comments are sent to an email address and uploaded only hours before a scheduled meeting, rather than in "real time". (Actually, no comments were posted for yesterday's Commission meeting or today's subcommittee meeting. Why is that? Perhaps DLS staff was overburdened.) Comments that I submitted in February have never been posted; in fact there are NO February comments posted except for one. That seems unusual. Another improvement would be to post new materials as separate documents in the "Materials" tab, rather than appended to the previous document). This is why a website manager may be needed.

Thank you for your hard work, and your kind attention.

*Chris DeRosa (she, her)*  
[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**To the Budget and Finance Subcommittee and the full Commission**

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Chris D <chris7307@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, May 23, 2021 at 11:44 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident of Arlington. I am Co-coordinator of the Redistricting Issues Group of the League of Women Voters of Virginia. I have been working for #fair redistricting for Virginia for many years.

I am writing to encourage you to conduct a thorough and energetic search for the Unicorn. As elusive as it may be, it may be possible to find one if you are determined and resourceful. Perhaps some of our community non-profit, non-partisan groups can assist you in the search! Most of us are fully-immunized and ready to venture into the world and embark on a hunt for the elusive unicorn with you!

But, seriously, I must protest the highly-partisan nature of the discussion at the first meeting of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Senators Barker and Newman insisted that there is no attorney or law firm on earth that would be neutral or non-partisan :: neither Democrat- nor Republican-leaning. Senator Barker said, "We should make sure nobody's interest is disregarded in any way." May I remind the Commission that the **people's interest should be represented**. The Senators' statements demonstrate a negative and highly partisan attitude that they have perhaps developed over decades of political life. This is exactly why Virginia voters voted overwhelmingly for the Constitutional Amendment to establish this Commission. We ask the legislators to put down your political swords and keep in mind the task that we have given you: to draw fair maps for Virginia. As Director Wade stated, the law clearly states that "any attorney would be hired for the full Commission." Not one for the Republicans and one for the Democrats. One for the Commission and the people of Virginia.

We also ask that you respect the hard-working voters of Virginia and use our taxpayer dollars wisely. Hiring two legal experts or firms will be very expensive, I'm sure. I would much rather see that those funds are used to hire experts in other fields, including mathematics/political science/redistricting, communications, and website and graphic design. As Commissioner Kumar suggested, you must be "good stewards" of Virginians' monies.

Chris DeRosa (she, her)

[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)



May 22, 2021

To the Commissioners:

Having monitored most of the meetings of the commission and its subcommittees since the commission was organized, I want to praise the spirit of bipartisanship and civility in which its meetings have been conducted. While the drafters of the constitutional amendment did not call for the appointment of rotating co-chairs to manage the commission's business, that has turned out to be a good solution for what could have been an early source of conflict. This approach has also contributed to the atmosphere of fairness and cooperation that the commission projects.

That's why I listened with alarm this past week as the legislator members of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee called for spending the commission's precious taxpayer dollars on hiring two sets of counsel, one watching out for the needs of each political party, rather than a single lawyer who would represent the interests of the commission—and thus the citizen of the Commonwealth. I agree with those citizen members who said this would be of grave concern to Virginia citizens who worked to ratify the amendment and all of those who voted for it. I also agree that most Virginians would consider this a waste of taxpayer money, particularly when the commission has not yet moved aggressively to improve and expand the communications capabilities of the commission and the Division of Legislative Services staff.

(As an aside, part of the problem on the communications side is that the well-meaning DLS staff traditionally must respond to the questions and needs of the General Assembly. While DLS must communicate about the business of the General Assembly, it does so in an encyclopedic way, not one designed to engage with all of the state's citizens and encourage them to become part of a complicated process. Specific attention to this would also help commission members process all of the input they have and will receive—including this comment I am submitting.)

Legislative members suggested that hunting for non-partisan legal representation would amount to searching for "a unicorn." When I first began working on redistricting reform for the League of Women Voters in 2005, the passage of a constitutional amendment to create a bi-partisan, citizen-led commission also seemed like a "unicorn." But with a lot of hard work by many people and organizations, that did not turn out to be the case.

If the legislators insist on hiring a lawyer to monitor the commission's work for fairness to their particular political party, let the state political parties or the legislature's political caucuses foot that bill. Surely there will be many people, lawyers or not, scrutinizing the commission's ultimate maps. The parties can make their case that a map is not fair to them from the vantage point of "outsiders," not people at the table. The commission will need legal advice on its process and whether the maps comply with civil and voting rights laws, not how well they reflect the concerns of the "communities of interest" of the two political parties.

If the commission votes on this issue and chooses to seek two attorneys, I hope that the commission will at least issue another Request for a Proposal for a single counsel, just to see if that proverbial unicorn is hiding in the woods. I am not a lawyer and have no one to suggest, even if it would be appropriate to do so. I will note, however, that the gerrymandering that

occurred nationwide in the last redistricting cycle fueled an explosion of non-partisan organizations dedicated to monitoring redistricting and wrestling with all of the underlying issues relating to how “fairness” is defined. Further, I suspect there are many younger lawyers who were motivated to make it their field of expertise, in the same way many of us were motivated to work to change the way redistricting had been done in the Commonwealth since the days of Patrick Henry. To cite just one example—and I’m not suggesting he be hired—a member of the College of William and Mary Law School’s map-drawing team in the 2010 redistricting map competition in Virginia was so animated by what he learned in that process that he worked for most of the rest of the decade as the executive director of OneVirginia2021 to seek a bipartisan solution.

As one commissioner noted, many eyes are on the commission this year—and not just people who live in Virginia. Amid all the partisan rancor in our country today, the commission has a chance to demonstrate clearly that there is a new way of doing redistricting than the way it has been done in the past.

Sara Fitzgerald  
Falls Church, Virginia

Note: While I have been active in the League of Women Voters of Virginia and OneVirginia2021, the views expressed here are my own.



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Public Comments

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**Donna McGrath** <donnamcg50@gmail.com>

Mon, May 24, 2021 at 1:25 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: Donna McGrath &lt;donnamcg50@gmail.com&gt;

A few years ago, I needed to meet with and bring something to Congresswomen Comstock's office . Her district was so gerrymandered that I had to drive 45 minutes. Her 10th District goes through 3 counties here in NOVA which are all densely populated and have no other reason for wacky lines other than trying to pick voters. It flipped blue but probably should have 2-3 cycles ago. Please make our districts fair to all voters. The minority is now dictating to the majority across this Nation and is fueling unrest .

Donna McGrath  
Cell 703-517-2966  
7505 Morwood Trail  
Clifton 20124

Sent from my iPhone



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Incumbents' addresses and map redrawing

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**Dolores Dwyer** <joydotter@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sun, May 23, 2021 at 5:36 PM

*Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission:*

*Here are remarks that I made as a public participant at the May 10 Commission meeting. I am sending the text in hopes that Commission Members who were absent from the meeting will have the chance to read them. Thank you for your attention and consideration.*

I am a resident of rural southern Albemarle County. I represent just myself, not any group or other individuals. This is the first meeting I have been able to attend, though I have watched recorded videos of previous meetings.

Today I wish to address an issue that came up in the Redistricting 101 training video, about including addresses of incumbent officials with census and other data used to determine district boundaries.

In the video, this topic followed sequentially after other topics as they were covered by various statutory criteria deriving from either federal law or Virginia Constitution or code.

But it should be made clear that incumbency as a factor does not derive from the law, the Constitution, or regulatory code. It is not a statutory requirement.

The fact that the Joint Reapportionment Committee in October 2020 "approved ... legislator addresses" as part of data, should not confer any regulatory status upon such data, or require its use.

Neither does the fact that using such data was accepted practice in past redistricting cycles. In fact, it does the opposite. The demand for a nonpartisan redistricting commission arose from the need to do away with such past practices.

Virginia's electoral maps belong to the voters of Virginia, not the incumbents. Even the hint that even one district might be drawn to accommodate a sitting elected official smacks of the kind of back-room manipulation that plagued past practices.

The addresses of current incumbents is information that should not be considered part of any values or criteria that the Commission uses to determine how to draw a fair map.

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*Dolores Dwyer*  
434-996-2417  
[joydotter@gmail.com](mailto:joydotter@gmail.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Public Comments

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**Sarah Ovink** <sovink@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Sat, May 22, 2021 at 11:20 AM

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





VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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## Public Comments

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Cary Whiteside <1950maxwell@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, May 20, 2021 at 4:38 PM

**Since Homo Sapien is the only living species, it means we have a little black or brown in all of us. We are all members of the same club - the Human Race. The Neaderthall was a different species of human, but they are all gone now.  
-Alvin and Carylee Whiteside, Human Beings**

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Resources for Commissioners

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**Liz White** <[liz.white@onevirginia2021.org](mailto:liz.white@onevirginia2021.org)>  
Reply-To: [liz.white@onevirginia2021foundation.org](mailto:liz.white@onevirginia2021foundation.org)  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Wed, May 19, 2021 at 8:21 AM

Good morning,

As members of the Commission move into their work groups and start to make procedural decisions, I wanted to pass along the videos and accompanying materials from our virtual conference last week. (Thank you so much to those of you who attended!) I have broken the video down into subject matter areas, as I know a 3.5+ hour video is hard to fit into a busy schedule.

After watching the discussions in the Engagement Subcommittee meeting Monday, I would especially direct your attention to the Public Engagement Section of the conference - in particular, the presentation by Nancy Wang, head of Voters Not Politicians in Michigan who talked at length about the outreach to the public that the MI Commission is doing, including their first public hearing just last Tuesday. I think there are a lot of best practices there that could help guide the efforts here in Virginia.

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Chris DeRosa (League of Women Voters -VA)  
Nancy Wang (Voters Not Politicians)  
Moon Duchin (Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group, Tufts)

### VRA + REDISTRICTING:

Yurij Rudensky (Brennan Center for Justice)  
Eric Claville (Center for African American Public Policy, Norfolk State Univ.)  
Chris Lamar (Campaign Legal Center)  
Aleks Kajstura (Prison Policy Initiative)

### CENSUS DELAY:

Rebecca Green (W&M Law School) - she's also a good one to talk to about a student map-drawing contest, as her class participated in the 2011 competition that was mentioned in the subcommittee meeting yesterday.  
Suzanne Almeida (Common Cause)

### NUTS AND BOLTS:

Gil Ontai, Jeanne Raya, and Andre Parvenu - Members of the 2011 California Commission  
Angel Chen - Redistricting Data Hub  
Suzanne Almeida (Common Cause)

We also have a list of [valuable education resources on our website](#), including [this site](#) that provides FAQs and other tools in multiple languages.

I hope you find this helpful. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or if I can help connect you to any of these speakers.

Thank you for your work.

Liz

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Liz White  
Executive Director, OneVirginia2021  
[liz.white@onevirginia2021.org](mailto:liz.white@onevirginia2021.org)  
she/her



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Fwd: Independent Redistricting Commissions Prepare Preliminary Data**

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**Candace Butler** <candy@edandcandy.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Mon, May 17, 2021 at 11:08 PM

This information is for the complete membership of the Virginia Redistricting Commission. I am forwarding this Colorado Independent Redistricting Commission press release because it speaks directly to that portion of the May 10 Commission discussion about the usefulness of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey data sets for "practice" map drawing.

I hope you find this helpful.

Candace Butler  
Annandale VA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions** <[colorado.redistricting2020@state.co.us](mailto:colorado.redistricting2020@state.co.us)>  
Date: Mon, May 17, 2021 at 6:54 PM  
Subject: Independent Redistricting Commissions Prepare Preliminary Data



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**Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions**

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Contact: Julia Jackson  
Colorado Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff  
303-866-4788  
[colorado.redistricting2020@state.co.us](mailto:colorado.redistricting2020@state.co.us)  
<https://redistricting.colorado.gov/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 17, 2021

**Independent Redistricting Commissions Prepare Preliminary Data**

The Colorado Independent Congressional and Legislative Redistricting Commissions have both approved a data set to allow them to prepare preliminary redistricting maps. Because census redistricting data will not be released until August 2021, the commissions agreed that proceeding with preliminary data gives them the best chance of completing their work and receiving valuable feedback without delaying the 2022 election calendar.

Redistricting commissions staff and the Colorado State Demography Office have worked together to create the data set, using as a benchmark the recently released state resident population from the US Census Bureau of 5,773,714. The preliminary data comes from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey and state population forecasts, and its distribution is based on the Census Bureau's Master Address File. The total population number will match the redistricting data exactly, and the distribution should be a close match.

The preliminary maps will be prepared on 2010 census blocks, which means the geometry will not align exactly with the 2020 census blocks that will be used for the final maps. This allows the data to be more accessible to the public, and the commissions believe it will only marginally impact the quality of the preliminary maps.

Once it is complete, the commissions' data set will be publicly available, and interested persons will be able to draw their own maps using the commissions' redistricting GIS portal.

The Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission anticipates receiving a preliminary congressional map from staff by June 23, 2021. The Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission will receive preliminary State House and State Senate maps by June 28, 2021. Both commissions will review these preliminary maps and seek public comment on them through a series of public hearings held throughout the state in July and August.

When the full, block-level redistricting data is released by the Census Bureau in August, staff will prepare maps for the commissions using this final data on 2020 census blocks. Thus no final approved maps will use the preliminary data set. The commissions have also set aside time in their schedules to allow for public review and comment on the proposed final maps.

The commissions continue to seek public input on communities of interest. Visit our [Public Engagement](#) page to learn how to get involved.



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Candy Butler

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Hello from your friends at VCET!

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**Erin Corbett** <[erin@engageva.org](mailto:erin@engageva.org)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Mon, May 17, 2021 at 5:07 PM

Hello DLS and Redistricting Commission!

Thank you for hosting another meeting today, this one being focused on a favorite topic of ours here at VCET -- Engagement!

We were really excited to hear/see the commissioners discuss the potential opportunity to incorporate outreach effort by the groups that have been speaking at every commission meeting. With this in mind, I would like to make the case for the commission to utilize VCET and our wide-reaching coalition, Virginia Counts Coalition.

As I'm sure you have seen and heard me speak throughout each meeting, part of what I do in anticipation of these meetings is recruit attendance and collaborate with over 30 organizations in our coalition to foster participation and outreach. Our coalition spans across Virginia and beyond, and highlights communities that are frequently undercounted and underrepresented in redistricting processes. From the Virginia Coalition of Immigrant Rights to NAKASEC, from the League of Women Voters to the Virginia Interfaith Center, we have a cohort that represents the many diverse communities of the Commonwealth and I would love to see the Commission lean on us to help provide this outreach. I encourage you to entrust us with this incredible work and leverage the expertise of our coalition's organizations to connect all Virginians with redistricting work.

Thank you for your consideration!  
Erin

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Erin Corbett  
Redistricting Coordinator [VCET](#)  
e: [erin@engageva.org](mailto:erin@engageva.org)  
c: 202-257-1324  
[Meet with me](#)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Citizen Engagement Subcommittee - Please take a look at the Michigan Redistricting Commission Portal!

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**Fran Larkins** <franlarkins40@gmail.com>

Mon, May 17, 2021 at 12:14 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

To the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee -

Before you progress too far on discussion of Citizen Engagement, I really hope you will take a few moments to view the public portal for the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. In addition to providing useful information on the Commission and the redistricting process, the portal offers a very easy way for citizens to submit maps and comment.

Please give serious consideration to using this tool for Virginia.

Thank you!

Fran Larkins

Fredericksburg, VA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

## May 17 Citizen Engagement Subcommittee Meeting: Points to Consider Further

Candace Butler &lt;candy@edandcandy.com&gt;

Wed, May 19, 2021 at 11:41 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

The Citizen Engagement Subcommittee meeting was substantive, moving through the agenda efficiently but with thoughtful discussion.

Here are the points in the discussion we think are important to consider further:

### 1. The public hearings

Pre-map drawing hearings:

- *Timing*: the pre-map drawing hearings should occur well before the Census numbers are received by the Commission, concluding by the end of the first week in August.
- *Number of pre-map drawing hearings*: there should be pre-map drawing hearings in at least 7-8 regional hubs based upon either:
  - the eight hearing locations used by the joint House and Senate Committees in 2011 (see p. 11 of "Drawing the Line 2011" in attached pdf) OR
  - regions based on those identified in the University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center "Virginia's Demographic Regions" (see attached pdf)
- *Format*: We believe each pre-map drawing hearing should be held in-person with a virtual component. The Subcommittee can decide on the number of Commissioners to attend in person. Citizens should be able to access the meeting in person. The remainder of the Commission and all interested citizens should be able to attend the same hearing virtually. This would maximize the citizen participation possibilities.

Given that the 2020 constitutional amendment and subsequent code provide a much stronger mandate to engage the public than existed in 2011, we believe the Commission should have at least as many in-person public meetings as were held in 2011.

Post-map drawing hearings:

- *Timing*: the post-map drawing hearings should be held after the Commission completes the map drawing and the maps have been posted on the Commission website long enough for the public to study them and formulate specific questions
- *Number of post-map drawing hearings*: replicate the number of hearings held pre-map drawing
- *Format*: due to the time constraint for the Commission to submit completed maps to the General Assembly, each post-map drawing hearing should be held virtually, focused on each of the regions where pre-map drawing hearings were held, but open to everyone.

### 2. Advertising, accessibility and additional outreach and communication

Many citizens and advocates have commented on the vital importance of the stand-alone Virginia Redistricting Commission website. The website is a key, statutorily-required component of the Commission's effort to both educate the public about its work and to receive public input. It should be accessible in all languages that are used on ballots in state and local elections.

Though aspects of the website were discussed on May 17, there was no specific discussion of the website structure and rollout schedule. We urge the subcommittee to agree on the structure, content and schedule for website completion during the next two meetings.

We would like to associate ourselves with the remark of Del. McQuinn: "We don't let the budget drive us, we drive the budget." This should apply to the website as well as other functions of the Commission.

During the discussion about additional outreach and communications needs, several Commissioners asked questions about citizen-produced community-of-interest (COI) maps - how are they to be received? One Commissioner asked specifically, to paraphrase - if the Commission had a question about a COI map, how would they ask it if they are not permitted to speak directly with citizens? The DLS staff response indicated that this type of exchange would be permitted during the public meetings. There must be more permissible avenues of communication between the commissioners and the public; the website, open to all, would be such an avenue.

We suggest that the Subcommittee and the entire Commission study the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission's (MICRC) Online Public Comment Portal located on the home page of the MICRC website: <https://www.michigan.gov/micrc/> Virginia could stand up a portal as a component of the stand-alone Commission website, working with the group that created the Michigan portal. The Virginia portal would facilitate the collection of citizen

maps and comments; and it could provide an additional public forum in which Commissioners can ask questions of citizens about their maps.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA

JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan, Fairfax VA

Candace Butler, Annandale VA

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**2 attachments**



**2011 Draw the Lines - Virginia.pdf**

66K



**CooperCenter\_DemographicRegions\_Map\_ListCountiesCities.pdf**

2114K





VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**For the Commission and the Public Engagement Subcommittee**

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Chris DeRosa <chris.lww.222@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, May 19, 2021 at 11:27 PM

Dear Commissioners,

These are the remarks that I presented in-person (virtually) at the April 26th Commission meeting. It has come to my attention that several Commissioners were not in attendance at that meeting. Furthermore, my suggestions have not been "acted on", so I thought I would forward my remarks to you in written format.

Good morning! My name is Chris DeRosa. I am one of the co-coordinators of the Redistricting Issues Committee of the League of Women Voters of Virginia.

The League has long supported a fair, non-partisan, transparent redistricting process. We encourage all Virginians to participate in this process. As such, we are hosting a Redistricting Information Session this Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m. as part of the national League's Redistricting Day of Action. All Virginians, including the members of this Commission and DLS staff are invited to join us at this virtual event.

Now for a few comments for the Commission:

**To ensure full transparency**, the League suggests 3 simple things that will assure the public that you are operating in full sunshine.

First, we ask that the Commissioners appear in Gallery View. In 3 meetings, we have only seen a handful of you on our screens; we want to see all of you!

Second, please publish the "chats" on the DLS website.

Third, we suggest that the Commission provide closed captioning during meetings to reach Virginians who are currently unable to access your meetings.

**Next**, the League encourages the Commission to take advantage of the extra time you have been granted due to the census delay.

Please schedule public hearings beginning in early summer, rather than waiting until July and August. Hearings should be concluded before you receive the census data in mid-August. Remember to publicize the hearings widely, in different languages, and with timely notice to the public.

We recommend that these hearings be held in person as well as virtually, and in all corners of the Commonwealth. Many Virginians may prefer to testify in person, especially those who lack access to reliable internet and technology.

**Finally**, the League suggests that the Commission devote a portion of every meeting to discussion. . Ask questions. Respond to citizens' questions and comments. Yes, this may require extending your meetings beyond the scheduled 120 minutes; but it would be valuable as you work towards the drawing of fair maps.

*Chris DeRosa (she, her)*

5/20/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - For the Commission and the Public Engagement Subcommittee

*Co-Coordinator, LWV-VA Redistricting Committee*  
[chris.lwv.222@gmail.com](mailto:chris.lwv.222@gmail.com)

To the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for consistently hosting meetings for the last several months and for creating a subcommittee focused specifically on getting Virginians engaged in this crucial work.

We are excited to hear and see the commissioners discuss the potential opportunity to incorporate outreach efforts by the groups that have been speaking at every commission meeting.

With this in mind, we would like to make the case for the Commission to utilize the Virginia Civic Engagement Table and our wide-reaching coalition, the Virginia Counts Coalition (VCC). The Coalition has been working together since 2018 to ensure fair and accurate representation of all communities in the Commonwealth. In 2020, the Virginia Counts Coalition reached over 400,000 Virginians to get out the count for the 2020 Census, and we have the existing infrastructure and momentum to support engaging the public to

ensure equitable redistricting.

## How we can and will engage Virginians

Including but not limited to:

- Mapping Tutorials
- Texting Campaigns to Recruit Participation
- Workshops on Engaging with the Commission
- Language Translation Services
- ASL Interpretation Services
- Town Halls and Similar Events
- Community, Digital, and Relational Organizing
- Building Coalitions of Community Leaders
- Uplifting Social Media and Digital Toolkits



Our coalition spans across Virginia, representing over 30 different organizations and combines expertise from some of the most well-recognized organizations in community outreach, organizing, advocacy, and engagement. The coalition highlights communities that are frequently undercounted and underrepresented in redistricting processes including, but not limited to, Hispanic and Latinx

communities, Arab Americans, AAPI communities, Black communities, cohorts of faith leaders, environmental justice organizations, rural communities, and immigrant-rights groups.

**These organizations include, but are not limited to:**

- *Arab American Institute - AAI*
- *Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC*
- *Advancement Project National Office*
- *CASA*
- *Campus Vote Project*
- *Common Cause*
- *Justice for Muslims Collective*
- *LatinoJustice PRLDEF*
- *League of Women Voters-Virginia*
- *NAKASEC - Virginia*
- *Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia*
- *Service Employees International Union - SEIU*
- *State Voices*
- *Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights*
- *Virginia League of Conservation Voters*
- *Voices for Virginia's Children*

As I'm sure you have seen and heard, representatives from the Virginia Civic Engagement Table speak at each meeting. In support of increasing access to these meetings, we already organize accountability viewing sessions for community members, recruit attendees, and collaborate with our coalition to foster education, participation, and outreach. Our coalition also has strong relationships with national civic engagement and litigation organizations who can provide insights and best practices from other states with recently formed commissions.

With the shortened timeline for drawing Congressional and legislative maps, we encourage the Redistricting Commission to lean on us to help provide needed community outreach necessary for a fully transparent and engaged redistricting process. We encourage you to collaborate with us in this incredible work and leverage the expertise of our coalition's existing relationships to connect all Virginians with redistricting work.

Thank you for your consideration,



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Turpin** <[turkop@att.net](mailto:turkop@att.net)>

Date: Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 4:57 PM

Subject: Questions Regarding Redistricting Commission Structure

To: Meg Lamb <[mlamb@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:mlamb@dls.virginia.gov)>

ML-

I realize this is not your responsibility but I wanted to raise some questions about the Redistricting Commission Committees. If you could forward this to Amigo W it would be appreciated.

These are process based and do not relate to specific policy issues.

It would be helpful if some of these questions could be addressed at next week's meeting. Hopefully, this will reduce the amount of public comment or future discussion.

Here are some potential concerns that I have heard:

1. Will these be the only Committees?
2. How many members will there be of each Committee?
3. What will be the ratio of legislators to citizen members on each Committee?
4. Will Committee meeting be open?
5. If it is over three members, how will this be done under FOIA?
6. When are these Committees expected to complete their assigned tasks?

Again, I am just trying to be helpful and hopefully expedite the process. There aren't any hidden agendas.

Hope this is received in the manner it was intended.

Please feel free to let Amigo know he can reach out to me directly if he desires. We have worked together previously on a General Laws issue.

Thanks.

JST

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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**April 26 meeting, Agenda item #4. Public comment**1 message

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**Richard Mr Zimermann** <[richardzimermann@verizon.net](mailto:richardzimermann@verizon.net)>  
To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 1:34 PM

Commissioners:

Political community in districts should coincide with authentic communities in Virginia residents' public behavior as consumers and commercial networks.

Most voters in a Congressional District should shop in the same places. For one example, VA-04 voters at Southpark Mall in Colonial Heights do not also shop 81 miles away in Greenbrier Mall, Chesapeake.

Authentic behaviors of the people are readily available for commissioners to see, mapped in the Rand McNally 2010 Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide. They can also to be found in current Virginia Planning District reports at the Library of Virginia and in university libraries statewide.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Zimermann, Jr.  
VOTER NUMBER 808020532  
[1226 Brookside Landing](#)  
[Chesapeake VA 23320](#)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Mapping 'community of interest' per intersection of three citizen comments

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Richard Mr Zimermann <richardzimermann@verizon.net>

Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 4:16 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Commissioners:

There is an intersection of the two citizen comments from the April 26 meeting by KEN CHASIN emphasizing "hub-center" public services in a planning district and STEPHEN MARTIN emphasizing common regional geographies. The shared 'community of interest' is in the water shed serving the populations in each region.

Mostly nesting three kinds of districts by water shed can reflect the political community's common interest in (a) waste water treatment and water reclamation in droughts, and (b) runoff management from parking lots & fields for flood and pollution control. --

Just a suggestion to try out in a What-if-Scenario in the mapping process, using "water shed" as one of the layers for a "community of interest". --- Watersheds for each county and city are mapped in Virginia Planning District reports.

Sincerely,  
Rick Zimermann  
[1226 Brookside Landing](#)  
[Chesapeake VA 23320](#)

April 30, 2021

To the Commissioners:

I want to commend the Virginia Redistricting Commission for the thoughtful way in which it has approached its work since it was organized. In the spirit of full disclosure, I will note that I have worked with several organizations in support of redistricting reform for more than a decade and also applied to be a citizen member of the commission. However, I am submitting this comment as a private citizen, drawing on my experience as a former journalist who has provided communications support to several non-profit organizations.

I commend the commission's decision to create two subcommittees to facilitate its organizational work, and am pleased that one of those subcommittees will focus specifically on the important work of citizen engagement.

When she proposed creating the subcommittees at the commission's April 26 meeting, Co-Chair Greta Harris said the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee's tasks would include devising an "advertising plan" for promoting the commission's meetings and public hearings. Ms. Harris may have used that term casually, but I wanted to respond more specifically on budgeting for advertising, per se.

When the Division of Legislative Services reviewed the commission's budget at the April 12 commission meeting, it reported that the Redistricting Commission Selection Committee had already spent \$160,516, or 15 percent of the budget for this fiscal year, on advertising to encourage citizens to apply for the commission. The retired judges on the committee were clearly committed to making the commission as diverse as possible and reaching out to all parts of the commonwealth. Further, the judges and DLS staff faced very tight deadlines for developing a communications strategy.

The fact that 1,238 Virginians applied for the commission demonstrated that "the system" did, in fact, work. However, I doubt whether paid advertising played much of a role, if any, in the decision of persons to apply. I suspect most applicants were encouraged by someone they knew, read stories or editorials in newspapers, saw a televised news report, received an email from an organization that was committed to redistricting reform, or saw a social media post by one of these groups or a personal friend. As it plans its communications strategy, it might be helpful for the commission to review how its own eight citizen members found out about the application process and decided to apply.

The commission *will* likely have to deal with advertising requirements as they relate to its procurements. However, I believe there is no requirement that the commission spend its precious dollars on advertising, per se. A better use of the funds would be to bolster the communications capabilities of the DLS staff by contracting for public relations support and/or spending the funds to improve the commission's website and update it regularly. Advocacy groups—such as the League of Women Voters, OneVirginia 2021, the National Black Non-partisan Redistricting Organization, the Virginia Citizens Engagement Table and others--stand ready to help the commission publicize its meetings and public hearings. Making better use of these existing



networks—and addressing any gaps that may exist—would be a more efficient and effective use of the commission’s limited time and funds and help us all involve as many Virginia citizens as we can.

As it begins its work, the Citizen Engagement Subcommittee may find it helpful to reach out to advocacy groups to better understand the nature of their own “reach” and how the commission could work more collaboratively with them to achieve their mutual goals. This could also be done more formally through an online survey, the solicitation of public comments, or scheduling a public hearing with subcommittee members to address that specific question. That kind of upfront planning should serve the commission well down the road, and save the commission from having to “reinvent wheels” that are already rolling.

Sara Fitzgerald

Falls Church, Virginia



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Virginia Redistricting Strategy Proposal

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**Ken Chasin** <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 30, 2021 at 11:17 AM

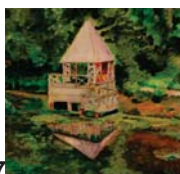
To: VA Redistricting &lt;varedistrictingcommission@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

Cc: ktbarnes@princeton.edu

Attached you will find a copy of my latest proposal on the strategy for redrawing the election maps for Virginia's congressional districts. The document is in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format. The contents are an in-depth expansion of comments I made to the Redistricting Commission in its most recent Zoom meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021.

I would welcome a public dialogue with the Commission on my proposed strategy for redrawing the state congressional district maps. Finally, I would like to be considered as a technical resource for the Commission.

--

**Ken Chasin****Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887****Virginia\_Redistricting\_Strategy\_Proposal\_2021\_v7.pdf**

383K

## Introduction

### Background

In 2020, a Virginia constitutional amendment to end gerrymandering in the state was passed and a Virginia Redistricting Commission was established. The Virginia Redistricting Commission's mission is to redraw Virginia's election maps for both its congressional districts and for its state legislative delegates. Public comments on the redistricting process are being encouraged by the Commission.

### Redrawing of Virginia Election Maps

The overriding principle for redrawing Virginia's election maps should be that it is “**data driven**” not partisan driven. This implies that key demographic factors such as ethnicity/race, industry/occupation and educational levels of residents should be driving forces in shaping the new election maps.

## Redistricting Criteria

### Overview

The drawing of Virginia's new congressional district maps should be guided by the following criteria:

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

### 1) Communities of Interest/Communities of Place

The *Virginia Redistricting Commission* has established that one of the criteria for redrawing any Virginia election maps is that the maps reflect “*communities of interest*” or “*communities of place*”. The *National Conference of State Legislatures* (NCSL) has also established this criterion for every state in the United States. Communities of interest share similar historical, cultural, or economic interests. **However, they should not be defined by political affiliation.**

Wikipedia defines a community of place as such:

“A **community of place** or **place-based community** is a community of people who are bound together because of where they reside, work, visit or otherwise spend a continuous portion of their time.<sup>[4]</sup> Such a community can be a neighborhood, town, coffeehouse, workplace, gathering place, public space or any other geographically specific place that a number of people share, have in common or visit frequently....”

### 2) Contiguous Space and Equal Populations

Per past U.S. Supreme Court rulings, each congressional district's land area must be contiguous and each district within the same state must be of approximately equal size in population. In the case of Virginia,

this implies that each newly designed district's population must be within a 5% +/- range of one-eleventh of Virginia's current population (currently at **784,201**). At the present time, the following Virginia congressional districts do NOT fall within a 5% +/- range of 784,201: VA-01, VA-02, VA-05, VA-09, VA-10.

### 3) Racial fairness

The redrawn congressional district maps should not intend to or have the effect of diluting the power of minority voters or their ability to elect candidates of their choice.

### 4) No Political Party / Candidate Advantages

The newly redrawn Virginia congressional district maps must not give a partisan edge or advantage to any one political party, candidate or incumbent.

### 5) Preserve Existing Geographic Boundaries

The newly redrawn Virginia congressional district maps should adhere to the guideline of not splitting existing city, town, or county boundaries as much as possible.

### 6) Reflex U.S. Census 2020 data

Unless the U.S. census data 2020 for Virginia indicates otherwise, the number of Virginia congressional districts will remain at eleven (11).

### 7) Reflective of Key Demographics

The newly drawn congressional district maps must take into consideration percentage breakdowns of the following demographics:

- a) Race/Ethnicity % Distribution (White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)
- b) Industries and Occupations
- c) Urban/Rural breakdown
- d) Education (Enrollment/Level of Educational Achievement)

## Proposed Strategy for Redrawing Virginia's Congressional District Maps

### Overview

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

### District Architecture -the Hubs

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

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

### District Architecture – The Spokes

Each district hub will have attached to it adjacent smaller populated counties going out in wider arcs until a congressional district population of one-eleventh of the total population of Virginia is achieved. The total population of Virginia as of 2020 was: **8,626,210**. The total population of the twenty-five (25) most populated counties in Virginia is: **5,756,900**.

Candidates for the adjacent counties must satisfy the following criteria:

- Either be adjacent to the congressional district hub and/or each other to be in compliance with the "contiguous" rule.
- Should have similar demographics as much as possible as regards:
  - a) Race/Ethnicity % Distribution (White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)
  - b) Industries and Occupations
  - c) Urban / Rural breakdown
  - d) Education (Enrollment/Level of Educational Achievement)

## Candidate Virginia Congressional Districts to be Redrawn / Rationale

The overriding rationale for redrawing the map for any particular Virginia congressional district is to have its demographic attributes fall within a 95 % to 105% range of the averages for those demographic attributes for all of the state congressional districts.

The demographic attributes recommended to be used as benchmarks for redistricting are:

1. Urban versus Rural percentage breakdown of a congressional district
2. Congressional District Population (use actual count not averages)
3. Land Area (square miles)
4. Median Household Income
5. Race/Ethnicity %s Distribution (White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, etc.)

### VA-01 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- Current population not within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population. Has an excess of **48,945** current residents.
- District's Urban Land Area is **69.54%** and deviates from the state-wide average of **75.51%** by a negative **5.97%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of White Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **6.83%**.

### VA-02 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- Current population not within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population; shortfall of **52,070** residents.
- District's Urban Land Area exceeds the state-wide average by **16.99%**.

### VA-05 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- Current population not within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population; shortfall of **40,231** residents.
- District's Urban Land Area falls short of the state-wide average by **40.21%**.
- Entire Land Area is 10,030 square miles that exceeds all of the other Virginia congressional districts total land areas. VA-05 is larger in area than six US states (Vermont, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, and New Hampshire).
- Current Percentage (%) of White Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **9.41%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Hispanic Residents falls short of the state-wide average of **5.5%**.

### VA-06 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- District's Urban Land Area falls short of the state-wide average by **11.17%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of White Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **18.07%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Black Residents falls short of the state-wide average by **7.83%**.

### VA-08 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- District's Urban Land Area exceeds the state-wide average by **24.2%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of White Residents falls short of the state-wide average by **9.49%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Hispanic Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **9.74%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Asian Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **6.51%**.

### VA-09 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- Current population not within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population shortfall of **71,919** residents.
- District Urban Land Area falls short of the state-wide average by **33.76%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of White Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **25.62%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Black Residents falls short of the state-wide average by **8.33%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Hispanic Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **9.74%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Asian Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **6.51%**.

### VA-10 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- Current population not within 95% to 105% of 1/11 of Virginia's total population; excess of **81,696** residents.
- District Urban Land Area exceeds the state-wide average by **10.02%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Black Residents falls short of the state-wide average by **12.62%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Asian Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **8.96%**.

### VA-11 Congressional District

Rationale for redrawing district's map:

- District Urban Land Area exceeds the state-wide average by **24.46%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of White Residents falls short of the state-wide average by **15.79%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Hispanic Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **9.43%**.
- Current Percentage (%) of Asian Residents exceeds the state-wide average by **13.81%**.

## Redistricting Efforts to Date

### Demographics Data Collection/Organization

As of March, 2021, I have downloaded U.S census data for 2019 for the state of Virginia as it pertains to the existing congressional districts of Virginia and its twenty-five most populated counties. The data has been organized into a set of multiple separate Microsoft Excel 2019 workbooks. Each Excel workbook contains multiple worksheets presented in several formats; raw data, data ranges, tabular and charts (e.g., funnel charts) The data that has been captured includes:

- Congressional district population counts, median incomes and land areas in square miles
- Current political party representing the Congressional district
- Urban/Rural Percentage breakdowns of Congressional districts
- Congressional district ethnicity percentages and population counts
- Congressional district educational levels and resident counts
- Congressional district income brackets and resident counts
- Congressional district industry types and corresponding employment counts
- County population counts, median incomes and land areas in square miles
- County ethnicity percentages and population counts
- Henrico County Programs & Services
- Compilation of a list of all the community colleges in Virginia; enrollment counts and location

### Data Sources for Redrawn Congressional District Maps

- Most current data available from the US Census Bureau for zip codes/ZCTAs is from the American Community Survey's 2019 5-year estimates.
- Demographic / GIS data sourced from the GIS departments of the twenty-five most populated counts
- Virginia Regions Study Guide
- Authoritative articles found in Wikipedia
- Virginia County Map from “*Maps of World*” organization
- *Virginia Demographics by Cubit*



## Appendices

### About the Author (Ken Chasin)

- Resident of Charlottesville, Virginia
- Retired senior-level Information Technology professional
- Areas of expertise include business intelligence solutions, data warehousing and data analysis
- Have worked in multiple industries that include:
  - Computer Manufacturing
  - Health Care (HMOs)
  - Insurance (Property & Life Liability)
- Have developed strategic planning documents for large corporations.

### Virginia Association of Counties – Regions (“VACo”)

The Virginia Association of Counties exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, and promote the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia. It currently represents over eighty (80) Virginia counties.

For more information about the Virginia Association of Counties-Regions, please visit the Web site <https://www.vaco.org/county-profiles/vaco-regions/>. This Web site includes the following information:

- County Employment
- County Profiles
- Rural Caucus
- Regions



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Redistricting Comment

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**marlene Thacker** <MolliT7@msn.com>

Fri, Apr 9, 2021 at 9:51 AM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

Please undo the gerrymandering that resulted in some of Woodbridge being placed under District 1. We originally voted for Rep. Gerry Connally and, subsequently, found ourselves under Rep. Rob Wittman. Please undo this so that we are placed back under Rep. Gerry Connally so that our voting will count once again. We were told that this issue would be resolved in 2021 and we appreciate it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Nellie E. Thacker  
Marlene E. Thacker



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

## Public Comment: Letter to the Virginia Redistricting Commission about the Proposed Timeline and Public Input

1 message

**Candace Butler** <candy@edandcandy.com>

Fri, Apr 9, 2021 at 8:42 PM

To: Greta Harris <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Cc: Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Marvin Gilliam <mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov>, Rick Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator Steve Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Ryan McDougle <redistricting@ryanmcdougle.com>, "Simon - Marcus B.=D" <DeIMSimon@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Delores McQuinn <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Claire Waters (staff)" <cwaters@dls.virginia.gov>

We are submitting this letter about the Commission about the Proposed Timeline and Public Input. We hope the ideas and suggestions will be helpful.

Sincerely,

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA  | Janet Martin, Springfield VA       |
| Candace Butler, Annandale VA      | Michael Martin, Springfield VA     |
| Kathy Utgoff, Falls Church VA     | Deborah Mayer, Centreville VA      |
| Pat Kablach Casano, Alexandria VA | JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan, Fairfax VA |



**2021-04-09 ltr to Commission final signed.pdf**  
104K

*VIA EMAIL*

April 9, 2021

Ms. Greta J. Harris  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
gharris@dls.virginia.gov

Ms. Mackenzie K. Babichenko  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Ms. Harris and Ms. Babichenko,

We are writing to you about the Commission's "Revised Draft Proposed Timeline" presented at the March 30, 2021, Commission meeting. We are particularly concerned with the public participation provisions in the Timeline.

The proposed Timeline is an important first step, but it needs to be fleshed out to provide more detail and more specific deadlines. A more detailed Timeline will ensure the Commission and the public have a clear understanding of the steps in the process—and the role that citizens will play at every step. Clear public participation guidelines are needed so that citizens can provide input that is both useful and timely. The comments and suggestions that follow are based on the expected receipt of 2020 Census data information in mid-August when the 45-day "clock" begins to tick.

First, the "Administrative Decision Points" listed in the March 30 Timeline, including the Public Participation Guidelines, need to be finalized and publicized no later than the end of April.

We also suggest that several tasks regarding the submission of Communities of Interest (COI) maps be moved earlier on the draft Timeline to ensure the public has time to provide useful input well before the map drawing process begins in mid-August. Specifically, we suggest that the public participation guidelines for map drawing should be completed by the end of May. Public hearings to receive input should be completed at least a month sooner than indicated in the timeline, e.g., on or about June 30.

These suggestions are important because citizen input is central to protecting communities of interest, one of the criteria to be used in the map drawing. Protecting communities with similar interests from being split up is essential to making sure that communities have fair representation. There will be many valuable inputs from individuals and good government groups regarding how they define their communities. Analyzing all inputs and presenting them to the Commission in a useful way will take a considerable amount of time and effort and is but one aspect of the effort necessary to prepare for the map drawing process.

We suggest the Commission consider increasing the number and duration of Commission meetings to broaden the opportunity for public engagement. We support the recommendation of Erin Corbett of the Virginia Civic Engagement Table that some Commission meetings occur during the evening when working citizens are available. Meetings should include time for the Commissioners to discuss and respond to public comments.

The Commission website is an essential means to communicate with the public and encourage public engagement; it should be updated as soon as possible. As required by Virginia law, the website must be able to “disseminate information about the Commission’s activities” and “be capable of receiving comments by the citizens.” We refer you to the suggested website improvements listed in our March 23 letter; these suggestions are based on our analyses of redistricting commission websites in 5 other states.

In conclusion, we urge the Commission to provide for substantial public input in accordance with the law, such that Commission members, particularly the citizen members, can fully represent the interests of citizens of the Commonwealth. This will counterbalance the purely political considerations which have often driven redistricting in the past and will result in maps that will be seen as fair in the eyes of the citizens.

Sincerely,

Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA

Candace Butler, Annandale VA

Kathy Utgoff, Falls Church VA

Pat Kablach Casano, Alexandria VA

Janet Martin, Springfield VA

Michael Martin, Springfield VA

Deborah Mayer, Centreville VA

JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan, Fairfax VA

cc:

Commissioner Hutchins

Commissioner Feliciano

Commissioner Abrenio

Commissioner Kumar

Commissioner Gilliam

Commissioner Harrell

Commissioner Les Adams

Commissioner Barker

Commissioner Locke

Commissioner McDougale

Commissioner Newman

Commissioner McQuinn

Commissioner Simon

Commissioner Ransone

Claire Waters, DLS Staff



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Recap of my comments to the VA Redistricting Commission on 4/12 Zoom meeting

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**Ken Chasin** <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 8:06 AM

To: Virginia Redistricting Commission &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;, Amigo Wade &lt;awade@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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

I would like to comment on the process and timeline the Redistricting Commission is using to redraw if needed the state's election maps.

The public was informed in the Commission's prior Zoom meeting of three facts:

1. Training for Redistricting Commission members and staff on how to use the mapping software chosen will be sometime in May.
2. The U.S. 2020 Census data for Virginia will arrive sometime in mid-August to September and
3. Once the 2020 Census data arrives, the Redistricting Commission and its staff has been given 45 days to analyze existing state election maps for gerrymandering and redraw the state election maps as needed.

Well, Virginia has a total of **151** distinct election maps for the:

- 11 Virginia congressional districts
- 40 Virginia state senators (representing an equal number of single-member constitutional districts) and
- 100 Virginia House of Delegate members

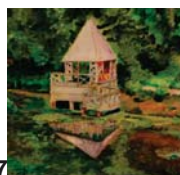
Assuming the worst-case scenario that all of Virginia's election maps will have to be at the very least modified (or perhaps completely redrawn) this means the Redistricting Commission would have to produce a daily average of 3.35 new or modified election maps once the 45-day mapping period begins!

I would like to recommend that sometime in May after the mapping software training has been completed that the Redistricting Commission develop a preliminary set of new election maps using the U.S. Census data for Virginia from the "**American Community Survey 2019 5-year estimates**". Then once the US census data for 2020 is received, modify as needed the preliminary set of maps.

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I myself have done a considerable amount of demographic data analysis using the U.S. Census data for Virginia from the "American Community Survey 2019 5-year estimates" which I used to build a set of Microsoft Excel dashboards and charts.

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**Ken Chasin****Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887**



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Re-naming Districts

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**Janet I. Trettner** <jitrettner@comcast.net>

Sun, Feb 28, 2021 at 8:10 PM

To: Virginia Redistricting Commission &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission:

Our House, Senate, and Congressional districts are currently labeled in a manner that is very confusing. Each set of districts is numbered beginning with number one. As a result, there are 3 districts 1-11 (House, Senate, and Congressional) and 2 districts 12-40 (House and Senate). Only districts 41-100 are clearly identifiable as House districts.

I respectfully request that once you have established our new districts, you rename them so there is no longer any question which district one is referring to. My suggestion going forward is:

House and Senate districts would be labeled consecutively. If the final plan includes 100 House districts and 40 Senate districts, for instance, the House districts would be labeled 1-100 and the Senate districts would be labeled 101-140. These numbers would be adjusted of course depending on the actual number of districts in the final plan.

Congressional districts would be lettered A-K (adjusted for the actual number of congressional districts in the final plan).

This would make references to the districts so much easier to understand.

Thank you for your consideration of this idea and for the work you are doing,

Very truly yours,  
Janet I. Trettner  
Keezletown, Virginia 22832





VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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## A proposal for Congressional and House of Delegate districts

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**Shirley Desimone** <shirley.desimone@vcuhealth.org>

Thu, Mar 4, 2021 at 4:34 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Draw districts of equal numbers of voters and so that the average or median income of each district is equal. People vote their pocketbooks, regardless of race, ethnicity or anything else.



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Commission Comments

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**katherine slaughter** <katherineslaughter61@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Mar 4, 2021 at 11:32 AM

Dear Commission:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
Kay Slaughter  
Charlottesville, VA

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**Kay Slaughter**

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 **Redistricting.docx**  
18K

To: Legislative Staff and Redistricting Commission  
From: Katherine Slaughter, Citizen of Charlottesville and a former chair, Thomas Jefferson Planning District  
Re: Use of Virginia Planning Districts for Redistricting.  
March 4, 2021

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

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

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

Planning districts of contiguous counties and cities have historically provided forums for the individual cities and counties to work together on issues of common interest, including housing, transportation, water quality, air quality, and other planning issues. Because the Planning Districts are creations of the state government, using their structure as a template with which to work on redistricting, including potentially combining areas such as or adjacent portions as Congressional districts or state legislative districts, seems appropriate.

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

TJPD 10 serves a broad community through Charlottesville’s University of Virginia, Piedmont Virginia Community College, the UVA Medical Complex, and a regional library system. To the North, the Rappahannock Rapidan District is served by Germanna Community College and local hospitals but many residents depend on the UVA Medical Complex for acute and critical care. PD 9 serves Madison, Orange, Culpeper, Fauquier, and Rappahannock. PD 9 and 10 (excepting Nelson County) are served by the Culpeper Transportation District. The metropolitan planning districts – utilized for federal funding -- are also developed by looking at the planning districts.

Clearly, the current state legislative districting is awry when districts cross major barriers, like the mountains, and thus serve different issues. For example, while Charlottesville and Staunton

are both cities, Charlottesville and the Central Virginia Piedmont face issues different from those of Staunton and the Shenandoah Valley communities.

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

Because Planning Districts meet regularly, the members of various governing bodies have worked together on common issues. Members of the elected bodies know each other through this work which often includes infrastructure issues like transportation, water supply and thus water quality issues, air quality, land use management and planning, and conservation issues.

What physical or manmade barriers should exclude the joining of land masses together in Districts? Lands that are adjacent but separated by mountains or bodies of water should not be joined. The Eastern Shore of Virginia because of population may need to be joined to a mainland area. Otherwise, keeping areas in Northern Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley, Piedmont, Southside, near- and far-southwest Virginia should be practicable.

Thus, I urge the Commission to consider using the Planning Districts as the building blocks for General Assembly or Congressional districts.



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Community of Interest

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**Carla Heath** <cheath340@icloud.com>

Mon, Mar 22, 2021 at 11:01 AM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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 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



**Districts 22 and 23.pdf**

2796K

# The City of Lynchburg is divided into FOUR state legislative districts.

**TWO Senatorial Districts: 22nd-Sen. Mark Peake and 23rd-Sen. Steve Newman**

**TWO House of Delegates Districts: 22nd-De. Kathy Byron and 23rd-Del. Wendell Walker**

**If you vote in these precincts, you are in the**

**22nd Senate and 22nd House District**

- 201-St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 202-R.S. Payne Elementary School
- 203-Jubilee Family Center
- 204-Fairview Christian Church
- 301-Public Library Community Room

**If you vote in these precincts, you are in the**

**23rd Senate and 23rd House District**

- 101-Heritage Baptist Church
- 302-Liberty University Vines Center
- 304-First Church of Nazarene
- 305-Heritage United Methodist Church
- 401-Crosspoint Church
- 404-Linkhorne Middle School

**If you vote in these precincts, you are in the**

**22nd Senate and 23rd House Districts**

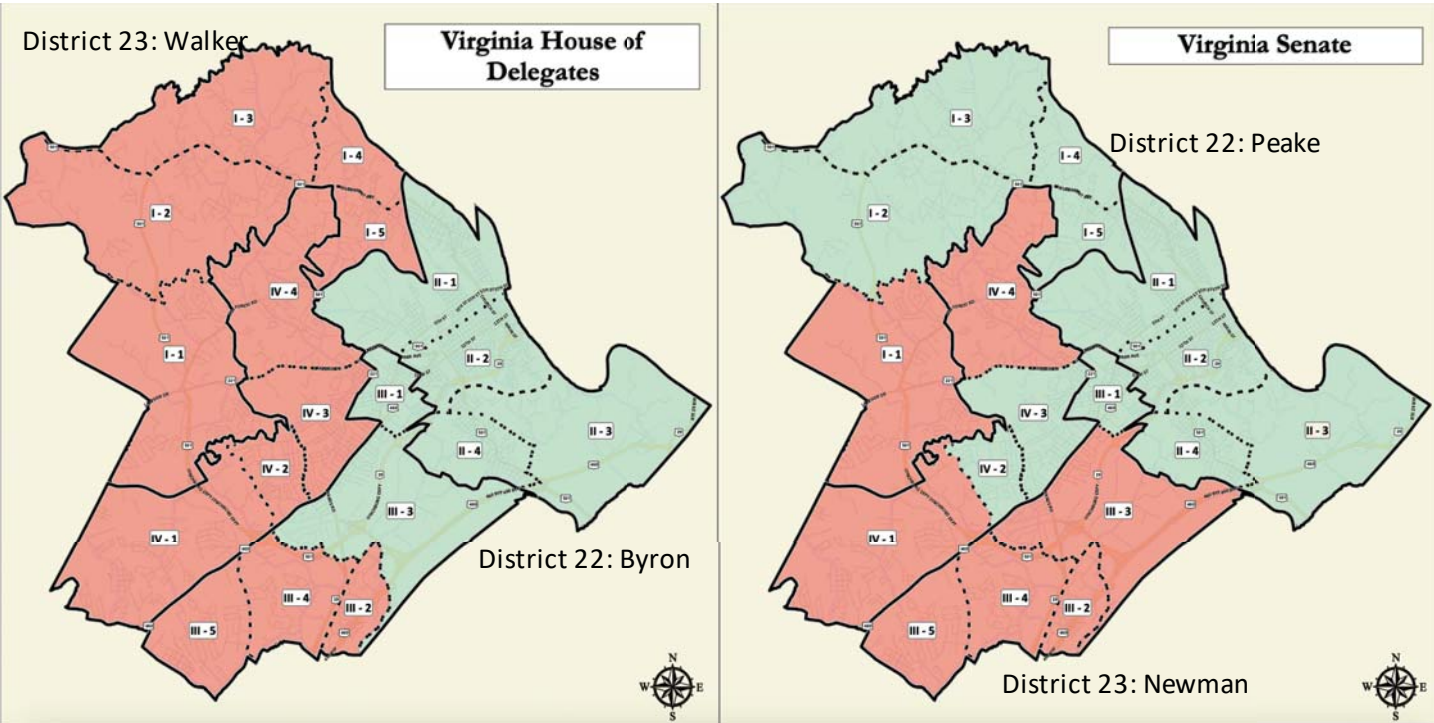
- 102-Bedford Hills Elementary School
- 103-First Presbyterian Church
- 104-Rivermont Presbyterian Church
- 105-First Christian Church
- 402-Sandusky Middle School
- 403-Perrymont Fellowship Hall

**If you vote in this one precinct, you are in the**

**23rd Senate and 22nd House Districts**

- 303-Sheffield Elementary School

District 22-green    District 23-orange



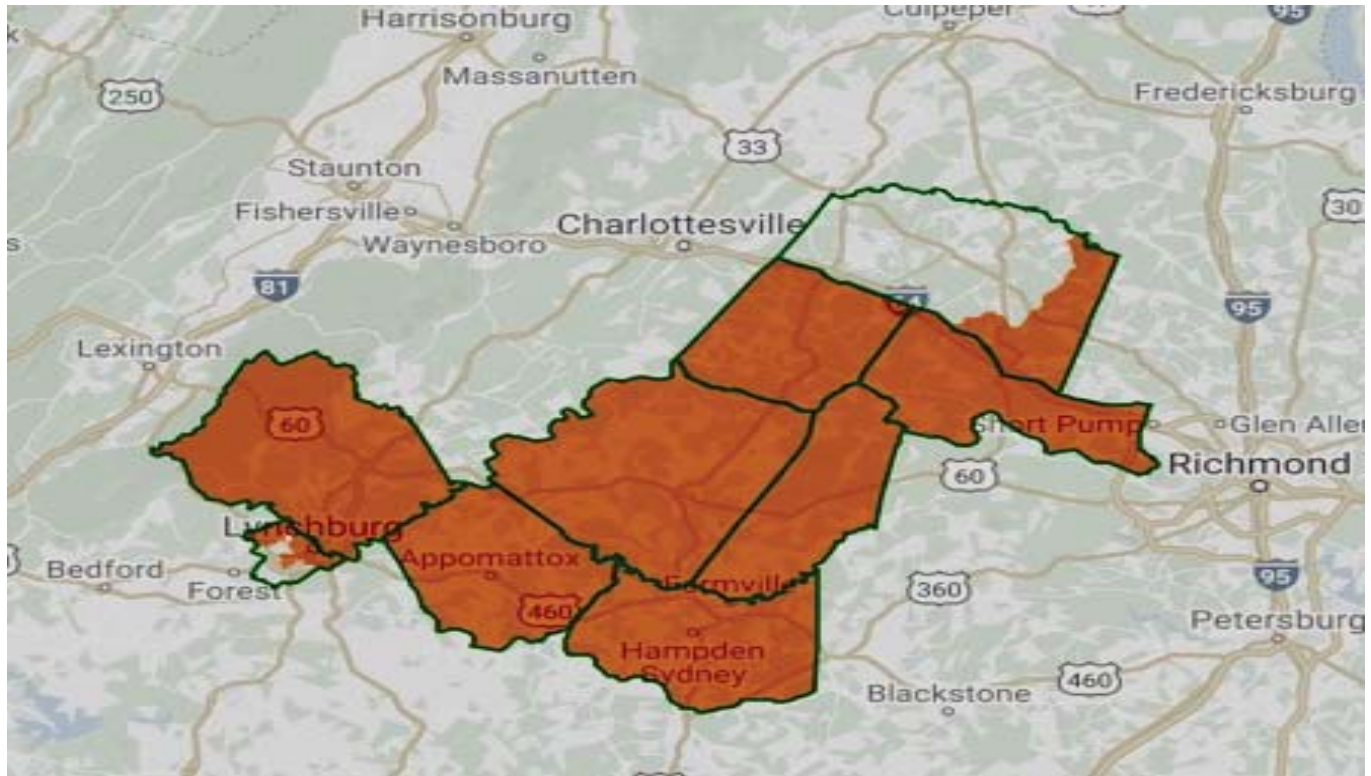
map from [lynchburgva.gov](http://lynchburgva.gov)



## State Senate District 22: Mark Peake

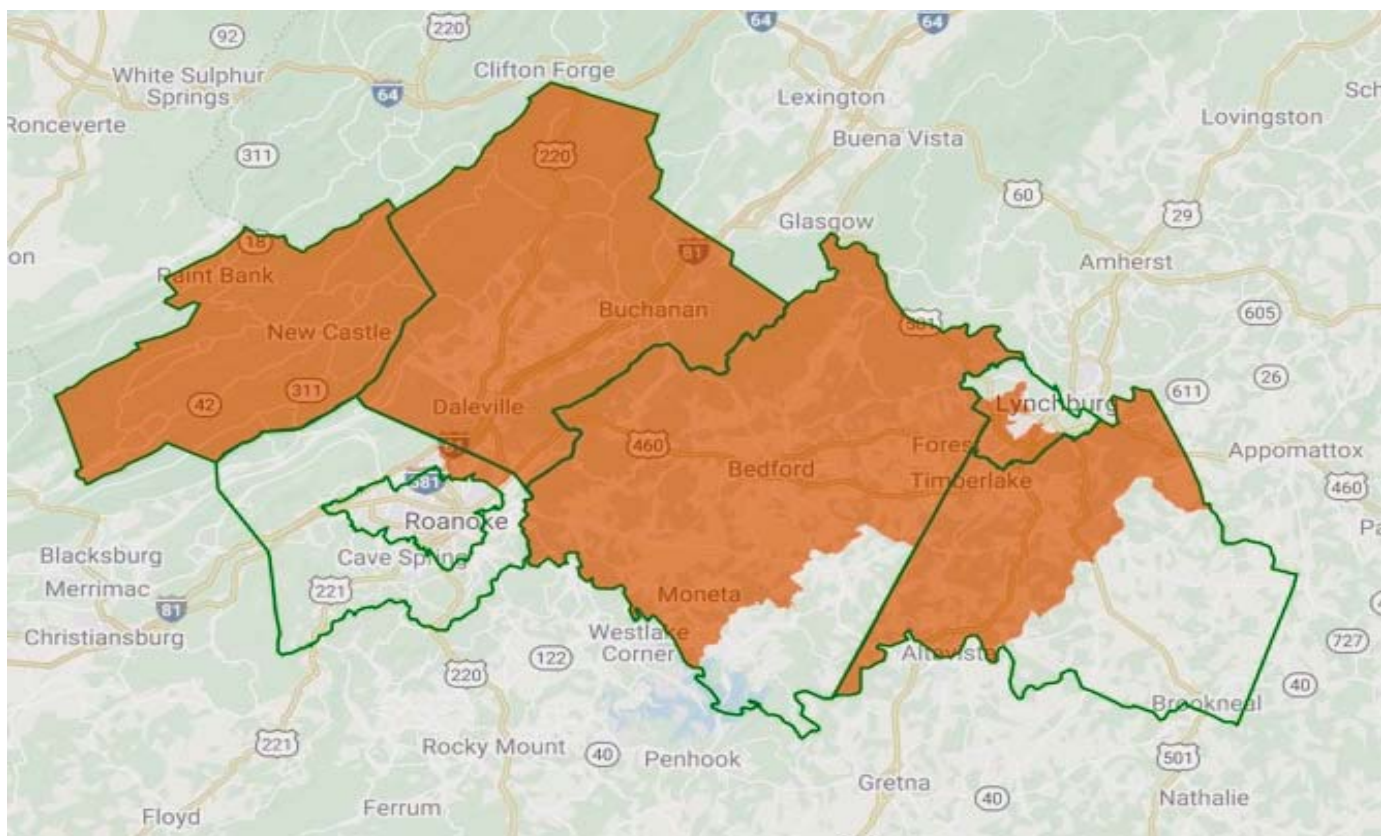
Lynchburg is only 17% of Sen Peake's district

maps from vpap.org



## State Senate District 23: Steve Newman: look for Lynchburg

Lynchburg is only 17% of Sen Newman's district





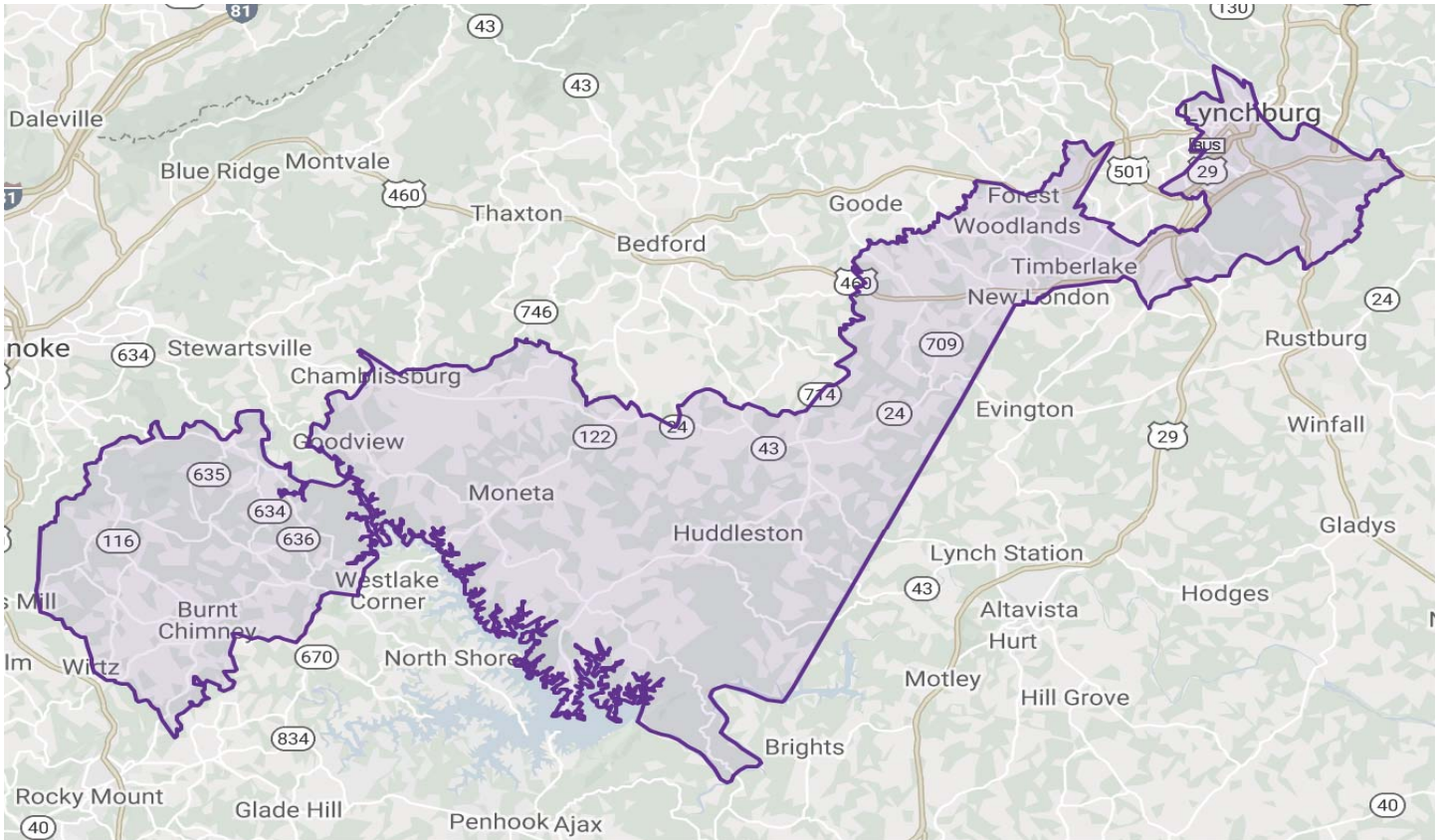
### House of Delegates District 22: Del Kathy Byron

**25% Lynchburg**

**41% Bedford County**

**22% Campbell County**

**12% Franklin County**



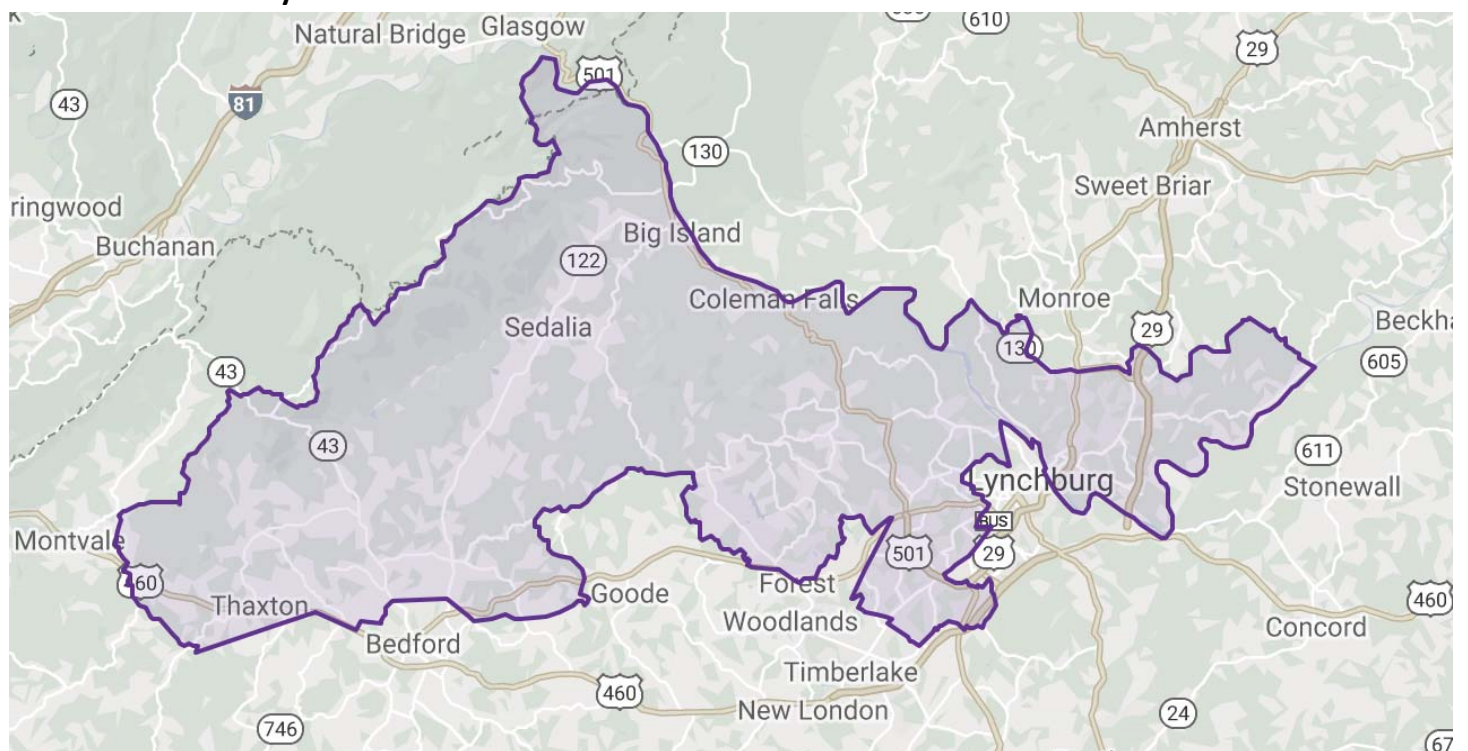
### House of Delegates District 23: Del Wendell Walker

**64% Lynchburg**

**24% Bedford County**

**12% Amherst County**

maps from vpap.org







Claire Waters &lt;cwaters@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**January 21, 2021, Commission Meeting - Citizen Thoughts and Comments**

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**Candace Butler** <candy@edandcandy.com>

Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 2:37 PM

To: Greta Harris &lt;gharris@dls.virginia.gov&gt;, Mackenzie Babichenko &lt;mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

Cc: Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Marvin Gilliam <mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov>, Rick Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator Steve Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Ryan McDougale <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "Simon - Marcus B.=D" <DelMSimon@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Delores McQuinn <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Claire Waters (staff)" <cwaters@dls.virginia.gov>

We are submitting this letter to you for your consideration of the thoughts and comments therein. We hope they will be helpful in the Commission's work going forward.

Sincerely,

Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA

Candace Butler, Annandale VA

Kathy Utgoff, Falls Church VA

Pat Kablach Casano, Alexandria VA

Deborah Mayer, Centreville VA

JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan, Fairfax VA

Anne Strange, Reston VA

Janet Martin, Springfield VA

Michael Martin, Springfield VA

**2021-02-23 Letter to Redistricting Commission Final Signed.pdf**

108K

*VIA EMAIL*

February 23, 2021

Ms. Greta J. Harris  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
gharris@dls.virginia.gov

Ms. Mackenzie K. Babichenko  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Ms. Harris and Ms. Babichenko,

Congratulations on being elected the co-chairs of Virginia's new Redistricting Commission at the January 21, 2021, Commission meeting. We greatly appreciate your commitment to lead this historic effort to draw fair maps through a bipartisan, transparent process. As citizens who worked the last four years to advocate for the creation of the Redistricting Commission, we look forward to supporting your important work.

Drawing new district maps for the United States House of Representatives, the Virginia Senate, and the House of Delegates is a major undertaking that requires a substantial knowledge base on the part of each Commissioner. The Commission must draw fair district maps that adhere to substantive and procedural requirements contained in the Federal and State Constitutions and law. This includes completing numerous logistical and substantive tasks, ranging from the relatively simple (e.g., how to run a public meeting) to the complex (e.g., how to identify communities of interest, and how to draw district maps). The Commission began to tackle these issues at the January meeting with an excellent initial discussion of the work tasks of the Commission as well as the training needs of Commissioners.

The Division of Legislative Services staff indicated a number of resources that they will provide to the Commission. One of these was the National Conference of State Legislatures' "Red Book" which discusses redistricting from a national perspective.

We also recommend the work of the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, a nonpartisan effort to develop tools for drawing district maps that will withstand judicial scrutiny. The Princeton Gerrymandering Project staff is well versed in redistricting issues in Virginia and has published "A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting in Virginia (the "Guide") at <https://gerrymander.princeton.edu/virginia-report>.

The Guide includes a thorough overview of the recent history of redistricting in Virginia as well as information on a comprehensive framework for the Commission's work and step-by-step recommendations the Commission can use as it moves forward in developing a workplan. Also, the Guide can provide useful information to assist in identifying and meeting the in-depth training needs of the Commissioners on all aspects of the redistricting process. This includes training on how to organize and conduct meetings and hearings; Virginia's map-drawing criteria; the Federal Voting Rights Act; advanced use of census data, and training and practice in using software to draw maps.

During the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, there was discussion among the Commissioners about training needs. We appreciate that the Commission recognizes the necessity for training on all aspects of the redistricting process. All training sessions should occur at regular public meetings to ensure that all members of the Commission receive the same training, and so that the public can fully understand and participate in the map drawing process later this year.

The Guide also makes recommendations regarding the substantial public involvement and transparency requirements of the Constitutional Amendment and enabling legislation. Establishing rules governing public communication will be important for maintaining full transparency. Transparency rules will need to cover public communication with, and between Commission members, especially when it occurs outside public Commission meetings. The Commission discussed this issue at length during the January meeting.

We applaud the decision of the Commission and the Division of Legislative Services to specify in writing what constitutes proper and improper communication both between and among Commission members and between and among Commission members and nonmembers, including other legislators, staff, consultants, and members of the public. This document should also define what constitutes allowable “internal communications” between Commission members, staff and consultants; and explain how such communications will be included in the public record as required by law.

A Commission web site is an essential component of the public involvement and transparency requirements; and we understand that contractor work has begun to create such a web site. We urge that the web site be interactive to provide information to the public on all aspects of the Commission’s work, and to facilitate public comment and input on that same work. We suggest that the web site include a feature that allows citizens to sign up for notifications of upcoming Commission meetings and new web site postings.

The January meeting also included a brief discussion regarding the possible use by Commissioners of the “chat” feature during the public video meetings of the Commission. We urge the Commission to weigh this option carefully so that any use of the “chat” feature will not undermine the requirement that the work of the Commission take place in public.

Finally, we recognize that successfully meeting the objectives of the Commission is likely to require resources beyond those already made available to the Commission. The Commission should not hesitate to ask the legislature to provide additional resources so that the Commission can fully execute its mandate, a goal we all share.

Thank you for your consideration,

Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA  
Candace Butler, Annandale VA  
Kathy Utgoff, Falls Church VA  
Pat Kablach Casano, Alexandria VA  
Deborah Mayer, Centreville VA

JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan, Fairfax VA  
Anne Strange, Reston VA  
Janet Martin, Springfield VA  
Michael Martin, Springfield VA

cc: Commissioner Hutchins  
Commissioner Feliciano  
Commissioner Abrenio  
Commissioner Kumar  
Commissioner Gilliam  
Commissioner Harrell  
  
Claire Waters, DLS Staff

Commissioner Barker  
Commissioner Locke  
Commissioner McDougale  
Commissioner Newman  
Commissioner McQuinn  
Commissioner Simon  
Commissioner Les Adams  
Commissioner Ransone



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Public Comment: Letter to the Virginia Redistricting Commission about its website**

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**Candace Butler** <candy@edandcandy.com>

Tue, Mar 23, 2021 at 2:00 PM

To: Greta Harris <gharris@dls.virginia.gov>, Mackenzie Babichenko <mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov>, varedist@dls.virginia.gov  
Cc: Sean Kumar <skumar@dls.virginia.gov>, Marvin Gilliam <mgilliam@dls.virginia.gov>, Rick Harrell <rharrell@dls.virginia.gov>, James Abrenio <jabrenio@dls.virginia.gov>, Jose Feliciano <jfeliciano@dls.virginia.gov>, Brandon Hutchins <bhutchins@dls.virginia.gov>, Senator Steve Newman <sdnewman7@gmail.com>, Senator Mamie Locke <district02@senate.virginia.gov>, Senator George Barker <senatorbarker@gmail.com>, Senator Ryan McDougale <redistricting@ryanmcdougale.com>, "Simon - Marcus B.=D" <DelMSimon@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Les Adams <deladamsredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Delores McQuinn <deldmcquinn@house.virginia.gov>, Delegate Margaret Ransone <delransoneredistricting@house.virginia.gov>, "Claire Waters (staff)" <cwaters@dls.virginia.gov>


We are submitting this letter about the Commission website to you for your consideration. We hope the ideas and suggestions will be helpful in the development of the website.

Sincerely,

Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA     Janet Martin, Springfield VA  
Candace Butler, Annandale VA     Michael Martin, Springfield VA  
Kathy Utgoff, Falls Church VA     Deborah Mayer, Centreville VA  
Pat Kablach Casano, Alexandria VA

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**2 attachments**

 **2021-03-21 Ltr to Comm re website final - signed.pdf**  
139K

 **State Redistricting Commissions v8 - final.pdf**  
133K

VIA EMAIL

March 23, 2021

Ms. Greta J. Harris  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
gharris@dls.virginia.gov

Ms. Mackenzie K. Babichenko  
Co-Chair  
Virginia Redistricting Commission  
mbabichenko@dls.virginia.gov

Dear Ms. Harris and Ms. Babichenko,

We are writing to discuss the Virginia Redistricting website.

The Commission and the Division of Legal Services are directed by § 30-396 of the Code of Virginia to develop a website to facilitate public participation in the work of the Commission. This is an important component of the transparency requirements of the Amendment because the website will be one of the main methods of communication between the citizens and the Commission.

We have reviewed redistricting commission websites from other state and offer the following suggestions for the Virginia website which we believe will be helpful. They are offered from the citizens' point of view. We appreciate your consideration of these suggestions.

### **Thoughts on the Virginia Redistricting Commission Website Philosophy and Implementation**

The website should meet the needs of citizens with a range of knowledge of redistricting: those who do not have experience with governing, politics and redistricting; those who are somewhat familiar with the process; and those who are highly engaged in state governance. The website should be up to date, intuitive, and easy to use for all users with help/how-to/FAQ section, including guidance for less tech-savvy users. Accommodation for disabled, impaired and non-computer users should be included in the design.

This website should be a one-stop-shop. In addition to enabling and augmenting the work of the Commission, the website should provide references to pertinent information and educational resources, such as Federal and Virginia governance (e.g. relevant pages from Virginia's Legislative Information Services), relevant reading lists, and good governance organizations (e.g. League of Women Voters, Brennan Center for Justice, Princeton Gerrymandering Project).

The website should also clearly describe how citizens can participate in the process – through submitting comments and viewing and/or participating in Commission meetings. These features should be easy to access and well documented.

Time is short. Therefore, the website should be implemented quickly. To accomplish this, the website could be released in phases, with basic functionality released first, and more advanced features coming later. If practical, placeholders could be placed on web pages to indicate not-yet-completed features.

**The Redistricting Commission website should include the following information:**

1. All legal requirements for map drawing and approval, and commission procedures
2. Commissioner biographies
3. Plan implementation goals and objectives
4. Commission meeting schedule, far in advance, so that citizens can make plans to participate
5. Timeline of major events, milestones deadlines
6. Description of how citizens can participate in the process
7. Procedures whereby citizens can provide comments, including definition of the legally permissible methods of contacting the Commission
8. All public comments received, whether associated with a Commission meeting or not, should be searchable by keywords to facilitate use by the Commission and the public
9. Identification of public commenters should be limited to first name, last name and zip code (or town/city); email and street addresses should not be included
10. Meeting minutes or videos, handouts, maps, and other materials discussed at meetings
11. A subscription service such that citizens can automatically be notified of meetings, events, and other news
12. Links/references to good governance advice on redistricting

**Survey of Other State Redistricting Commission Websites**

The following page is a spreadsheet evaluating commission websites of 5 states with independent redistricting commissions. We have rated each website on the features described in the preceding section using a scale of 1 (insufficient) through 5 (most functional).

**Conclusion**

Virginia has an opportunity to set a standard with its redistricting commission website. We hope these suggestions and the accompanying spreadsheet highlighting other states' redistricting commission websites will be useful in doing so.

Sincerely,

Bill Millhouser, Falls Church VA  
Candace Butler, Annandale VA  
Kathy Utgoff, Falls Church VA  
Pat Kablach Casano, Alexandria VA

Janet Martin, Springfield VA  
Michael Martin, Springfield VA  
Deborah Mayer, Centreville VA

cc:

Commissioner Hutchins  
Commissioner Feliciano  
Commissioner Abrenio  
Commissioner Kumar  
Commissioner Gilliam  
Commissioner Harrell

Commissioner Barker  
Commissioner Locke  
Commissioner McDougale  
Commissioner Newman  
Commissioner McQuinn  
Commissioner Simon  
Commissioner Les Adams  
Commission

Claire Waters, DLS Staff

| STATE      | WEBSITE                                                                                                                                       | STRENGTHS                                                                                                                                              | WEAKNESSES                                                                                                                                    | Ease of use | Up to date | Legal rqrmts: redistricting | Commissioner biographies? | Plan of implementation | Commission meeting schedule | Timeline of major events | Citizen participation | Comments & feedback | Comments readable, searchable? | Mtg minutes, handouts, recordings? | Subscription services? | Reference, education links? |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ARIZONA    | <a href="https://irc.az.gov/">https://irc.az.gov/</a>                                                                                         | Nice clean website. Easily comment for meeting, read prior mtg comments.                                                                               | No commissioner bios. No plans/timeline.                                                                                                      | 4           | 5          | 5                           | 2                         | 1                      | 1                           | 2                        | 3                     | 3                   | 3                              | 3                                  | 1                      | 2                           |
| CALIFORNIA | WeDrawTheLinesCA.org                                                                                                                          | Community of Interest (COI) mapping & submission built-in; Commissioner Zoom outreach zones;                                                           | Large graphics require too much scrolling. Discussion of law on redistricting or commission difficult to find. Cannot search public comments. | 5           | 5          | 2                           | 2                         | 5                      | 5                           | 5                        | 2                     | 3                   | 1                              | 5                                  | 1                      | 1                           |
| COLORADO   | <a href="https://redistricting.colorado.gov/">https://redistricting.colorado.gov/</a>                                                         | Clean; ease of use; clarity & completeness of explanations; concise overviews under 'Commissions' tab                                                  | No timeline; light on scheduled meetings.                                                                                                     | 5           | 5          | 5                           | 5                         | 1                      | 2                           | 2                        | 5                     | 5                   | 3                              | 3                                  | 5                      | 3                           |
| MICHIGAN   | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141---,00.html">https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141---,00.html</a> | Variety of social media; timeline, history of all meetings with handouts. Code of conduct. Rules of procedure. Searchable public comments.             | Cluttered layout of info; hard to find info. Emailed comments searchable only by meeting.                                                     | 3           | 5          | 2                           | 2                         | 4                      | 5                           | 5                        | 5                     | 5                   | 3                              | 2                                  | 5                      | 2                           |
| WASHINGTON | <a href="http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/">http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/</a>                                                               | Published meeting agendas. Live meetings, which are recorded. Email input. Subscribe for email notification. Good history of WA redistricting website. | The current website is not as fully developed as the excellent website used for the 2011 process, which is archived on the current website.   | 3           | 2          | 5                           | 1                         | 3                      | 2                           | 2                        | 3                     | 4                   | 2                              | 5                                  | 5                      | 4                           |

**Key to column labels:**

- Ease of use: Is the website visually pleasing, logically arranged, intuitive?
- Up to date: Is the information up-to-date?
- Legal requirements for redistricting: Are the state's legal requirements for redistricting stated, linked or referenced?
- Legal requirements for the commission: Are the state's legal requirements for the commission stated, linked or referenced?
- Commissioner biographies: Are the commissioners introduced with photo, family, location, vocation, interests, etc.?
- Plan of implementation: Are the commission's goals, intentions, direction described in addition to just scheduled events and meetings?
- Commission meeting schedule: Is the commission's public meeting schedule available, far in advance, so citizens can make plans to attend?
- Timeline of major events: Are the major events that must occur to get new maps drawn and implemented delineated?
- Citizen participation: Are the ways that citizens can participate delineated?
- Comments & feedback: Are the ways citizens can make comments and get feedback described?
- Comments readable, searchable: Can citizens read all comments? Are the comments searchable by keywords?
- Meeting minutes, handouts, recordings: Are there audio/video recordings of public meetings? Are handouts and mtg minutes available?
- Subscription services: Can citizens subscribe (email/other) to be automatically notified of relevant meetings, occurrences, news?
- Reference, education links: Does the website have links/references to learn about the law, redistricting, commissions, good governance?





VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## My Public Comment re Virginia Redistricting Initiative

1 message

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**Ken Chasin** <kenchasin1@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 29, 2021 at 9:09 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

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

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

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

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

--

**Ken Chasin****Mobile Phone: 508-246-6887**



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Open Letter from OneVirginia2021, NAACP, etc.

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Liz White <liz.white@onevirginia2021.org>  
Reply-To: liz.white@onevirginia2021foundation.org  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Mar 30, 2021 at 7:24 AM

Good morning,

In advance of your meeting this morning, please see the attached open letter signed by OneVirginia2021, the League of Women Voter of Virginia, the VA State Conference NAACP, CASA, Common Cause, RepresentVA, Unite Virginia, Activate Virginia, the National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization, and the Princeton Gerrymandering Project.

We appreciate the work you're doing and look forward to the meeting.

Liz White

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To the members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for stepping up to serve on this historic commission. As you embark on this substantial undertaking, we, the undersigned, want to offer our assistance, our experience, and our support to your efforts to create fair and representative maps for the Commonwealth.

As Virginians who support fair redistricting and transparency in government, we were delighted to receive the release of the draft timeline for your work over the next year. We are particularly pleased that you plan to utilize the extra time provided to you by the delayed availability of the U.S. Census data to learn about the history and legal standards of redistricting, as well as the tools available to aid in the map-drawing.

**We strongly encourage the Commission to dedicate additional time and resources to thoroughly enable public communication and to determine how to best receive and incorporate feedback from diverse communities across Virginia.** We believe that the most important parts of the redistricting reforms passed over the last two years are those that elevate the role of the citizenry. The Commonwealth's legislative districts belong to Virginians, not to any political party or individual politician. The requirements that the Commission incorporate public input, consider Communities of Interest, and open all proceedings to the sunlight of transparency are the truly historic aspects of this new redistricting process.

Below is a list of questions we hope you will consider when planning your work. We are not proposing answers to these questions, but rather using the experiences of other redistricting commissions and organizations who engage with historically marginalized populations to help you think through how you will approach them. We hope this will help guide your efforts to make the redistricting process transparent, accessible, and collaborative.

1. How and when will you advertise meetings and hearings to maximize public knowledge and participation, particularly to those not on social media and those who lack easy internet access?
2. How will you ensure that all meetings and work products are accessible, including to non- English speakers and people living with disabilities who may need accommodations to participate fully?
3. How will you prioritize protecting communities of interest in drawing maps?
4. How do you plan to receive public input and testimony on communities of interest in a way that allows you to best utilize the information? How will that public input and testimony be available to members of the public?
5. Do you plan to communicate with the public through traditional media, social media, email, or more frequent updates to the website? If so, how?
6. How will you organize your inbox so that public feedback doesn't get overlooked? Would you consider hiring a third party to develop a portal for this input?
7. Will you reach out to individuals or organizations who specialize in fair and equitable redistricting to supplement your training?
8. Will you conduct direct outreach to diverse communities across Virginia to ensure that the Commission receives a full picture of the Commonwealth? If yes, what is your plan?
9. What will be your policy on attending public events organized by groups or individuals in which community mapping concerns are being addressed?

10. Do you plan to reach out or would you consider reaching out to other commissions or subject matter experts other than those listed in the draft timeline?
11. How many public hearings do you plan to conduct? Are you able to do more if they are in a virtual format?
12. How will you handle the Chat feature in the virtual meetings, as only those registered to give public comment are currently able to participate?
13. Would you consider implementing an automatic reply on [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov) so that members of the public know their feedback has been received?

We appreciate your commitment to a fair and transparent process and look forward to supporting your work in the coming months.  
Sincerely,

Liz White, Executive Director, *OneVirginia2021*  
Luis Aguilar, Virginia Director, *CASA*  
Suzanne Almeida, Redistricting and Representation Counsel, *Common Cause*  
Rev. David Denham, Lead, *RepresentVA*  
The Hon. Michael Futrell, President, *National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization*  
Da'Quan Love, Executive Director, *Virginia State Conference NAACP*  
Matthew Scoble, Executive Director, *Unite Virginia*  
Josh Stanfield, Executive Director, *Activate Virginia*  
Phillip Thompson, Executive Director, *National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization*  
Deb Wake, President, *League of Women Voters of Virginia*  
Prof. Sam Wang, Director, *Princeton Gerrymandering Project*

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Liz White  
Executive Director, OneVirginia2021  
804.305.8050  
[liz.white@onevirginia2021.org](mailto:liz.white@onevirginia2021.org)  
she/her



**Open Letter to Commission 3.29.21.pdf**

90K

March 29, 2021

To the members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

**Co-Signers:**

Liz White, Executive Director,  
*OneVirginia2021*

Luis Aguilar, Virginia Director,  
*CASA*

Suzanne Almeida, Redistricting  
and Representation Counsel,  
*Common Cause*

Rev. David Denham, Lead for  
*RepresentVA*

The Hon. Michael Futrell,  
President, *National Black  
Nonpartisan Redistricting  
Organization*

Da'Quan Love, Executive  
Director, *Virginia State  
Conference NAACP*

Matthew Scoble, Executive  
Director, *Unite Virginia*

Josh Stanfield, Executive  
Director, *Activate Virginia*

Phillip Thompson, Executive  
Director, *National Black  
Nonpartisan Redistricting  
Organization*

Deb Wake, President, *League of  
Women Voters of Virginia*

Prof. Sam Wang, Director,  
*Princeton Gerrymandering  
Project*

Thank you for stepping up to serve on this historic commission. As you embark on this substantial undertaking, we, the undersigned, want to offer our assistance, our experience, and our support to your efforts to create fair and representative maps for the Commonwealth.

As Virginians who support fair redistricting and transparency in government, we were delighted to receive the release of the draft timeline for your work over the next year. We are particularly pleased that you plan to utilize the extra time provided to you by the delayed availability of the U.S. Census data to learn about the history and legal standards of redistricting, as well as the tools available to aid in the map-drawing.

**We strongly encourage the Commission to dedicate additional time and resources to thoroughly enable public communication and to determine how to best receive and incorporate feedback from diverse communities across Virginia.** We believe that the most important parts of the redistricting reforms passed over the last two years are those that elevate the role of the citizenry. The Commonwealth's legislative districts belong to Virginians, not to any political party or individual politician. The requirements that the Commission incorporate public input, consider Communities of Interest, and open all proceedings to the sunlight of transparency are the truly historic aspects of this new redistricting process.

Below is a list of questions we hope you will consider when planning your work.

We are not proposing answers to these questions, but rather using the experiences of other redistricting commissions and organizations who engage with historically marginalized populations to help you think through how you will approach them. We hope this will help guide your efforts to make the redistricting process transparent, accessible, and collaborative.

1. How and when will you advertise meetings and hearings to maximize public knowledge and participation, particularly to those not on social media and those who lack easy internet access?
2. How will you ensure that all meetings and work products are accessible, including to non-English speakers and people living with disabilities who may need accommodations to participate fully?
3. How will you prioritize protecting communities of interest in drawing maps?

4. How do you plan to receive public input and testimony on communities of interest in a way that allows you to best utilize the information? How will that public input and testimony be available to members of the public?
5. Do you plan to communicate with the public through traditional media, social media, email, or more frequent updates to the website? If so, how?
6. How will you organize your inbox so that public feedback doesn't get overlooked? Would you consider hiring a third party to develop a portal for this input?
7. Will you reach out to individuals or organizations who specialize in fair and equitable redistricting to supplement your training?
8. Will you conduct direct outreach to diverse communities across Virginia to ensure that the Commission receives a full picture of the Commonwealth? If yes, what is your plan?
9. What will be your policy on attending public events organized by groups or individuals in which community mapping concerns are being addressed?
10. Do you plan to reach out or would you consider reaching out to other commissions or subject matter experts other than those listed in the draft timeline?
11. How many public hearings do you plan to conduct? Are you able to do more if they are in a virtual format?
12. How will you handle the Chat feature in the virtual meetings, as only those registered to give public comment are currently able to participate?
13. Would you consider implementing an automatic reply on [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov) so that members of the public know their feedback has been received?

We appreciate your commitment to a fair and transparent process and look forward to supporting your work in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Liz White, Executive Director, *OneVirginia2021*

Luis Aguilar, Virginia Director, *CASA*

Suzanne Almeida, Redistricting and Representation Counsel, *Common Cause*

Rev. David Denham, Lead, *RepresentVA*

The Hon. Michael Futrell, President, *National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization*

Da'Quan Love, Executive Director, *Virginia State Conference NAACP*

Matthew Scoble, Executive Director, *Unite Virginia*

Josh Stanfield, Executive Director, *Activate Virginia*

Phillip Thompson, Executive Director, *National Black Nonpartisan Redistricting Organization*

Deb Wake, President, *League of Women Voters of Virginia*

Prof. Sam Wang, Director, *Princeton Gerrymandering Project*

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Public comment from Virginia Coalition for Open Government

1 message

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**Jeff South** <[jeffsouthrva@gmail.com](mailto:jeffsouthrva@gmail.com)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Tue, Mar 30, 2021 at 10:32 AM

Hi. I am viewing today's Zoom meeting and hope to have an opportunity to give a brief comment to the Virginia Redistricting Commission. If I'm not able to present my remarks, I am emailing them to you as suggested by Ms. Harris so that they can be included in the public record.

I am the president of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government as well as president of the Virginia Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. Speaking especially on behalf of VCOG, I would like to respectfully ask the Virginia Redistricting Commission to conduct its business in public to the greatest extent possible and to consider not just the letter but also the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act. There is public relations value in how the Commission conducts meetings and responds to requests for records: The more open you are, the greater the public trust and buy-in to what you're trying to accomplish. We realize that there are exemptions to FOIA -- circumstances in which a governmental body can meet in private or withhold records. But those exemptions are discretionary and do not have to be used. Moreover, if the commission does decide to meet in closed session or deny a request for documents, it is crucial to explain why. The public values context.

Thank you.

Jeff South | Associate Professor Emeritus | [Virginia Commonwealth University](#)  
President | [Virginia Coalition for Open Government](#)  
President | [Virginia Pro Chapter](#) | [Society of Professional Journalists](#)  
Freelance journalist | Newsroom trainer | Fulbright scholar | [jeff-south.com](http://jeff-south.com)  
[804-519-1062](tel:804-519-1062) | [JeffSouthRVA@gmail.com](mailto:JeffSouthRVA@gmail.com) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Redistricting Commission

1 message

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**Chris D** <[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 11:55 AM

To the members of the Commission:

Congratulations on your selection/appointment to this ground-breaking, important Commission.

I hope that you will seriously consider selecting a Commission chair who is not beholden to any partisan or political organization or side.

If a commissioner has contributed tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to state and local candidates and/or political parties or PACs, that commissioner would not generate much confidence from the voters of Virginia.

*Chris DeRosa (she/her)*  
[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)  
571-422-6605 (cell)  
**2115 N. Hollister St.**  
**Arlington, VA 22205**

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Redistricting Commission - member qualifications

1 message

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**Chris D** <[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 12:04 PM

To the members of the Commission:

As a long-time supporter of fair redistricting, I have followed developments, including "attending" and observing the two meetings of the Selection Committee. In general, I believe that the members of the Selection Committee took their roles and responsibilities seriously and deliberated with due diligence when selecting the 8 citizen commissioners.

Unfortunately, they were probably not aware of the racist, hateful comments made by Mr. Feliciano of Fredericksburg; thus they appointed/selected him without reservations.

Since his selection, we have become aware of the horrible statements made by Mr. Feliciano. I am horrified. As a woman I am angry. As a person of color, I am upset. His comments reflect a disdain of our democratic process - as well as misogyny and racism. I don't believe that there is a process by which a Commissioner can be removed without his/her consent. So I call on Mr. Feliciano to resign his position immediately - by remaining on the Commission he will taint the reputation of this body, and call into question whether his decisions, recommendations, or viewpoints are truly in the interest of all Virginians.

*Chris DeRosa (she, her)*  
[chris7307@gmail.com](mailto:chris7307@gmail.com)  
571-422-6605 (cell)  
**2115 N. Hollister St.**  
**Arlington, VA 22205**



VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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**Fwd: Request of the Redistricting Commission**

1 message

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**Shelynda Capers** <[scapers@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:scapers@dls.virginia.gov)>  
To: VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:01 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeffrey C. Jacobs** <[NPVIC@timehorse.com](mailto:NPVIC@timehorse.com)>  
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021, 12:59 PM  
Subject: Request of the Redistricting Commission  
To: <[scapers@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:scapers@dls.virginia.gov)>

I, Jeffrey C. Jacobs, a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, do respectfully request that the Redistricting Commission establish the following 3 guiding principles when designing our new districts. I am aghast that no-one from the fastest-growing region of the Commonwealth, the Dulles Tech Corridor, is not on this committee so I hope my words can express what the silent voices of a forgotten region wish to express.

I wish for this committee to adapt 3 core principles that are of hierarchical importance:

1) Respect the Voting Rights Act:

Make sure areas of large minority communities have at least 55% representation in their district, such that the result is out of 100 districts (i.e. the House of Delegates) there be 19%–20% of seats be majority African-American and 4%–5% be Latino-American.

2) Political Efficiency

Make sure there are no wasted votes. Try to make as many districts as possible competitive. A 50%/50% district is an idea and a 60%/40% wastes 10% of votes since only 50% is needed to win a district and the other 10% could have just stayed home. Also, Districts, be they House, Senate, or Congress, should be efficient and represent the statewide will of the people. In analyzing the last twelve years of electoral data in the Commonwealth, we can clearly see a properly districted House of Delegates should expect to have 51% Democrats, 48% Republicans with one seat that could go to a third party or to either of the two major parties. I expect districts following the census to follow this 51/48 principle.

3) Compact

Mathematicians define a circle as the most compact region. It has the lowest perimeter for unit area of any shape. Obviously, not all districts can be circles. However, I would demand of my Redistricting Commission that they follow the simple  $C/2\pi A$  metric, where the closer to 1 your districts are, the more compact they are. Thus, try to minimize the Compactness metric to keep all values as close to 1 as possible and to use an algorithm to maximize that metric.

All that said, I'm a software engineer, and I can tell you machine learning and game theory would be perfect to solve this problem, respect the VRA, maximize political efficiency, and be compact. I hope the commission will consider this route to make itself redundant and give ourselves the fairest districts possible!

Jeffrey C. Jacobs  
[12522 Philmont Drive](#)  
[Herndon, VA 20170](#)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**1st congressional district is unrealistic**

1 message

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**William Shilton** <wws.4026@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:21 PM

The size of the 1st Congressional district was gerrymandered to favor one party over the other. The boundaries of this district must be changed to remedy that effect. Why not just divide Virginia districts into equal square mileage districts so they do not favor either party?



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Communications with the Commission**

1 message

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**Bill Millhouser** <bmillhouser2010@cox.net>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:40 PM

To members of the Commission,

Congratulations on your selection as a member of the Redistricting Commission. As the Commission begins its work in earnest, members of the public and others outside the Commission will be able to communicate their views on redistricting to the Commission and staff in the manner prescribed in implementing legislation. I ask that DLS staff point to the relevant sections of the Code of Virginia regulating such communication and explain these requirements at today's Commission meeting.

Thank you,

Bill Millhouser

Falls Church VA

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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**Fwd: Commissioners' conflicts**

1 message

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**Shelynda Capers** <[scapers@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:scapers@dls.virginia.gov)>  
To: VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>  
Cc: Amigo Wade <[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 1:39 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **CRAGG HINES** <[cragghines@aol.com](mailto:cragghines@aol.com)>  
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021, 1:27 PM  
Subject: Commissioners' conflicts  
To: <[scapers@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:scapers@dls.virginia.gov)>

Thank you for your e-mail requesting the issue I wish to raise with the Redistricting Commission.

I ask — and urge — the Commission to disqualify Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Feliciano because of inherent conflicts of interests faced by each of them.

Mr. Feliciano's expression of such unbridled support for President Trump ("GREATEST PRESIDENT IN MODERN DAY HISTORY") and in Mr. Trump's unfounded assault on the results of the 2020 presidential election indicate he is incapable of rendering clear judgment untainted by partisan bias. His comments were part of his Twitter account which had been deleted but were reported by The Virginia Mercury on January 5.

Mr. Gilliam has, according to VPAP, donated \$927,019 to candidates — almost all to Republicans — over the years, including to more than 40 candidates for the General Assembly. That includes a total of \$33,500 to his current Delegate, Israel O'Quinn. Such personal investment in districts to be considered by the Commission create the appearance that Mr. Gilliam would be unable to participate fairly in redistricting of the General Assembly.

I would be happy to brief these issues at greater length for the Commission but believe the plain facts provide adequate grounds for the Commission to act on.

Sincerely,

Cragg Hines  
[5100 Little Falls Rd.](#)  
Arlington, VA 22207  
C: 202-415-1434

Sent from my iPhone

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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**Fwd: Questions for Redistricting Commission Meeting**

1 message

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**Shelynda Capers** <[scapers@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:scapers@dls.virginia.gov)>  
To: VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>  
Cc: Amigo Wade <[awade@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:awade@dls.virginia.gov)>

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:00 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Erin Corbett** <[erincorbett202@gmail.com](mailto:erincorbett202@gmail.com)>  
Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021, 2:57 PM  
Subject: Questions for Redistricting Commission Meeting  
To: <[scapers@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:scapers@dls.virginia.gov)>

Hello! Can we please address the following questions?

- 1) Will the commission create a website/newsletter/social media account to provide updates to the public?
- 2) When will we know which dates the commission hearings will take place?
- 3) Do we have an update on when the commission will receive census data?
- 4) How does the commission plan on representing demographics + regions fairly?
- 5) Will the chairperson be able to provide contact information for the public to communicate with him/her directly?
- 6) What key goals does the commission have in ensuring transparency in their processes and decisions?
- 7) Will public commentary be taken into decision regarding map development?
- 8) What criteria is the commission using to select the chairperson?
- 9) How does the chairperson reflect the diversity of the Commonwealth?
- 10) Does the chairperson have specific allegiance to any specific maps, regions or demographics?

Thank you!  
Erin

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Erin Corbett



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Concerns about Two Commission Members

1 message

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**Fran Larkins** <franlarkins40@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:46 PM

To members of the Redistricting Commission -

I am looking forward to watching as the first Virginia Redistricting Commission to include citizens holds its first meeting this evening. I was very appreciative of the Selection Committee's deliberations in choosing these eight citizens and felt they were in general very careful to follow the requirements of the Statute to ensure the citizens were "as a whole, representative of the racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the Commonwealth."

I do have concerns, however, about two of the citizen members that were selected. I understand the need to have a citizen from the large southwest region of Virginia, and that Mr. Gilliam was the only name on one of the lists that met this criteria. I also understand that contributions to a political party did not make him ineligible. His huge campaign contributions brought to light by VPAP, however, do not give us confidence that he will help to redistrict fairly with the needs of all Virginia in mind.

I also understand that Mr. Feliciano was chosen because he was the only Hispanic applicant from the lists sent to the Selection Committee and they were being very conscious of ethnic representation. I also understand they could not have known about his social media posts at that time and were relying on a recommendation by Del. Mark Cole. If there was a way in statute to remove a commissioner, that should certainly happen.

At this point, it would be to the benefit of this new Redistricting Commission if Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Feliciano would take it upon themselves to resign. New members could then be selected from Mr. Gilbert's and Mr. Norment's ;lists that would add to the number of females on the Commission. Six males and two females is certainly not gender balanced.

At the very least, neither Mr. Gilliam nor Mr. Feliciano should be considered for the position of Chairman.

Thank you for your service to Virginia!

Fran Larkins  
Fredericksburg, VA



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Redistricting

1 message

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

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:08 PM

To: "varedist@dls.virginia.gov" <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

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.
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)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Public Comment: Virginia Redistricting Commission -- Jose Feliciano, Jr.**

1 message

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**Paul Hogarth** <paul@dailykos.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 4:46 PM

Dear Members of the Virginia Redistricting Commission:

On behalf of 48,477 members of the Daily Kos community — including **1,782 Virginia residents** — who have signed the following petition, we are requesting that Commissioner Jose Feliciano Jr. resign — and that his colleagues also request his resignation.

Jose Feliciano Jr. has used his personal Twitter account to claim the 2020 election was rigged, throw misogynistic insults at women, and question America's involvement in slavery. He lacks the temperament to objectively review facts and represent all Virginians on the commission, and must therefore resign.

Attached as a PDF document are the names of the 48,477 signatories of the petition — including 1,782 Virginian residents.

Below is the petition that our members have signed. You may also read it online at <https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/petitions/sign-the-petition-virginias-pro-trump-redistricting-commissioner-must-resign>

**Sign the petition: Virginia's pro-Trump redistricting commissioner must resign**

A commission to redraw Virginia's political boundaries for the next ten years will start meeting February 1st, but one appointee—Trump loyalist Jose Feliciano Jr.—is clearly unfit for the job.

Feliciano Jr. has **used his personal Twitter account** to claim the 2020 election was rigged, throw misogynistic insults at women, and question America's involvement in slavery. He lacks the temperament to objectively review facts and represent all Virginians on the commission.

Feliciano Jr. was appointed upon the recommendation of Virginia delegate Mark Cole, one of several Republican legislators who urged Vice President Mike Pence to overturn electoral votes for Joe Biden. He was then selected by House Minority Leader Todd Gilbert.

The redistricting commission will set boundaries for congressional & legislative seats in Virginia for the next decade. Any individual who baselessly questions the legitimacy of the 2020 election and berates political opponents is unfit to serve on a commission so crucial to our democracy.

Feliciano Jr.'s incendiary language on social media proves he cannot serve on this commission, and must resign. The other appointed commissioners must also demand his resignation.

**Sign the petition: Jose Feliciano Jr. must resign from Virginia's redistricting commission, and his colleagues must demand his resignation as well.**

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Paul Hogarth, Campaign Director  
Daily Kos Activism Team  
[paul@dailykos.com](mailto:paul@dailykos.com)



1/21/2021

Virginia Legislative Information Systems Mail - Public Comment: Virginia Redistricting Commission -- Jose Feliciano, Jr.



**20210121\_DailyKospetition\_NoFeliciano.pdf**

6517K



VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Redistricting Commission Chairperson

1 message

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**Candace Butler** <[candy@edandcandy.com](mailto:candy@edandcandy.com)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 5:05 PM

The Redistricting Commission would better reflect gender balance if a woman is elected chair person today.

Thank you,  
Candace Butler  
Annandale VA



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Public Comments: Citizen Members--Assert Yourselfs**

1 message

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**Ankit Jain** <ajankit92@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 5:35 PM

Hi,

I'm a Virginia voter who wants fair districts. If possible, I would like to offer spoken public comments during the 1/21 commission meeting. I am speaking to the citizen members in this email: I ask you to please assert yourselves throughout this process. You should not assume the politicians on this commission have the best interests of the citizens at heart. Politicians want to hold onto power. I hope to be proven wrong, but I expect the politicians will push you to adopt a bipartisan gerrymander. You, citizen members, represent all of us. Please do not shrink from your duties, and do not assume the politicians know best. I hope you will push back at any attempt to gerrymander and only vote for maps that are truly fair, with no poisonous partisanship.

Best,  
Ankit Jain



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Comment re: selection process meeting tomorrow**1 message

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**Aaron Barden** <ajbarden94@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 3:46 PM

To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Good afternoon Selection Committee Members,

I appreciate your service in this new redistricting process.

As you fulfill your duties, I hope you will maintain the current pool's relatively good reflection of Virginia's diversity. In particular, please make selections that ensure regional, racial, gender, and economic diversity on the Commission.

The new Commission will only be effective if every Virginian can see themselves in its members.

Again, thank you for your service in this historic process.

Sincerely,  
Aaron Barden



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## Comments on Commission Selection: Choose Independents

1 message

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**Ankit Jain** <ajankit92@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 8:24 PM

Hello,

My name is Ankit Jain--I'm a northern Virginia resident and campaigned in favor of this redistricting commission. One of the main expectations we had for the citizen commissioners was that they would be independent from the politicians and would put the interests of the voters before that of politicians. I am requesting you honor the intent of this amendment by foregrounding in your mind the political independence of the finalists as you make your selections.

Further, many Virginians do not identify with either major political party, and they deserve representation on this commission. To maximize independence and political diversity, I specifically request you choose one finalist who does not identify with either major party from each slate of candidates. Because the Senate Democrats forwarded only one such candidate--Kimball W. Brace--I am requesting you to choose him for the commission.

Among the independent finalists forwarded by Republicans, I request you to choose someone who has no history of donating to Republicans to ensure the person is truly independent.

Finally, I am requesting you not to choose Marvin W. Gilliam for the commission. Mr. Gilliam has a history of donating large amounts of money to Republican candidates, indicating a strong relationship with Republican leaders. I do not trust him to place the interests of all Virginians over those of Republican leaders.

To summarize, I am asking you, first, to consider the likelihood any finalist will act independently of political leaders in all deliberation. Second, I am asking you to take one citizen who does not identify with either party from each slate forwarded to you. Finally, I am requesting you not to choose Marvin W. Gilliam for the commission. I hope you will help us effectuate the intent of this amendment.

Best,  
Ankit Jain

VA Redistricting <[varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)>

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## Redistricting Candidates

1 message

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**Jennifer Woofter** <[jennifer@sustainabilityconsulting.com](mailto:jennifer@sustainabilityconsulting.com)>  
To: [varedist@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:varedist@dls.virginia.gov)

Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 4:38 PM

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 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](mailto:jennifer@sustainabilityconsulting.com)



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTAL**

1 message

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**SWells679** <itswells@gmail.com>  
To: VAREDIST@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 3:14 AM

- 1) Thanks to all the volunteers and nominees.
- 2) I would recommend, starting now, districts be drawn without regard to race. If we, as a country, are ever going to move forward, we can't keep thinking skin color makes a difference. It doesn't. Take a stand.
- 3) I would advise everyone on the committee to have good, updated contact information for Senator M. Locke. I pray she'll maintain better contact with this committee than she does her constituents.

V/r  
Scott A. Wells  
Hampton



VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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## High dollar donars

1 message

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**Roger miller** <rogerd.miller@verizon.net>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:09 PM

High dollar donors already have inordinate influence in how our government functions. They don't also need a seat deciding who our representatives are. The purpose of the amendment was to give voters confidence that our leaders served the interests of their constituents, not special interests. If relatives of former electeds are disqualified, shouldn't mega-donors be too?

ThanK you for hearing me out,

Roger Miller





VA Redistricting &lt;varedist@dls.virginia.gov&gt;

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**Redistricting commission**

1 message

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**Victoria Higgins** <victoriahiggins14@gmail.com>  
To: varedist@dls.virginia.gov

Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:14 PM

Good afternoon,

I am writing to object to the inclusion on the commission of a citizen member, Marvin Gilliam, who has donated over \$900,000 to Republican candidates. The commission is intended to draw non-partisan maps, and the inclusion of a member with such obvious partisan intent casts doubt on the objectivity of the maps that will be drawn.

While there may be no criteria to prevent the inclusion of such a member, Virginians must have confidence in the commission to produce fair maps. A member who has used considerable personal wealth to influence the political process in the favor of one party will undermine faith in the process.

Thank you,  
Victoria Higgins  
SD 9 / HD 69

Sent from my iPhone