



VA Redistricting <varedist@dls.virginia.gov>

Citizen concerns

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



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Comments for Commissioners and DLS

1 message

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