

Good morning and thank you Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson and City Council members. My name is Kathie Hoekstra and I live in Lincolnia Hills in the far West End of Alexandria.

Today I also have come to speak as a Volunteer for One Virginia 2021 and to urge you to amend your Legislative agenda to include support of this organization. It was formed for the sole purpose of ending gerrymandering by creating a non-partisan commission to set the boundaries for state delegates and senators and federal congressman or women.

Let me tell you a brief personal story. After the most recent election I decided to devote all of my free time to 2 causes: 1) elect more democrats to the Virginia house and 2) to try and end gerrymandering so Virginia could expand Medicare and save lives.

Every weekend I drove down to Prince William County and took at least one and most of the time 2 walk packages and knocked on doors for our own Elizabeth Guzman. And she won by 10 percentage points! I was ecstatic!

But on both primary day and on the general election day I devoted 4-6 hours to collecting signatures from voters in my precinct – William Ramsey – to the petition supporting One Virginia 2021's goal of ending gerrymandering.

In the primary I collected 44 signatures and this November I collected 95 despite the rain. **And most importantly you should know that over 90% of the random people I asked signed the petition.**

Clearly Alexandrians understand the importance of this topic. Therefore, I ask that you amend your legislative agenda and add support for the One Virginia 2021's goal to end gerrymandering by creating a non-partisan commission to set the boundaries for state and federal officials. If we had done this earlier we would be celebrating winning the Virginia House instead of praying for a good outcome from recounts. As we say - **It is time for the voters to pick the politicians – NOT the politicians picking the voters.** Thank you.

Re: Docket 18-7040

Thank you, Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson, and Council Members, for your time. My name is Courtney Babak; I live in Huntington, and I'm a volunteer with OneVirginia2021. I appreciate the work that you've done in raising awareness for voting issues and including them in this legislative package. However, I'd like you to take that advocacy one step further in adding language about redistricting reform.

Gerrymandering allows politicians to choose their voters rather than the voters choosing their representatives - violating a key facet of democracy. Virginia is one of the worst gerrymandered states in the country, and as a proud resident, I'd really like to have that change. I care a lot about fair representation and the strength of our democracy, and gerrymandering is one of the greatest threats to that strength. It's breaking apart our communities; it's diluting our democracy, and it's our obligation as citizens to ensure that it's truly fair and representative.

With two US Supreme Court arguments in the last year - one of them involving our state - it's apparent how much of an issue gerrymandering is, locally and nationally. We can take a stand, and be a leader in moving forward with efforts to address it. Fair redistricting criteria has bipartisan support in the Virginia House and Senate; we already have the support there, we just need to keep prioritizing it and reminding our representatives of the urgency this issue presents to our community and our democracy.

I hope you take our concerns into consideration, including redistricting reform into the legislative package, and I would also like to request in future sessions, the City Council pass OneVirginia's resolution in support of fair and transparent redistricting reform here in Virginia.

Thank you again for your time.

ONE VIRGINIA 2021

VIRGINIANS FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING

A RESOLUTION OF THE _____ IN SUPPORT OF REDISTRICTING REFORM IN VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, the _____ supports redistricting reform in Virginia for state legislative and congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, the _____ maintains that transparent and non-partisan legislative districting is a reform essential to build more trustworthy, accountable, and healthy democracy for our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, the _____ maintains that redistricting reform is necessary to eliminate the conflict of interest that allows General Assembly members to pick their voters; and

WHEREAS, the _____ maintains that eliminating political data would help resolve the problem of split precincts and divided jurisdictions throughout Virginia,

WHEREAS, action is needed now given the multi-year process required to amend the Virginia Constitution in order to institute a reformed redistricting process by the time the next redistricting occurs in 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ fully supports and urges action to protect and promote democracy in Virginia through redistricting reform.