



Dear legislative leaders:

Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward
Majority Leader Joe Pittman
Minority Leader Jay Costa
Senate State Government Committee Chair Cris Dush
Senate State Government Committee Minority Chair Steve Santarsiero
Speaker Joanna McClinton
Majority Leader Matt Bradford
Minority Leader Jesse Topper
House State Government Committee Chair Carol Hill-Evans
House State Government Committee Minority Chair Brad Roae

We are writing on behalf of the Fair Districts PA team, our organizational allies, and almost 130,000 Pennsylvanians who have signed a petition in support of an independent redistricting commission.

We're asking that you do all you can to pass House Bill 31 or its companion Senate Bill 131 before Independence Day, 2026. We ask that the bills be given votes in committee when you return in January and be given final floor votes well before the America 250 celebrations in July.

Our state was once the keystone of democracy and representation, with the first constitution to declare "the people ... have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may deem proper." We cannot celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of that constitution, or America 250, until we see progress toward redistricting reform for future generations of Pennsylvanians.

House Bill 31/Senate Bill 131 would amend the Pennsylvania Constitution by establishing an eleven-member Independent Redistricting Commission to provide a nonpartisan process for redistricting in the Commonwealth for state senate, house, and congressional districts.

The proposed legislation requires public hearings and equal access to all data and information for both the general public and commissioners. It also outlines a set of redistricting criteria, including prohibitions against favoring or disfavoring individual candidates or providing an advantage to any political party; clear, prioritized standards to promote equitable representation for counties, municipalities, and communities of interest; defined limits on population deviation; and attention to compactness, contiguity, and geographic boundaries.

One benefit of Pennsylvania's current divided government is that it offers us all some temporary protection from the escalating mid-decade redistricting battles. We all know that protection won't last as we move toward 2031. The recent judicial retention vote gave a small taste of how much money will be spent circulating misinformation to capture control of the PA legislature before 2031, in the hope that one party will control congressional redistricting. This is a fight that no one will win, as careers and reputations are damaged, the last shreds of trust are destroyed, and the deep divides go deeper still.

Recent opinion polls show two inescapable realities: most voters are very concerned about the future of representative government, and an overwhelming number want legislators removed from the process of drawing district lines. A large national poll funded by NBC in late August and early September showed 4 of 5 respondents want congressional districts to be drawn by nonpartisan commissions.

Multiple smaller polls show similar responses, with 9 out of 10 respondents on one survey saying gerrymandering is a major problem, A poll commissioned by Common Cause in North Carolina in late September found that just 7% of voters, no matter their party, consider it acceptable for politicians to draw district lines to benefit their party. Two percent said it's only acceptable if the other side does it first. 84% said it is never acceptable.

These polls mirror sentiments we've heard from voters across Pennsylvania as we've collected petition signatures at parades and festivals and at the polls on election day. Voters want fairly drawn districts, they don't want a locked-in advantage for either party, and they don't feel heard in Harrisburg or Congress.

No one knows who will control the redistricting process in 2031. No one knows who will hold majorities in the House or Senate. No one knows who the governor will be. And no one can say with 100% confidence which party will hold the PA Supreme Court majority, or what that majority will do when choosing the Legislative Reapportionment Committee chair, when asked to intervene if the governor and the legislature cannot agree on a congressional map, or when asked to remedy gerrymandered districts.

What we DO know is that by 2030 it will be too late to put a nonpartisan process in place. And we know that the vast majority of voters across PA are tired of rigged districts and partisan games and are looking for leaders of either party, or NO party, willing to tell the truth, follow the rules, and answer to voters rather than dark-money donors eager to grab control.

Please do all you can to help this needed reform move forward.

Sincerely, the Fair Districts PA leadership team:

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