

**RESOLUTION 2017-43**

***A Resolution in Support of a Citizen's Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting (BOC)***

***WHEREAS***, the citizens of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and

***WHEREAS***, legislative and congressional redistricting has often resulted in the gerrymandering of districts to favor one political party or the other; and

***WHEREAS***, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts had worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy by impeding action on critical issues of importance to the people; and

***WHEREAS***, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions and communities of interest, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate, will promote transparency, the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, and allow for public input, and will fully comply with the constitutional requirement that “no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward” be divided “unless absolutely necessary”; and

***WHEREAS***, recent legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial legislative and congressional redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound

*methodology in a non-partisan fashion.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the City Council of the City of Hazleton, Luzerne County, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, does hereby support legislative efforts to secure expeditious action to make a constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that a copy of this resolution be delivered to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

***ADOPTED BY COUNCIL*** this 2nd day of May, 2017.

*Presented* \_\_Mundie\_\_

*Seconded* \_\_Gavio\_\_

*Cuozzo* \_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_

*Gavio* \_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_

*Mope* \_\_Absent\_\_

*Sosar* \_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_

*Mundie* \_\_\_\_Y\_\_\_\_

***RESOLUTION PASSES 4-1 ON 5/2/2017***