

A resolution in support of a citizens' commission for legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment.

Whereas, the residents of Camp Hill Borough and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, transparent, and less partisan process for the decennial redrawing of state legislative and congressional districts; and

Whereas, current legislative and judicial actions regarding the redistricting process in Pennsylvania address historical redistricting, but do not directly address future methods of redistricting; and

Whereas, legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment has in the past resulted in the gerrymandering of districts to favor one political party or the other; and

Whereas, such gerrymandering results in districts in which voters of one party are dominant and elected officials are thereby incentivized to represent the views and interests of one party rather than the interests of a diverse group of constituents; and

Whereas, in Camp Hill, our precincts (electoral districts) are drawn strictly on the basis of geography and Borough Council members represent the Borough at large, and as a result seek compromise solutions and do their best to represent the interests and views of a diverse group of residents affiliated with different political parties; and

Whereas, in contrast to the approach in Camp Hill, gerrymandering of the Commonwealth's legislative and congressional districts has worked to increase political polarization and impede efforts to find common ground and compromise solutions that respect the views and interests of both parties, and thereby promote the common good; and

Whereas the creation of an independent citizens redistricting commission would limit political motivation and partisanship and thereby help to promote a redistricting and congressional reapportionment process based primarily on geographic subdivisions; and

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Township Commissioners Handbook encourages municipal officials to weigh in on state legislative matters affecting the municipality¹; and

Whereas, over 200 Pennsylvania cities, towns, boroughs and counties have adopted resolutions supporting a change to the redistricting process to reduce gerrymandering, including, in Cumberland County, Upper Allen Township, East Pennsboro Township, Carlisle Borough, Silver Spring Township, Mechanicsburg Borough, Mount Holly Springs

¹ "The commissioners' role as a legislator is not confined to enacting township laws. Elected officials represent the township and are expected to be concerned with and at times, attempt to influence state legislation affecting their municipality. The General Assembly considers legislation affecting all townships, all local governments in Pennsylvania and each individual municipality or region." [Handbook, p. 13]

Borough, Lower Frankford Township, Newville Borough, Penn Township, and Cumberland County; and


Whereas, minimizing party dominance of the redistricting process will support the constitutional requirement that “[in redistricting] no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward be divided unless absolutely necessary,” and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Camp Hill Borough supports legislative efforts to promote a constitutional amendment that would assign the task of legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment to an independent citizens’ redistricting commission; and be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

Adopted this 11 day of April, 2018



Borough of Camp Hill
Council President



Borough of Camp Hill
Secretary