

APPROVED

**COUNTY OF LEHIGH, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION NO. 2017 - 19
SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS HARTZELL, BRACE,
JONES & DOUGHERTY
REQUESTED DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

**SUPPORTING A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Lehigh 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 has 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".

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, THAT:

1. The above purpose clauses are incorporated herein and made a part hereof by this reference.

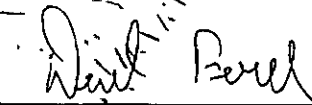
2. The Lehigh County Board of Commissioners hereby supports legislative efforts to secure expeditious action to make a constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission.
3. The proper officers and other personnel of Lehigh County are hereby authorized and empowered to take all such further action, including any necessary transfers of funds, and execute additional documents as they may deem appropriate to carry out the purpose of this Resolution.
4. Copies of this resolution shall be distributed to the proper officers and other personnel whose further action is required to achieve the purpose of this resolution, including all members of the Lehigh County delegation to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor Tom Wolf, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, and Fair Districts PA.
5. Any resolution or part of resolution conflicting with the provisions of this resolution is hereby repealed insofar as the same affects this resolution.

ADOPTED BY THE LEHIGH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

on the 22nd day of February, 2017, by the following vote:

<u>Commissioners</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Geoff Brace	X	
Thomas C. Creighton, III	X	
Percy H. Dougherty	X	
Dan Hartzell	X	
Amanda Holt		X
David S. Jones, Sr.	X	
Marty Nothstein	X	
Brad Osborne	X	
Michael P. Schware	X	

ATTEST:



Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

COUNTY OF LEHIGH RESOLUTION 2017- NO. 19

CERTIFICATION

I, DAVID BARILLA, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Lehigh County, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly presented and adopted at a regular meeting of the Commissioners of Lehigh County held on February 22, 2017.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Barilla", is written over a horizontal line.

DAVID BARILLA
Clerk Board of Commissioners