



RESOLUTION No. 2017-13

CUMBERLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of Cumberland County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process for the decennial task of drawing state legislative 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 political candidate, over another; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our democracy by discouraging competition in elections and 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 redistricting process that respects communities of interest, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against any one political party or candidate, will promote transparency, the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, and will allow for public input and comply with the constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary," and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial redistricting process via the establishment of an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

WHEREAS, such reform of the redistricting process must be acted upon by the General Assembly in a timely fashion to facilitate implementation in conjunction with the next redistricting process in 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners has previously urged reform of the legislative and congressional redistricting process (Resolution No. 2012-5 & Resolution No. 2016-12).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners does hereby reaffirm its support for timely action by the state General Assembly on legislative efforts to secure affirmative action on a constitutional amendment that would assign the decennial task of legislative and congressional reapportionment and redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners does hereby respectfully request that other counties seriously consider the adoption of similar resolutions, and that the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) take action in its 2017 consideration of new resolutions to support this good government reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to all Members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives, to the governing leaders of all counties in Pennsylvania, and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP).

ADOPTED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2017

ATTEST:

Lawrence Thomas, Chief Clerk

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

Vincent T. DiFilippo, Chairman

Jim Hertzler, Vice-Chairman

Gary Eichelberger, Secretary

(SEAL)

