

RESOLUTION NO. 4 - 2018

Moved by:



A Resolution in Support of a Constitutional Mandate to Create and Empower a Nonpartisan Citizens Commission for Legislative Redistricting and Congressional Reapportionment.

**WHEREAS**, the right of THE PEOPLE to assure their continued enjoyment of the many blessings of a free and democratic society through self-governance has been ordained and established in the constitutions of our state and federal governments, manifested through the right of citizens to select individuals to serve as their elected representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Harrisburg recognizes that to secure the inalienable right of THE PEOPLE to enjoy the many blessings of a free and democratic society, THE PEOPLE did heretofore elect to ordain and establish our constitutional framework for their state and federal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, a governing principal of our constitutions remains the right of the people to elect citizens from among themselves as their representatives by the creation of proportional legislative and congressional districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the City of Harrisburg and throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania expect and deserve that their right of representation will be secured through a fair, transparent, impartial and depoliticized process whenever the Commonwealth shall be required to draw anew the physical bounds of state legislative and congressional districts of near equal population; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council acknowledges that legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment in this Commonwealth and elsewhere often result in the gerrymandering of districts that favor one political party or the other; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council further acknowledges that such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts at times has worked to the detriment of our representative democracy and impeded action on critical issues of importance to THE PEOPLE; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council agrees that the creation of an independent citizens' redistricting commission that must be devoid of political motivation or partisanship will help to hereinafter ensure a fair and accurate legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council agrees that it is in the best interest of THE PEOPLE that a redistricting commission must prohibit any district from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate, and also in a manner that promotes transparency, uses impartial and sound methodology for the setting of district boundaries, allowing for public input, and fully complying with the constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary;" and

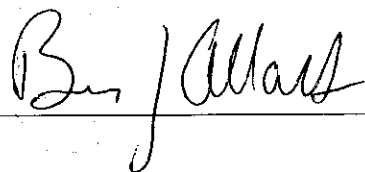
**WHEREAS**, recent legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion, through the adoption of **SENATE BILL 22** and/or **HOUSE BILL 722**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HARRISBURG**, that the Council of the City of Harrisburg hereby finds that the current system of redistricting can diminish meaningful choice during elections, as well as the accountability of elected officials to the voters, and thereby jeopardize the democratic process whenever district bounds are left to partisan legislators instead of a diverse and representative sample of THE PEOPLE of this Commonwealth.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Harrisburg does hereby support legislative efforts to secure expeditious action in support of a constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, form an independent citizens' redistricting commission to undertake the decennial tasks of legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment, starting with the 2021 redistricting of the Commonwealth's congressional and legislative districts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, accordingly the Council of the City of Harrisburg hereby supports the **ADOPTION** of **SENATE BILL 22** and/or **HOUSE BILL 722**.

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_



Passed by City Council January 23, 2018

Wanda R. D. Williams

President of City Council

Attest

[Signature]

City Clerk

Approved

YEAS		NAYS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MR. ALLATT	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MS. DANIELS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MS. GREEN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MR. JOHNSON	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MR. MADSEN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MR. MAJORS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MS. WILLIAMS	
Yeas	<u>7</u>	
Nays	<u>0</u>	

**INTER**

**OFFICE**

# MEMO


To: HARRISBURG CITY COUNCIL  
From: Kirk Petroski, City Clerk  
LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM

Date:

LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL FORM/CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE

BILL NO. -2017      RESOLUTION NO. 4-2018

THE ABOVE LISTED ITEM WAS WRITTEN AND PREPARED FOR FINAL INTRODUCTION AT THE HARRISBURG CITY SOLICITOR'S OFFICE ON:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Solicitor

JAN 5, 2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Requested by Department/Bureau: CITY COUNCIL

Department/Bureau Contact Person: COUNCILMAN JOHNSON

For Action on or before:

The attached was received in the Office of the City Clerk for introduction on  
1/09/2018

Received by:   
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: 1/05/2018