

FILE OF THE CITY CLERK

COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 25 – 2017

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILWOMAN SORACE – MAY 9, 2017

APPROVED BY COUNCIL – MAY 9, 2017

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER IN
SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 22 AND HOUSE BILL 722 TO ESTABLISH A
FAIR AND INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE
AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Lancaster 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, 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 all of 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, Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722 have 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 Lancaster does hereby support this 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 citizen redistricting commission; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all those elected officials in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent the citizens of the City of Lancaster to publicly announce their support of and commitment to passage of Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 72, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to each of them:

Governor Tom Wolf
Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack
Attorney General Josh Shapiro
United States Senator Bob Casey
United States Senator Pat Toomey
United States Representative Lloyd Smucker
Pennsylvania Senator Scott Martin
Pennsylvania Representative Michael Sturla
Lancaster County Commissioner Dennis Stuckey, Chairman
Lancaster County Commissioner Joshua G. Parsons, Vice Chairman
Lancaster County Commissioner Craig Lehman



J. Richard Gray, Mayor

ATTEST:



Bernard W. Harris Jr., City Clerk