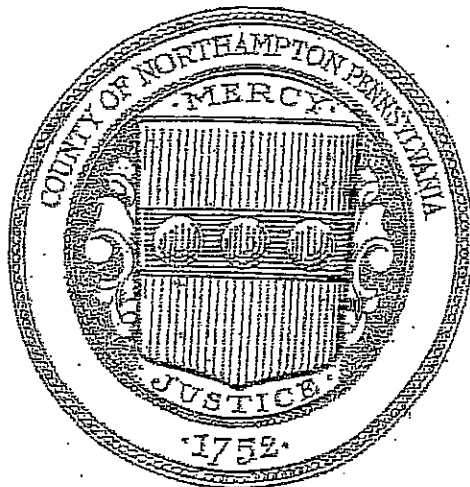


THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON



RESOLUTION

Number 99-2016

WHEREAS, the citizens of Northampton 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 redistricting and congressional reapportionment 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 the political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment 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, 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"; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby support legislative efforts to secure expeditious action of a Constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, assign the decennial task of both legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment to an independent citizens redistricting commission.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

ATTEST:

INTRODUCED BY:

Linda M. Zembo

Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council

Margaret L. Ferraro

Kenneth M. Kraft

The above resolution was adopted by the Northampton County Council at the meeting held October 20, 2016.