

RESOLUTION # 2017- 17

A Resolution in Support of a Citizens Commission For Legislative and Congressional Redistricting

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Township of Plains and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional district of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting has, at times, resulted in gerrymandered district that favor one political part over others; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional district has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will: ensure a fair, transparent and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions; prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate; require the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries; require public input; and fully comply with the constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary, "; and

WHEREAS, legislation 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 is required to ensure these reforms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Plains Township Board of Commissioners does hereby support legislative efforts to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all those elected officials and party leaders in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent the citizens of the Township of Plains (Governor Tom Wolf, Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack and Attorney General Josh Shapiro) to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to each of them.

This resolution (# 2017- 17) Enacted by the Authority of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Plains this the 13th of October, 2017.

Copies of the resolution to be sent to

Governor Tom Wolf
2 N. Main St.
Pittston, PA 18640

Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack
200 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Attorney General Josh Shapiro
Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Secretary of State Pedro A. Cortés
302 North Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

United States Senator Bob Casey
417 Lackawanna Ave., Suite 303
Scranton, PA 18503

United States Senator Pat Toomey
United States Federal Building
17 South Park Row
Suite B-120
Erie, PA 16501

United States Representative Matt Cartwright
20 North Pennsylvania Ave.
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

Pennsylvania Senator John T. Yudichak
801 Wyoming Ave.
West Pittston, PA 18643

Pennsylvania Representative Mike Carroll
42 Center Street
Hughestown, PA 18640

Linda McClosky Houck County Commissioner
Tim McGinley County Commissioner
Edward A. Brominski County Commissioner
Rick Williams County Commissioner
Kathy Dobash County Commissioner
Harry Haas County Commissioner
Stephen A. Urban County Commissioner
Eugene Kelleher County Commissioner
Eileen M. Sorokas County Commissioner
Jane Walsh Waitkus County Commissioner
Robert Schnee County Commissioner

County Commissioners
200 North River Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711


Chairman, Democratic Party of Pennsylvania, Marcel Groen
229 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Chairman, Republican Party of Pennsylvania, Val DiGiorgio
112 State Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101



Robert Sax, Chairman

ATTEST:



Patricia Sluhocki, Township Secretary