

Drafted by	City Clerk
Sponsored by/Referred by	Slifko
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Advertised on	N/A

RESOLUTION NO. 80 - 2017

SUPPORTING PA 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 Reading 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

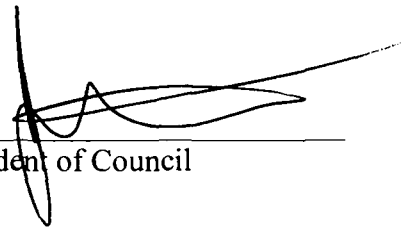
WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate, will promote transparency and the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, will require 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 Reading does hereby support this legislative effort 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

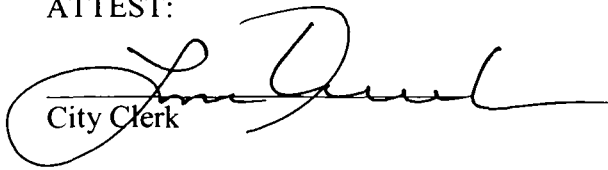
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all those elected officials in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent the citizens of the City of Reading and Berks County to publicly announce their support of and commitment to the passage of Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 72, and that a copy of this 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
Congressman Charlie Dent
Congressman Pat Meehan
Congressman Ryan Costello
State Senator Judy Schwank
State Representative Thomas Caltagirone
State Representative Mark Rozzi
State Senator Dave Argall
State Senator Bob Mensch
State Senator John C. Rafferty Jr.
State Representative Jim Cox
State Representative Mark Gillen
State Representative Jerry Knowles
State Representative David M. Maloney Sr.
State Representative Gary Day
State Representative Ryan Mackenzie
State Representative Barry Jozwiak
Berks County Commissioner Christian Leinbach, Chairman
Berks County Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt
Berks County Commissioner Mark Scott




President of Council

ATTEST:



City Clerk

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City
of Reading, do hereby certify that the foregoing
is a true and correct copy of the original
Resolution passed by the Council of the City of
Reading, on the 9 day of Oct
A. D. 20 17. Witness my hand and seal of the
said City this 10 day of Oct A. D. 20 17


CITY CLERK