

**BOROUGH OR RUTLEDGE, DELAWARE COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION 2019-9  
ENDORING REDISTRICTING REFORM LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, the Council of Rutledge Borough is dedicated to upholding democracy in Rutledge and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, elections should represent the will of all the people, not political party leadership and should provide citizens with meaningful choices in electing representatives; and

WHEREAS, Rutledge Borough supports amending the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to assign redrawing congressional and legislative district boundaries to an independent redistricting commission, prohibit districts from being drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party or candidate, mandate strict compliance with constitutional anti-gerrymandering standards, and guarantee meaningful opportunities for public input; and

WHEREAS, current congressional and legislative redistricting is undertaken by incumbent state legislators who have enormous political party leadership and personal interests in the outcome of the work of the presently mandated Legislative Reapportionment Commission; and

WHEREAS, districts are often redrawn to optimize the probability for incumbents to stay in office and to disadvantage candidates of the opposing political party, which diminishes competition and choice during elections, as well as accountability to the voters; and

WHEREAS, only a truly independent commission composed of a diverse group of qualified members of the voting public, chosen to assure the fairness of the redistricting process, should be able to define congressional and legislative districts; and

WHEREAS, districts should not be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party or candidate; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution should define the maximum allowable deviations from the requirements that district populations be equal in population, compact, and contiguous, as well as prohibit unnecessary splitting of political subdivisions, and require explanation in detail for any departure from any plan that would achieve the stated standards, and mandate that these rules shall be enforced by the commission and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, there must be transparency in the redistricting process and opportunities for the public to be involved with the commission through comments and public hearings throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, redistricting should be permitted just once during each decennial census cycle, unless required by a court order;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of Rutledge Borough believes that our current system of redistricting has the potential to diminish meaningful choice during elections, diminish the accountability of elected officials to the voters, and jeopardize the democratic process as it leaves redistricting to political party leadership instead of a diverse and representative sample of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of Rutledge Borough calls upon the Members of the Pennsylvania Senate and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to vote for passage of legislation to amend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania consistent with the principles endorsed in this Resolution, and to do so in a timely manner so as to enable the amendment to be in full force for the 2021 redistricting of the Commonwealth's congressional and legislative districts.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE and seconded, the above Resolution is adopted as of the 9th day of September, 2019.

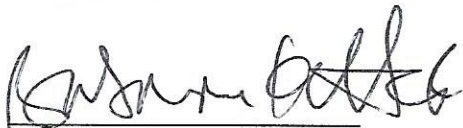
BOROUGH OF RUTLEDGE



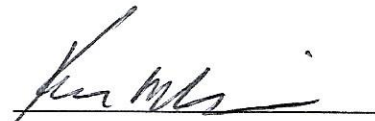
Heidi Sentivan, Council President

ATTESTED this 9th day  
of September, 2019

APPROVED this 9th day  
of September, 2019



Barbarann Keffer, Secretary



Kevin Cunningham, Mayor