

Introduced in Council on above date and referred to Committee on RULES February 5, 2018

Scranton, Pa. February 12, 2018 Committee on Rules reports favorably on the within resolution.

L. Reed
City Clerk

[Signature]
Chairman

RESOLUTION NO. 10

2018

(AS AMENDED)

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Scranton 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 at times resulted in gerrymandered districts that favor one political party over others; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts 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 Council of the City of Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania 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 that the Council of the City of Scranton also does hereby support legislative efforts to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reduce the size and number of State Representatives in the State House from two hundred and three (203) members to one hundred and fifty-one (151) members per House Bill (H.B.) 153; and

CERTIFIED COPY
L. Reed
City Clerk

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 City of Scranton to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts.

SECTION 1. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Resolution so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Resolution or any portion thereof from time to time as it shall deem advisable in the best interests of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Resolution and the effective administration thereof.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is enacted by the Council of the City of Scranton under the authority of the Act of Legislature, April 13, 1972, Act No. 62, known as the "Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law," and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

Passed by the Council
February 12, 2018

Receiving the Affirmative votes of Council Persons
Perry, Donahue, Evans, Gaughan, Rogan

Negative NONE
[Signature]
President

Approved 2-13-18
[Signature] Mayor
[Signature] City Clerk
Certified Copy