

SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP
Bucks County, Pennsylvania
RESOLUTION NO. 2017- 53

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR
LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Solebury Township, Bucks 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 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 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, and 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 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 Solebury Township Board of Supervisors does hereby urge our legislators to support and pass Senate Bill 22, introduced by Boscola, Scavello, Browne, Schwank, Blake, Dinniman, Leach, Williams, Yudichak and Haywood, February 27, 2017 and related efforts to secure expeditious action to make a constitutional amendment assigning the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission, including the following key provisions:


- A redistricting commission randomly selected from three pools of citizen volunteers, two representing each of the major parties and a third composed of third-party or unaffiliated voters;
- No current or recent elected officials, candidates, political party officials, their aides, spouses or other immediate family members would be eligible to serve;
- The commission would establish transparent procedures and timelines providing meaningful opportunity for public input prior to drawing plans and again before adopting final plans;
- Party affiliations of voting blocs and the locations of any individuals would not be considered in drawing district boundaries;
- Once approved by the commission, the new district maps would not be subject to approval by the General Assembly or the governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be delivered to Governor Tom Wolf, State Senator Charles McIlhinney, State Representative Scott Petri, and the following members of the Pennsylvania Senate State Government Committee:

- Mike Folmer
- Antony Williams
- Thomas Killion
- Joseph Scarnati
- Richard Alloway
- Mike Regan
- Patrick Stefano
- Donald White
- Andres Dinniman
- Daylin Leach
- Judith Schwank

RESOLVED and **ENACTED** this 21st day of March, A.D., 2017

Solebury Township
Board of Supervisors



Kevin Morrissey, Chair



Helen Tai, Vice-Chair



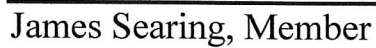
Noel Barrett, Member



Paul Cosdon, Member



Gretchen Rice, Township Secretary



James Searing, Member