

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 17-R-06

**A Resolution in Support of a Citizen's Commission
for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting**

WHEREAS, the citizens of Susquehanna Township and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process for the decennial drawing of state Legislative and Congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, Legislative and Congressional redistricting has too 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, impeding action on issues of importance to the people; and

WHEREAS, Susquehanna Township has first-hand experience with the effects of imprudently-drawn Congressional District lines, with two communities (Ward 1 and Ward 3) each divided into two different Congressional Districts as a result of the most recent redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, Susquehanna Township has itself endeavored to fairly redraw Ward lines, as part of its local decennial reapportionment obligations, with the appointment in 2012 of a five-member Citizens Advisory Board to recommend necessary but commonsense Ward line changes for review and approval by the Susquehanna Township Board of Commissioners and Dauphin County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the creation by the General Assembly of an independent citizens redistricting commission, devoid of political motivation or partisanship, will: help assure a fair and accurate Legislative and Congressional reapportionment process that respects political subdivisions and communities of interest; prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate; promote transparency, the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district lines; allow for public input; and fully comply with the constitutional requirement that "no county, 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 redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Susquehanna Township Board of Commissioners calls upon the elected officials of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to support legislative efforts 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 citizens redistricting commission; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be delivered to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

RESOLVED this 13th day of April, 2017 in public session duly assembled.

TOWNSHIP OF SUSQUEHANNA

ATTEST:

By: 
Frank Lynch
President, Board of Commissioners


David W. Kratzer, Jr.
Secretary/Manager

[Township Seal]