



December 21, 2017

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Resolution No. R0135-17

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Wilkes-Barre:

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

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Wilkes-Barre 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 Wilkes-Barre City Council 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

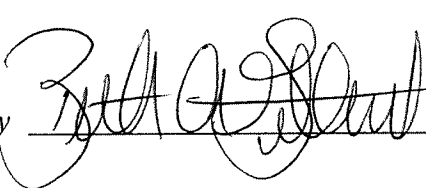
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all those elected officials and party leaders in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who represent the citizens of the City of Wilkes-Barre (see list below) to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to each of them.

- Governor Tom Wolf
- Lieutenant Governor Mike Stack
- Attorney General Josh Shapiro
- Secretary of State Pedro A. Cortés
- United States Senator Bob Casey
- United States Senator Pat Toomey
- United States Representative Matthew Cartwright
- Pennsylvania Senator John Yudichak
- Pennsylvania Representative Eddie Day Pashinski
- Chairman, Democratic Party of Pennsylvania, Marcel Groen
- Chairman, Republican Party of Pennsylvania, Val DiGiorgio

Submitted by 

ROLL CALL

YEAS	RESOLUTIONS	NAYS
✓ _____	BARRETT	_____
✓ _____	BELUSKO	_____
✓ _____	MERRITT	_____
✓ _____	BROOKS (VICE CHAIRPERSON)	_____
✓ _____	GILBERT (CHAIRPERSON)	_____

Seconded by  City Clerk