

Action Alert

Action Alert: We are asking that you call or email your Senator if they are on the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee and ask them to SUPPORT Senate Bill 742 and Senate Joint Resolution 303.

Action Alert: The League of Women Voters of Virginia supports the establishment, in law, of a politically balanced and independent Redistricting Commission for each decennial redistricting to prepare, with the Virginia Department of Legislative Services, a plan for submission to the legislature as specified by the Virginia Constitution. The Commission should be bi-partisan and be composed of individuals who are not elected officials; they should represent the geographical distribution and demographic diversity of the state, and consist of an uneven number of members.

In addition to the Virginia constitutional requirement of equal population, contiguous and compact districts and the Voting Rights Act requirements for protecting the voting strength of minority groups, the League supports the following considerations in redistricting:

- Natural geographic boundaries;
- Jurisdictional boundaries;
- Communities of interest; and
- Competitiveness

Tomorrow, the General Assembly's Senate Privileges and Elections committee will meet and hear two bills related to establishing a redistricting commission. We are asking that you call or email your Senator if they are on the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee and ask them to SUPPORT Senate Bill 742 and Senate Joint Resolution 303, which both establish a bi-partisan redistricting commission.

SB 742 (Senator Miller) would establish a five-member commission to prepare redistricting plans for the House of Delegates, state Senate, and congressional districts. Appointments to the Commission shall be made one each by the four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate. Those four appointees shall appoint the fifth member and chair of the Commission. The Commission will prepare plans and submit them as bills to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then proceed to act on the bills in the usual manner. The bill provides for Commission comments on plans as they change in the legislative process. The bill also spells out the standards and process to be followed by the Commission in preparing plans, including limitations on the use of political data and opportunities for public comment on the plans.

SJR 303 (Senator Deeds) would establish a 13 member redistricting commission to redraw congressional and General Assembly district boundaries after each decennial census. The Commission is directed to certify district plans for the General Assembly within one month of receipt of the new census data or by March 1 of the year following the census, whichever is

later, and for the House of Representatives within three months of receipt of the census data or by June 1 of the year following the census, whichever is later. The standards to govern redistricting plans include the current constitutional standards on population equality, compactness, and contiguity and additional standards to minimize splits of localities and to prohibit consideration of incumbency and political data.

Click here to find out ["Who's My Legislator"](#).

- Senator Obenshain (Chairman) - district26@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7526
- Senator Howell - district32@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7532
- Senator Martin - district11@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7511
- Senator Deeds - district25@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7525
- Senator Puckett - district38@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7538
- Senator Edwards - district21@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7521
- Senator McEachin - district09@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7509
- Senator Peterson - district34@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7534
- Senator Smith - district19@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7519
- Senator Northam - district06@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7506
- Senator Vogel - district27@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7527
- Senator McWaters - district08@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7508
- Senator Carrico - district40@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7540
- Senator Reeves - district17@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7517
- Senator Garrett - district22@senate.virginia.gov or 804.698.7522