



## The League of Women Voters of Virginia

501 East Franklin Street, Suite  
624

Richmond, VA 23219-  
2323 [www.LWV-VA.org](http://www.LWV-VA.org)

The Honorable Terry R. McAuliffe  
Governor's Office  
1111 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

October 9, 2014

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

The League of Women Voters of Virginia wholeheartedly agrees with your statement regarding the recent ruling by the U.S. District Court that the Third Congressional District lines be redrawn by April 1, 2015.

The League of Women Voters is working at every level— state, national, and local— to achieve more equitable redistricting. Here in Virginia, we followed the work of the 2011 Redistricting Commission, headed by Bob Holsworth— attending every meeting, and all the public hearings. The appointment of that Commission— and its excellent work— set a constructive precedent, in our view.

We ask that you appoint a redistricting commission to advise the General Assembly— and your office— on proposed ways to redistrict the Third Congressional District— which will affect its neighbors. As you know, when one district is redrawn, there may be a domino effect.,

As we see it, you would have several choices in appointing such a commission. You might include some members of your new Integrity Commission, since one of its tasks will be to examine the redistricting process, to make it more trusted. Another idea would be to call on some members of the 2011 Commission— for continuity.

The commission would likely include geographical representation, registrars, former SBE members or secretaries, plus resource people--academic and technical experts. The good news is, the cost of the 2011 Commission was quite small, with staff and meeting space provided by the administration.

Although the General Assembly is not required to accept the commission's proposed maps, there is great public value in providing alternatives to those drawn by the House and Senate. For many years, legislative leaders would say, "Anyone have a better plan?" yet no one had the expertise to produce alternatives. Very few comments from the public would ever result in actual map changes.

Should you decide to appoint a redistricting commission, the League of Women Voters of Virginia— and many of our coalition partners— would strongly support its work. We would publicize its hearings, provide testimony, and encourage public involvement.

Sincerely,

Anne Sterling, President  
League of Women Voters of Virginia  
[president@LWV-VA.org](mailto:president@LWV-VA.org)

*"The League of Women Voters of Virginia, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."*

join us today, click here for an application [http://www.lwv-va.org/join\\_form.html](http://www.lwv-va.org/join_form.html)