



The League of Women Voters of Virginia

Questionnaire on the Redistricting Process

Name of Legislator: // Delegate // Senator _____

1.) Each election year in Virginia, a number of Delegates and Senators run unopposed.

A.) Do you believe there are any cases where this lack of competition is appropriate? // Yes // No

B.) If you answered yes, please describe those circumstances below.

2.) The Virginia Constitution gives the General Assembly the responsibility to redraw Virginia House and Senate district lines after each U.S. Census. Currently, leaders of the majority party in each house draw up the new districts for that body, equalizing population, in a process offering little transparency. Do you believe this method of re-districting serves the interests of:

A.) Members of the majority party // Yes // No

B.) Members of the minority party // Yes // No

C.) The Commonwealth of Virginia // Yes // No

D.) The citizens of Virginia // Yes // No

3.) In the 2009 Session, legislation will be introduced to give the initial re-drawing of district boundaries to a bi-partisan commission (as 14 other states have done).

A.) Would you support this effort? // Yes // No

B.) Oppose this legislation? // Yes // No

4.) Aside from the question of who should initially re-draw the district lines-- do you believe public hearings, to obtain citizen input, held before final decisions are made, should always be included in the re-districting process?

// Yes // No

5.) After each U.S. Census, do you believe the final decision on how to re-draw House of Delegates and Senate districts should:

A.) Remain completely in the hands of the Senate and House, respectively? // Yes // No

B.) Be given to a bi-partisan commission? // Yes // No

C.) Remain in Senate & House hands, after a bipartisan commission has drawn up an initial plan?

// Yes // No

D.) Establish a process that would require G.A. adoption after a fixed number of attempts or a deadline before the task is given to the courts? // Yes // No

E.) Remain in the hands of the Senate and House, after a bi-partisan commission has drawn up an initial plan, held public hearings on the plan, and amended the plan to reflect public comments? // Yes // No

6.) If you are open to legislation on changing the re-districting process in Virginia, should that legislation be in the form of:

A.) An amendment to the Constitution of Virginia? // Yes // No

B.) A bill, which-- if passed-- could specify a new procedure for re-districting, be implemented-- and then adjusted, the following session, to reflect actual experience with the new process? // Yes // No

C.) A bill specifying a new procedure for redistricting, which could be implemented, then adjusted the following year to reflect experience with the new process. . . followed by a Constitutional Amendment, if and when the process has proved to work satisfactorily? // Yes // No

Please feel free to elaborate or comment on any question on this questionnaire—

Thank you very much for your participation. Please mail back in the enclosed addressed stamped envelope to the League of Women Voters of Virginia at P.O. Box 621, Centreville, VA 20121-0621