

Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting

- During Governor McDonnell's campaign, he pledged to create a bipartisan redistricting commission.
- His actions today fulfill that promise and help make redistricting more open and accessible to the people of Virginia.

Mission

- To serve as a vehicle for citizen input into the redistricting process.
- The Commission will create plans and analyze the plans submitted by college students and outside groups to determine if they comply with the constitutional, statutory, and traditional Virginia criteria for redistricting:
 - Contiguous and compact.
 - Comply with U.S. Constitution and Constitution of Virginia.
 - Comply with Voting Rights Act, as amended, and according to intervening court decisions.
 - Population equality among districts.
 - Keeping localities intact to the extent possible.
 - Preserving communities of interest.
- Commission will work in partnership with the college redistricting contest being conducted by Christopher Newport University.
- Commission will "certify" plans that are consistent with these criteria and recommend them to the General Assembly for consideration.
- Report will be sent to the Speaker of the House, President pro tempore of the Senate, Chairmen of House and Senate Privileges and Elections Committees, and to the Governor.

Composition

- 11 members- 4 Republicans, 4 Democrats, 2 former judges, 1 nonpartisan chair.
- Members are drawn from former government leaders, business leaders, legal experts, and academia.
- Will be supported by four advisors: Judy Ford Wason and Dr. Quentin Kidd of Christopher Newport University, and Dr. Charles Dunn of Regent University.

Logistics

- Will be operated in conjunction with the Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport University.
- Commission will be funded with private donations.