

INTRODUCED: October 27, 2014

A RESOLUTION No. 2014-R239-233

To support a request to the General Assembly of Virginia for redistricting reform.

Patron – Mr. Agelasto

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: DEC 8 2014 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2014, in the matter of *Page v. Virginia State Board of Elections*, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia declared the Commonwealth of Virginia’s congressional maps unconstitutional because they concentrate African-American voters into the 3rd Congressional District at the expense of their influence in other congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, OneVirginia2021 is a volunteer organization that supports the belief that Virginia’s historical practice of redistricting by the majority party in each legislative chamber is an outdated practice that stifles political competition, discourages compromise and ensures continued control by the party in power; and

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: DEC 8 2014 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

WHEREAS, OneVirginia2021 believes that Virginia's state and congressional districts belong to its citizens and not to any legislator, interest group or political party; and

WHEREAS, OneVirginia2021 believes the redistricting process should not be a tool used by those in power to protect and bolster their power, but should be designed with the best interest of Virginia's democracy and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the need is critical to restore trust, compromise and fair competition to Virginia politics; and

WHEREAS, in light of the recent ruling in the *Page v. Virginia State Board of Elections* matter, the Council believes that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Richmond that the City support the goals of OneVirginia2021 for fair redistricting to depoliticize the redrawing of legislative district lines with an approach that advocates for fairness, transparency and accountability and keeps the citizens' interests in mind, encourages healthy debate and participation by the public in the process;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the City of Richmond, Virginia, fully supports the goals of OneVirginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting to depoliticize the redrawing of legislative district lines with an approach that advocates for fairness, transparency and accountability and keeps the citizens' interests in mind, encourages healthy debate and participation by the public in the process.



Richmond City Council

The Voice of the People

Richmond, Virginia

Lou Brown Ali
Council Chief of Staff

Office of the Council Chief of Staff

Council Ordinance/Resolution Request

TO Allen L. Jackson, Richmond City Attorney

THROUGH Lou Brown Ali, Council Chief of Staff *V. Jones for Lou Brown Ali*

FROM Joyce L. Davis, Council Policy Analyst *JLD*
Office of the Council Chief of Staff

COPY Parker Agelasto, 5th District Council member
Haskell Brown, Deputy City Attorney
Vincent Jones, Deputy Council Chief of Staff
Ida Jones, 5th District Liaison
Jennifer Jackson, Senior Legal Secretary

DATE August 27, 2014

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TITLE: Resolution to General Assembly to Support Redistricting Reform

RECEIVED
AUG 29 2014

OFFICE OF CITY ATTORNEY

This is a request for the drafting of an **Ordinance** **Resolution**

REQUESTING COUNCILMEMBER/PATRON

Council member Parker Agelasto

SUGGESTED STANDING COMMITTEE

Governmental Operations

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION SUMMARY

Resolution to the 2015 Virginia General Assembly to Request Redistricting Reform in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

BACKGROUND

Redistricting is the process of drawing new electoral district boundaries in order to equalize district populations. Since the 1960s, redistricting has been done every ten years after the U.S. Census Bureau releases data showing the relevant statistics, maps and electronic files of where people reside for use in the redistricting process.

The Supreme Court Baker v. Carr decision in 1962 requires periodic redistricting to rebalance the population of political districts, The Supreme Court found this population inequality also called mal-apportionment was a violation of the U.S. Constitution's guarantee to equal protection. This Supreme Court decision

found that the continuous practice of maintaining the same districts has led to vast inequalities in district populations.

The overall purpose of redistricting is to review districts to address any changes in population concentration and if redrawing boundary lines are needed and where those lines should be drawn.

This Resolution is to propose Redistricting Reform in the Commonwealth of Virginia to the 2015 Virginia General Assembly. The Patron would like a resolution drafted to support a fair redistricting process supporting the goals of fair redistricting to depoliticize the redrawing of legislative district lines with an approach that advocates for fairness, transparency and accountability.

The Resolution offered by OneVirginia2021 for redistricting reform is provided as a model for the drafting of a Resolution from Richmond City Council as follows:

WHEREAS the organization OneVirginia2021 supports the belief that Virginia's historical practice of redistricting by the majority party in each legislative chamber is an outdated practice that stifles political competition, discourages compromise and ensures continued control by the party in power; and,

WHEREAS OneVirginia2021 believes that Virginia's state and congressional districts belong to its citizens and not to any legislator, interest group or political party; and,

WHEREAS OneVirginia2021 believes the redistricting process should not be a tool used by those in power to protect and bolster their power, but should be designed with the best interest of Virginia's democracy and its citizens; and,

WHEREAS , the need is critical to restore trust, compromise and fair competition to Virginia politics;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Richmond, Virginia, fully supports the goals of OneVirginia2021: Virginians for Fair Redistricting to depoliticize the redrawing of legislative district lines with an approach that advocates for fairness, transparency and accountability and keeps the citizens' interests in mind, encourages healthy debate and participation by the public in the process.

This issue has been recommended as a proposal to the 2015 Virginia General Assembly as an item to support on the legislative agenda.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Fiscal Impact	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Budget Amendment Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Estimated Cost or Revenue Impact	\$	

Attachment/s Yes No
Richmond City Council Ordinance/Resolution Request Form/updated 12.22.08/sr