

Public Submission to the West Virginia Legislature Joint Committee on Redistricting

Date Document Received: September 22, 2021

Description: 2 Pages

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From: Betty Rivard
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 1:29 PM
To: Joint Redistricting
Subject: Comments from 9/21/21 virtual public hearing
Attachments: Comments on Redistricting – Presented at virtual public hearing 9.docx

Please include the attached written comments, reflecting my presentation at the 9/21/21 virtual public hearing, in the record and share them with the other committee members.

Thanks you.

Comments on Redistricting – Presented at virtual public hearing 9/21/21 – from Betty Rivard, Independent Volunteer Citizen Advocate, Charleston, WV

Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I prefer an independent commission, but we need to work with the system we currently have.

I encourage you to be as transparent and non-partisan as possible. I appreciate the provision of the virtual public hearings.

Other principles I support include:

-Respect the current boundaries for counties, cities, and other municipalities.

-As a member of the NAACP, I support our organization's position that minority communities need to be kept together.

With relationship to specific districts:

-Divide the Congressional districts based on numbers with one for the north and one for the south of our state. I believe this puts a line somewhere north of Kanawha County.

-In my senatorial district, the 8th, don't pull in small parts of other counties. I have heard rumors that parts of Roane and Jackson may be added for purposes of gerrymandering. If possible, expand further within Kanawha County.

-In my house district, the 37th, as much of the district as possible needs to be in Charleston. I have also heard rumors that Dunbar may be added. In the last redistricting part of the west side hill was carved out for purposes of gerrymandering by Democrats. I have canvassed all over the west side and this never made any sense to me. This needs to be corrected and added back into the current boundaries.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.