

## **Public Submission to the West Virginia Legislature Joint Committee on Redistricting**

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**From:** Howard Gorrell  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:08 AM  
**To:** Joint Redistricting  
**Subject:** Freedom to Vote bill

Good day, Redistricting Committee Members

I am the last registered speaker at the Parkersburg hearing.

As you know, the US Senate is considering a federal voting right bill called "Freedom to Vote Act"

The purpose of this message is to give you a few small prints from the 596-pages legislative proposal.

1. Could you kindly read "Voting bill seeks to crack down on gerrymandering"?
2. This bill requires states to draw districts within communities of interest.

#### SEC. 2403. CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING.

(a) Criteria.—Under the redistricting plan of a State, there shall be established single-member congressional districts using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:

(4) Districts shall respect communities of interest, neighborhoods, and political subdivisions to the extent practicable and after compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (3). A community of interest is defined as an area with recognized similarities of interests, including but not limited to ethnic, racial, economic, tribal, social, cultural, geographic, or historic identities. The term communities of interest may, in certain circumstances, include political subdivisions such as counties, municipalities, tribal lands, and reservations, or school districts, but shall not include common relationships with political parties or political candidates.

Thank you so much for your attention and participation.

**Howard Lee Gorrell** (he/him/his)

Non-paid Political Commentator for *Maryland Matter*, *MarylandReporter*, and *The Fulcrum*.