

Public Submission to the West Virginia Legislature Joint Committee on Redistricting

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From: WVApps
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Joint Redistricting
Subject: Redistricting

Todd Fagan

COMMENTS: As a GIS professional, tasked with assisting the Jefferson Co. Clerk and County Commission with magisterial redistricting, I am asking the JRC to consider a major County concern when choosing census features for House boundaries. In the past, the committee chose some census block lines that effectively split some neighborhoods or confused voters. Dividing communities between 2 districts and polling places leads to voter confusion and complaints to the Clerk's office. I believe it is beneficial at all levels of redistricting if the committee keeps this in mind when selecting block lines for boundaries. To that end, roads, RR tracks, rivers, city and subdivision perimeter boundaries are meaningful to citizens on the ground. ATV trails, swales in a field, or power lines are not distinguishable to the average voter. Please contact me if you have questions or wish to see examples of past problem areas to avoid. Thank you, Todd Fagan, GIS Manager, Jefferson Co. Commission