

RESOLUTION NUMBER 39, 2016

In Support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative Redistricting and Congressional Reapportionment

WHEREAS, the citizens of Erie County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process for the decennial drawing of state legislative and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment has often resulted in gerrymandering of districts to favor one political party or the other; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy by impeding action on critical issues of importance to the people; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment process that respects political subdivisions and communities of interest, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate, will promote transparency, the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, and allow for public input, and will fully comply with the constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary"; and

WHEREAS, recent legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Council of the County of Erie does hereby support legislative efforts to secure expeditious action of a constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, assign the decennial task of both legislative redistricting and congressional reapportionment to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to all members of the Erie County delegation in the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

On the motion of Mr. Breneman, seconded by Dr. Foust, this resolution was passed on this 23rd day of August, 2016 by a vote of 7 to 0.

APPROVED BY:

André R. Horton
André R. Horton, Chairman
Erie County Council

Kathy Dahlkemper
Kathy Dahlkemper,
County Executive

Date: 8/24/16

ATTEST:
Douglas R. Smith
Douglas R. Smith
County Clerk

Date: 8/23/2016