

CITY OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 13 of 2017

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA IN SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT CITIZEN'S COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Washington and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional district of near equal population; and

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

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts have 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 and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate, will promote transparency and the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, will allow for public input and comply with the constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary"; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced, namely Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722, to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial redistricting process via the establishment of an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

WHEREAS, such reform of the redistricting process must be acted upon by the General Assembly in a timely fashion to facilitate implementation in conjunction with the next redistricting process in 1021.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved the Council of the City of Washington hereby affirms its support for timely action by the state General Assembly on legislative efforts, namely Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722, to secure affirmative action on a constitutional amendment that would assign the decennial task of legislative and congressional reapportionment and redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this executed Resolution shall be transmitted to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives, to the governing bodies of all counties in Pennsylvania and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

The Effective Date of this Resolution shall be six (6) days after adoption.

If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this Resolution is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this Resolution. It is hereby declared as the intent of Council of the City of Washington that this Resolution would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (5 - 0)

YES: 5

NO: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLVED AND ENACTED into law this 10 day of August, 2017.

ATTEST:

CITY OF WASHINGTON

By: Michelle R Spere  
Michelle Spere  
City Clerk

By: Scott Putnam  
Scott Putnam  
Mayor