

At INDEPENDENCE MALL, Jan. 17, 2026

# A DECLARATION

## By the PEOPLE Gathered in Free Assembly

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Citizens of Pennsylvania are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, and that among these is the **Right to Fair Representation** in the Legislature.

Nonetheless, the History of Pennsylvania redistricting is a History of repeated **GERRYMANDERS**, destructive of Fair Representation. To wit:

—Allowing Legislators to draw their own districts is a Conflict of Interest which leads frequently to Gerrymandering.

—Legislators can and do draw whatever Boundaries will maximize their Influence, minimize their Accountability, and keep their Seats in office secure.

—With Mapping Technology and advanced Data Gathering, the major Party Leaders profile voters and choose which to include in a voting district and which to exclude, for Partisan or Personal advantage.

—To accomplish such **GERRYMANDERS**, Party Leaders gather behind the scenes with no oversight or Standards for Fairness. Moreover, they accept money from super PACs and outside Interests which distort the political process.

—Gerrymandered districts offer voters less Voice and less Choice, and yield Polarization and Legislative Dysfunction rather than rational problem-solving.

The **DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**, whose 250th Anniversary is celebrated this year, affirms that Governments derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed,” and that it is the Right of the People to alter their government when it fails to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Similarly, the **CONSTITUTION OF PENNSYLVANIA**, whose 250th Anniversary is also celebrated in 2026, was the first to put into Law the radical Assertion that “All power is inherent in the people,” and that the **PEOPLE** “have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think proper.”

To this end, as individuals, as organizations, as constituents, and in partnership with supportive Legislators, we the **PEOPLE OF PENNSYLVANIA** have used all appropriate actions to promote our **Right to Fair Representation**. Yet Legislative Leaders have been Deaf to the combined Voices asking for Reform.

While America celebrates its 250th Anniversary, we cannot join in the festivities as long as the foundational Right to Alter and Reform our government continues to be Denied.

WHEREFORE, to accomplish such Reform, the **PEOPLE** here Assembled demand a Constitutional Amendment to establish an **INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**, which shall meet the following Requirements:

—It shall be representative of the Commonwealth’s Diversity and free from legislative Influence in both the selection of Commission members and the Actions of the Commission.

—It shall adopt a Transparent, public redistricting process with Open Meetings and mandated opportunities for Public Input.

—It shall follow prioritized mapping Standards using clearly defined Criteria.

These Requirements are met by bills currently in the House and Senate—House Bill 31 and Senate Bill 131.

Hence we call upon all Legislators to support House Bill 31 and Senate Bill 131. These Bills should be granted immediate Hearings and Votes in committee, and should advance rapidly to votes on the House and Senate floor.

**RESOLVED**, by the Citizens Assembled at this Birthplace of American Liberty.