

BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES

RESOLUTION No. 021218
DATED: Feb 12, 2018

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Borough of Bell Acres and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts 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 has permitted the manipulation of U.S. Congressional Districts and Pennsylvania legislative districts for partisan political advantage to the detriment of our representative democracy by failing to take 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, 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, legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial legislative and congressional redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology by an independent and non partisan commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Bell Acres Borough believes that our current system of redistricting has the potential to diminish meaningful choice during elections, diminish the accountability of elected officials to the voters, and to jeopardize the democratic process as it leaves districting to partisan legislators instead of a diverse and representative sample of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council of Bell Acres Borough does hereby support the Joint Resolution of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to secure expeditious action to pass a constitutional amendment that would assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of Bell Acres Borough calls upon all Members of the Pennsylvania Senate and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives who represent the citizens of the Borough of Bell Acres to publically announce their support of and to vote for passage of **Senate Bill 22** and **House Bill 722** to amend the Constitution of Pennsylvania and to do so in a timely manner as to enable the amendment to be in full force for the 2021 redistricting of the Commonwealth's Congressional and Legislative districts, and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to each of the following representatives.

Governor Thomas Wolf
200 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Lieutenant Governor Michael Stack
508 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Attorney General Joshua Shapiro
Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

United States Senator Robert Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington D.C. 20515

United States Senator Patrick Toomey
248 Russell Senate Building,
Washington D.C. 20515

United States Representative Keith Rothfus
1205 Longworth House office Building
Washington, DC 20515

PA Senator Guy Reschenthaler
Senate Box 203037
366 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

PA Representative Mark Musto
416 Irvis Office Building
P. O. Box 202044
Harrisburg, PA 17120

ATTEST:



BOROUGH OF BELL ACRES

By: 

Dennis Young, Council President