

RESOLUTION R040-17

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, the citizens of Bethlehem Township, Northampton County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of the 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 had worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy by impeding actions 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 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 constitution requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary"; and

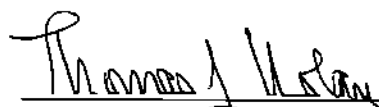
WHEREAS, recent legislation has been introduced in the current legislative session to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial legislative and congressional redistricting process with the intent of using fairness and sound methodology in a non-partisan fashion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Bethlehem, Northampton County and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, does hereby support legislative efforts to secure expeditious action to make a constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be delivered to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives.

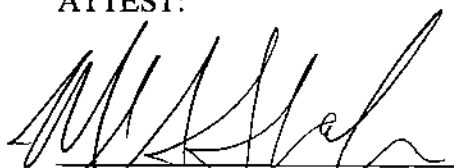
ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 17th day of April, 2017, by the Bethlehem Township Board of Commissioners, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP**



Thomas J. Nolan
Vice President

ATTEST:



Melissa A. Shafer
Township Manger