

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 190420)

RESOLUTION

Supporting the creation of a citizens' commission for legislative and congressional redistricting.

WHEREAS, The citizens of the City of Philadelphia 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 at times resulted in gerrymandered districts that favor one political party over others; and

WHEREAS, Such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy; and

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

WHEREAS, State legislation is required 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, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby supports state legislative efforts to assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens' redistricting commission.

City of Philadelphia

RESOLUTION NO. 190420 continued

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-third of May, 2019.

Darrell L. Clarke
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Michael A. Decker
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmembers Jones, Squilla, Gym and Green

Sponsored by: Councilmembers Jones, Squilla, Gym, Green, Bass and Parker