



Board of Supervisors
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACTION ITEM

Agenda Title:	Resolution # 2021-08-02 (2021 County Redistricting Process Criteria) Adoption (Staff Contact: Dave F. Arnold)		
Staff Contact(s):	Dave F. Arnold		
Agenda Date:	August 17, 2021	Item Number:	7.f
Attachment(s):	2021-08-02 Redistricting Criteria		
Reviewed By:	VA		

SUMMARY:

Redistricting is the process of redrawing lines for local election districts and precincts and establishing polling places. The Constitution of Virginia requires any locality that conducts elections by district to change its district boundaries every ten (10) years in the year ending in one (1). The Code of Virginia requires localities to use the most recent decennial population figures from the U.S. Census for the purposes of redistricting and reapportionment. The Virginia Redistricting Commission is responsible for redistricting the congressional and state election districts and the Board is responsible for redistricting the local election districts and precincts

For the Board's review and consideration, attached is Resolution # 2021-08-02, adopting criteria for the Board to follow during the upcoming legally required redistricting process.

FINANCIAL IMPACT AND FUNDING SOURCE:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

County Staff recommends the Board adopt Resolution # 2021-08-02 as attached and presented.

MOTION:

"I make a Motion to adopt Resolution # 2021-08-02 as attached and presented."

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RESOLUTION # 2021-08-02

ADOPTION OF 2021 REDISTRICTING PROCESS CRITERIA

The following Resolution was adopted at the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors' ("Board") Regular Business Meeting on August 17, 2021:

WHEREAS, redistricting is the process of redrawing lines for local election districts and precincts and establishing polling places; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Virginia requires any locality that conducts elections by district to change its district boundaries every ten (10) years in the year ending in one (1); and

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia requires localities to use the most recent decennial population figures from the U.S. Census for the purposes of redistricting and reapportionment; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Redistricting Commission is responsible for redistricting the congressional and state election districts; and

WHEREAS, the Board is responsible for redistricting the local election districts and precincts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby adopts the following criteria to guide the Board in its efforts to revise local election district boundaries:

- Election districts shall be “as nearly equal in population as practicable.”
- Election district populations shall not exceed five percent (5%) less or five percent (5 %) more than the ideal district population.
- Election districts shall be drawn in a way that assures equal opportunities for racial and ethnic communities to participate in the political process and shall not diminish their right to elect candidates of their choice, as mandated by the Voting Rights Act.
- Election districts shall be compact and contiguous, with due regard to natural features and accessibility of voting places.
- Election district boundaries shall follow clearly observable boundaries.
- Election districts shall avoid splitting precincts, as precincts must be wholly contained within single congressional, state, and local election districts.

- Election district boundaries shall preserve communities of interest, to the maximum extent possible. A community of interest means a neighborhood or any geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests.
- Election district boundaries shall recognize incumbency of both the Board and the School Board, to the maximum extent permissible under law and consistent with the other criteria, so that existing incumbent office holders remain in separate districts.
- Election district boundaries shall maintain existing boundary lines, where possible, if existing locations can be reasonably accommodated.
- Election district boundaries shall be politically fair to not unduly favor or disfavor any political party.
- The redistricting process should result in meeting the basic representational and constitutional requirement of “one person, one vote,” as applied by the Supreme Court in *Reynolds v. Sims*.

Given under my hand this 17th day of August, 2021.

Robert (“Bob”) W. Warren
Chairman, Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors

Attest:

David M. Smitherman
Clerk, Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors