

## Legislation Text

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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.