



The Civic Voice



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation | February 6, 2018 | Volume 102 | Issue 6

Please join us at 6:30 pm in the Hazel Auditorium's lobby to enjoy light refreshments.

From the President's Desk....



Dear Delegates, Alternates, and Presidents of Member Organizations,

Drum roll yet again please!! Save the date – May 4, 2018. Our Annual Banquet will feature **Alan Ehrenhalt** – Former Executive Editor, Governing Magazine, and **Peter Rousselot** – Columnist of the ARLNow opinion column, "Peter's Take." We promise to have a lively conversation under the theme of Arlington's Growth Express -Still on track...or off the rails? See the [flyer](#) elsewhere in the Newsletter for more details.

[Click here to register now for CivFed's 2018 Banquet on May 4. at the Rosslyn Holiday Inn. You will get the Early Bird discount and save \\$10 on your reservation.](#)

January Meeting Recap

Thanks to all who came out to our January meeting with the County Board which followed their New Year's Organizational meeting at which was highlighted by the election of Katie Cristol as Chair of the County Board for 2018.

I have received favorable comments concerning the new meeting format: Short three-minute presentations by each Board member, and then straight to Q&A. This increased the time spent in dialog with Board members concerning Arlington's pressing issues. Likewise, folks liked the "roving mic" that made the event more of a conversation with Board members.

As we move forward, I will continue discussion with the Executive Committee on how we can tweak our meetings to encourage dialog with presenters and provide more give and take with the audience.

Exploring Redistricting at the February Meeting

Our marquee event in February will cover the "hot" topic of redistricting reform. It will feature with a presentation by Brian Cannon, Executive Director of OneVirginia2021. The issue of redistricting may become the political hot button nationally leading up to the

Meeting Agenda

February 6 General Meeting

- 7:00 Regular Business
- 7:10 OneVirginia2021 Presentation on Redistricting
- 7:40 Panel Discussion of Redistricting Resolution
- 8:40 Vote to Consider the Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution
- 8:45 Vote on Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution
- 8:50 Update on Incorporation and New By-laws
- 8:55 Old Business
- 9:00 New Business
- 9:05 Adjourn

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2020 Census with members of both party making vigorous arguments in various states on why existing districts are too partisan, and the need for redistricting reform. I suggest reading this recent article from *Governing Magazine*, [Redistricting Cases Could Redefine State and U.S. Politics in 2018](#). It provides a state by state rundown of court cases concerning redistricting that is in the pipeline in several states.

In the case of Virginia, the [OneVirginia2021](#) organization is promoting the idea of establishing a non-partisan independent commission to draw the new districting maps for state delegate and senate districts.

I highly recommend that you make yourself a cup of coffee or something stronger and see the 56-minute documentary titled [GerryRIGGED](#) before our meeting next Tuesday evening to get a better sense of what OneVirginia2021 is promoting. Historical trivia in watching the film: Patrick Henry in 1788 may have been the first to manipulate district lines by putting James Monroe and James Madison in the same district to try and prevent Madison from being elected. It failed, but as the film notes the concept of gerrymandering may have originated in Virginia not in Massachusetts as many believe. I found the documentary very interesting and thought provoking and encourage all to view it before the meeting.

After the presentation by Brian Cannon, we will have a panel discussion on redistricting as a prelude to a vote on a Redistricting Resolution introduced by the Legislative Committee back in September. We hope to have a robust spirited discussion concerning the merits of an independent commission with the panel to include Brian Cannon of OneVirginia2021, Don Gurney of the League of Women Voters and Mark Kelly, ARLNow columnist who has written pieces on redistricting. The panel will be moderated by Juliet Hiznay, and the resolution will be presented by the Legislative Committee.

The Legislative Committee has also provided additional material that appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

As President of ACCF I cannot support or lobby against a resolution, but I feel that our organization should provide our membership with information that may be pertinent to a topic. In this sense, I bring to the attention of delegates and alternates the following article from *Governing Magazine* [Can Redistricting Ever Be Fair?](#), which provides an overview of what has happened in other states that have established and used independent commissions for redistricting purposes.

Exploring Possible Change of Dates for our Monthly Meeting

As President it has been heartening to receive positive comments on our goal of bringing in a younger cohort of delegates and alternates to CivFed. Since becoming President, I have received several emails pointing out that one of our constraints is that our traditional “first Tuesday of the month” conflicts with the meeting dates of countless PTAs. There are several folks who have expressed interest in becoming involved with CivFed, but because they have children in APS, they place a higher priority of attending PTA meetings than CivFed meetings.

At our next meeting I will ask for a show of hands on the possibility of changing our meeting dates to either the second Monday or Tuesday of the month to see if this schedule change would increase participation by delegates who have school-age children. Whatever changes are made will require a change in our Bylaws which require that the meetings be held on the first Tuesday of the month. However, the new proposed Bylaws are purposely silent on the day we meet so that we can have greater flexibility on determining our meeting date going forward. I will continue to consult with the Executive Committee on ways to not only increase delegate participation, but also make our delegate base more representative of Arlington’s demographics. If the Executive Committee concurs with any changes to the meeting date, we will keep everyone advised.

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Drumroll please – remember our annual Banquet – Friday, May 4th.

Many thanks to Jesse Boeding, our Banquet Chair, who has been working hard to ensure we have a memorable event. By now all members, delegates, Presidents of Member Organizations, and elected and appointed civic leaders should have entered in their Google Calendar the date for our annual Banquet given that it will be the place to be on May the 4th.

[Click here](#) to register and pay for your reservations, community partnerships and sponsorships.

If you register and pay for your meal at the banquet between now and April 1st, you will be eligible for an “early bird” price of \$45. This will save you \$10 over the regular price. If you register between April 1 and April 21 you will have to pay the “regular” price of \$55. Those who register and pay after April 21 will have to pay \$70 (\$55 plus a \$15 late fee).

There will be an “early bird” price of \$330 for sponsor tables for eight guests until March 31, and a regular price of \$360 for sponsor tables for eight guests from April 1 to April 21.

Community Partnerships are available for \$500. These dollars will be used to pay our Arlington County student program for the video taping and editing of the ACCF meetings so everyone has access to the information shared at the meetings.

Gold Sponsorships are available for \$1000. Your logo will appear on invitations, tables, programs, and the welcome desk. You can hand out swag. You will be recognized prior to dinner.

Corporate Sponsorships are available for \$3000. Your logo will appear on invitations, tables, programs, and the welcome desk. You may put swag on tables. You will be recognized by the Federation President when he makes his opening comments. Your picture will appear in the Sun Gazette

Joint Meetings of the County Manager and Civic Federation President with Presidents of Civic and Condominium Associations

Over the past several months I’ve been visiting and exchanging emails with County staff concerning how to improve public participation in Arlington County where the County and Civic Federation have two similar objectives – diversifying public processes and membership that better represents Arlington’s demographics. To this end, in March both County Manager Mark Schwartz and myself will hold a series of meetings with Civic and Condo Association Presidents to explore strategies on how to promote more diversity in civic associations, County public processes, and in CivFed's delegate ranks. Look for an invitation with all of the details for these roundtables that will take place on March 1, March 3, and March 8.

I close by again asking our member organizations to continue to review their delegate and alternate rosters to see how we can encourage more attendance at our meetings. At the January meeting we had 12 All-Star Member Organizations that were represented by two or more delegates. This approximates what we’ve had in the past few months. Total attendance was 59. We can do better than that. Hopefully we will have an increase in participation if we move the dates of our meetings to accommodate those with children in APS, but we still need to do more to get member organizations to encourage more of their current delegates and alternates to attend our monthly meetings.

Many thanks for your continued support in helping me make CivFed more relevant today and in the future. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting next Tuesday.

Best,

Duke Banks, President

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[Click here](#) to register before April 1st for CivFed's 2018 Banquet on May 4. at the Rosslyn Holiday Inn. You will get the Early Bird discount and save \$10 on your reservation.

Save the date – Friday evening, May 4, 2018

Our Annual Civic Federation Banquet

Holiday Inn, Rosslyn

Arlington's Growth Express - Still on track...or off the rails?

A discussion on Arlington's challenge as it transitions from a suburban environment towards a mixed urban-suburban community trying to accommodate an additional 63,000 people by 2040 when the estimated population is projected to be 283,000.

We are privileged to announce that our speakers for the evening will be:



Alan Ehrenhalt – Former Executive Editor, *Governing* Magazine, premier publication for State and Local Officials. Nationally recognized journalist on state and local government issues who brings a broad perspective of changes and challenges that American cities and towns are experiencing on how to accommodate growth. He has been a frequent contributor to *The New York Times* Book Review and op-ed page, the Washington Post Book World, *New Republic* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He is the author of four books: *The United States of Ambition*, *The Lost City*, *Democracy in the Mirror*, and *The Great Inversion*. Alan has an undergraduate degree from Brandeis University and holds an MS in journalism from Columbia. He is a long-time Arlingtonian resident living in Lyon Village.

Alan will talk about the challenges communities face as an inner suburb to a major city providing perspective of what he has seen in other jurisdictions given his over 30 years of experience observing local jurisdictions nationwide.



Peter Rousselot - He currently writes a weekly opinion column, "Peter's Take", for the Arlington news blog, ARLnow.com where several of his columns have addressed the challenges Arlington faces concerning its growth. Peter has been active in Arlington civic life since he and his family moved to Arlington in 1997. Among other positions, he has served as Chair of the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission, Co-Chair of the Advisory Council on Instruction, Chair of the Arlington County Democratic Committee, and member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Party of Virginia. For 28 years prior to his retirement, Peter was associated with the Washington, DC law firm now known as Hogan Lovells, where he specialized in railroad mergers, acquisitions, and valuations, was an equity partner, and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Peter has an undergraduate degree from

Yale, and a JD degree from Harvard.

Peter will follow Alan offering observations concerning specific challenges facing Arlington County based on his experience observing the Arlington scene.

These presentations are the entrée to a lively, thought-provoking conversation during our Q&A segment concerning Arlington's planned growth – is it on track or off the rails?

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January Executive Committee Meeting

ExCom Chair Terri Prell noted the presence of a quorum and called the January 7, 2018 ExCom meeting to order at 6:34 PM. ExCom members attending the meeting included: Terri Prell, ExCom Chair; Duke Banks; Eric Berkey; Anya Gan; Dennis Gerrity; Nicole Merlene; Sarah Shortall; and Matt Wavro. Rick Epstein was absent (excused). Michael Beer, Maywood; Jesse Boeding, Nauck; Ron Haddox, Columbia Heights; and Juliet Hiznay, Columbia Heights, were also present. The agenda for this meeting was approved without objection.

Reports from Officers and Committees

Secretary: Sarah Shortall asked that the third of the sentence under Treasurer's Report in the minutes for the December 2017 ExCom Meeting be struck and the following language be inserted: "Duke Banks suggested that Sarah try to gather information on savings accounts rates of return." ExCom agreed to her requests, and an amended version of the minutes of the December 19, 2017 ExCom Meeting was approved without objection.

Treasurer: Treasurer Sarah Shortall updated ExCom on her efforts to get five member organizations to pay their 2017-2018 membership fees. Sarah distributed information on several types of savings accounts and the interest rates they pay. Sarah said she would like to put discussion of this information on the agenda of the February ExCom meeting.

President: Duke said he was working with Patrick Hope to tweak legislation so that any lawsuit against a civic association officer of an organization that is duly incorporated and who is exercising his/her first amendment rights (freedom of expression) through a policy statement or position is hereby protected. Duke said that the Virginia Non-Stock Corporation Act was well-crafted to protect ExCom members from major liability claims, but it did not provide protection from frivolous lawsuits. Duke said CivFed was paying for D&O insurance essentially for protection from frivolous lawsuits. Duke said we need to continue exploring ways to help member organizations minimize their liability exposure.

Banquet Committee: Jesse Boeding, Chair of the Banquet Committee, made the following recommendations for the format of the 2018 Banquet: Drinks at 5:30; Welcome and Dinner at 6:30; Speakers at 7:00. Jesse said a draft version of the Constant Contact invitation to attend the banquet was available for review. Jesse recommended a "bare bones" program to control printing costs. After discussion, the following price schedule was approved: \$45 for "early bird" registration and payment by April 1; a "regular price" of \$55 for those who register between April 1 and April 21; and \$70 (\$55 plus a \$15 late fee) for those who register and pay after April 21. There will be an "early bird" price of \$330 for sponsor tables for eight guests until March 31, and a regular price of \$360 for sponsor tables for eight guests from April 1 to April 21. Jesse said 120 paid reservations would cover the banquet's expenses and pay for 12 comped meals. Jesse discussed using either PayPal or WePay to process payments. Duke recommended that invitations "go live" on either February 1 or 6. Michael Beer recommended comping younger people to change the demographics of those who attended the banquet. Michael also suggested inviting APS students to provide entertainment during the 5:30 to 6:30 social period. Sarah said she would contact W-L about the availability of a jazz quartet. Michael agreed to contact the rest of APS about the availability of a small group like a quartet. Sarah suggested that the Walter Reed students who tape CivFed meetings be given an opportunity to showcase some of their other projects during the social hour. Jesse recommended \$500 as the threshold for Community Partners. They will be recognized in the program and at the check-in desk as a ACCF Community Partner. These dollars will be used to pay the Arlington County student program for the video-taping and editing videos of ACCF meetings. Terri suggested asking BIDs to participate as Community Partners. \$1,000 would be the threshold for Gold Partners. Their logo will appear on invitations, tables, programs, and the welcome desk. They can hand out swag. They will be recognized prior to dinner. \$3,000 will be the threshold for Corporate Partners. Their logo will appear on invitations, tables, programs, and the welcome desk. They may put swag on tables. They will be recognized by the Federation President when he makes his opening comments. Their picture will appear in the Sun Gazette. Which awards and how they would be given at the banquet were discussed.

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Incorporation and By-laws Subcommittee: Matt Wavro, chair of the (IBC), said he had reserved a room in the Central Branch of the Arlington County Library from 6:30 to 8:00 Pm on January 16 for a meeting of the Incorporation and By-laws Subcommittee. Matt said he hoped to use this meeting to consolidate consensus items on incorporation.

Arlington Community Forum: Nicole Merlene, Chair of the Community Relations Committee, and Eric Berkey updated ExCom on two planning committee meetings they had attended for an Arlington Community Forum that the County Manager's office was trying to organize to provide resources to different organizations that would assist them in engaging their membership. Eric said County Staff asked stake holders to survey their members on what resources would help improve their outreach. Terri said it would ok for CivFed to distribute this survey to its member organization if other stake holders also distributed it. BIDs and organizations like CIPRO were mentioned as good candidates to distribute this

February Meeting: Gerrymandering Program: Ron Haddox, chair of the Legislative Committee, said that gerrymandering was a complicated issue that could not be covered in a single meeting, but he thought Bryan could do a good job summarizing it. Michael Beer recommended that multimember districts and proportional representation be included the program. Who would be asked to serve on the program's discussion panel was reviewed. Devoting the February meeting to providing information, and then voting on the Legislative Committee resolution at a future meeting was considered. Allowing delegates and alternates decide if they had enough information on gerrymandering before they voted on the Legislative Committee's resolution was discussed. After further discussion, ExCom decided on the following agenda for the February Meeting: OneVirginia2021 Presentation on Redistricting; Panel Discussion of Redistricting Resolution; Vote to Consider the Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution; 8:45 Vote on Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution; 8:50 Update on Incorporation and New Bylaws. Terri summarized ExCom's decision on the composition of the discussion panel on redistricting as follows: The panel will have four members who Terri tentatively identified as Bryan Cannon, Mark Kelly, a LWV rep, and Noah Simon or someone else from Don Byer's office to discuss multi-member districts and proportional representation. Duke or Terri will tell Ron Haddox and Juliet Hiznay that ExCom decided to let delegates and alternates decide if they want to vote on the Legislative Committee's Gerrymandering Resolution at the February meeting.

March Meeting: Duke recommended that the format for the School Board's appearance at the March meeting be the same as that used for County Board's appearance at the January meeting. Michael Beer spoke in favor of the traditional big-picture power point presentation by the School Board Chair person. Student participation was discussed. Nicole suggested that student government members would be willing to participate if asked. After discussion, ExCom voted to give each School Board member three or four minutes to address issues they felt were important and then answer questions from delegates, alternates and APS students. Terri recommended that Duke and Michael prepare a list of questions that School Board members could address in the time allotted to them at the beginning of the meeting.

New Business:

Neighborhood College Spring Session: After discussion, Matt was asked and agreed to represent the Civic Federation at a May 31st Neighborhood College meeting.

Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award: Duke said Arlington Parks and Recreation is looking for a CivFed representative to serve on the committee that selects the person or organization that will receive the Bill Thomas Outstanding Park Service Volunteer Award. Sarah suggested Michael Thomas, chair of CivFed's Parks Committee. Duke agreed to approach Michael about serving on this committee.

Ms. Prell adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dennis Gerrity, Secretary

ARLINGTON CIVIC FEDERATION RESOLUTION ON FAIR REDISTRICTING

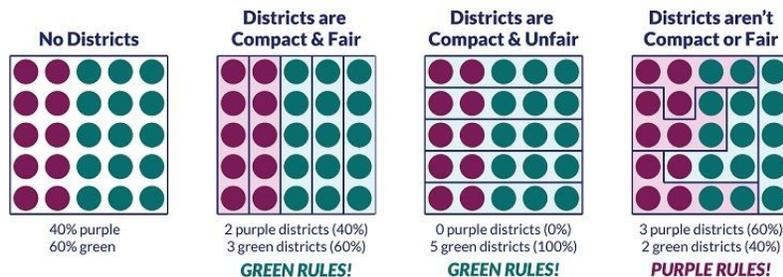
PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On September 26, 2017, the Legislative Committee of the Arlington Civic Federation met to consider a proposed resolution on Fair Redistricting. The draft resolution was unanimously approved as drafted. The resolution was introduced to the membership on October 3, 2017, at which time members had an opportunity to ask questions. Feedback from the membership at that time was to include in the resolution consideration of who should be appointed to the proposed redistricting commission. A follow-up meeting of the Legislative Committee was held on January 21, 2018 to review the draft and incorporate recommendations from the membership. The resolution was approved unanimously as revised. Voting aye during the committee meeting were Juliet Hiznay (Columbia Heights), Ronald Haddox (Columbia Heights), Donald Gurney (League of Women Voters), Sarah Shortall (Waverly Hills), Bennett Minton (Alcova Heights), and John Bloom (Boulevard Manor).

BACKGROUND

The proposed resolution is aimed at preventing gerrymandering by establishing an independent, impartial redistricting commission. The US Constitution mandates that electoral districts be adjusted periodically to reflect demographic changes. These changes are recorded by the federal census every ten years. Virginia allows state legislators to redraw district lines for all levels of the legislature. Thus, incumbent elected officials are empowered to draw boundaries in a way that serves partisan interests for an entire decade, a process widely known as gerrymandering. Gerrymandering erodes representational democracy by allowing members of the legislature to insulate themselves and to punish party members who are not voting “party line.” As indicated in the graphic below, voters are prevented from effectuating changes through their vote.

GERRYMANDERING SIMPLIFIED



Source: Inspired by <http://bit.ly/1F12bam>

vpap.org

There are active legal matters of significance in Virginia. At this time, a total of 11 Virginia state districts are currently under scrutiny as being racial gerrymandered in the *Bethune-Hill v. Virginia* case. This matter was remanded by the Supreme Court of the United States to the Eastern District of Virginia (Richmond Division) in March of 2017 for further proceedings.¹

The Legislative Committee strongly urges members to review additional documents prior to the membership meeting on February 6, 2018. The Committee has recommended for inclusion in the newsletter frequently asked questions prepared by League of Women Voters Fairfax² and a white paper that summarizes various studies (FN5). The full length film *GerryRIGGED* is available on YouTube at the following link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD3ZZ-wzrHQ>

¹ <https://www.brennancenter.org/legal-work/bethune-hill-v-virginia-board-elections>

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RESOLUTION ON FAIR REDISTRICTING

Whereas the Virginia state constitution currently vests the authority to apportion the Commonwealth into electoral districts for U.S. House and the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate solely in the General Assembly;³

Whereas the Virginia Constitution vests in the General Assembly authority to draw district maps for the U.S. House and Virginia Senate and House of Delegates;

Whereas the Virginia Constitution calls for districts to be “composed of contiguous and compact territory” and to “give, as nearly as is practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district”;

Whereas a substantial majority of Virginians, across regions and political parties believe that an independent panel should handle redistricting, not the state legislature;⁴

Whereas studies indicate that Virginia’s congressional districts are among the least compact in the U.S.⁵

Whereas states that have implemented an independent redistricting commission or other non-partisan process have established significantly more compact districts than those established by state legislatures or legislative commissions;⁶

Whereas we believe this change will strengthen the integrity of the election process by removing the ability of politicians to draw boundaries to their own benefit;

and

Whereas the next decennial reapportionment, using 2020 U.S. Census data, is due in 2021 and any constitutional change in the apportionment process to affect the 2021 redistricting takes 2-3 years and multiple approvals --⁷

By the General Assembly in 2019

By the General Assembly, a second time in 2020, and

By Virginia voters in November 2020

Now therefore, the Arlington County Civic Federation urges that the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation to amend the state constitution to transfer the redistricting authority from the Virginia General Assembly to an impartial, independent commission.

Be it further resolved, the Arlington County Civic Federation further recommends that (1) the composition of the commission should be designed to ensure that redistricting decisions are insulated from the interests of incumbents and political parties and instead are based on objective, nonpartisan criteria (e.g. compactness, contiguity, and community boundaries), and (2) the commission should ensure public participation and be fully transparent, (3) the commissioners be required to take an oath to make independent decisions that support the goal of ensuring proportional representation based on districts that are not politically or racially gerrymandered.

² An Arlington Chapter of OneVirginia2021 has been formed, with an organizational meeting scheduled for February 10, 2018. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-opportunity-to-work-for-fair-redistricting-in-virginia-this-is-a-call-for-grass-roots-action-tickets-41879274036>

³ *Virginia Constitution*, Article II, Section 6 - Apportionment <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article2/section6/>

⁴ “With Overwhelming Support for Nonpartisan Redistricting, Virginians Are Studying Ways to Make That Happen”, *The Virginia Newsletter*, June 2014 https://ceps.coopercenter.org/sites/default/files/Virginia_News_Letter_2014_Vol._90_No_4_0.pdf

⁵ Azavea, “Redrawing the Map on Redistricting 2012”, p. 7 https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.azavea.com/com.redistrictingthenation/pdfs/Redistricting_The_Nation_Addendum.pdf

⁶ Azavea, “Redrawing the Map on Redistricting 2012”, p. 10 https://s3.amazonaws.com/s3.azavea.com/com.redistrictingthenation/pdfs/Redistricting_The_Nation_Addendum.pdf

⁷ Source: *Virginia Constitution*, Article XII, Section 1 - Amendments <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/constitution/article12/section1/>

Redistricting Reform in Virginia Frequently Asked Questions

OneVirginia2021 Fairfax Local Action Group and the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) prepared this document with help from the OneVirginia2021 Foundation. We hope this document serves as a primer for a better understanding of redistricting reform in the Commonwealth, but is not meant to be an official position statement or endorsement of a singular fix to the problem of gerrymandering. We hope you get a lot out of this. Thanks for reading.

The issues surrounding gerrymandering and the call for redistricting reform are increasingly becoming front and center in the national dialogue about our politics. Virginia and New Jersey, because of their off-year elections, redraw districts in 2021. That is a year before the other 48 states do. Since New Jersey has a type of redistricting reform, all eyes are on Virginia to fix its process or to see the results of the latest round of hyper-gerrymandering fueled by increasingly complex algorithms in the hands of partisans.

The recent Virginia gubernatorial and House of Delegate elections increase the chances that both houses of the legislature could move forward on redistricting reform with support from the Governor.

The US Supreme Court, historically hesitant to weigh in on partisan gerrymandering, now has two cases focusing on this issue under consideration, the first originating in Wisconsin (Gill v. Whitford) and the second, accepted on December 8, 2017, originating in Maryland (Benisek v. Lamone).

On February 25th, LWVFA—with OneVirginia2021—will hold a Redistricting Forum. In preparation for this event, here are the answers to frequently asked questions about redistricting reform: what is fair redistricting, and how can it be achieved through state and judicial actions.

Q: Is this reform effort really non-partisan?

We are often asked this questions because there are few truly non-partisan issues in politics. Often, redistricting reform has been advocated by whichever party was out of power.

Virginia, however, is in a unique position because we aren't a Republican or a Democratic gerrymander. Rather, in 2011, Democrats controlled Virginia's Senate and Republicans controlled Virginia's House of Delegates. They both gerrymandered their own chambers (in the House with bi-partisan support) and passed the others plan in exchange for safe passage of their own plan. It was a bi-partisan gerrymander, also known as an incumbent-protection plan.

So critiquing the current Virginia redistricting is not a criticism of one party or another, but a criticism of the process being self-serving for incumbent politicians. OneVirginia2021 is an organization of people from all across the political spectrum who believe that these voting districts belong to Virginians, not to any party or politician. The LWV has an almost-100 year history of advocating for good government issues such as redistricting reform.

How do you fix this and can the fix genuinely be non-partisan?

There are three major elements needed for redistricting reform: transparency, clear rules for how to draw lines, and map-drawers who aren't the elected politicians running under those maps. Those three elements (discussed in more detail below) will take the process from the hyper-partisan status it is today to a much more technocratic exercise to adjust districts per the new census data every decade.

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Frequently Asked Questions on Redistricting Reform (continued)

But no commission or structure is perfect. There are flaws in every model we've studied from around the country. However, all of the reforms are better than our current system in Virginia. In short, let's not let perfect be the enemy of good (or better than we have now). There are a lot of ways to improve the current system.

Here is a more detailed discussion of the three elements:

1. Transparency: Redistricting by members of the legislature is subject to legislative privilege. Proceedings of a commission would be available through Freedom of Information Act requests and hopefully additionally chosen transparency measures. Auditability would make specifics of the decision process transparent. Studies show that public hearings don't bear fruit if they are held after maps are drawn.
2. Criteria:
 - By Federal constitution or court mandate, districts must:
 - ◊ Have nearly equal population (no malapportionment)
 - ◊ Comply with the Voting Rights Act
 - By Virginia constitutional requirements, districts must:
 - ◊ Be contiguous
 - ◊ Be compact* (though there is a debate about the possibility that compactness may disadvantage minority groups in voting)
 - Not required, but for good government districts should also:
 - ◊ Respect local jurisdictional boundaries
 - ◊ Respect communities of interest
 - ◊ Increase competition by not tailoring district lines to incumbents.

*There is a tension between compactness and respect for communities of interest that needs to be balanced. There is also a tension between preserving political boundaries versus creating competition within districts. The amount of local jurisdictional splitting used to draw districts to make them more competitive should be carefully considered. Pie slicing to improve competitiveness can disadvantage other criteria, i.e. communities of interest. Self-sorting is the tendency of voters to live in geographic proximity to others who share their political affiliation, but gerrymandering still accounts for much of the difference between the popular vote and greater number of elected officials from one party in power. Recent experience in California indicates that respecting jurisdictional lines and communities of interest leads to more competitive districts.

3. Specify who draws the maps: OneVirginia2021 proposes a seven-member commission composed of:
 - 2 Republican members—picked by the General Assembly—who are not lobbyists, legislators, nor spouses of legislators.
 - 2 Democrat members—picked by the General Assembly—who are not lobbyists, legislators, nor spouses of legislators.
 - 3 independent members:
 - ◊ the executive director of the State Bar,
 - ◊ the auditor of public accounts appointed by the General Assembly, and
 - ◊ the State inspector general appointed by the governor and confirmed by the General Assembly.

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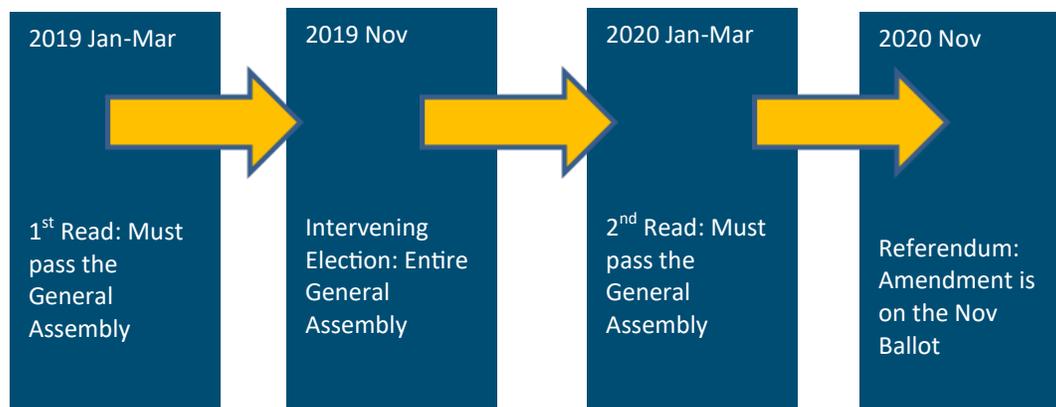
Frequently Asked Questions on Redistricting Reform (continued)

Effectively measuring the above criteria and balancing each are required for an effective system. While there are tradeoffs in any approach, not having politicians draw their own lines and taking the process out of the smoke-filled back room of political deals will dramatically improve the process.

So how do we get a commission?

We have to amend the Virginia constitution. We can't fix the problem by changing the code of Virginia because it cannot "bind the hands of future Legislatures." We must have a constitutional amendment because it's the only way to control what the General Assembly does.

An amendment must pass the General Assembly twice (in exactly the same text, down to the commas) with an intervening election. Then it goes to the people for a referendum. It requires a simple majority each time to pass in the General Assembly and on the referendum. The governor is not involved. Here is the process in graphic format:



Q: What is the role of the governor in the current approval process for redistricting plans? Can he/she veto plans?

Under the current redistricting provisions, governors can veto redistricting maps but they do not determine the redistricting process.

Q: What presently happens if the Legislature and the governor cannot agree on a plan?

The state Legislature draws the district maps. The governor can appoint an advisory/blue ribbon commission in advance and can veto plans drawn by the legislature. If the legislature and governor can't agree, the Supreme Court of Virginia or a federal court will intervene. The court can consider or reject an advisory commission plan or hire an expert to do the drawing for the court (e.g. using an academic such as Bernard Grothman, who was a court-appointed "Special Master" of Virginia's 2015 redistricting case).

Q: What does the US Supreme Court's review of the Wisconsin gerrymandering case mean for Virginia redistricting reform efforts?

The Supreme Court will consider *efficiency gap measures*--the difference between the number of Democrat and Republican *wasted votes* divided by the total number of votes cast (*wasted votes* are those cast for winning candidates that are beyond the number needed to win plus all those cast for losing candidates). Independent votes are not properly accounted for in the efficiency gap calculation. Wisconsin has a 13% efficiency gap in favor of one political party, of which 7% is due to residential self-sorting.

Frequently Asked Questions on Redistricting Reform (continued)

WASTED VOTES = Number of votes cast beyond those needed to win;

ALSO, Number of votes cast to losing candidates

DIFFERENCE between Democratic and Republican WASTED VOTES ÷ TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST = **EFFICIENCY GAP**

If the Supreme Court rules against gerrymandering, it's just a matter of putting in a good system in place to adhere to the ruling. An anti-gerrymandering ruling won't impact Virginia now but it will for 2021.

Q: What does the US Supreme Court's review of the Maryland gerrymandering case mean?

The focus of this case is on Maryland's 6th Congressional district where seven voters from one political party say that the state's 2011 redistricting violated their First Amendment rights. Justice Anthony Kennedy has written that the First Amendment could be used as a basis of a redistricting lawsuit if plaintiffs could argue that a state law disfavored against some voters based on their political views. In addition to the Wisconsin case, this second gerrymandering case before the US Supreme Court suggests that redistricting reform will feature prominently during this court's term.

Q: What is the status of OneVirginia2021's lawsuit in the Virginia Court System?

Although the March 31st decision went against OneVirginia2021, the judge supported the underlying argument, which allowed the appeal to go forward. Three amicus briefs were filed by various experts, including the League of Women Voters, A.E. Dick Howard (a writer of the Virginia Constitution and current University of Virginia Law professor), and former Virginia attorneys general. The OneVirginia2021 lawsuit claimed that the redistricting plans for 6 Senate districts and 5 House districts did not use measurable nor sufficiently rigorous compactness criteria and therefore violated the Virginia constitutional requirement for compact districts. It also claimed that non-mandatory criteria were prioritized over mandatory.

Two racial bias cases were also filed. The cases claim criteria for compactness should be based on an analysis of each district's unique voting patterns (whether voters vote mostly along racial lines, or across racial lines). These cases opposed applying a rigid and unfair requirement for creating a majority-minority district

Frequently Asked Questions on Redistricting Reform (continued)

with the voting age population being comprised of at least 55% black voters. Virginia had erred in basing its consideration of racial matters in drawing district lines everywhere in the state on data from just one jurisdiction in the southeastern corner of Virginia.

ADVOCACY

Q: Given Virginia's recent election results from this November, is redistricting reform really needed?

Yes. Gerrymandering still leads to unfair representation. For example, if it weren't for gerrymandering, Democrats would definitely control the House of Delegates rather than its current division. That's not a statement for Democrats (since a lot of Democrats voted for the current maps), but rather a statement of fact. Democrats were +9 in the recent elections over their Republican counterparts in the House of Delegates. Yet that number will likely generate only 50% of the seats for the House of Delegates. When Republicans won by that same margin of +9 in 2015 it generated 66% of the seats for them. That lack of symmetry is a problem in a representative democracy.

Given the new political climate in Virginia, now is the time to advocate for a nonpartisan model on the books.

Q: How can we best advocate for fair redistricting reform? How can you get involved?

This is one of the League's highest priorities. We have a long history of advocacy in this area. We encourage you and your friends to help us in these efforts and to learn more about this complex and ever-changing topic. Please join LWVFA and OneVirginia2021 at:

Redistricting Forum

Sunday, Feb 25 from 1 – 5 PM

Sherwood Community Center

3740 Old Lee Highway

Fairfax, VA 22030

[Click here](#) or a detailed analysis of the effects of the 2010 census on the geometry and geography of legislative districts

The Civic Voice

ACCF Treasurer's Report January 1 – 31, 2018

Checking

Beginning Balance 1/1/2018		\$ 8,031.39
Deposits -Dues		\$ 148.25
Checks	\$ 100.00	
PayPal	\$ 48.25*	
Expenses/Payments		\$ 155.89
Supplies	\$ 15.89	
Dues Overpayment	\$ 50.00	
2018 P.O. Box Rent	\$ 90.00	
End Balance 1/31/18		\$ 8,023.75

Savings

Beginning Balance 1/1/2018	\$ 18,619.13
Deposits	.00
Interest	.48
Expenses/Payments	.00
End Balance 1/31/18	\$ 18,619.61

* - PayPal charges a fee of \$1.75 for every \$50 electronic dues payment

Membership Fees can be paid in person at Civic Federation Membership Meetings with a check made out to:

Arlington County Civic Federation

Checks can also be mailed to the Civic Federation at

PO Box 42091 Arlington, VA 22204.

The Civic Federation accepts PayPal at <http://www.civfed.org/pay-dues/>

The Civic Voice

2017-2018 Officers and Executive Committee Members

President Duke Banks
Vice President Matt Wavro
Secretary Dennis Gerrity
Treasurer Sarah Shortall

Executive Committee Chair Terri Prell
Executive Committee Vice Chair Rick Epstein
Executive Committee Member Eric Berkey
Executive Committee Member Anya Gann
Executive Committee Member Nicole Merlene

2017-2018 General Meetings

February 6 General Meeting (tentative)

7:00 Regular Business
7:10 OneVirginia2021 Presentation on Redistricting
7:40 Panel Discussion of Redistricting Resolution
8:40 Vote to Consider the Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution
8:45 Vote on Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution
8:50 Update on Incorporation and New Bylaws
8:55 Old Business
9:00 New Business
9:05 Adjourn

March 6 General Meeting (tentative)

7:00 Regular Business
7:10 School Board
8:10 Community Energy Plan Resolution Discussion and Vote
8:50 Old Business
8:55 New Business
9:00 Adjourn

April 3 General Meeting (tentative)

Nominating Committee

May 1 General Meeting (tentative)

TBD

June 5 General Meeting (tentative)

Legislative Panel
Election of Officers and ExCom members

2017-2018 Executive Committee Meetings

February 11, 2018

March 11, 2018

April 8, 2018

May 6, 2018

June 10, 2018

July 8, 2018

September 9, 2018

October 7, 2018

November 18, 2018

December 9, 2018

Executive Committee Meetings are held at Fire Station #2, 4805 Wilson Boulevard. They begin at 6:30 PM.

The Civic Voice

Why Civic Federation Committees Matter and What They Can Do for You

Have you ever been surprised to discover that something in your neighborhood is changing? Maybe a new high-rise is going up around the corner, or perhaps school boundaries have changed. It could be your tax bill is going up, or a new County ordinance now affects your business. Time and time again, folks come to the Federation only after the change is well under way. By then, it's often too late to make a difference.

The Federation's committees serve to keep such surprises at bay by educating, involving and empowering our member organizations. Committees educate by hosting speakers from County staff, holding programs, disseminating information, and fostering discussion. Committees involve our members by providing opportunities to participate in local and regional commissions and organizations. Committees empower by recommending resolutions to the Federation, which, in turn, can publicize these positions in the community and with our elected officials.

We strongly encourage every delegate and alternate to serve on at least one committee. If you have an interest in any topic, please contact the chair. If a chair is not listed, contact our President Duke Banks at duke@civfed.org

Committee	Chair	Email Address
Executive	Terri Prell	terri@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at the December 2017 General Meeting	
Audit	Jay Wind	jay@civfed.org
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	sarah@civfed.org
Community Relations	Nicole Merlene	Nicole@civfed.org
Cultural Affairs	Chair needed	TBD
Emergency Preparedness	Jackie Snelling (POC)	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	John Seymour	john@civfed.org
Housing	Eric Brescia	ericbrescia@civfed.org
Legislation	Ron Haddox	ron@civfed.org
Membership	Stefanie Pryor	membership@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Stefanie Pryor (POC)	Stefanie@civfed.org
Nominating	Elected at the April 2018 General Meeting	
Parks and Recreation	Michael Thomas	michaelthomas@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore	martha@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling (POC)	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Burt Bostwick (POC)	burt@civfed.org
Schools	Michael Beer	michaelbeer@civfed.org
Special Events	Joe Pelton	Joepelton@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org

Airport and Helicopter Noise Report-January 2018

By Joseph N. Pelton

The Arlington Community Noise Committee met at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. on Jan. 18, 2018 following the meeting organized by Cong. Don Beyer at Abingdon School on Jan. 17, 2018. Highlights of the meeting were:

The Helicopter Noise meeting was by 200 people. It was noted that the problem is increasing due to the fact that there are some 20 different governmental units including various parts of the DOD, TSA, police, etc. operating helicopters. Main complaints were helicopters flying at minimum altitude of 50 feet, very loud Osprey and Blackhawk helicopters, and intensity of traffic over I-395. There was apparent confusion as to what control of traffic is exercised of helicopter routing by DOD vs. FAA.

Report on Status of Current and Pending Suits by Phoenix, State of Maryland (largely regarding BWI) and Washington, D.C./Palisades regarding DCA). No major changes. State of Maryland suit still not formally filed. In DC case Judge has asked why did it take so long to file suit in questions of standing. It was noted that Maryland suit may have the same sort of issue as to why it took so long to file a suit.

Reagan National Citizen Working Group. There is an effort to revise the bylaws for this group to allow citizens more control of discussion and decisions. Also consideration of how to allow residents to make more input. Current focus is on “Southward departures” and lessen traffic over Old Town. This will be concluded by March/April and then attention will return to Northward departure issues. It was noted that routing to the North will not likely soon be altered and that focus should be more on increasing Night time noise violation fines and efforts to mitigate noise by getting rid of noisiest jets, altitude climb rates, limiting any more night flights.

Arlington Positions on Aircraft Noise: There is data on noise from noise monitoring with updated 2017 data reported by B&K Inc. This data shows the largest number of noise events over 99 dB are in Rosslyn. Efforts are underway, using a software known as “Tableau”, to organize and visualize the data to show the noise impact levels. It was suggested that when this is done in coming days that it be presented to the DCA Citizens Working Group, to the Arlington Co. Civic Federation and to the Committee of 100.

It was also urged that efforts be made to raise the fines for nighttime noise violations, to have a noise impact study done that shows noise level impacts on a gradation bases of the entire area showing 70 dB, 65dB, 60db, and 55db impacts and also to show variations by time of day. It has also been suggested that the revenues from fines for noise violations be used to pay for such studies and other related activities that are needed.

The next meeting of this committee will be scheduled shortly, probably in Feb. 2018. A goal of this meeting would be to “dry run” the analysis that the Arlington County reps to the DCA WG would present at their February meeting.

The Civic Voice

Announcements

Arlington Neighborhood Day Planning: We have been working in partnership with Arlington County and eight other community organizations to plan the first Arlington Neighborhood Workshop, and we are asking for your help in planning the agenda. This half-day event, targeted for May 2018 will offer an opportunity for neighborhoods, civic associations, and community organizations to connect with one another, share organizational challenges, and learn about the best practices for community building. This workshop offers a chance to explore strategies that can strengthen neighborhood resources, increase membership, diversify participation, enhance communication, and address other challenges identified. The Arlington Neighborhood Workshop hopes to empower and equip participants with skills and tools that can be applied across your own neighborhoods, civic associations, and organizations. We ask that you complete this [feedback form](#) to share your ideas for this first Arlington Neighborhood Workshop.

4MRV Working Group: A meeting will be held from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm on Tuesday, February 6, at the Park and Natural Resources Operations Building, 2700 S. Taylor Street.

Updating the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan: A POPS Advisory Committee meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9 :00 pm on Wednesday, February 7, in the Azalea Room at Courthouse Plaza. There will another POPS Advisory Committee from 7:30 to 9 :00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, in the Azalea Room at Courthouse Plaza.

NCAC: The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory will meet from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm on February 8 in the Navy League Building at 2300 Wilson Blvd. For information about this meeting here is a link to the NCAC [website](#).

Transportation Commission: The Transportation Commission's February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8th, starting 7:30 p.m. in Room 307 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#).

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission's February meeting will be held on Monday, February 12th starting 7:00 p.m. in Room 307 at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#) a few days before February 12. The Commission's Carryover Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Housing Commission: The Housing Commission's February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th starting 7:00 p.m. in Room 307 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. Click here for information on this meeting's [agenda](#).

Arlington County Board: The County Board's February meeting will be held on Saturday, February 24th starting 8:30 a.m. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#) a few days before February 24. The Board Recessed Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, starting at 3:00 p.m.

February Executive Committee Meeting: The CivFed November Executive Committee Meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 on Sunday, February 11, in the community room of Fire Station 2 located at 4805 Wilson Blvd. Delegates and alternates are welcome to attend.

March Newsletter: The deadline for March newsletter articles is Thursday, February 22. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Parking at the Virginia Hospital Center

Remember to park in the **B/Gold** Garage. On Civic Federation meeting nights, the gates of the **B/Gold** Parking Garage, will be open, and there will be no charge for parking there. The **B/Gold** Parking Garage is located under the 1635 Medical Office Building. If you use another lot, you will have to pay the regular rate to exit.



