

Joint Meeting of Committees

August 18, 2021

House Committee on Redistricting
Senate Committee on Redistricting and Elections

Offered by:
Representative Harrison

Pass: _____

Fail: _____

Proposed Redistricting Process

1. **Start the Redistricting Process Immediately Upon Legacy Data Release.** The Committees should begin the redistricting process by utilizing the Legacy Format Summary File of P.L. 94-171 data. General Assembly central staff should start processing the legacy format data immediately upon release of that data by the U.S. Census Bureau.
2. **Provide Redistricting Information on the NCGA Website.** To facilitate public comment and participation, the General Assembly should maintain the existing redistricting webpage, clearly bookmarked from the home page of the NCGA website, containing all redistricting information in one location, including the following: meeting notices, livestream links, draft maps and any related data and information, and a public comment portal. This webpage should also include an up-to-date posting of the public comments received via the public comment portal.
3. **Permit Written and Oral Public Comment.** The Committees should ensure all North Carolinians have an opportunity to provide public comment to the members of the Committees regarding redistricting. The Committees should receive public comment in accordance with the following:
 - a. Through a public comment portal, email, and the U.S. Postal Service. Information about how North Carolinians can submit public input should be provided contemporaneously with any Redistricting committee meeting notices.
 - b. Before any draft maps are drawn and before final proposed maps are voted on by the Committees.
4. **Ensure Quality Video and Audio Broadcast in Public Meetings.** The Committees should strive to ensure that video and audio of Committee meetings related to map drawing are timestamped and of a quality such that the public can view relevant details of the proposed maps and hear relevant discussion. Committee notices should include a contact phone number for those observing the process to report technical issues. The Committees should halt map drawing until any technical issues that prevent public observation are resolved.
5. **Hold Accessible Public Hearings Throughout the State.** The Committees should provide live in-person hearings in areas throughout the State for community members to provide live testimony. In scheduling the public hearings, the Committees should comply with the following:
 - a. The Committees should conduct at least thirteen hearings, accounting for one from each of the 2019 Congressional districts. Consideration should be given to locations and facilities that are accessible by public transport and to those with disabilities.
 - b. The Committees should provide remote options for viewing public hearings and for providing public comment where it is technologically feasible to do so.
 - c. The Committees should endeavor to post a full schedule of public hearings at the beginning of the redistricting process, and in any event provide at least two weeks' notice of any public hearing on redistricting. Public hearings should not be scheduled during or near public holidays, such as Labor Day.

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6. **Disclose All Third Parties Involved in Redistricting.** The Committees should immediately disclose all consultants and counsel to members and committees of either house of the General Assembly who are paid by State funds who will be participating in the redistricting process. Such disclosure should occur within 24 hours of adoption of this criteria or engagement, whichever occurs first.
7. **Committee Consideration of Maps.** The Committees should consider only maps that comply with all of the following:
 - a. Any criteria, systems, or data used in developing the map was disclosed to the public in advance of its use in a manner that allows the public to have a reasonable and adequate opportunity to view the information.
 - b. The map was released online for public comment, and the public had adequate time to review the map and to submit public comment on the map before it is considered by the Committee or revised by the Committee.
 - c. The map was drawn in the public view, including a live-stream of the drawing.
 - d. Written documentation justifying the districts chosen was released online with the map for public viewing.
8. **Disclose Initial Draft Maps.** After receiving and incorporating public comment, draft maps should be released online for additional public comment within 30 days of when the Committees begin drawing maps.
9. **Submit Final Proposed Maps to the General Assembly.** The final proposed maps should be publicly released online no later than 21 days after the draft maps are released. The Committees should deliver the final proposed bill containing the map to the appropriate Chamber within 10 days of the release of the final proposed maps.

Offered By: Representative Harrison

Signature: _____