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PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR FAIR DISTRICTS LEGISLATION

WHEREAS the districts for Congress, for State House and Senate seats have been altered so that they represent the classic depictions of the "gerrymander,"

WHEREAS this leads to candidates running unopposed;

WHEREAS this often leads to districts that are racially unbalanced in a way that eliminates the voting power of certain historically disadvantaged groups who have been historically discriminated against,

WHEREAS there are demographic changes ongoing that suggest that the difference between the racial composition of the electorate in many areas is significantly different from the legislature which leads to further perception of disenfranchisement;

WHEREAS this leads to the further result of voters feeling their vote is pointless, that there is no point in voting, and low turnout;

WHEREAS the Democratic party has always stood for voter control, voter input, equality of representation, and transparency;

WHEREAS the best systems seem to be produced by establishing a commission that will, utilizing accepted computer models, and data inputs that are free from political influence;

WHEREAS the distillation of the solutions that have been tested is contained in Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722,

WHEREAS there is a need for a change in current boundaries and for legislation accomplishing this:

Be it Resolved: That the Pennsylvania Democratic Committeee urges its members and legislators to support Senate Bill 22* and House Bill 722, and to support the introduction of a provision for expedited judicial review, with standards for review as to what a district should and should not have as far as composition, which standards have been used successfully in Voting Rights Act cases , so that if, as has happened recently in California, the commission system is "gamed" it can be corrected, and speedily.

Submitted by: Peter Munsing, August 3, 2017

Co Sponsor: Cindy Purvis
on behalf of the Progressive Caucus

Background to proposed resolution on Fair Districts :

Districts have been used to disenfranchise voters and the proposed legislation moves to change this.

This proposed resolution has been reviewed and approved by Arthur Naylor of Fair Districts Pennsylvania

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billInfo/billInfo.cfm?sYear=2017&sInd=0&body=S&type=B&bn=0022>

The problem affects voting rights, currently under assault by the administration and fair districts are the most likely way out of the gridlock caused by GOP takeover of the legislature following the Red State initiative. It is significant that the major supporters are now the Federalist & Fox News.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/01/13/this-is-actually-what-america-would-look-like-without-gerrymandering/?utm_term=.7668e8d5d5cb