

**RESOLUTION R-2017-65
LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL**

*A Resolution of the Luzerne County Council Supporting an Independent Citizens Commission
for Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment and Redistricting*

WHEREAS, the citizens of Luzerne County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process for the decennial task of drawing state legislative and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting has often resulted in the gerrymandering of districts to favor one political party, or one political candidate, over another; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our democracy by discouraging competition in elections and by impeding action on critical issues of importance to the people; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate redistricting process that respects communities of interest, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against any one political party or candidate, will promote transparency and the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, will allow for public input and comply with the constitutional requirement that “no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward” be divided “unless absolutely necessary”; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced, namely Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722, to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to reform the decennial redistricting process via the establishment of an independent citizens redistricting commission; and

WHEREAS, such reform of the redistricting process must be acted upon by the General Assembly in a timely fashion to facilitate implementation in conjunction with the next redistricting process in 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Luzerne County Council hereby affirms its support for timely action by the state General Assembly on legislative efforts, namely Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722, to secure affirmative action on a constitutional amendment that would assign the decennial task of legislative and congressional reapportionment and redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Luzerne County Council does hereby respectfully request that other counties seriously consider the adoption of similar resolutions and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (“CCAP”) take action in its 2017 consideration of new resolutions to support good government reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this executed resolution shall be transmitted to all members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives, to the governing bodies of all counties in Pennsylvania and to the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

The Effective Date of this Resolution shall be six (6) days after adoption.


ADOPTED by Luzerne County Council at a meeting held on May 09, 2017.

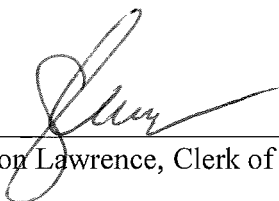
ROLL CALL VOTE (10-1)

YES: Brominski, Dobash, Kelleher, McGinley, Schnee, Sorokas, SA Urban, Waitkus, Williams, and Houck

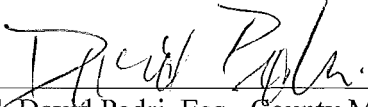
NO: Haas

LUZERNE COUNTY COUNCIL

By: 
Linda McClosky Houck, Chair

Attest: 
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

LUZERNE COUNTY MANAGER

By: 
C. David Pedri, Esq., County Manager