

MOTION: FRANKLIN

**May 18, 2021
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 21-328**

SECOND: BODDYE

RE: ADOPT THE PRINCE WILLIAM BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS' CRITERIA FOR THE 2021 REDISTRICTING PROCESS

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, redistricting is the process of redrawing lines for local election districts and precincts and establishing polling places; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Virginia requires any locality that conducts elections by district to change its district boundaries every ten (10) years in the year ending in one (1); and

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia requires localities to use the most recent decennial population figures from the U.S. Census for the purposes of redistricting and reapportionment; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Redistricting Commission is responsible for redistricting the congressional and state election districts; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors is responsible for redistricting the local election districts and precincts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby adopts the following criteria to guide the Board in its efforts to revise local election district boundaries:

- Election districts shall be **"as nearly equal in population as practicable."**
- Election **district populations shall not exceed five percent less or five percent more than the ideal district population.**
- Election districts shall **be drawn in a way that assures equal opportunities for racial and ethnic communities to participate in the political process and shall not diminish their right to elect candidates of their choice**, as mandated by the Voting Rights Act.
- Election districts shall be **compact and contiguous**, with due regard to natural features and accessibility of voting places.
- Election district boundaries shall **follow clearly observable boundaries.**

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- Election districts shall **avoid splitting precincts**, as precincts must be wholly contained within single congressional, state, and local election districts.
- Election district boundaries shall **preserve communities of interest**, to the maximum extent possible. A community of interest means a neighborhood or any geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests.
- Election district boundaries shall **recognize incumbency of both the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and the Prince William County School Board**, to the maximum extent permissible under law and consistent with the other criteria, so that existing incumbent office holders remain in separate districts.
- Election district boundaries shall **maintain existing boundary lines**, where possible, if existing locations can be reasonably accommodated.
- Election district boundaries shall **be politically fair**, so as to not unduly favor or disfavor any political party.
- The redistricting process should result in meeting the basic representational and constitutional requirement of "one person, one vote," as applied by the Supreme Court in Reynolds v. Sims.

Votes:

Ayes: Angry, Bailey, Boddye, Candland, Franklin, Lawson, Vega, Wheeler

Nays: None

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None

For Information:

County Executive

County Attorney

Electoral Board

School Board

ATTEST: _____



Clerk to the Board