

Resolution of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee

Independent Redistricting Commission

Passed on 5/20/2021

Whereas

- Democratic Party members throughout the US support the elimination of partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts through HR 1 and other measures,
- Democratic Party members throughout the US support the establishment of independent redistricting commissions to redraw congressional districts according to the 2020 Census,
- the District of Columbia, with only one congressional district, faces similar *non partisan* challenges in redrawing its ward and advisory neighborhood commission (ANC) boundaries according to the 2020 Census (known as redistricting),
- redistricting in the District of Columbia is presided over by the DC Council, which is made up of 13 elected members, 8 of whom will have their chances of re-election affected by the redrawing of ward lines,
- ANC redistricting is determined by ward task forces whose members are appointed by the ANCs' ward councilmember and by at-large councilmembers,
- in 2011, Ward 3's ANC Redistricting Task Force was composed of 41 members, 17 of whom were current ANC commissioners, the vast majority of whom were running for reelection and were vying for jurisdiction over certain projects and schools. Four other task force members later ran for the Ward 3 ANCs, though they were not current ANC commissioners . Organizations that were contemplating projects in the ward that would be helped by ANC approval were also represented by members of this task force.

Be it resolved

- the Ward 3 Democratic Committee urges the Council of DC to establish an independent redistricting commission,
- the Ward 3 Democratic Committee recommends that members of the redistricting commission be disinterested, unbiased parties to the drawing of boundaries of wards and ANCs, with no member being a current ward councilmember or a current ANC commissioner, or planning to run for a ward council seat or an ANC seat within the next four years, or being a representative of an organization planning a project that requires ANC support,

- in the event that the Council is not able to form an independent redistricting group for the 2021 ward redistricting, the Ward 3 Democratic Committee urges the Council of DC to **at least** form ward task forces made up of independent members who are not current ANC commissioners, or are not planning to run for the office of ANC commissioner for the next four years, and are not representatives of an organizations planning a project that requires ANC support,
- in the event that the Council is not able to form an independent redistricting group for the 2021 ward redistricting, the Ward 3 Democratic Committee urges the Council to form a study body that will ensure that ward lines are drawn by an independent body in 2031.
- the Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee or his designee is authorized to take all reasonable actions to promote this resolution.

Passed by:

THE WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE