

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021**

PRESENT: Paul Berry, At-Large, Chairman
Karen Campblin, African American Community Representative, Vice-Chair (*arr. 6:13 pm*)
Lisa Sales, At-Large
William Bouie, At-Large
Prashanth Rajan, Braddock District
James Bierman, Dranesville District
Richard Chew, Hunter Mill District
Alis Wang, Mason District
Gerald “Gerry” Hyland, Mount Vernon District
Linda Smyth, Providence District
Paul Liberty, Springfield District (*arr. 6:20 p.m.*)
Samuel Walker, Sully District
Saif Rahman, Arab American Community Representative
Silvia Patton, Asian/Pacific Islander Community Representative
Tim Thompson, Federation of Citizens Associations Representative (*arr. 6:12 p.m.*)
Maya Castillo, Hispanic Community Representative
Anne Kanter, League of Women Voters Representative
George Becerra, Northern Virginia Labor Federation Representative

ABSENT: Scott Price, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Representative
Bryon Garner, Lee District

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Chairman Paul Berry called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in Computer Labs 366.8 and 368.7 of Suite 364 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

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The following Representatives attended the meeting in-person, in Computer Labs 366.8 and 368.7 of Suite 364 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

- Paul Berry, At-Large, Chairman
- Karen Campblin, African American Community Representative, Vice-Chair (*arr. 6:13 pm*)
- Lisa Sales, At-Large
- William Bouie, At-Large
- Prashanth Rajan, Braddock District
- James Bierman, Dranesville District
- Richard Chew, Hunter Mill District

- Alis Wang, Mason District
- Gerald “Gerry” Hyland, Mount Vernon District
- Linda Smyth, Providence District
- Paul Liberty, Springfield District (*arr. 6:20 p.m.*)
- Samuel Walker, Sully District
- Saif Rahman, Arab American Community Representative
- Silvia Patton, Asian/Pacific Islander Community Representative
- Tim Thompson, Federation of Citizens Associations Representative (*arr. 6:12 p.m.*)
- Maya Castillo, Hispanic Community Representative
- Anne Kanter, League of Women Voters Representative
- George Becerra, Northern Virginia Labor Federation Representative

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After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Berry shared that the Committee would be getting an extension to September 28, 2021, for the submission of their plans to the Board of Supervisors.

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Chairman Berry presented the meeting’s agenda and asked if there was a motion to approve.

Representative Kanter MOVED TO AMEND THE MEETING’S AGENDA TO ADD AS THE FIRST TOPIC UNDER THE 7:00 PM “SPECIAL TOPICS DISCUSSION” “NUMBER OF DISTRICTS” FROM 7:00 TO 7:30 PM WITH “RENAMING DISTRICTS” AND “SCHOOL BOARD STRUCTURE RECOMMENDATION” FOLLOWING.

Representatives Sales and Hyland jointly seconded the motion.

Representative Bierman MOVED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO ADD THE TOPIC OF “NUMBER OF DISTRICTS” AS THE FIRST 6:20 PM ITEM, PRIOR TO THE “2021 REPORT FORMAT DISCUSSION”, TO LAST AT LEAST 30 MINUTES. Representative Kanter accepted this motion as a friendly amendment.

The motion carried by a vote of 15-0. Representatives Campblin, Liberty, and Thompson were not present during the vote. Representatives Garner and Price were absent from the meeting.

Representative Rahman MOVED TO REMOVE THE “RENAMING DISTRICTS” AND “SCHOOL BOARD STRUCTURE RECOMMENDATION” TOPICS FROM THE MEETING’S AGENDA.

Representative Becerra seconded the motion. Following discussion with several Committee members, the motion was brought to question, and carried by a vote of 10-5. Representatives Bierman, Chew, Smyth, Wang, and Chairman Berry voted in opposition of the motion. Representatives Campblin, Liberty, and Thompson were not present during the vote. Representatives Garner and Price were absent from the meeting.

Representative Bierman MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEETING'S AGENDA AS AMENDED.

Representative Bouie seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 15-0. Representatives Campblin, Liberty, and Thompson were not present during the vote. Representatives Garner and Price were absent from the meeting.

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Chairman Berry announced there were no remote participants for the meeting.

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Chairman Berry announced the next agenda item, approval of the Minutes from the Redistricting Advisory Committee's fourth meeting, held on August 26, 2021, and asked if there was a motion to approve.

Representative Chew MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 26, 2021, MINUTES.

Representative Hyland seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 16-0. Representatives Campblin and Liberty were not present during the vote. Representatives Garner and Price were absent from the meeting.

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Chairman Berry opened the floor for public comment.

Greg Brandon, a representative from the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, asked the Committee if there would be any time to accept citizen drawn maps within the new schedule, if the Fairfax County website/demographics page could be updated with the new census data, and if the "Provide Input" webpage's textbox for input could be modified to be more than a line.

Chairman Berry thanked Mr. Brandon for his comments and shared with Mr. Brandon that there would be time within the Committee's new proposed schedule to accept citizen drawn maps.

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Chairman Berry announced that the next topic on the Committee's agenda would be the discussion on the "Number of Districts", as added to the agenda earlier in the meeting. Chairman Berry opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Bierman started the discussion by sharing that after evaluating the preliminary data, only two of the current nine magisterial districts, Mason and Providence, had deviation changes outside of 5%. He shared that he believed it would be possible to have a map that addressed the changes required due to the deviation with a minimal disruption of services for a vast majority of the districts if the Committee so chose to stay with nine magisterial districts. He further shared that he believed that the Committee could come to a consensus on one map to present to the Board of Supervisors.

Discussion then ensued between multiple Representatives on matters such as:

- The number of individuals served in each district;
- Communities of interest and access to services for transit-dependent individuals;
- The organic networks already in each current district;
- The addition of an additional magisterial district for the Lorton area;
- Consideration of the One Fairfax principles, vulnerability, and lack of elected representation in the Committee's works;
- Consideration of the data related to the population growth from the last 10 years, where the population is now, the predicted growth, and how that lays out with current districts;
- The process for electing vacancies should additional magisterial districts be added; and
- The cost of additional magisterial districts.

Representative Sales suggested that the Committee adopt an equity score card for its decisions. Discussion then ensued on:

- Adding this topic to a future meeting of the Committee;
- How an equity score card could affect changing the district lines;
- Consideration of "cracking" and "packing" communities;
- The Park Authority's assigned equity scores to each of their decisions; and
- The thoughts and efforts placed into policy and Board decisions and what can be accomplished now and what the Committee can share with the BOS for their planning efforts.

Chairman Berry stated that the Committee could continue their discussion at their next meeting on Monday, September 13, and that he would circulate that meeting's proposed agenda for the Committee's consideration. He also stated he would add the straw poll to see the Committee's thoughts on the proposed number of districts, as suggested by Representative Rahman, onto the agenda for September 13.

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Chairman Berry moved onto the next topic on the agenda "Questionnaire finalization" and asked the Committee if they had any edits for the Questionnaire, which would be attached to all submitted plans, and would need to be finalized and submitted to staff for inclusion in the software by September 10, 2021.

Representative Chew brought into question on the Questionnaire the question stating, “Does the plan utilize only existing, intact VTDs (precincts) without changes to precinct boundaries?” and shared that in the GIS mapping software, precinct boundaries cannot be changed.

Discussion then ensued with Representative Kanter sharing that the Board of Supervisors can change precinct lines, so if a map is turned in which would require a change in precinct line, the question would allow that individual to share their thoughts on that question, even if the mapping software doesn’t allow for it to be drawn. Representative Bierman shared that precincts could be split. Representative Chew asked how the clarification on this information could be easily shared with the public.

Chairman Berry stated that he would remove the question completely from the Questionnaire.

Representative Sales and Castillo requested that the Questionnaire be expanded to have definitions of terms. Chairman Berry suggested and stated he would add links into the questionnaire to help explain terms.

Representative Thompson requested a clarification on the definition of political boundary in the question, “Does the plan consider geographical and political boundaries, including, but not limited to incorporated town boundaries?” Chairman Berry stated that the political boundaries in the question were in reference to the incorporated towns in Fairfax County and that he’d revise the Questionnaire to include this definition.

Representative Kanter requested that on the second page of the Questionnaire where there was a question pertaining to One Fairfax if a link could be added referring to the One Fairfax policy.

Chairman Berry stated he would add that link and would also add a link at the beginning linking to the “Explanation of Terms” and would also add, after suggested by Erin Ward, Deputy County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, a link to the Board of Supervisors Resolution for the Committee’s work.

Chairman Berry shared with the Committee that he would make the suggested changes to the Questionnaire and that the Committee would have the remainder of September 9, 2021, and the morning of September 10, 2021, as a last opportunity for input prior to the Questionnaire being sent to staff for implementation.

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The Committee went into recess at 7:31 p.m. and returned at 7:43 p.m.

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When the Committee returned from recess, Chairman Berry shared that while previously in the meeting he stated that he was going to strike from the Questionnaire the question stating, “Does the plan utilize only existing, intact VTDs (precincts) without changes to precinct boundaries?”, he spoke with staff over recess, and staff shared that the question should remain on the Questionnaire as a check, since precincts must be wholly in one district, but that the question could be rewritten as “Does the plan utilize only existing, intact VTDs (precincts) to construct each district?”.

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Chairman Berry introduced the next topic on the agenda “Review of the 2011 Report”.

Chairman Berry shared with the Committee that in 2011, the Redistricting Advisory Committee (RAC) received roughly 200 maps from members of the public and that only 3 of those maps appeared in the final report. He further stated that the 2011 RAC had criteria and a filtering process to eliminate the vast majority of the maps from their final report, and that while the GIS software now has integrity checks built into them, many of the maps in 2011 didn’t conform to legal requirements and were easy for the RAC to eliminate, but that there were some maps that met the requirements that they didn’t put in the report. Chairman Berry posed to the Committee the question of what the evaluation process would look like.

Representative Bierman responded to Chairman Berry’s question and stated that when the RAC is submitting maps to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), less is more. He further shared that if a map submitted by a member of the public has only one to two differences than another map under consideration, the RAC should review the map and decide which of the two maps would get presented to the BOS.

Representative Becerra asked why the RAC would need to eliminate any maps from the report and suggested that all of the maps be placed in an index of the report. Chairman Berry responded that nothing is stopping that from happening, but that the Committee would need to look at the length and utility of the report for the BOS.

Representative Smyth asked that if like the 2011 Report, which was 235 pages long, if the ordinance per each map would need to be added into the report. Erin Ward, Deputy County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney, responded that while an ordinance will be produced per each map, the ordinances do not need to be included in the report.

Discussion then ensued between multiple Representatives regarding how long the evaluation of each public map would take and what the process may look like.

Representative Becerra proposed that the Committee should present the top three maps from each proposed category of maps that they decide on, such as the top three maps with 9, 10, or 11 districts. Chairman Berry shared that everyone from the Committee should ideally have at least one map in the final report. Representative Smyth asked if there could be a rule of a maximum amount of three of each kind or category of map submitted by the public presented to the BOS. Chairman Berry shared that the group will need to collaborate and discuss the rules and that all will need to approve the final report.

Chairman Berry then provided clarification to the Committee that the Committee would be deciding on the maps to be presented to the BOS and that staff will take the maps and compile the reports on the maps for the BOS. He shared that the Committee would have until September 28, 2021, to submit all the maps, and that the Committee would need to do some of their mapping at home so the Committee could present and discuss their maps at the upcoming meetings.

Representative Becerra suggested that the Committee provide in the report a recommendations page for the next census release. Chairman Berry agreed to discussing at the end of the Committee's work an evaluation of the Committee's process.

Vice-Chair Campblin stated that the Committee had not yet received the data and that there hadn't yet been information disseminated to the public on how to use the program and mapping, and that the new timeline only gave the public one week to make a map, which is not enough time.

Discussion then ensued with multiple Representatives on:

- The software and data release;
- Social media amplification of the Committee's work;
- Instructions for the public on using the data/tool;
- The Board of Supervisors' formal approval of the schedule for the public and RAC's timeline;
- Tech support for the software for the public; and
- Adding the vulnerability index data to the software.

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The Committee discussed their future meeting schedule and with a general consensus agreed to keep all of their previously confirmed meeting dates of Monday, September 13, Tuesday, September 14, and Friday, September 17, and also agreed to adding meetings on:

Monday, September 20, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and

Monday, September 27, 2021, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman Berry asked for a member to move to adjourn the meeting.

Representative Kanter MOVED THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AS OF 8:33 p.m.

Representative Bouie seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 18-0. Representatives Garner and Price were absent from the meeting.