

Redistricting Board Public Hearing - Charlotte Hall Library (Tuesday, November 16, 2021)

Generated by Sharon Ferris on Wednesday, November 17, 2021

Members present

Richard Johnson, Chair

Matthew Burgan, Vice Chair

Dr. Patricia Richardson, Board Member

Paul Thompson, Board Member

Lance Johnson, Board Member (Via ZOOM)

David Weiskopf, County Attorney

Neil Murphy, Deputy County Attorney

John Houser, Assistant County Attorney

Diane Gleissner, Staff Support

Angela Blondino, Staff Support

Sharon Ferris, Staff Support

1. CALL TO ORDER

Richard Johnson, Chair called the Redistricting Board Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm at the Charlotte Hall Library, Charlotte Hall, MD.

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PROPOSED REDISTRICTING MAP FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Present: Richard Johnson, Chair, Redistricting Board
Matthew Burgan, Vice Chair, Redistricting Board

Mr. Johnson reviewed the data on the current map and explained that the Board's tasking was to balance population within 10%. He commented that on the current map District 4 has 7,641 more than it should have; District 1 is short 1,813, District 2 is short 3,852 short and District 3 is short 1,977. Data reviewed by the Board included total population, the number of people over 18 and registered voters. The Board looked at natural boundaries like roads and also tried to keep communities together. Mr. Johnson gave Chestnut Hills and Chestnut Ridge as an example of two neighborhoods that are currently split between District 2 and District 1 but are not split under the proposed map. Mr. Johnson responded to a question asked at the second public hearing which was, if you have an imbalance in District 4 of 7,461 above the average how can 28,266 people be impacted by that small a number. He explained that when he adjusted District 4, which butted to District 1 and 2 they were unbalanced so when you balance them out that affects District 3.

Mr. Burgan welcomed citizens and explained the direction and process that the Board has gone through thus far. He explained that they were not to take future growth into account and that the three data sets used were total population, registered voters and people over 18. He noted the delta between the highest district and the lowest district on the current map is 11,676. On the proposed draft map the delta is 389. He commented that the Board of Elections met with the Redistricting Board on 3 occasions and explained that there would be no impact on the voter, it would impact who could run for Commissioner in that district, and which Commissioner they would be represented by. The Board of Elections would send new voter registration cards to those individuals affected by the district changes. He reassured citizens that the proposed map is just a draft. The object was to get as closed to the amount to balance districts then receive public input. He assured citizens that their input was appreciated and again stated that the proposed map is still a draft.

Chairman Johnson asked John Houser, Assistant County Attorney to provide guidelines for the public hearing and open the hearing for public comment.

Public Comments given by:

Jessica Jolly, 45546 Fore Edwards Court, Great Mills, MD 20634

Diana Donahue, 37745 Asher Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Laura Hart, 38426 Barbara Ct., Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Josh Guy, 39160 Guy Family Way, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Erin Anhalt, 41761 Sheldon Way, Hollywood, MD 20636

Alesandra Rodgers, 17941 Piney Point Rd., Piney Point, MD 20674

All speakers were opposed to the proposed map.

Mr. Houser closed the public hearing for public comment at 6:28 p.m. noting that the record would remain open for public comment for an additional seven days.

Chairman Johnson closed the Public Hearing at 6:30.

Minutes approved by the Redistricting Board on _____.

Richard Johnson, President

4. ADJOURN