

Resolution in Support of a 2022 Special Election for the House of Delegates

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Whereas the Virginia Supreme Court on December 28, 2021 decreed a final, immediately effective order establishing voting districts for the Senate of Virginia, the House of Delegates of Virginia,¹ and Virginia's Representatives to the United State House of Representatives².

Whereas these maps were based on the approved final redistricting maps prepared by Special Masters appointed by the Virginia Supreme Court which defined the use of the previous voting districts in any upcoming elections as prohibited;³

Whereas the redistricting process, which culminated in the revised maps, was based on the results of the 2020 Census which was characterized by a changing and shifting population around the state, the members of the current Virginia House of Delegates, elected in November 2021, are unable to fulfill their representational responsibilities to the voting population in the newly drawn districts;

Whereas delays in receiving Census results caused delays in the redistricting process, the intent of the Virginia Constitution is clear: that every electoral district shall provide "representation in proportion to the population of the district;"

Whereas earlier this year, former Democratic Party Chair Paul Goldman filed a lawsuit [ref] to require that House of Delegates members elected in 2021 must run again in 2022 under new maps that properly align legislative districts with population shifts, it is clear that a failure to hold new elections this year would violate the "one man, one vote" principle outlined by the U.S. Supreme Court in the [Reynolds v. Sims ruling \(1964\)](#);⁴

Whereas several non-partisan groups in Virginia are in support and calling for a 2022 special election including the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP,⁵ the Virginia League of Women Voters,⁶ and the ACLU of Virginia,⁷ among other local chapters and unions around the Commonwealth; and

Whereas in the interest of protecting Virginians' voting rights, promoting good governance in a representative democracy, and supporting people's equal protection under the law, other Democratic Committees in Virginia have also taken on this call to justice.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alexandria Democratic Committee calls for:

- New elections in 2022 for the Virginia House of Delegates in compliance with the voting districts established by the redistricting maps decreed final by the Virginia Supreme Court; and,
- The Democratic Party of Virginia to put out a statement in favor of organizing special elections for the House of Delegates this year.

¹ https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/redistricting_final.pdf

² <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/587554-virginia-supreme-court-approves-new-lines-for-key-swing-districts?rl=1>

³ https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/redistricting_final.pdf

⁴ https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/one-person_one-vote_rule

⁵ <https://pwperspective.com/politics/virginia-naacp-calls-for-special-elections-for-house-of-delegates-in-2022/>

⁶ https://richmond.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/league-of-women-voters-other-groups-call-for-house-of-delegates-elections-this-year/article_9214cebb-727a-54a8-ab3e-d5e11f265273.html

⁷ <https://acluva.org/en/press-releases/aclu-va-releases-statement-supporting-holding-special-november-house-elections-based>