PRESENTATION TO THE VICPP ::
THE IMPACT OF REDISTRICTING
ON VOTING IN 2023

By Chris DeRosa
League of Women Voters of Virginia: Co-Chair, Redistricting Committee
OneVirginia2021: Board Member and Grassroots Volunteer
May 15, 2023

2020:
Virginia Voters Approved Constitutional Amendment #1
The Commission was tasked with drawing new maps and submitting them to the General Assembly for approval. If it failed, the Supreme Court of VA would appoint 2 experts or “special masters” to draw the maps.

Disappointment: The Commission failed in its mission.

Celebration: There were many positive changes in the process.
No more closed doors

All meetings were open to the public

Perhaps the most important improvement was ::
Transparency!

Virginians’ voices were heard!

Thousands of Virginians were able to participate in the redistricting process. They testified in writing, in person, and virtually. They submitted maps and commented on other maps.
Compact districts
Respected jurisdictional boundaries
Ignored incumbent addresses
Ended prison gerrymandering

New maps are better & fairer!

Let’s look at “old” and “new” maps to see how compactness and respect for jurisdictional boundaries were incorporated. This is the CD represented by Congressman Gerald Connolly. Note its weird, elongated shape that extended beyond county boundaries.

“Old” (2021) Congressional District 11
Fairfax & Prince William Co
Here's the “new” CD 11, now wholly included within Fairfax County.

New Senate District 40
Almost all of Arlington County

Let's look at “old” and “new” State Senate maps. This is new SD 40 which incorporates almost all of Arlington County.
Senator Barbara Favola is running for re-election in this district.
Senator Barbara Favola currently represents SD 32, which includes part of Arlington, extends into McLean and Fairfax County, and reaches into Loudoun Co to pick up 6 precincts there. The drive from N to S is about 25 miles in SD 32. Compare that to the 10 mile N-S distance in new SD 40.

The Virginia LWV participated in all aspects of the multi-year redistricting process. We educated, we testified, we attended every Commission meeting and every hearing. The US League honored us with the 2022 “Powering Democracy Award”. 

2022 LWVUS CONVENTION AWARD WINNER
POWERING DEMOCRACY
for LWV-VA’s redistricting work as part of the 50+ state campaign to create People Powered Fair Maps.

Click here for more information.
Congressional Districts 2021 (new)

Prince William County

Fairfax County

Arlington County

Loudoun County

Prince William County

State Senate 2021

Prince Wm Co: 29 & 30 / Loudoun 31 & 32 / Fairfax County: SD 33 – 39 / Alexandria: 39 / Arlington Co: 39 & 40 /
**Senate Districts**

34 – Alexandria – Fairfax Co

35 Fairfax Co (Annandale)

37 – Falls Church City & Fairfax Co

38 – McLean (Fairfax Co)

39 – Arlington – Alexandria – Fairfax Co (Baileys Xroads)

40 - Arlington

---

**House of Delegates (NoVA)**

Districts 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 and Districts 12 – 13 – 14
What does this mean to me?

- New district numbers
- New district lines
- New names on your ballot

- Incumbents were paired in same districts
  - Some incumbents resigned or retired
  - Some incumbents are running for higher office
  - A few incumbents moved to another district
  - A few incumbents are challenging each other

Many current Delegates are now paired with another Delegate in the newly-drawn districts

https://vpap.org
January 2023

Note: this list has been updated on the vpap.org website
New Districts Diminish Legislators' Superpower

Historically, one reason for legislators' invulnerability at the polls is they need no introduction to voters. But some legislators this year find themselves running in unfamiliar territory, thanks to new districts drawn without an eye to protecting incumbents. The June 20 primaries will be the first test to determine if, for some, these new districts prove to be Kryptonite.

% of voters who are new to districts where elected officials* are running
(Note: The higher the number, the less overlap the new district has with current or former district)

Sort by District

- SD19: Tim Anderson (Former Delegate) 100%
- SD10: Duane Adams (Louisa Board of Supervisors) 97%
- SD2: Ibraheem Samirah (Former Delegate) 95%
- SD36: Sen. George Barker 93%

https://vpap.org

In some districts, 90% of the voters will be "new" constituents – candidates will need to reach out to their unfamiliar constituents.

So how do I find out if I live in a different district?

Know before you vote!
https://www.vpap.org/redistricting/

Simply enter your home address

See how the new maps will impact you.
Did your representatives change?
Did the partisan lean of your district change?

Enter your address

Privacy Policy

vote411.org

The League’s Vote411 website is an excellent resource. Enter your address to find out which districts you live in now. Then review candidate information – all candidates were sent questionnaires. All returned questionnaires have been posted.
If you want to “get in the weeds”, go to the official Virginia Redistricting website. You will find all testimony, all proposed maps, as well as final maps.

Be sure you know before you vote!
Arlington: We are Using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

Arlington County Elections

https://vote.arlingtonva.gov/Ranked-Choice-Voting

UpVoteVirginia

https://upvoteva.org/arlington

Arlington is the 1st and only jurisdiction that is using ranked choice voting in 2023. RCV may be coming to other jurisdictions in the future. Learn more here.

Thank you!

You can reach me:

Chris DeRosa

571-422-6605

chris7307@gmail.com