

## RESOLUTION NO. 09-21

### A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REDISTRICTING REFORM (LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS)

**WHEREAS** the boundaries of state political districts are currently drawn by legislative incumbents, often creating conflicts of interest; and,

**WHEREAS** the redistricting process should be conducted in an open manner with real opportunities for public dialogue and feedback; and,

**WHEREAS** public input and involvement in the redistricting process will empower our communities by allowing them to elect representatives who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives; and,

**WHEREAS** important principles such as respect for boundaries of neighborhoods and cities should be clearly listed as a criterion for redistricting; and,

**WHEREAS** voters are more likely to participate when they feel that their votes will count and that they have a reasonable chance of electing candidates who represent their interests; and,

**WHEREAS** elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidates, thus increasing accountability and serving the best interests of the voters of Indiana;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Council of the City of West Lafayette does resolve that:

We hereby urge the Indiana General Assembly to conduct redistricting in 2021 according to the following principles:

1. The public should be given adequate time to participate. As soon as possible the General Assembly should set a date certain when they will return for redistricting.
2. Public hearings should be conducted both in-person and virtually in all nine Congressional districts. These hearings should occur both before maps are drafted and after as well, so the public can provide their opinion about current districts and feedback on proposed new ones.
3. The redistricting process should be transparent. The public should have access to the same data that legislators will use for redistricting and they should be provided free mapping software and invited to submit district maps for consideration by the legislature.
4. District boundaries should be drawn according to clearly described criteria that are prioritized in the following order:

- a. The U.S. Constitution's requirement of one person, one vote;
- b. The requirements of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA);
- c. Contiguity requirement (each district is one connected area);
- d. Communities of interest must be respected. Cities, counties, and other political subdivisions should be divided into as few districts as possible;
- e. Political competition, where this does not conflict with the criteria above;
- f. Compactness, where this does not conflict with the criteria above.

5. The addresses of any individual, including an incumbent officeholder or candidate, shall not be considered when any district is drawn.

INTRODUCED ON FIRST READING ON THE 7 DAY OF June, 2021.

MOTION TO ADOPT MADE BY COUNCILOR DeBoer, AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR Thomas.

DULY RESOLVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, ON THE 7 DAY OF June, 2021, HAVING BEEN PASSED BY A VOTE OF 9 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED, THE ROLL CALL VOTE BEING:

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Blanco	✓			
Brown	✓			
Bunder	✓			
DeBoer	✓			
Kang	✓			
Leverenz	✓			
Parker	✓			
Sanders	✓			
Thomas	✓			

  
Peter Bunder, Presiding Officer


Attest:

  
Sana G. Booker, Clerk

PRESENTED BY ME TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA ON THE 8 DAY OF June, 2021.

  
Sana G. Booker, Clerk

THIS RESOLUTION APPROVED AND SIGNED BY ME ON THE 8 DAY OF  
June, 2021.

  
John R. Dennis, Mayor

Attest:

  
Sana G. Booker, Clerk