

VOTER NEWS

Lancaster County Democratic Committee

Calendar

September 18 - No-excuse, early voting begins at Voter Registration Office, Lancaster Courthouse.

October 13 - Deadline to register to vote or update address. Online <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/>

October 23 - Deadline to request Absentee Ballot by mail.

October 31 - Deadline for in-person early voting at Voter Registration Office.

November 3 - General Election

How to Vote

Early voting at Voter Registration Office, Lancaster Courthouse
804-462-5277

By mail - request ballot application:

- Phone Registrar: 804-462-5277
- Email Registrar: vote@lancova.com
- Online <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/Lookup/absentee>
- Application Deadline: Oct. 23.
- Completed ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day, Nov. 3.

Vote Nov. 3, Election Day, at your precinct either inside or curbside.

Early Voting Has Begun at Voter Registration Office

No-excuse, early voting for everyone has begun at the Voter Registration Office at the Lancaster Courthouse. All excuses previously required for a voter to be eligible to vote in-person or by mail using an absentee ballot are eliminated. No-excuse, early voting is available regular business hours 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday at the Lancaster Courthouse (follow the signs). In addition, on the two Saturdays before Election Day, you may vote at the Voter Registration Office.

More Yard Signs Needed

As of today all of our 400 yard signs have been distributed in Lancaster County. We have received requests for more signs, but your support is needed to order more Biden/Harris signs which cost about \$600 for 100 signs. To receive your yard signs and/or distribute to neighbors, call 804-761-7647 or email your name, address, and phone to: RobertBennettLanCoVaDems@gmail.com



DEMOCRATIC SAMPLE BALLOT

Commonwealth of Virginia, County of Lancaster
 General and Special Elections
 Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Making Selections



To vote for a candidate, fill in the red box next to the name.

To vote an issue, fill in the red box next to Yes or No.

To write in a candidate who is not already on the ballot, fill in the red box and write the name of the person on the line.

If you want to change a vote or if you have made a mistake, ask an election worker for another ballot.

If you make marks on the ballot besides filling in the box, your votes may not be counted.

President and Vice President

Vote for only one

DEMOCRATIC PARTY
 Electors for
Joseph R. Biden, President
Kamala D. Harris, Vice President

REPUBLICAN PARTY
 Electors for
Donald J. Trump, President
Michael R. Pence, Vice President

LIBERTARIAN PARTY
 Electors for
Jo Jorgensen, President
Jeremy F. "Spike" Cohen, Vice President

Write-in

Member United States Senate

Vote for only one

Mark R. Warner - D

Daniel M. Gade - R

Write-in

Member House of Representatives 1st District

Vote for only one

Qasim Rashid - D

Robert J. Wittman - R

Write-in

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Question 1

Should the Constitution of Virginia be amended to establish a redistricting commission, consisting of eight members of the General Assembly and eight citizens of the Commonwealth, that is responsible for drawing the congressional and state legislative districts that will be subsequently voted on, but not changed by, the General Assembly and enacted without the Governor's involvement and to give the responsibility of drawing districts to the Supreme Court of Virginia if the redistricting commission fails to draw districts or the General Assembly fails to enact districts by certain deadlines?

Yes

No

AUTHORIZED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

For a ride, help voting, or to help others vote, call 804-462-9939.

For info about the Proposed Constitutional Amendments: www.LanCoVaDems.org.

--Turn the ballot over--

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Question 2

Should an automobile or pickup truck that is owned and used primarily by or for a veteran of the United States armed forces or the Virginia National Guard who has a one hundred percent service-connected, permanent, and total disability be free from state and local taxation?

Yes

No

Ways to Vote

Early voting in-person

Where?

Voter Registration Office
(Old) County Administration Building (Rear)
8311 Mary Ball Road, Lancaster, VA 22503

When?

Begins September 18, 2020
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Monday through Friday
Saturday, October 24
Saturday, October 31

How?

1. Go to Voter Registration Office
2. Present your ID (see "IDs to Vote" next column)
3. No excuse or application required
4. Mark (vote) your choices on your ballot
5. Insert your voted ballot into the voting machine
6. Congratulations, You Voted!

Voting by mail - Three Easy Steps

1. How to Request A Ballot Application
 - ✓ Phone the Registrar: 804-462-5277
 - ✓ Email the Registrar: vote@lancova.com
 - ✓ Go Online:
<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>
2. Return Ballot Application
Do it immediately; the deadline is October 23
3. Mark Your Choices & Return Your Ballot
 - A. Sign the envelope without a witness needed
 - B. Return Marked (voted) Ballot by November 3 to the Lancaster County Voter Registration Office:
 - ✓ By mail (postmarked by 11/3/2020)
 - ✓ Hand-deliver to Voter Registration Office BY Election Day, 11/3/2020
 - ✓ Hand-deliver to your Voting Precinct ON Election Day, 11/3/2020

Voting in-person Election Day November 3, 2020

IDs to Vote

Bring one of these to vote:

1. Voter registration document(s)
2. Virginia driver's license (expired okay for voting)
3. U.S. passport (not expired more than 12 months)
4. Identification card issued by a government agency of the Commonwealth, one of its political subdivisions, or the United States
5. Student identification card (not expired more than 12 months) issued by any institution of higher education located in any state or territory of the United States
6. Student identification card (not expired more than 12 months) issued by any public or private high school located in Virginia
7. Employee identification card (not expired more than 12 months) containing a photograph of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business
8. Copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document containing the name and address of the voter.
9. If you do not have an acceptable ID when you come to vote, you can vote a regular ballot by signing an ID statement affirming your identity.

Voting Precincts:

- **District One**
Upper Lancaster Ruritan Center
3989 White Chapel Road
Lancaster, VA
- **District Two**
Trinity Episcopal Church
8484 Mary Ball Road
Lancaster, VA
- **District Three - Precinct 301**
White Stone Baptist Church/Fellowship Hall
517 Chesapeake Drive
White Stone, VA
- **District Three - Precinct 302**
Kilmarnock Baptist Church/Fellowship Hall
65 East Church Street
Kilmarnock, VA
- **District Four**
Grace Episcopal Church/Grace Hall
303 South Main Street
Kilmarnock, VA
- **District Five**
Irvington Baptist Church
53 King Carter Drive
Irvington, VA
- **Central Absentee Voting Election District**
Lancaster County Voter Registration Office
8311 Mary Ball Road

Constitutional Amendments

The Lancaster County Democratic Committee Executive Board did not reach consensus on Amendment #1 and voted Yes on Amendment #2. Following are two documents representing the pros and cons concerning Amendment #1.

The 2020 Virginia Democratic Convention

Rejects the Virginia Redistricting Commission Constitutional Amendment

Political gerrymandering is a substantial problem harming representational democracy throughout the United States; and within the Commonwealth of Virginia, lines for General Assembly and congressional seats have frequently been drawn to steeply favor the political party in power and to protect its incumbents—to the detriment of voters.

The Democratic National Committee has long opposed in its party platform the act of gerrymandering and partisan redistricting as a result of its impact in skewing the country's political landscape.

Gerrymandering has often been used to disadvantage and harm people of color by minimizing (or negating) their political strength which obstruct efforts to address community issues of interest.

Gerrymandering results in expensive legal challenges to minimize its harmful effects; for example, Virginia taxpayers recently spent millions of dollars defending the rights of vulnerable communities against what federal courts determined was racial gerrymandering.

Virginia has a long history with partisan redistricting, the Democratic Party of Virginia strongly opposes gerrymandering and strongly supports legislation—and a proper constitutional amendment—that would restrict gerrymandering to the maximum extent possible (if not eliminate the practice entirely).

For many years, numerous Virginia Democratic General Assembly members have led the fight against gerrymandering by, among other things, introducing anti-gerrymandering legislation, including bills to create an independent commission to perform redistricting every 10 years, and by working to build

support for such reform efforts (which have been consistently opposed by members of the Republican party).

On February 23, 2019, the Virginia General Assembly passed a proposed constitutional amendment, Senate Joint Resolution No. 306, that would create a “Redistricting Commission” empowered to perform the decennial reapportionment of voters; under Article XII of the Virginia Constitution, the General Assembly must again consider and pass the same amendment language during the 2020 legislative session before that proposed amendment can be submitted to the voters during the November 2020 general election. For the 2020 session, the amendment is numbered “SJ18” (the constitutional amendment).

The constitutional amendment does not include any anti-gerrymandering restrictions and, instead, creates a permanent (constitutional) commission to redistrict the Commonwealth pursuant to “enabling” or “criteria” legislation that passed—but may be changed in the future— by the General Assembly.

The constitutional amendment (SJ18) rejects the nonpartisan or independent approaches to redistricting pursued in previous Democratic legislative efforts and as supported by most anti-gerrymandering reformers and, instead, proposes a bi-partisan commission comprised of eight currently serving politicians (members of the General Assembly) and eight citizens put forward by legislators, to draw and agree on legislative maps.

The proposed amendment’s super-majority requirements would give two Republican legislator-members an absolute right to reject (or veto) the commission’s maps for Virginia’s House of Delegates or Senate, and the amendment would allow any three Republican legislator- Members to veto commission maps for Virginia’s seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Page 101 of 102

If members of the proposed commission fail to agree on maps (including as a result of a veto, as discussed above), SJ18 removes popularly elected representatives from any further involvement in the redistricting process and states that “the districts shall be established by the Supreme Court of Virginia.”

Members of the Virginia Supreme Court have no institutional expertise in performing the redistricting function (e.g., drawing and approving political legislative district maps); in addition, a majority of the current members of that Court were appointed by General Assemblies controlled by Republicans elected based on maps that the federal courts have held were unconstitutionally gerrymandered to disempower communities of color and minimize Democratic Representation.

There are concerns that under the commission structure created by the constitutional amendment (SJ18), Republican commission members could veto maps, the Virginia Supreme Court could then “establish” legislative maps favoring Republican candidates, and future Republican office holders could appoint Republicans to the Supreme Court, resulting in the loss of the Democratic the majority in the House of Delegates as early as 2021 and the Senate by 2023—and potentially resulting in Democrats being unable to retake the majority in either body despite representing a substantial and growing majority of Virginia’s population.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Convention:

- 1. Strongly supports non- partisan or independent anti-gerrymandering reforms and urges all Virginians to oppose the constitutional amendment that will appear on the November 2020 general election ballot and would permanently cement a partisan commission in the constitution;*
- 2. To ensure broad awareness among voters of the dilution of Democratic voting power that will occur as a result of the constitutional amendment, will encourage all local democratic committees to include opposition to the constitutional amendment on its general election sample ballot; and*
- 3. Urges all Virginians to vote NO on the constitutional amendment and commits to support and continue work towards genuine nonpartisan or an independent redistricting process that prohibits gerrymandering and will be implemented for the 2021 redistricting process.*

ONE VIRGINIA Position on Amendment #1

IN VIRGINIA, POLITICIANS GET TO PICK THEIR OWN VOTERS. IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

Gerrymandering – the deliberate manipulation of legislative district lines to benefit a party or individual – is toxic:

- *carves up communities*
- *removes competition*
- *allows for personal retribution*
- *eliminates moderate influences*
- *creates partisan gridlock*

It is an obvious conflict of interest for the legislature to draw its own district lines. Both parties have participated in this practice for centuries – the party in charge always wants to stay in charge.

On redistricting, Virginia's Constitution is broken. The current iteration reads that the General Assembly is responsible for redrawing electoral district lines -- but beyond stipulations for contiguous, compact and proportional populations, there are no guidelines ensuring districts are drawn in a way that fairly represents all Virginians. There is a better way.

Since the Constitution gives redistricting power to the General Assembly, purely legislative fixes fail to address the root issue. In order to enact binding, comprehensive redistricting reform, we must amend the Virginia Constitution.

The proposed constitutional amendment will form a citizen-led, bipartisan redistricting commission;; outlining a clear process with rules regarding transparency, protections for communities of color, the inclusion of citizens at the drafting table, and removal of the General Assembly's unchecked map-manipulation power. Fundamentally, we support the Redistricting Commission Amendment for the following reasons:

1. *Citizen-led redistricting: an equal number of citizen commissioners and members of the General Assembly, with a citizen chair and mandated public hearings across the state to incorporate public input at an unprecedented level.*
2. *Constitutional minority protections: adding historic, new protections into the Virginia State Constitution to end racial gerrymandering and safeguard the voting power of ethnic and racial minorities. The amendment offers the first constitutional protections for people of color in the history of the Commonwealth.*
3. *Bipartisan balance: minimizing partisan interference by bringing both sides to the table ends unilateral redistricting control by the majority party and incentivizes compromise.*
4. *Transparency: all meetings are open and data is free and publicly available to shine a light on a process typically occurring in a smoky backroom.*
5. *Prevents mid-decade redistricting: constitutionally mandating a commission effectively ends future attempts at mid-decade redistricting for partisan gain. Any stand-alone bill would not change the fact that under the current Constitution, the General Assembly can redraw maps whenever they please.*
6. *Ends unchecked, incumbent map-drawing power: the General Assembly can only vote maps up or down, removing their power to manipulate maps. If, after two attempts, no maps can be agreed upon, the process is transferred to the Supreme Court of Virginia. This backstop is preferred by redistricting experts because it refrains from returning power to the General Assembly. It can also save considerable time and money on redistricting court battles, which Virginia has seen every decade dating back into the 1960s.*

Editor, Writers, and Designers Wanted

Since the coronavirus, we have published this newsletter to communicate with our Lancaster County Democratic Committee members. Join in producing this valued publication and get to meet interesting people and write about local, state, and national politics. If interested in volunteering to help change history, contact: Robert Bennett, Chair, Lancaster County Democratic Committee, 804-761-7647 or RobertBennettLanCoVaDems@gmail.com.

We Need Your Help!

Lancaster County Democratic Committee has almost doubled the number of Democrats who voted in the Presidential Primary Election and Congressional Primary Election in 2020 compared to previous years. Lancaster Democrats are fired up and our goal is to continue this enthusiasm through the 2020 General Election.

But we need your help! You can help change the course of history with your change, money that is. Let us know how you want your money to make a difference. Thank you for making your check payable to LCDC and mailing to PO Box 318, Kilmarnock, VA 22482. Following are our immediate needs to make this election a success:

- ◆ 100 Joe Biden/Kamala Harris yard signs for \$600.
- ◆ Printing and mailing Sample Ballots. We have the names and addresses of the 1800 people who voted for Democrats in the Lancaster 2020 Democratic primary election and can mail sample ballot/voters guide postcards including postage for \$630.
- ◆ Handing out Sample Ballots. Printing 3000 sample ballot/voters guide suitable for mailing, handing out at churches and polls for \$200.
- ◆ Contribute now: https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/lcdc_va

Benefits of Membership

Lancaster County Democratic Committee Newsletter

Sample Ballots/Voter Guides

Email Notices of Meeting & Events

Membership Meetings, Happy Hours & Election Night Parties

Web page: www.lancovadems.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Lancaster-VA-Democratic-Committee-389700708082124>

Connections to groups like:

Interracial Conversations of Lancaster & Northumberland Counties.
www.InterracialConversationsNNK.com

Indivisible Northern Neck, Lower Lancaster
www.rappahannockindivisible.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Names: _____

Address: _____

Mailing Address, if different: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Individual Membership \$25 _____ Family Membership \$35
Financial assistance is available.

Please make checks payable to LCDCC, or Charge to Your Credit Card

Mail to: P.O. Box 318, Kilmarnock, VA 22482

Name on Credit Card Credit Card # Exp. Date 3-Digit CVV