



*Baltimore Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
P.O. Box 6971
Baltimore, MD 21216*

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November 15, 2021

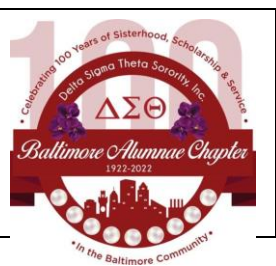
Good Evening.

My name is Arlene A. Wongus, President of the oldest and most historic chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated in the state of Maryland, the Baltimore Alumnae Chapter. Baltimore Alumnae Chapter is privileged to be the first chapter chartered in Maryland in 1922 by one of our 22 Founders, Vashti Turley Murphy, wife of the founder of the Baltimore Afro American Newspaper, Carl J. Murphy.

As Baltimore Alumnae Chapter (aka BAC) approaches its Centennial milestone of providing services in the Greater Baltimore area, we must highlight the fact that we are the primary chapter in the state that provides services to the community in which our facility resides. For over 34 years, the Delta Community Center, nestled in the heart of the Park Heights community at 2501 Springhill Avenue; has been open to a variety of community, youth, professional and faith-based operations. This Delta Community Center is covered by the 7th Maryland Congressional district and the 40th Maryland legislative district. However, our chapter boasts the membership of **526** college educated professional women who reside in various areas of our state including US Congressional Districts 2, 3, 7, & 8: and MD Legislative Districts 8, 10, 11, 41, 43, 44 & 45.

Our community service efforts and investments have been present from the start. For purposes of this evening's discussion, I will highlight a few services provided within the past 15 years. BAC has provided-

- More than **\$600,000** in direct scholarships to support Baltimore area students and made annual scholarship donations to both Morgan State University and Coppin State University. In addition, in partnership with Coppin State University's chapter of Delta, we host an annual event titled "Backpacks to Briefcases" to professionally prepare graduating seniors for the workforce.
- Youth programs that have promoted positive self-esteem, academic excellence, and professional/career growth for over **920** youth, male and female, ages 11-17.
- Encouragement and support to small and/or established black owned businesses.



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- Physical health and well-being promotion with activities such as **free weekly exercise classes** that are open to the community.
- Webinars and forums with subject matter experts to address the stigma and silence related to mental well-being. In addition, we have held webinars and forums supporting the area's international community sharing transitioning resources.
- In 2011, the chapter dedicated Restoration Gardens. This **facility contains forty-three efficiencies and two 1-BR apartments** and provides housing for youth that have aged out of the foster care program (18-24 yrs. old's).
- Every year since 2013 Baltimore Alumnae has physically and financially supported one of the area's largest National Night Out neighborhood block event to which has successfully facilitated bringing the community, law enforcement and other community resource organizations together.
- We also host one of the **longest running senior programs** "Eating Together" in partnership with the Baltimore City Health Department meeting regularly in the Delta Community Center.
- These represent just a few of our community endeavors. Other partners include Comcast Cares, the Park Heights Community Association, and Girls Scouts.

Given our significant impact in the Greater Baltimore community, and specifically to the Park Heights area, we are genuinely concerned about the resources that will be vulnerable to the redistricting process. Although Baltimore's population declined by 5.7% from 620,961 in 2010 to 585,708 in 2020; the needs of the communities we serve have increased. Even with decreased population, comparatively, household sizes are smaller, which equates to an increase in number of households we service. In addition, the voting age population (18 & above) has increased from 78.5% to 80.5%. Baltimore has the second highest percentage of children living in poverty in the state. The needs are increasing and more intense for people of color.

Baltimore is getting browner, and we implore the Commission to ensure that the mapping is reflective of this representation.

We thank you for your time this evening.

Arlene A. Wongus, President
Baltimore Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Good evening. Thank you for your efforts to ensure the process for drawing election maps is transparent and incorporates community voices. I am Monique Cephas, a resident of Baltimore County. My testimony today is on behalf of the Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and our 288 active members.

We urge this Commission to **1)** ensure a fair and transparent process, **2)** make certain that the voting power and participation in communities of color are not diluted or sacrificed and **3)** ensure that we continue to have the same or greater representation of women and minorities in elected offices.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a non-partisan organization with 1,000 chapters in the U.S. and abroad. We have a total of 25 chapters in the state of Maryland. Our members are registered voters in every congressional and legislative district in this state.

The Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter serves the Baltimore County area which covers Legislative District 3 and Congressional Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. Our chapter's programming addresses the needs of youth, seniors, and families. Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter known as BCAC offers pivotal programs to residents in Baltimore County. As an example,

- For more than 35 years, BCAC has offered programs focused on Educational Development, such as Dr. Jeanne L. Noble Delta GEMS (Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully), Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy, EMBODI (Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence), Delta Student Enrichment Program, Beautillion- Cotillion, and offering scholarships. These programs are designed to mentor, coach, enhance and enrich the education of our young children and teens within the Baltimore County area. They are the future of Baltimore County.
- BCAC has maintained strong partnerships with organizations such as the Police Athletic League (Baltimore County Police Department), Baltimore County Judiciary Courts, Randallstown Community Center, Morning Star Baptist Church, Baltimore County Department of Aging, Benjamin Banneker Museum, Community College of Baltimore County, Hampton Mansion Museum, and a host of other charity organizations.

Based on the communities that we serve; the voting population is 566,408 with an overall population of 854,535 in Baltimore County. Caucasians account for 51.8 percent and African

Americans account for 29.5 percent. In 2020, the reported median house-hold income for Baltimore County was \$76,866, which is a slight decrease from 2019 reported as \$77,358.

- As the 3rd most populated County in Maryland, we desire to see the maps reflect more districts with majority African American population to ensure greater diversity, inclusiveness, equity, fairness, and community engagement. Data has shown that the percentage of African Americans in Baltimore County has increased since 2000 (i.e., 20.2 percent in 2000, 26.1 percent in 2010, and 29.5 percent in 2020). The rate of African Americans is predicted to grow even more over the next 10 years. As such, “packing” the majority of African American people in one district is simply unfair. Every district should have communities that reflect our County.
- Lastly, BCAC strongly urges the committee to proactively share maps with the community and allow community members enough time to review, evaluate and prepare logical responses.

As you draw the maps, we ask that you always keep the Voting Rights Act as a priority to draw fair legislative maps that will not dilute the voting strength of African Americans and other communities of color.

Finally, data and history show that women have been grossly underrepresented in all levels of government. Based on the 2020 Census, women make up 51.6 percent of the population in Maryland however, they make up approximately 40 percent of our state and local political representatives. We are proud of Maryland’s growth of women political leadership, and we want to ensure that we do not lose the female representation in the General Assembly. Additionally, we want to ensure that we do not lose the minority representation in the General Assembly who represent our communities, particularly since the 2020 Census shows growth in Maryland’s minority voting age population.

Again, we urge this Commission to **1)** ensure a fair and transparent process, **2)** make certain that the voting power and participation in communities of color are not diluted or sacrificed and **3)** ensure that we continue to have the same or greater representation of women and minorities in elected offices.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Submitted by:
Monique Cephas, President
Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

P.O. Box 3604 ▲ Capitol Heights, MD 20791-3604

Dear Mr. Aro,

Officers

2020 – 2022



Miriam L. Brewer
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Angela D. Hutchins
1st Vice President

Terri Jackson
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LaTonya Howell
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Kimberly Howard
Assistant Financial
Secretary II

Greta Wiggins-Lewis
Immediate
Past President

Thank you for your efforts to ensure the process for drawing election maps is transparent, and incorporates community voices. I am Miriam L. Brewer, President of Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and a resident of Prince George's County. My written testimony today is on behalf of the Prince George's County Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and our over 1200 active members.

We urge this Commission to 1) ensure a fair and transparent process, 2) make certain that the voting power and participation in communities of color are not diluted or sacrificed and 3) ensure that we continue to have the same or greater representation of women and minorities in elected offices.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a non-partisan organization with 1,000 chapters in the U.S. and abroad. We have a total of 25 chapters in the state of Maryland. Our members are registered voters in every congressional and legislative district in this state.

The Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter] serves the entire County which covers Districts 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 47. Our chapter's programming addresses the needs of youth, seniors and families. As an organization, we partner with well-known organizations such as the NAACP; League of Women Voters; National Council of Negro Women, etc. Additionally, our individual members are also involved with the Links, Inc, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and other reputable charity organizations.

Based on the communities that we serve; the voting population is 756,049 made up of over 70% African American and an increasing Latino constituency.

- We want to ensure that the maps allow fair representation that reflects our community makeup
- Keep communities of interest together
- Provide draft maps at least 2 weeks in advance to allow for public review and feedback

As we review the recently posted map, we trust that the Voting Rights Act as a priority was taken into consideration for fair legislative maps that will not dilute the voting strength of African-Americans and other communities of color.

Finally, data and history show that women have been grossly underrepresented in all levels of government. Based on the 2020 Census, women make up 51.6% of the population in Maryland however, they make up approximately 40% of our state and local political representatives. We are proud of Maryland's growth of women political

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Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

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Officers 2020 – 2022



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leadership and we want to ensure that we do not lose the female representation in the General Assembly.

Additionally, we want to ensure that we do not lose the minority representation in the General Assembly who represent our communities, particularly since the 2020 Census shows growth in Maryland's minority voting age population.

Again, we urge this Commission to 1) ensure a fair and transparent process, 2) make certain that the voting power and participation in communities of color are not diluted or sacrificed and 3) ensure that we continue to have the same or greater representation of women and minorities in elected offices.

Thank you for your time.

Submitted by:

Miriam L. Brewer
President, Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

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ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

November 2, 2021

Karl S. Aro, Chair
Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission – Maps
St. Mary's County request to remain intact as a County on Redistricting Maps


Dear Chariman Aro and members of the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Commission on the very important issue of Legislative Redistricting. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County request that the Commission keep St. Mary's County and its community whole and intact. Dividing our County and adding sections to Charles, Calvert, Anne Arundel or Prince George's County will take away from our representation. For the last 40 years, St. Mary's County has always been identified in its entirety regarding State Legislative Redistricting. Therefore, we are requesting that the Commission's map keep St. Mary's County contiguous rather than separating areas in St. Mary's County and relocating those areas to other counties.

St. Mary's County is unique in several ways, and as such, our interests and needs are not going to line up with those in other counties as our economic development needs are different. Over 60% of our economy revolves around the Patuxent River Naval Air Station. We have heavily invested in these industries, such as the new UMD UAS research and test center which should not be moved into another district. These projects are vitally important to our economic growth and our community and should not be separated from the rest of our County.

Historically, St. Mary's County has been represented as a whole. Geographically, we are located on a peninsula, and our communities intertwine. Our needs coincide with one another, and this makes us stronger. Dividing the County, such as carving out sections of the County and adding it to another County will take away our representation. In summary, we believe that any redistricting map needs to keep St. Mary's County completely intact.

Sincerely,
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY


James Randy Guy, President

Page 2
Karl S. Aro, Chair
November 2, 2021

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Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
Delegate Matthew Morgan
Delegate Gerald Clark
Delegate Brian Crosby
Commissioner Eric Colvin
Commissioner Michael Hewitt
Commissioner Todd Morgan
Commissioner John O'Connor
Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator

LRAC Testimony

First, I want to thank you for releasing maps and allowing for public input—this transparency is greatly appreciated.

My main piece of feedback involves the First Congressional District. I believe Andy Harris is a danger to our democracy and you therefore need to do everything you can to reduce his chance of being re-elected. Andy Harris has a shameful, embarrassing record that disqualifies him from serving in Congress. On January 6th, after the Capitol was attacked, he voted against the certification of several states that President Biden won fair and square. We cannot give him the opportunity to overturn the 2024 election results. He helped stoke the violence that led to the insurrection on January 6th and has tried to minimize and cover up what happened that day. He even voted against giving the Congressional Gold Medal to the Capitol Police officers that saved his life. He has lost the right to serve in Congress. Unfortunately, none of the four proposed maps go far enough in reducing the risk of him being re-elected again. Of the proposed draft maps, Map 3 is most acceptable, but even it is not substantial. In fact, Andy Harris told Fox News that all four maps would result in him being re-elected. That is an unacceptable outcome. You must do more to prevent an insurrectionist from serving in Congress.

Thank you,

Clair and Cathy Dixon

Redistricting Testimony

To: The Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission (LRAC)

I would like to begin by thanking the LRAC for creating a transparent process, the first time Maryland is using an independent commission charged with submitting fairer, more compact congressional and legislative maps to the General Assembly. It is important for citizens to have a seat at the table to prevent—or at least impose limits—on partisan gerrymandering.

I was born and raised in Elkton, MD (Cecil County). My father is a refugee, and my mother is an immigrant who moved to Elkton to work in health care. As a minority in an uncompetitive district, we have never felt a part of the political process. Residents deserve a competitive district; don't leave Black and Brown voters behind.

The current First District intentionally packs as many Republicans together as possible, with the Eastern Shore having too little population to be its own congressional district. Therefore, the First District must include portions of the Western Shore so that all of Maryland's districts are balanced by population.

A new First District must be more balanced and competitive, so its representative is accountable to the people. The extreme gerrymandered nature of the First District frees Andy Harris from needing to compromise on issues in Congress. While not perfect, LRAC's Map #3 comes close to doing this, so I urge you to adopt a final map like this one.

Regards in service,

Deepa Patel, MPH
200 Belle Hill Road
Elkton, MD 21921
443-350-1985

Redistricting

Hi, my name is Marnette Finn and I live in Severna Park. I want to thank you for holding this public hearing and for releasing draft maps so early in the process. As a resident of Anne Arundel County, I think the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel are linked culturally and economically, so they should be together in the same congressional district. As you know, the Eastern Shore has too little population to be its own congressional district. Therefore, it must include portions of the Western Shore so that all of Maryland's districts are balanced by population. There are two options for the Eastern Shore to connect with the Western Shore: into Harford and Carroll Counties or into Anne Arundel County using the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. I think the latter is the far better option because Anne Arundel County has so many more cultural and economic ties to the Eastern Shore than Carroll County does. In fact, the latest data available from the Maryland Department of Labor shows that 9,000 residents from the five Upper Shore counties commuted daily to Anne Arundel County. There are also thousands more who commute in the other direction. The Bridge itself—and the potential for an additional span—demands that a single representative be sent to Congress to bring funding to our communities to alleviate traffic and promote economic growth on both sides of the Bridge. When it comes to the environment, Anne Arundel County has more shoreline on the Bay and its tributaries than any other county on the Western Shore. It should be in the same district as the Eastern Shore because both regions have the same economic and environmental interests in protecting the Bay. Given the draft maps that this Commission has released, I think Map #3 does the best job of connecting these communities of interest together and I urge you to adopt a final map similar to this one.

Thank you for your consideration.

To: Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission
From: Westbrook Murphy
Edgewater, MD
Date: November 12, 2021
Subject: Maryland's 1st Congressional District - Revised¹

Maryland's First Congressional District currently includes Maryland's entire Eastern Shore: nine counties from Cecil on the north to Somerset and Worcester on the south. The 2020 Census puts total population of these nine counties at 456,432.

To be equally apportioned, each of Maryland's eight congressional districts should have a population of about 765,000. Thus, if the Eastern Shore counties remain the First District's base, the district's boundaries must be expanded to capture about another 308,000 people

There are two ways contiguously to expand the First District's boundaries:

- Into Harford and Carrol Counties using the land bridge between the Maryland State Line and the head of the Chesapeake Bay, as is done with the existing boundary; and/or
- Into Anne Arundel County using the two steel bridges that carry major highways (U.S. 50 and U.S. 301) across the Chesapeake Bay and into seven of the Eastern Shore's nine counties.

I suggest that geographic, demographic, and economic ties between Anne Arundel and the Eastern Shore make Anne Arundel County the better choice. Or, in simpler terms: Bel Air is not as closely tied as is Annapolis to Easton and Cambridge. Concept Map #3 best represents these realities.

Indeed, the ties are particularly strong between Anne Arundel County and what the Maryland Department of Labor calls the five Upper Shore counties: Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, Talbot, & Dorchester. Those five counties have a population of 172,076—or 38% of the Eastern Shore.

Geographically, three of these Upper Shore counties—Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot—each share a boundary with A. A. County. The boundary between Queen Anne's and Anne Arundel counties is marked by signs on both the eastbound and westbound spans of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

The latest data available from the Maryland Department of Labor shows that in 2018 9,000 residents from the five Upper Shore counties commuted daily to Anne Arundel County. Many of them obviously work at one of A.A. County's large employers: ²

- Fort Meade – 57,300
- A. A. County public schools – 14,000
- Maryland State Government – 12,600
- BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport – 9,700
- Northrup Grumman – 9,500

¹ This memo supplements my original September 30, 2021 memo to the Commission by adding additional facts to support the Concept 3 Map.

² Estimated number of employees taken from the A. A. County website (<https://www.aaedc.org/business/county-profile/top-employers>), and rounded to the nearest hundred.

- Hospitals
 - Anne Arundel Medical Center – 4,900
 - U. of MD Baltimore Washington Hospital – 3,200
- A. A. County government – 5,200
- Southwest Airlines – 4,800
- Live! Casino & Hotel – 3,000
- U.S. Naval Academy – 3,000

There also are reverse commuters. For example, the Annapolis Chorale Music Director lives in Arnold, but also teaches at Washington College in Chestertown.

The many business connections between Anne Arundel and the Upper Shore Counties include:

- **Finance:** Shore United Bank, N.A., headquartered in Easton now has seven branch bank offices in Anne Arundel County, having on November 1, 2021 acquired Severn Savings Bank of Annapolis.
- **Shopping:**
 - Anne Arundel County residents go to the outlet mall in Queenstown.
 - Upper Shore residents come to Arundel Mills.
- **Health care providers:** Each of the following based in Annapolis has one or more offices on the Eastern Shore:
 - Anne Arundel Medical Center
 - Anne Arundel Urology
 - Annapolis Neurology Assoc.
 - Anne Arundel Dermatology
 - Anne Arundel Diagnostics

Last—but not least—are the many **maritime connections** between Anne Arundel County and its neighbors across the Bay. These are illustrated by:

- Publications (see photos next page)
 - PortBook “Annapolis & Eastern Shore”
 - My most used navigation chart “Annapolis to Cambridge”
- My own, but far from unique, personal experiences. I have—
 - For three decades hauled my boat annually at a marina in Tilghman
 - Taken my propeller to be reconditioned in Stevensville
 - Visited multiple times both by water and by land:
 - Georgetown on the Sassafras River
 - Chestertown on the Chester River
 - Rock Hall on Swan Creek
 - Saint Michaels on the Miles River
 - Oxford on the Tred Avon River
 - Cambridge on the Choptank River
 - Two marine business I patronize in Annapolis are owned or staffed by Upper Shore residents

I hope the Commission finds this information helpful in determining the appropriate boundaries for Maryland’s First Congressional District.



Testimony for the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission

November 15, 2021

JUSTIN NALLEY
POLICY ANALYST,
EDUCATION

INFORMATIONAL

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GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland writes to provide informational testimony to guide the commission as they reach their final recommendations. The commission must ensure that the final iteration of Congressional map that will govern Maryland for the next decade, fully recognize the diversity of the state and complies with requirements of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA)¹ of 1965 guaranteeing voters in racial minorities the opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice.

In Maryland, the population has grown by 7% since the 2010 U.S. Census to 6.2 million residents². Within Maryland, the jurisdictions experiencing the largest population growth in that time span were Frederick County at 16.4%, Howard County at 15.8%, and Charles County at 13.7%, followed by Prince George's County at 12% and Anne Arundel County at 9.4%³. The counties experiencing the largest decline were Allegany County at -9.3%, Somerset County at -7%, and Baltimore City at -5.7%⁴. Maryland has also strengthened its position as a racially diverse state with growth in BIPOC residents. Individuals identifying as Black/African American grew 7.1%, American Indian and Alaska Native grew 56%, Asian grew 32%, Latinx grew 55.1% and multi-racial grew 192.6%⁵.

Within the current eight congressional districts, there are increases in the diversity for several different groups, according to a report from the Redistricting Data Hub in collaboration with HaystackDNA⁶. The Latinx population saw increases across all current districts, with the highest growth in Districts 2, 5, and 7. The Black population increased in Districts 2, 3, and

¹ In *Gingles*, 478 U.S. at 50-1, the Supreme Court held that to establish a violation of the "results" standard of Section 2, plaintiffs must show: (1) the minority group is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in one or more single member districts; (2) the minority is politically cohesive, i.e., tends to vote as a bloc; and, (3) the majority also votes as a bloc "usually to defeat the minority's preferred candidate."

² <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-bystate/maryland-population-change-between-census-decade.html>

³ <https://planning.maryland.gov/MSDC/Documents/Census/Census2020/Redistricting/tables/Pop2020.pdf>

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ HaystackDNA. (2021). Maryland Redistricting Report. Washington, D.C.

6. Asian population growth occurred most in Districts 5 and 6. And other multi-racial groups grew mostly in Districts 1, 2, and 5. Share of white population decreased in all congressional districts. Maryland has seen Black population growth in the northwest, northeast, and southeast sections of Baltimore County as well as areas in Charles County. The Latinx population saw its greatest growth in Baltimore, Frederick and Montgomery counties.

Importantly for present purposes, these demographic changes also bring with them corresponding responsibilities under the federal Voting Rights Act, in order to ensure that the State's redistricting process and election system are racially fair, affording all voters – old and new, Black, Brown and white – realistic opportunities to fully participate in the electoral process and to elect candidates of their choice. To achieve racial fairness and comply with the Voting Rights Act, the redistricting plan proposed for the State should – to the greatest extent possible – be one that reflects the overall diversity of the State, and that gives residents opportunities to elect their chosen candidates roughly proportionate to their numbers in the population.

Three of the Congressional map concepts include three majority Black population Congressional districts based on population which is very promising in complying with the Voting Rights Act. The Commission should ensure that Voting Age Population (VAP) is also taken into account to fully gauge political participation of Black voters and other voters of color.

The ACLU of Maryland requests that the Commission advance a Congressional map that embraces the full diversity and engagement of voters in the state.

Testimony for Public Comment on the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission's Four 'Concept' Congressional Maps

by Kristin Cook, 9408 Jongroner Ct. Potomac, MD 20854

November 11, 2021

First, I'd like to give credit and thanks to the LRAC for creating a transparent process for updating Maryland's congressional district lines.

Next, I'd like to give my support to the proposed Map 3 which is the most acceptable of all four proposals. Unfortunately, none of the four proposed maps go far enough in reducing the risk of Maryland's resident insurrectionist from being re-elected again.

Andy Harris is a danger to our democracy and an **indecent man**, and we need to do everything to reduce his chance of being re-elected.

Allow me to remind you of his top assaults on our democracy:

- He voted against the certification of several states that President Biden won. Let's not give him another opportunity to try and overturn the 2024 election results.
- He helped stoke the violence that led to the insurrection on January 6th and has tried to minimize and cover up what happened that day.
- He voted against giving the Congressional Gold Medal to the Capitol Police officers that saved his life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dear Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission,

I deeply appreciate the work you are doing on behalf of Maryland and its citizens. Thank you for making it a transparent process. I whole-heartedly support taking partisan politics out of redistricting and focusing on whole communities and common sense lines.

As a passionate, full-time resident of the Eastern Shore (and a former resident of Anne Arundel county), I believe you overlooked a few items I hope you may reconsider.

One of the biggest is the continuity of representation as it applies to the Chesapeake Bay. As someone who cares deeply about the current and long-term health of the Eastern Shore and the Bay, **I believe having a single representative representing the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel County would provide the continuity the Bay needs and deserves.** As I'm sure you're aware, Anne Arundel County has more shoreline on the Bay and its tributaries than any other county on the Western Shore. I believe It should be in the same district as the Eastern Shore because both regions have the same economic and environmental interests in protecting the Bay.

The Bridge, and the potential for an additional span, makes it crucial that a single representative be sent to Congress. A Member who represents both sides of the Bridge. Who can bring funding to our communities to alleviate traffic and promote economic growth on both sides of the Bridge. THIS IS A BIG ISSUE FOR THOSE OF US ON THE SHORE.

Maryland's districts should be balanced by population! The Eastern Shore has too little population to be its own congressional district. It must include portions of the Western Shore so that all of Maryland's districts are balanced by population. Anne Arundel County has so many cultural and economic ties to the Eastern Shore. For example, the latest data available from the Maryland Department of Labor shows that 9,000 residents from the five Upper Shore counties commuted daily to Anne Arundel County. And I'm aware there are also thousands more who commute from AAC to the Shore.

Thank you again for all of your work and for your transparent process.

Very respectfully,
Krista Lamoreaux
Chestertown, MD

November 15, 2015

Melanie Goldstein

Written testimony that will be read during public comments to the Legislative Redistricting Commission (LRAC).

As I begin I want to thank the LRAC for this opportunity and for creating a transparent process. I am very worried/nervous/scared for my country and yet proud of my MD representation. However, this does not apply to Andy Harris. He seems to have taken sides with the insurrectionists and those perpetuating disinformation throughout Congress and the country at large. Because he is a danger to our democracy, his chances of reelection need to be reduced. I believe he has lost the right to serve in Congress as he appears to be serving his own needs and not his constituents or our country.

I don't believe any of the four maps go far enough to diminish his risk of being re-elected again. Map 3 appears to be most acceptable, but it is still not substantial.

I truly believe you must do more, really as much as you can, to prevent an insurrectionist from serving in Congress. I am counting on my elected representatives to do all they can to preserve our democracy and move forward to create more equitable opportunities for all.

Thank you.

State of Maryland Redistricting Advisory Commission
Public Hearing – November 15, 2021
Testimony Submitted

by

REBECCA L FLORA, AICP, LEED BD+C/LEED ND
Business Owner – Resident – Property Owner
218 Mount Vernon Avenue
Chestertown, Maryland 21620
rebecca@remakegroup.com

The redistricting of the State of Maryland is a very important matter that I would like to thank the Commission members for considering thoughtfully through the utilization of data and public comment, among other factors. As a property and business owner residing in Chestertown, Maryland I would like to strongly recommend that the Eastern Shore region be included in a redistricting map that directly associates the Eastern Shore with Anne Arundel County.

The Eastern Shore of Maryland is a unique place. As a reminder to all Maryland voters - the Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and the third largest in the world. It is about 200 miles long and holds more than 18 trillion gallons of water, some from the Atlantic Ocean and some from the 150 streams, creeks and rivers that drain into the watershed. While our Eastern Shore voter population may be small comparative to other regions of Maryland, we hold a massive responsibility in the stewardship of this place that gives Maryland's its most globally recognized identity and to the socio-economic well-being of all people who live here.

The people of the Eastern Shore and this special place deserve fair representation that understands and values our many contributions to Maryland and the entire estuary. Andy Harris does not represent the Eastern Shore, he does not understand its greater value, and he places us and our nation at risk with his extreme actions. Yet, he will be guaranteed a seat in Congress and the Eastern Shore we will be guaranteed no voice in our future without a fair realigning of districts.

A new First District must be more balanced and competitive, so Harris is accountable to the people. While not perfect, LRAC's Map #3 comes close to doing this, so I urge you to adopt a final map like this one. Linking the Eastern Shore to Anne Arundel/Annapolis would provide the direct connection that goes beyond our shared Bay Bridge physical connection, it ensures that the people who live within the largest shorelines of the Bay have an equitable voice in its economic and environmental future.

I am a resident of the First Congressional District and have been disappointed in the lack of competitiveness the district has provided in recent years.

I would like to live in a congressional district where there is a fair chance to have a competitive race.

Andy Harris has represented this district for years and under the current boundaries likely would easily win again. In recent years, he has stunned many of the residents he represents by voting against certifying results of the 2020 presidential election and also against honoring police officers who fought off an assault on the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

I urge approval of LRAC Map Number 3 to provide more balance and fairness for this part of the state.

Thank you for your time.

Greg Pearson

Perry Hall, MD

Good evening, my name is Dr. Mary Kathleen Hutton. I am a licensed Doctor of Optometry, a business owner and a lifelong resident of the Eastern Shore of Maryland (other than my years of post- secondary education). I would like to thank the LRAC for making Maryland redistricting a transparent process.

I have practiced in my home town in Cecil County for nearly 30 years and also in Queen Anne's County for 13 years, living in Kent County for the last two and a half decades. Growing up I always knew that I lived on the "Upper Shore" of Maryland and that we shared many interests and concerns with the "Lower" Counties. Sailing into Annapolis as a child and seeing the lights on the Shore at night is one of my first memories, which in my mind confirms the profound connection that the Chesapeake Bay holds for those of us who share its wondrous shoreline.

My full realization of the Eastern Shore's connection to Annapolis was only realized more recently, as I spoke with many Queen Anne's County patients that worked "across the bridge" who shared my deep concerns for the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the critical issues of flooding in Annapolis, Elkton and Rock Hall, and the dread of traffic upheaval as we face a new bridge crossing.

I advocate that LRAC give strong consideration to Map #3 which will allow a single Representative to serve the vital shared interests of Eastern Shore Counties along with those of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County as a whole. Otherwise, I truly feel that the entire Shore will be disenfranchised especially relative to our unique needs, both in terms of economic development and environmental concerns.

Thank you for your time.

Testimony of Lillian Howard Potter

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission. My name is Lillian Howard Potter. I am a resident of the city of Cambridge, in Dorchester County, on Maryland's beautiful Eastern Shore, a registered District 1 voter, and a lifelong Marylander. I have carefully studied the various potential redistricting maps and I am here to voice my support for Map #3, which links the Eastern Shore, Annapolis, and Anne Arundel County.

As you know, the Eastern Shore is more sparsely populated than other areas of Maryland and must therefore include parts of the Western Shore in order to make up a congressional district. There are essentially two ways to do this: (1) by adding Harford and Carroll Counties or (2) by adding part of Anne Arundel County. The second option makes far more sense than the former. Annapolis and Anne Arundel County share meaningful economic, cultural, and historical ties with the Eastern Shore, due to our common link to our beloved Chesapeake Bay. Indeed, people in Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore have worked together for decades on both sides of the Bay to preserve and protect the Chesapeake watershed and our watermen and seafood industry. In addition, many people in my community and my family have lived in both places, have commuted to jobs in Annapolis, and draw on Annapolis as their nearest big city for medical care, shopping, and other economic activities. The Eastern Shore, even the Upper Eastern Shore, simply does not share these kinds of ties with Harford and Carroll counties and never has.

I also want to address the politics of redistricting. I am a lifelong Democrat and had the great privilege as a young person of working for Senator Barbara Mikulski. But I am not a partisan. I strongly disagreed with the highly gerrymandered maps created during the 2011 redistricting effort. I thought what was done to Districts 1 and 6, in particular, was wrong. I voted against approving the maps during the 2012 referendum. Part of the reason I so strongly opposed the 2011 redistricting decisions was because I believe that it is important for voting districts to be (1) culturally and economically linked and (2) politically balanced and competitive, wherever possible. Districts that are gerrymandered to be overwhelmingly blue or red do not serve the people well; they tend to lead to the election of hyper partisans and to suppress the voices of people in the minority party – as has been amply demonstrated in District 1 over the past 10 years. I believe strongly that the prior District 1, which was a competitive purple district, was more representative of the Shore and its people than the current District 1, and that we should aim to have a district that looks more like that old district.

This last point bears further emphasis. Under the prior District 1, Wayne Gilchrest was my congressperson. Mr. Gilchrest was a Republican and I was a Democrat but he understood that he represented a deeply purple, diverse district and that he represented all the people, including those who did not vote for him. As a young person, I often disagreed with Mr. Gilchrest and sent him letters on various issues; I always received a thoughtful, reasoned, and respectful response in return, even if we did not agree. This kind of moderate, highly competent representation and leadership has always served Maryland well; that really is who we are at our core. That is what the people of the Eastern Shore deserve and is why we need a District 1 that is competitive and purple.

I urge the commission to approve Map #3. And I look forward to a fiercely competitive 2022 campaign in a new District 1 focused on the critical issues facing Annapolis and the Eastern Shore!

Respectfully submitted,

Lillian Howard Potter, 306 Sandy Hill Road, Cambridge, Maryland 21613

Testimony of Peggy Sand

Thank you to the LRAC for providing this opportunity and creating a transparent process.

1. We need districts that help address the fact that Andy Harris is a danger to our democracy and you need to do everything you can to reduce his chance of being re-elected.

a. He voted against the certification of several states that President Biden won fair and square. We cannot give him the opportunity to overturn the 2024 election results.

b. He helped stoke the violence that led to the insurrection on January 6th and has tried to minimize and cover up the events of the day.

d. He has lost the right to serve in Congress. Of the proposed draft maps, Map 3 is most acceptable, but does not go far enough.

2. We need a competitive district to allow voters to render a verdict on Harris.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions on Maryland's redistricting efforts.

TESTIMONY OF PAUL BERMAN
MARYLAND RESIDENT
EASTERN SHORE CANVASSER
November 15, 2021

The express preference of our own Governor Hogan confirms the economic, cultural and social linkages between Eastern Shore communities and Anne Arundel County. Of all of the alternatives to relieve traffic congestion and thereby strengthen the historic ties between the Eastern Shore and other parts of Maryland, Governor Hogan has said that he would only approve adding a third span to the bridge that for nearly 70 years has connected the Eastern Shore with Anne Arundel County. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2019/08/28/gov-hogan-there-is-only-one-option-i-will-ever-accept-relieve-bay-bridge-backups/>.

Governor Hogan's insistence on expanding the connection between the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel County offers clear confirmation that this Commission's Draft Concept Map 3 – linking the Eastern Shore with Annapolis and a large portion of Anne Arundel County – would provide the best configuration for Maryland's First Congressional District.

Equally instructive is Governor Hogan's rejection of all other cross-Bay alternatives that would connect the Eastern Shore with any other county, including counties to the north of Anne Arundel County now included in the First Congressional District. The attached map from the September 2020 Bay Crossing Study Alternatives Report demonstrates graphically how Governor Hogan wants to expand the connection with Anne Arundel County as the way to strengthen ties with the Eastern Shore, in preference to any other county on the western shores of the Chesapeake Bay.

While hardly comparable in weight to a preference expressed by our Governor, my own experience as a canvasser on the Eastern Shore provides additional evidence to support the linkages between the Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel County. On the ground in Queen Anne's, Talbot and Caroline County, I often encountered people who told stories of their need and desire to reach jobs, shopping and friends in Annapolis and other Anne Arundel locations.

I urge this Commission to adopt Draft Concept Map 3 and strongly to recommend its enactment by the General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,


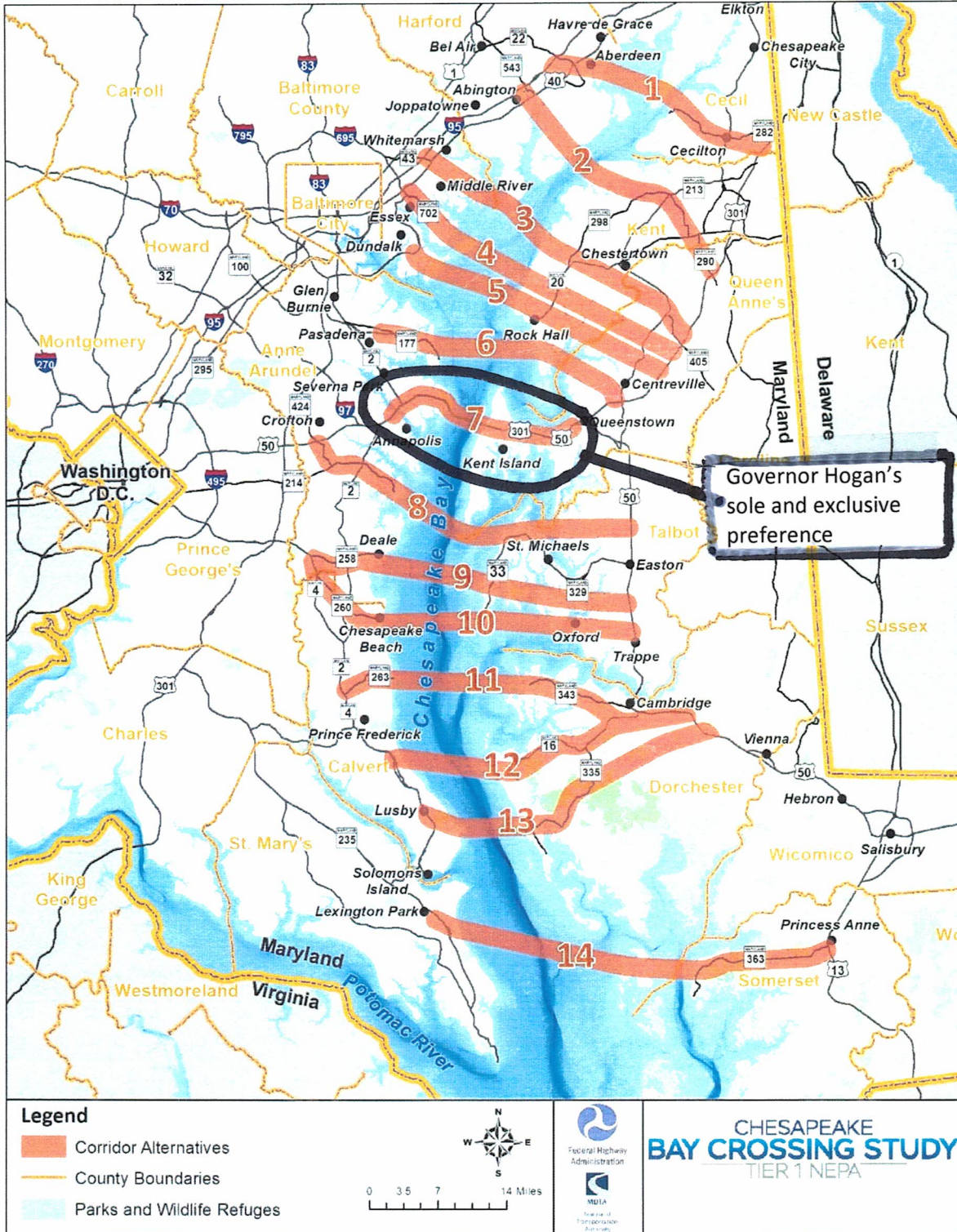

Paul Berman

Figure 1: Corridor Alternatives



Hello commission. I'm Annalisa Jenkins, a high school senior from Baltimore. Thank you so much for having this hearing, I really appreciate the transparency of the process, and the opportunity to speak up.

I turn 18 this April, so this coming election cycle is the first one that I will be able to vote in. It's imperative that we have a fair, competitive map that prioritizes voters' choice and protects the future. For 10 years, the first district has allowed a right wing ideologue to win time and time again with no competition. The current map packs as many far right voters as possible into one district, basically ensuring that extremists like Andy Harris will continue winning and espousing lies, with no viable opposition, reasonable debate or exchange of mainstream ideas.

Andy Harris is a danger to democracy and it's crucial to our future that he does not continue to serve in congress. He consistently votes and speaks aggressively in opposition to the environmental legislation (ironic considering his district will be one of the first to be severely affected by climate change), and spews vitriolic hate and overt racism. Harris voted against the certification of several of the states that President Biden won; we can't give him the opportunity to overturn the 2024 election results. Andy Harris stoked the insurrection on Capitol Hill on January 6th, and has since voted against giving medals to the Police officers that saved his life, and has tried to cover up what happened that day. I urge you to accept a map like number three, that, while not perfect, would be more competitive and would hold Harris accountable. We have to draw our political boundaries to ensure that Marylanders are fairly represented, and to keep extremists from rising to higher office.

Thank you.

Dear Members of the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission:

Thank you kindly for the opportunity to submit written comment on this issue, which is of great importance to me personally as a resident of Bel Air, Maryland, and a constituent of Maryland's big, beautiful first congressional district.

The issue of redistricting first came to my attention over seven years ago when I had the privilege of first becoming a Maryland resident. At the time, I was living in Baltimore City, working at Johns Hopkins University, volunteering at numerous community organizations, and working with a grassroots anti-poverty advocacy group called RESULTS. As a RESULTS advocate, I had the privilege of meeting with the offices of Maryland's congressional representatives, including the late Congressman Elijah Cummings—a true honor which I will never forget.

In fact it was Rep. Cummings himself who first raised my awareness about what I refer to as Maryland's congressional representation problem when he remarked that Maryland's congressional delegation was of one accord when it came to supporting robust policies and initiatives to reduce poverty and help families put food on the table in the wake of the Great Recession. However, he commented, there was one outlier: Congressman Andy Harris of MD-1.

Since then, I have continued to live and lay roots in Maryland, and I've stayed somewhat active in Maryland politics, as well as broader anti-poverty advocacy efforts. I now live with my husband, a Bel Air native and community schools coordinator at Swan Creek School in Aberdeen, and our two young daughters, in Bel Air. In addition, I've had the unique opportunity to explore all of Maryland's distinct counties and regions through my work on state and federal funded efforts to expand access to behavioral health care for Maryland children and adolescents as a Research Program Manager, a role which I held for three years until February 2021. In this position, I observed the distinct regional identities and interests that make Maryland such a vibrant and truly interesting place to live and work. Meanwhile, in my home community of Bel Air, as I've watched this formerly farm-based region develop and grow into the hub of commerce, family entertainment, and diversity that I believe we are becoming, my confusion about our connection to the economic and political interests of Maryland's Eastern Shore has also grown.

Here in Bel Air, the vast majority of my friends and neighbors live in single family homes or rentals with small yards, neighbors within shouting distance, and a short drive or walk from the nearest school. This experience is markedly different from my upbringing in Central Maine, a rural community with some parallels to the Shore, where schools drew students from several nearby towns and graduating classes barely exceeded one hundred students. While Bel Air remains, and will always remain, connected to its agricultural roots and family-focused identity, the time has come to admit and embrace the fact that we are a suburban and increasingly diverse, progressive community. As such, it's impossible to ignore the fact these characteristics, as well as our population size and economic and cultural connections to Baltimore City and its surrounding counties—and, increasingly, Cecil County, thanks to economic relationships, geographic features like the Conowingo River, and commuting patterns that span Pennsylvania and Delaware driven by the high cost of housing here in Maryland—distinguish us from the Eastern Shore to such a dramatic extent that it no longer makes sense to remain connected to the Shore's political representation. In fact, ignoring this change threatens the vitality of both regions.

I am not a political scientist, or a politician. But as evidence of these claims, I invite you to imagine myself commuting to Baltimore City from Bel Air daily, spending an hour in traffic, regularly passing accidents near White Marsh and Joppa to reach East Baltimore for work, just 26 miles away. I invite you to imagine my experience canvassing for Jesse Colvin's bid for Congress in 2018, speaking with numerous Bel Air and Abingdon residents about their feelings on Andy Harris. Just one resident out of hundreds of voters told me he supported Harris. Others felt he had been in office too long, was out of touch with his constituents, or was an outright embarrassment to our state. But they didn't feel their vote would make any difference, because

ultimately our gerrymandered district would fall into the hands of Congressman Harris no matter what. The shameful truth is that they were completely right.

Furthermore, while my own interests and those of my family are connected to Harford County, I would like to posit that continuing to lump Harford County in with the Eastern Shore in a single congressional district, likely hinders the Shore from receiving the strong representation they need in order to solve their greatest struggles. While I believe the present process of redistricting should not be a partisan performance review of Congressman Harris, it's important to acknowledge the egregious extent to which he has repeatedly failed our neighbors on the Shore during some of its years of greatest need. Addiction, poverty, lack of opportunity, and climate change threaten to quite literally *sink* the Eastern Shore. Meanwhile, Harris continues to deny the very real dangers of climate change, and neglect the voices of his district's growing immigrant community, focusing instead on conspiracy theories, or worse, threatening the safety and integrity of the capital complex by insisting on bringing his personal weapon to work.

It strikes me that no one really knows just who Andy Harris represents anymore.

To be clear, Andy Harris is not the problem. But rather, his recklessness and negligence has allowed us to see that the present congressional boundaries are so detached from the daily reality of its residents that many people have simply given up on trying for a different outcome. Why vote, I've been asked, when we already know who will win election every single time.

It's not a natural or miraculous phenomenon; we know that unless political sentiment on the Eastern Shore does a complete 180 degree turn, a Republican candidate *will* win Maryland's first congressional district vote. Indeed it was designed this way, as you've learned through other testimony from experts who are far more knowledgeable than me.

Taking these facts and, I hope, my personal testimony, into consideration, it is up to you— and to all of us—to make sure that first district voters feel *engaged* again in the upcoming election; inspired, and ready to take their voices to the polling place. Let's get this right, because the future of the Bay, and the future of families across this broad, beautiful swath of our state are all depending on us. In my opinion, based on the experiences I've shared with you today, this would be best achieved by implementing Proposed Congressional Map 3.

Thank you so much for your consideration,

Jami-Lin Williams
Bel Air, MD

November 14, 2021

Deborah J. Murray, Congressional District 1

26575 Dutchtown Road
Still Pond, MD 21667
Phone: 1-978-337-3458

Maryland General Assembly Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission (LRAC)
State of Maryland

Re: Personal Testimony/Participation on the proposed Congressional Concept Maps

Honorable Committee Members:

As a resident of Congressional District 1, I am writing to thank the LRAC for this transparent process for the redistricting of The State of Maryland congressional maps. I am requesting that this committee adopt Map 3. I have not been represented by Andy Harris as the mapping configuration from 2011 through present has made it impossible for me at fair representation and particularly with Andy Harris having an unfair advantage in his past election processes. Andy Harris has not represented me and he has endangered our democracy. He has engaged in the following egregious violations of his oath of office:

- He violated his oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and my representation when he voted against the certification of several states' electoral victory of President Biden (who had won these elections with honest, fair and square elections)
- He failed to represent me when he stoked violence that led to the insurrection and attempted coup on January 6th
- He minimizes the violent insurrection and attempted coup and the true threat this is to our democracy
- He perpetuates the falsehood of the former president winning the election
- He engages in blatant criminal behavior by violating the safety protocols and regulations of our Capitol building by entering the building while carrying a gun
- He voted against awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to our national heroes, The Capitol Police, who saved his life and fought to protect our Constitution
- He has failed to uphold his oath of office

While Andy Harris should be removed from office, it is impossible to do so as the district maps as drawn allowed him to remain a representative and impossible to vote out of office. The proposed redistricting maps give me little hope of being able to remove this person from office except Map 3. Map 3 is an attempt at providing some representation for me as well as the diverse population and ideas of some of us on The Eastern Shore. This map also includes Anne Arundel County/Annapolis, regions that I, and many of my fellow Eastern Shore neighbors, share culturally and economically. Not all of us are landed gentry, wealthy land barons and the elite of the Eastern Shore. Over 9000 of us commute to Anne Arundel County/Annapolis to work or for our cultural alignment with our fellow Marylanders. Anne Arundel County and the Bay Bridge are crucial in our day-to-day lives. Adoption of Map 3 may also provide me/us with the critical input that we need for the existing Bay Bridge and proposed new Bay Bridge which should most sensibly be constructed/located between Anne Arundel and The Eastern Shore.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah J. Murray
Deborah J. Murray

My name is Ethan, and I am a Baltimore City resident of the 3rd Congressional District and the 43rd Assembly District. Maryland likes to pride itself on being a progressive, forward-thinking state with solid democratic institutions of government. Our legislature, for instance, combines single and multiple member districts to strike a compromise between equal representation and the link between representatives and constituents. This commitment to transparency and inclusivity has paid off. Our state has consistently been at the top of many economic, humanitarian, and social indicators. But there's one outlier.

The last redistricting cycle under Governor O'Malley resulted in a fact that has become indubitably clear - Maryland's congressional maps have become the laughingstock of the nation. They combined some of the wealthiest towns in the nation with some of the poorest in the 6th District, warped the African-American communities of Prince George's County to ensure the safety of the incumbent in the 5th district, and stuffed our state's agricultural breadbasket with its most bustling urban centers in the 8th District.

But perhaps the most egregious example is that of my hometown of Baltimore, a city of just half a million, which is unconscionably and illogically divided between three congressional districts. Both of my parents cross through three congressional districts to get to work each day. My father, who works at Beckett-Dickinson in Sparks, has to drive from our home in District 3 through the suburbs of District 2 to the County in District 1. My mother, who works at the Johns Hopkins location in Nottingham, has to drive from our home through the urban sprawl of District 7 to the suburbs of District 2.

I cross through two congressional districts on my forty-five minute walk home from school, and three if I want to go to the mall or get a haircut. Effectively, my civic voice, and the larger civic voice of Baltimoreans, has been muzzled for the political expediency of reassuring the safe re-elections of our incumbents. We must fight for the attention span of three Congressman who have no incentive to view our grievances as important, as we constitute a minority of voters in these districts as a result of being split in such an extraordinary manner.

This has a direct role on governance and representation. You don't see our Congressmen fighting to keep important government installations open around here on account of jobs, or working for new VA Clinics, or speaking on behalf of our public services, as is customary in most districts, and you won't, because they have no reason to. Our needs are overlooked on Capitol Hill.

This redistricting cycle, this Committee has the opportunity to turn over a new leaf and grant us the equal access to Washington and Annapolis that we are constitutionally entitled to. This Committee has the opportunity to do its due diligence and give us one congressional district where finally our voice might have an impact in the subcommittees of Congress.

But so far, we have not been given any indication that these matters will be taken up by the Committee or the Assembly at large. The four new drafts which this Committee has since proposed all would retain the district of abhorring and macerating our neighborhoods in a farce of the democratic redistricting process.

I shouldn't be making a couple mile run and be crossing through three congressional districts. That's a disgrace. So I beg that this Committee hears this plea and works to resolve the misdeed of our districts and repay the Assembly's debt to the people of Baltimore by finally, once and for all, giving us the indivisible, single congressional district that we deserve. Thank you for your time.

First, I would like to thank the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission (LRAC) for this important work for the betterment of all Marylanders. I bring you greetings from Maryland's beautiful Eastern Shore. I would like to encourage the commission to consider several points

The Eastern Shore and Anne Arundel/Annapolis are linked culturally and economically, so they should be together in the same district. a. The Eastern Shore has too little population to be its own congressional district. Therefore, it must include portions of the Western Shore so that all of Maryland's districts are balanced by population. There are two options for the Eastern Shore to connect with the Western Shore: into Harford and Carroll Counties or into Anne Arundel County using the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. I think the latter is the far better option because Anne Arundel County has so many more cultural and economic ties to the Eastern Shore than Carroll County does. b. In fact, the latest data available from the Maryland Department of Labor shows that 9,000 residents from the five Upper Shore counties commuted daily to Anne Arundel County. There are also thousands more who commute in the other direction. c. The Bridge itself—and the potential for an additional span—demands that a single representative be sent to Congress to bring funding to our communities to alleviate traffic and promote economic growth on both sides of the Bridge. d. Anne Arundel County has more shoreline on the Bay and its tributaries than any other county on the Western Shore. It should be in the same district as the Eastern Shore because both regions have the same economic and environmental interests in protecting the Bay.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Doncella Wilson, LMSW

To: Members of the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Committee

Re: Written testimony regarding support for a more balanced and competitive district

Date: November 15, 2021

Before I begin my written testimony, I would like to take an opportunity to thank the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission for serving, and for encouraging a transparent process in this critical legislative first. I sincerely hope that other states will adopt a similar process, to allow for a more open process that includes input from the public.

I have lived on the Lower Eastern Shore since 2008, having moved here from Howard County. As someone who has been in community activism and politics since the late '60s, I naturally searched out like-minded individuals that would give me the lowdown on local politics and our elected officials. I was active in the Obama-Biden campaign and sought to help Frank Kratovil overcome Andy Harris. Although Harris was defeated in 2008, he returned in 2010, to win against Kratovil, in what turned out to be a GOP victory across the country.

Harris' record from the state legislature was abysmal, especially when it came to the environment and protection of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. As the 1st District Representative, he never deviated from his failure to fight to protect the environment, culminating in his refusal to vote for Hurricane Sandy relief that would have helped several communities within the 1st District that had been devastated by the hurricane.

Harris failed miserably in trying to bring our Eastern Shore communities together, instead, seemingly disconnected from the needs of our seniors, disabled, poor and minorities. He even went so far as to make racist and homophobic remarks that angered many people.

As a result of Harris' kow-towing to the Koch brothers and Club for Growth, I became determined to see him defeated before he could hurt the 1st District more than he already had. I was active in several 1st District campaigns, even becoming Wicomico County director for Democratic candidates in 2012 and 2014. It seemed that no matter how hard we worked or how many voters we talked to, it was impossible to overcome the GOP advantage in the district, which was hovering around +15.

Harris has now been in office since 2010, and he has proven to be more dangerous than ever to our District and our country. He actively sought to perpetuate the lie that was promulgated by a defeated Trump, alleging that the election of President Biden was based on fraud and cheating. Harris voted against the certification of votes, in several states that President Biden clearly won fairly. If Harris continues to remain in office, there is no doubt that he will work to overturn the 2024 election results of the winning Democrat.

Harris was instrumental in stoking the violence during the January 6th insurrection, and he has actively tried to minimize and cover up the activities of the insurrectionists and GOP colleagues that day. If that weren't bad enough, he voted against awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Capitol Police Officers who helped save his and his GOP colleagues that day. There are many voters in the 1st District who believe that Harris has deserted our Democratic principles, and lost the right to represent us in Congress.

After reviewing the four (4) proposed maps, it appears that none go far enough in reducing the risk of Harris being elected again. Of the four (4) maps, number three (3) seems the most acceptable, but even with that said, Harris has told Fox News that he wasn't worried, since all four (4) maps would result in his re-election. That would be an unacceptable outcome, putting the Eastern Shore, and our country, in further jeopardy.

All we are asking from this Committee, is a competitive district that would allow voters to render a fair verdict on Harris. The way the 1st District has been drawn nearly guarantees that Harris can remain in office as long as he wishes.

While not perfect, the Committee's map three (3) comes close to doing this, so I urge you to adopt a final map like this one. Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony with this Committee.

Ron Pagano, JD
530 Riverside Drive #101
Salisbury, MD 21801

To:
Legislative Redistricting Advisory Committee
November 14, 2021

To whom it may concern;

I appreciate the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission taking public comments on the important issue of redefining District 1.

The current borders combine wealthy Republican areas far from the Chesapeake Bay with the Eastern Shore, making the district non-competitive and assuring that the interests of the maritime community surrounding the Chesapeake Bay are never represented.

The current Congressman NEVER considers the needs of his less affluent constituents on the Eastern Shore, yet his re-election is almost non-contested. This became clear to me years ago when I attended many of his townhall meetings as he fought tooth-and-nail to stop the passage of the Affordable Care Act, ignoring the desperate need for health coverage for many on the Eastern Shore.

Of the 4 possibilities offered by the LRAC, map 3 makes the most sense because it combines groups with similar economic and cultural issues, and creates a Maryland Chesapeake Bay shoreline district where cultural, economic, and environmental issues related to the Bay can be strongly represented., and where elections can be competitive.

Thank you.

Edward P. Shapiro, MD
Towson, Maryland and
Berlin, Maryland

My name is Deborah Dorene Schillinger from the state of Maryland, and my email address is ddschillinger@gmail.com. I am a 9th generation citizen of the United States of America, since my Patriot Ancestors fought against tyranny during the American Revolutionary War in what became the state of Maryland. I am willingly providing a two point testimony for the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission on Monday, November 15, 2021.

First of all, I would like to state that a known insurrectionist like Andy Harris must be prevented from serving in Congress any longer. As the known numerous actions that Andy Harris has taken against the wellbeing of the United States of America is proof. I'll quote Mr. Harris' website, "The primary duty of our government is to protect the American people from all enemies, foreign and domestic."

To my second point, I've always believed in making districts fairer and more equal within the United States of America. While it's obviously not perfect, the LRAC's #3 Map comes closest to providing a more balanced and therefore just districting. So, I urge you to adopt a final map like LRAC'S # 3 Map.

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

Redistricting Testimony by Suzanne Oshinsky

Thank you so much for having an open and transparent redistricting process. For the last 6 or so years that I have lived in Harford County in District 1, I have felt without representation. District 1 was intentionally packed with Republicans to ensure the other districts are Democratic and as a result, there is absolutely no competition for an extremist who perpetuates the lie that the presidential election was stolen and tried to bring a gun into Congress. Without real choice and real competition there is no accountability for elected official's actions. Our government is supposed to be of the people, by the people and for the people, but that is only true if we are able to have a fair election. Gerrymandering does a disservice to all the inhabitants because the result is that we have no say in the votes taken in congress or any way of holding our elected officials accountable, which is key to preserving a democracy. The other issue I have with the current map is that there is no way that one person can really represent all the issues from the Eastern Shore up to the border with Pennsylvania. No one person can know all the disparate needs and issues of such a varied economic and geographic district. In my view, Harford has more in common with its near neighbors in Baltimore and should not be part of the District 1 map at all. Therefore, I think map number 3, though not perfect, will alleviate many of the issues with the current District 1 map.

November 15, 2021

To: Maryland General Assembly Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission

From: Ella Ennis, P.O. Box 437, Port Republic, Maryland 20676

Re: Concept Redistricting Plans for Congressional Districts

Dear Chairman Aro and Commission Members,

In reviewing your Commission's four concept plans for Maryland Congressional Districts, I find them dismissive of the many citizen pleadings for fair, Congressional Districts that are of adjoining territory (land), compact in shape and of fair opportunity for the people to choose their representatives rather than the incumbent representatives to choose their voters.

These plans continue the blatant gerrymandering of the 2011 Congressional Districts that crowned Maryland as the most gerrymandered state in the Country. Your message of November 9, 2021 said your Commission is requesting input from the citizens.

My input is to stop the outrageous gerrymandering of Congressional Districts. Take a few minutes to compare your concept maps with those of the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Advisory Commission. The Citizens Commission maps have no flying dragon shaped districts, no districts that are only connected by water, no districts with only a thin line of land connecting the various parts. And no district that runs from the West Virginia border almost to the D.C. line. Please give us fair Congressional Districts that are compact in shape, of adjoining territory and of equal population.

11/15/21 Legislative Redistricting

Good evening, my name is Misty Letts, a proud daughter of Cecil County, and as it happens, a card-carrying Daughter of the American Revolution and descendant of the William Penn family

Andy Harris is hoping you will hand him an un fair advantage. Because he is not sure he can continue to win without the help of this legislative body

In the United States of America, we hold FREE and FAIR elections, no election was ever vetted as closely as our last one and little to no fraud was found, Yet Andy Harris supported the idea of throwing out the vote of his fellow Americans and possible death of his fellow Representatives! He is committed to the idea that the past election was "stolen" he voted against the certification of President Biden. He stokes violence, and has contributed to the mixed response by Americans to protect themselves against a deadly plague that took over the entire world, and killed people that I know and have know my whole life who reside on North East.

Marylanders want democracy, we want our nation guided by the Constitution which tells us where our enter of guidance should be.

Andy Harris's guide seems to be himself, his idea of "helping" his constituents.

He blatantly chooses to pal up with racist and seditious, ignoring the proud heritage of Maryland's Harriet Tubman-who by the way- is what a hero looks like.

This isn't a football game where people pick sides, human beings are what's at stake here, and Harris has proven to me over and over again that he is incapable of such a consideration.

Choosing a heavy-handed map that favors, and yes gives inordinate power to the Republican party, is the kind of slow sedition that will ultimately kill our nation.

It isn't what my uncles fought WWII for. It isn't what any vet has ever desired when signing on the line that puts them in harms way for us, for the United States of America. It isn't, even, for the man or woman who right this very minute, and in front of my eyes, are not paying a bit of attention to my voice.

Thank You for Your Public Service -Misty Letts

November 15, 2021

Members of LRAC

Thank you so much for this opportunity to testify and for creating a transparent process.

I am asking for a competitive District 1 that will allow voters to render a verdict on Andy Harris. The current map allows him to win again and again...he just coast to re-election. He has done nothing for this district but embarrass our state and he is a danger to our democracy. (he voted against the certification of the presidential election and the peaceful transfer of power) Of all the proposed maps I believe Map 3 is the most acceptable...not great but ok. Harris feels he will win with all four maps proposed! Please do more to prevent an insurrectionist for serving in congress!

Thank you!

Paula Casagrande

501 Hall Ct.

Havre de Grace, MD 21078

Testimony to the Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission

Congratulations on the way you are pursuing your work: informing and listening to the public will surely result in decisions that will be widely accepted.

I am testifying as a registered Republican, retiree, and former political appointee in the Reagan and H.W. Bush administrations and resident of Chestertown, Kent County.

Of the maps you are considering, my preference is #3. It seems it would be a good, competitive district that yields capable and effective candidates for both parties. My principal concern is that we be rid of Andy Harris; he has accomplished next to nothing in Congress and has joined the worst factions dividing the people of our country. We very much need the chance to send someone to Congress who values consensus and will focus on how the federal government can respond to real-world problems where its action is called for.

The configuration of #3 makes this possible, because it better reflects the blended urban and rural character of the Western and Eastern Shores specifically (not to mention putting countless family members back in the same district, since many live on the Shore or around Annapolis while their parents, siblings and/or offspring live in the other place). As a result, it would vastly improve the chance that we replace Harris with someone whose work in Congress will be constructive and whom we can respect and trust.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Nevins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jane Nevins
Chestertown, Kent County



TESTIMONY TO THE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMISSION (LRAC)

November 15, 2021 Virtual

Dawn Collins
6011 Clairmont Drive
Calvert County
Owings, MD 20736

Good evening, Chair Aro and Commissioners. My name is Dawn Collins; I'm representing the League of Women Voters of Maryland.

This commission, as it has traveled around the state for the last two months, has already heard from eleven county League of Women Voters plus individual members. We appreciate that the LRAC hearings and November 9 release of four conceptual maps aligns with the League's support of "A state redistricting process and standards ... with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny." We would like to commend the Commission for offering Spanish and ASL translations, and for moving this hearing to an evening time slot so that people who work full time will be able to participate

We are asking that the LRAC continue to set a precedent for transparent government by permitting the public to observe your process of deciding on the final Congressional map. The Commission has mentioned compactness as a goal and we recommend that you prioritize compactness and the other Maryland Constitution's standards that govern the drawing of legislative districts.

Releasing your final Congressional map by the end of this week would allow a minimal two weeks for public scrutiny before the Special Session begins on December 6. An announcement about the relevant dates for the special session to vote on the maps is also appropriate.

Turning to the Legislative maps, we are asking for a well-publicized timetable for their release by the end of 2021. For example, do you intend to also release conceptual maps followed by a single choice, and when will these releases happen? Will the Senate map be released first? Of course, we hope that the process of deciding on the Legislative maps will also be transparent.

Looking forward to the Special and to the 2022 Sessions, the electronic process for signing up for testimony can easily allow more time and be more user-friendly. The website is unclear, difficult to link to and hard to navigate.

Dividing lines selected to favor politicians invariably end up splitting communities of interest, fueling the cynicism toward those in charge and feeding the apathy that deters voters from participating in the electoral process. The League respectfully requests that the Congressional and Legislative maps this commission submits are fair and effective in representing *the entire population* of Maryland.

Thank you.

I wish to thank the LRAC for creating this transparent process. I hope that this will continue.

One of the unintended results of creating a Congressional District that puts a large percentage of Republicans in one district in order to have only one Republican Representative is electing someone like Andy Harris. With a predominantly Republican district, it is tailor made for a far right extremist. Andy Harris (or someone like him) has no incentive to moderate their views. A more balanced and competitive district would make it very difficult for an extremist to be elected in either the primary or general election. Andy Harris has been able to be re-elected time and again because the First District as it currently exists nearly guarantees it.

Thank you so much for listening to Marylanders as you consider redistricting. My husband and I live in district 1.

We want competitive districts. Elected officials should be committed to representing all constituents and a balanced first district would hold Harris or any new representative accountable to its residents.

Andy Harris knows that he can lean extremely far to the right since the current map stacks republicans together in district 1.

Districts should be drawn so that representatives can contemplate a spectrum of views and be willing to work with both parties.

Thank you.

First, thank you to the Redistricting Advisory Commission for holding public hearings. This is a great improvement over the previous redistricting processes, which were closed to the public.

I believe that Andy Harris has lost the right to serve in Congress. He violated his oath of office by voting against the certification of the 2024 Presidential Election, helped stoke the violence of January 6, and has tried to minimize what occurred that day. A competitive district is the best way to give voters the opportunity to deny him another term. While not perfect, the LRAC's proposed map #3 comes closest to a more competitive and balanced district.

In addition, I think that it makes sense for residents along the Chesapeake Bay to share a Congressional Representative with residents of the Eastern Shore. Map #3 accomplishes this by grouping Anne Arundel County with counties east of the bay. Anne Arundel shares far more economic and cultural ties with the eastern shore counties than do Harford or Carroll Counties.

Thank you.