

2 December 2021

I am writing today to express my deep, deep disappointment and, frankly, disgust with the draft redistricting map put forward by the baldly partisan Maryland General Assembly's Legislative Redistricting Advisory Commission. The 2020 Census and its mandate to re-apportion our legislative districts are providing our state with a much-needed opportunity to undo past mistakes and eschew our reputation as the poster-child for gerrymandering. Unfortunately, but unsurprisingly, those in power in Annapolis seem unable to stop themselves from seeing this moment as nothing more than yet another opportunity to consolidate even more power to themselves. Thinking that openly disenfranchising conservatives is going to simultaneously silence them or convince them to switch sides is simply ludicrous in the extreme.

According to 270towin.com, the Democratic Party has had a significant advantage (to put it mildly) in state and federal elections as "primarily a 'blue' state since the founding of the modern political parties." This leads me to wonder what the Democrats in the Legislature are so afraid of. Do they really believe that the only way they can win elections is to blatantly cheat the system in this way? If they have such faith in their policies and are supposed to be the party of voting rights and fairness and equity shouldn't they want our state's maps to "comply with the U.S. Constitution and Voting Rights Act of 1965" and "respect natural boundaries and geographic integrity"? These were two of the main marching orders given to the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission. Of course, when we look at the third parameter for the creation of those maps, we see the problem for the legislature: "Does not take into account citizens' party affiliation."

The maps proposed by the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission are fair, nonpartisan, and logical. I urge the members of the General Assembly to take a long hard look in the mirror before signing 6 million citizens up for another 10 years of disillusionment and frustration bordering on despair. Keep in mind of course that plenty of them won't put up with it for that long and will simply take themselves, and their tax dollars, elsewhere. On the other hand, some of them may just decide to stand up for themselves and make what happened to Democrats in Virginia last month look like a walk in the park. No matter how much we love Maryland and all she has to offer, I know my family and I will certainly be considering all of our options very carefully.