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August 4, 2021

Rep. Schwartzkop
Rep. Longhurst
Rep Mitchell

Sen. Sokola,
Sen. Townsend
Sen. Lockman

Re: House Concurrent Resolution No.32

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As non-profit organizations from across the state, we commend you for creating an open redistricting process that allows for public participation in the 2021 legislative redistricting. As HCR No. 32, §4 declares: “The final plan or plans to be voted on by the Delaware General Assembly should be a product of a public process.”

Redistricting is critical to ensuring effective representation. The process must be fair, transparent, nondiscriminatory, and politically impartial. Transparency is the key to communities becoming meaningfully and effectively engaged in redistricting. As HCR No. 32 recognizes, public hearings and comment periods are vital.

We commend the sponsors for making sure that information will be available to the public on the legislative website. We ask that the website be updated daily and contain all meetings, public and within the caucuses, as well as containing access to all draft and proposed maps.

We agree with the Resolution that the citizens of Delaware must have opportunities to provide public comment and submit redistricting plans, which should include maps. We ask that the House and Senate establish dates for open hearings in each of New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties and the City of Wilmington before any maps are created by drafters at the House and Senate levels, and once created are also subject to public hearings on their fairness to all communities of interest within the State before putting into final form.

We recommend the following schedule, consistent with the 120-day deadline established in HB 245: (i) initial hearings within 30 days of receipt of the census data (Pub. L. 94-171) to establish the principles and public process for redistricting; (ii) citizen input 30 days thereafter to receive initial citizen input on communities of interest and on proposed districts, and; (iii) public hearings 30 days after proposed maps are prepared by the General Assembly.

If the deadline for redistricting is shortened to accommodate the general election schedule and candidate residency qualifications, we recommend, at a minimum, the following schedule: (i) initial hearings 30 days after receipt of the census data (Pub. L. 94-171) for citizen input on



communities of interest and on proposed districts, and; (ii) public hearings 30 days after proposed maps are prepared by the General Assembly.

Neither schedule would preclude public input throughout the process with such input being encouraged and welcomed by map preparers.

We recognize that the tight time period between the release of the census data and the final deadline for final maps will require all involved to work collectively together.

We look forward to working with you in this most important process.

Respectfully,

Organizations:

League of Women Voters of Delaware

Common Cause of Delaware

Delaware for open Government

New Castle County Civic League

ACLU-Delaware

Newark DE NAACP

Delaware League Of Local Governments

Delaware Women 4 Inclusion

Sussex County 2030

Latín American Community Center

Community Communications Corporation

Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League

Building People Powered

Coalition Of Black Trades Union

The Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice

Delaware United

The Unitarian Universalist Delaware Advocacy Network

