

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OPEN AND NONPARTISAN PROCEDURE FOR THE
2021 [insert county name] COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REDISTRICTING**

WHEREAS state statutes require that the [insert county name] County Board of Commissioners redraw Commission districts to reflect the current population following the decennial Census, such that each district has approximately equal population, and

WHEREAS county redistricting plans enacted pursuant to this procedure will be used to elect members of the [insert county name] County Board of Commissioners throughout the coming decade, and

WHEREAS redistricting plans in [insert county name] County have not always nor uniformly prioritized the aim of establishing commission districts that accurately reflect the community's composition and diversity and that strengthen community representation on the Commission, and

WHEREAS an open, participatory, and transparent process whereby broad citizen input is actively sought and given full consideration in the redrawing of the [insert county name] County Board of Commissioners districts more fully reflects the commitment of the Commission to represent the will of the voters, and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve the aim of fairly representing the citizens of our county, the boundaries of [insert county name] County Board of Commissioner districts should be drawn respecting and taking into consideration the integrity of our county's neighborhoods and communities of interest, and

WHEREAS important principles, including the protections of the federal Voting Rights Act and respect for neighborhoods, towns, and cities, should be built into any redistricting process so that our communities are kept together and can achieve effective representation; and

WHEREAS the citizens of [insert county name] County deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial, and depoliticized process for the drawing of [insert county name] County Board of County Commissioner districts reflecting their communities and providing accountability to the voters, and

WHEREAS such a process should facilitate public input and involvement in the redistricting process to empower our citizens and to ensure maps that enable them to elect representatives who will reflect and respond to their interests on issues important to their lives, and

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

WHEREAS the members of the Board of Commissioners are strongly committed to increasing accountability to the voters and serving their best interests, and

WHEREAS these aims are best achieved by adopting an open and transparent redistricting process that includes firm timelines announced well in advance, prompt communication of draft plans including through posting on an accessible website and publication in local news outlets, well-promoted public hearings on the maps, and citizen access to redistricting tools, so that our citizens have real opportunities to review and assess the maps and to provide feedback proposing improvements before maps are finalized, and

WHEREAS the provision of software and other assistance will facilitate public participation and enable our citizens to draw and submit maps for [insert county name] County Board of Commissioner consideration, and

WHEREAS redistricting to protect individual incumbents, parties, or other political interests is improper and prejudicial to the citizens' desire for responsive government,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of [insert county name] County commit to establishing a redistricting process that will adhere to the principles set out above and support citizen involvement in an open and transparent procedure throughout the upcoming 2021 redistricting process, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process adopted should be one that promotes greater accountability and transparency and prohibits the consideration of voting patterns, party registration information, and incumbents' residential addresses, and that uses demographic information only to the extent necessary to ensure minority participation as required by the Voting Rights Act of 1965;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution should be announced publicly as a testament to the Commission's commitment to work incorporate the principles outlined within this resolution into our 2021 redistricting procedures and to implement such procedures so as to ensure adherence to the above principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the [insert county name] County Board of Commissioners also hereby formally requests the NC General Assembly to adopt procedures for the 2021 legislative and Congressional redistricting embodying the same principles, processes, and measures as outlined above, thereby securing our citizens' rights to participate in said redistricting on the basis of equity, nonpartisanship, fairness, and transparency.