



## **Democrats Agree that We Should End Gerrymandering**

### **But not everyone agrees on whether or not the proposed Constitutional Amendment will help end Gerrymandering in Virginia**

Every 10 years, the United States conducts a national Census. The data gathered helps all 50 states understand population and demographic shifts, and ultimately indicates how many seats each state will have in the U.S. Congress for the next decade. Following the Census, all states are required to redraw their electoral district boundaries to make sure the “one person/one vote” requirement is met and that each district has about the same number of people. The process of drawing these district boundaries is called redistricting. In Virginia, lines are drawn for our US Congressional districts, State Senate districts and State House of Delegates districts.

Gerrymandering is when politicians in the majority party draw the voting lines in a way that gives their party an advantage over the other party. Both parties have done this in the past.

#### **BALLOT QUESTION**

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

#### **Those who argue that we should Vote YES on Amendment 1 say that:**

- Amendment 1 will make the **redistricting process more transparent**; people will see the process of drawing the district lines
- Amendment 1 **creates a balanced redistricting commission**; it is bipartisan, with a citizen chairperson, and equal numbers of citizens and elected officials
- Amendment 1 makes sure that “districts shall provide, where practicable, **opportunities for racial and ethnic communities to elect candidates of their choice.**” It will be enshrined in the Virginia Constitution regardless of what happens with the federal Voting Rights Act in the future
- Amendment 1 will **end partisan gerrymandering in 2021**; waiting means that redistricting in 2021 will be done by the General Assembly according to current law.

#### **Those who argue that we should Vote NO on Amendment 1 say that:**

- Amendment 1 **does not end gerrymandering**; it would change the constitution to concentrate map-drawing power in a small group of politicians and their friends, and could enshrine gerrymandering
- Amendment 1 **is not non-partisan or independent**; it will be led by powerful politicians & their hand picked friends
- Amendment 1 **will reduce the number of Black and Brown voices** in the redistricting process; there are zero requirements for diversity or inclusion in selecting the legislators or citizens who serve on the redistricting commission
- Amendment 1 **has serious problems**; trying to fix them will require the General Assembly to pass more laws, which could always be changed by a future Republican majority in the General Assembly

