

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN

STATEMENT OF ANTICIPATED MINORITY IMPACT

The current congressional district plan includes the Third District in which African-Americans constitute a 56.8 percent majority of the total population and a 53.2 percent majority of the voting age population. The Fourth District includes the second highest percentage of African-Americans, who constitute 33.6 percent of the total population and 32.3 percent of the voting age population of that District.

Table 5.1 presents information relating to demographic changes in these two districts between 2000 and 2010 and the effect of Chapter 1 on the minority total and voting age percentages in these districts. Chapter 1 complies with the requirements of Section 5 of the United States Voting Rights Act by retaining minority strength in the redrawn Third District comparable to the minority strength of the current Third District under the 2010 Census.

Minority Population Trends

Virginia's African-American population increased from 1,390,293 to 1,551,399 between 2000 and 2010, a growth rate of 11.6 percent and a percentage change from 19.6 percent to 19.4 percent of the total population. Under the 2010 Census option of identifying oneself by more than one race, the total number who identified as African-American only or as African-American and some other combination was 1,653,563 or 20.7 percent of the total population. (The data used by the General Assembly in redistricting allocated those who included White as part of their multiple race identity to the minority race group. The data used in the following analysis are based on this allocation.)

The African-American population grew at a slower rate than the overall state average (11.6 percent compared to 13 percent). The attached analysis by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service of the University of Virginia succinctly summarizes the patterns of growth of the African-American population throughout the decade. Briefly, the distribution of African-Americans in Virginia has been relatively constant during the last decade, with the African-American population being concentrated in the eastern half of the state.

These patterns are reflected in the statistics for the current Congressional districts and had implications for drawing the new districts. As Table 5.1 demonstrates, below average growth left the Third District significantly below ideal district size. The Third District gained less than 20,000 persons and was short of the ideal district size by 63,976 persons.

As in 2000, the most dramatic change in Virginia's demographic base, mirroring national patterns, was the increase in Hispanic population. The Hispanic population increased from 4.7 percent of the state population in 2000 to 7.9 percent in 2010,

representing a gain of over 302,285 people and a growth rate of 91.7 percent. While virtually every locality showed some growth in Hispanic population, the majority of that population is concentrated in Northern Virginia. Over one-quarter of the total Hispanic population is in Fairfax County, with the adjoining localities also showing significant percentages of Hispanic population. Two current congressional districts (Districts 8 and 11) contain more than 15 percent Hispanic population, both of which are located in Northern Virginia. No current congressional district contains more than 20 percent Hispanic population. In Chapter 1, Districts 8 and 11 both still contain more than 15 percent Hispanic population, with the Hispanic population increasing in both districts. No congressional district in Chapter 1 contains more than 20 percent Hispanic population.

Asians make up 5.5 percent of Virginia's population, up from 3.7 percent, and increasing from 261,025 to 439,890 between 2000 and 2010 at a growth rate of 68.5 percent. The Asian population is most heavily concentrated in Northern Virginia and tends to be fairly evenly distributed throughout the region rather than concentrated. Two current congressional districts (Districts 8, and 10) contain more than 10 percent Asian population and one district (District 11) contains more than 15 percent, all of which are located in Northern Virginia. No current congressional district contains more than 20 percent Asian population. In Chapter 1, Districts 8 and 10 both still contain more than 10 percent Asian population, with the population decreasing slightly in District 10 and increasing slightly in District 8. In Chapter 1, District 11 still contains more than 15 percent Asian population, with the Asian population increasing. No current congressional district contains more than 20 percent Asian population.

The Majority African-American District

Chapter 1 maintains one majority minority district in Virginia. The shortfall in population in the Third District is offset by shifting the whole City of Petersburg from the Fourth to the Third district. Additional population from the Cities of Hampton, Norfolk, and Richmond and the County of Henrico also shift to the Third. New Kent County is shifted from the Third District to the Seventh and fewer people from the City of Newport News and the Counties of New Kent and Prince George are assigned to the Third District.

The Fourth District gains population primarily in Chesterfield and Prince George Counties to offset the loss of Petersburg, and it retains a significant African American population and a majority of its present component parts.

The resulting population statistics shown in Table 5.1 reflect the need to add territory so as to meet equal population requirements and the non-retrogression requirements of Section 5. Other factors came into play in the shaping of these districts, including communities of interest, incumbency, and political considerations. As Table 5.1 shows, Chapter 1 adjustments to the Third and Fourth Districts to add territory to the Third District result in an increase in the total and voting age African-American populations by 3.3 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively, and both total and voting age populations are increased to over 55 percent each. The same adjustments result in slight

reductions from the total and voting age population figures in the Fourth District of 2 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively. However, both figures remain over 30 percent and retain significant influence for African Americans in the Fourth District.

Alternative Plans

In addition to Chapter 1, four plans were presented to the General Assembly during its Special Session on redistricting held during 2011. The first plan, House Bill 5004, was introduced by William R. Janis. This plan is identical to the plan contained in Chapter 1.

There were also three alternative plans presented during the Special Session on redistricting.

The first alternative plan, Senate Bill 5003 was introduced by Senator John C. Miller. The districts in Senate Bill 5003 were drawn by students at the College of William and Mary and this plan was one of the winning plans in the Virginia College and University Redistricting Competition. Table 5.1 includes the relevant information with regard to the anticipated impact of this plan. Briefly, in Senate Bill 5003, like Chapter 1, the Third District retained a majority African-American total population; however, the configuration of the districts is different. The total and voting age African-American populations in the majority minority district are 7.1 percent and 6.2 percent less, respectively, than in Chapter 1, and the total and voting age African-American populations are both below 55 percent. In the district with the second highest percentage of African-American population, the total and voting age African-American populations are 2.5 percent and 1.5 percent higher, respectively, than in Chapter 1.

The second alternative plan, Senate Bill 5004, was introduced by Senator Mamie E. Locke. Table 5.1 includes the relevant information with regard to the anticipated impact of this plan. Briefly, this plan, like Chapter 1, contained one majority African-American district, though this district shifted from the Third District to the Fourth. The Third District, under this plan, included the second highest percentage of African-American population. The configurations of the Third and Fourth Districts in this plan are essentially a reconfiguration of the current Third and Fourth Districts. The total and voting age African-American populations in the majority minority district are 6.0 percent and 5.2 percent less, respectively, than in Chapter 1, and the total and voting age African-American populations are both below 55 percent. In the district with the second highest percentage of African-American population, the total and voting age African-American populations are 12.2 percent and 10.3 percent higher, respectively, than in Chapter 1.

The third alternative plan consists of substitute bills for Senate Bill 5004 and House Bill 5004 adopted in the Senate, which were identical. Table 5.1 includes the relevant information with regard to the anticipated impact of this plan. Briefly, this plan, like Chapter 1, contained one majority African-American district, though this district shifted from the Third District to the Fourth. The Third District, under this plan, included the second highest percentage of African-American population. The configurations of

the Third and Fourth Districts in this plan are essentially a reconfiguration of the current Third and Fourth Districts. The total and voting age African-American populations in the majority minority district are 6.5 percent and 5.5 percent less, respectively, than in Chapter 1, and the total and voting age African-American populations are both below 55 percent. In the district with the second highest percentage of African-American population, the total and voting age African-American populations are 12.6 percent and 10.8 percent higher, respectively, than in Chapter 1.

Chapter 1 was introduced as House Bill 251 by Delegate Robert B. Bell during the 2012 Regular Session of the General Assembly after the General Assembly was unable to pass a plan during the 2011 Special Session on redistricting. An identical Senate bill, Senate Bill 455, introduced by Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel, was reported out of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee. Chapter 1 passed both houses primarily with Republican support. Six of the 13 Democratic African-American Delegates voted for Chapter 1, with the remaining seven voting against it. None of the five Democratic African-American Senators voted for Chapter 1.