

Proposed Resolution Regarding Independent Redistricting
May 27, 2020
Town of Manlius Town Board

Whereas under current law, Onondaga County politicians draw the boundaries for their own county legislature districts, a serious conflict of interest that harms voters; and

Whereas county legislature districts should be redrawn every 10 years based on national census data to account for population shifts; and

Whereas current law allows politicians to draw districts to serve their interests, not those of our communities, dividing places like Syracuse and DeWitt into multiple oddly shaped districts to protect incumbent legislators; and

Whereas the people of Onondaga County in many communities have no political voice because they have been split into different districts separating communities of interest; and

Whereas the people of Manlius, believe in fairness, accountability and transparency in political processes; and

Whereas Onondaga County Legislature districts should be drawn to represent voters from all party affiliations, income levels, backgrounds, identities, and all corners of the county; and

Whereas voters across the country – from Arizona to California to Colorado to Michigan – have been moving to reject partisan gerrymandering, adopting reforms to make the redistricting process open and impartial so it is controlled by people, not partisan politicians; and

Whereas the people of Manlius, find it necessary to create an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw the Onondaga County Legislature districts in an impartial and fully transparent manner, that will promote inclusion and representation of all; and

Whereas the people of Manlius, find it necessary to require the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to draw county legislature districts based on strict, nonpartisan rules designed to ensure fair representation, and guarantees redistricting will be carried out by a group of impartial, local people, in open public meetings, without favor to incumbents or parties, and for every aspect of this process to be open to scrutiny by the public and the press; and

Whereas the people of Manlius, find it necessary to create an independent Citizens Redistricting Commission because we believe Onondaga County voters should choose their representatives—representatives should not choose their voters.

Therefore Resolved: The Town of Manlius encourages the Onondaga County Legislature to pass an amendment to the County Charter to enact fair redistricting that is citizen-led, transparent, nondiscriminatory and politically neutral in 2023 and beyond. This will ensure all residents of Onondaga County have a voice in the redistricting process and cast meaningful votes for the candidate of their choice.

Ayes:

Nayes: