

| YOUR VIEWS |

The way council removed statue was wrong

To The Editor:

In my career, I have worked for the federal government, private nonprofit organizations, and as a banker. In all those positions, I had fiduciary responsibilities to the public. I was accountable to others for my actions, and the decision-making processes were transparent. One thing I learned was that you are often judged not by what you did, but how you did it.

The way the Town of Farmville went about removing the Confederate Heroes statue was wrong on so many levels. Closed meetings by elected officials are reserved for sensitive property or contract negotiations and personnel matters. An open, transparent process shows respect for the citizens and generally engenders more support for final decisions, even when there is disagreement. I believe the Town Council had no legal standing for going into executive session, and they were absolutely wrong in their decision not to video broadcast the meeting. Moreover, it is obvious that their decision to remove the statue was a "fait accompli" as evidenced by the fact that a crane and crew were standing by, and the statue was removed within 30 minutes of their vote. Strike One!

I believe the removal decision was also against the law. The City of Charlottesville had a few years back decided to remove a Confederate statue. That action was ruled to

be illegal by the District Court. This prompted the General Assembly to pass a new law this year allowing municipalities to remove statues that they own from municipal property. But, that law requires a 30-day public notification and did not take effect until July 1 of this year. The Town Council took action in June, and there was no 30-day notification. Strike Two!

Notwithstanding any of the arguments about the merits or morality of any statue, as municipal property it is the duty of law enforcement to protect the public and public property. The Farmville Police had already put a response plan in place in case any lawful public demonstrations turned violent or resulted in vandalism. The Farmville Police are more than capable of keeping the citizens and municipal property safe, but the Town Council decreased safety by usurping the police, acting hastily, and drawing even more attention to the statue. Through their hasty and ill-advised action, the Town Council has potentially made us all less safe by making our town a target for vandals and domestic terrorists. Strike Three! You're out!

Under the circumstances, I believe the Farmville Town Council owes its citizens a public apology, if not for what they did, at least for how they did it.

Paul Hoffman
Farmville

Virtual town hall planned July 14

The Northam administration ordered a subcontractor to remove a one-story-tall American flag from the new General Assembly building under construction this past weekend, as it could be a "target" during possible protests. The contractor complied, even though the odds of anyone reaching the flag, hanging high on the steel of the new General Assembly building, were low at best.

There was a time in Virginia when a governor would have defended the flag, rather than ask that it be removed to appease potential agitators. Gov. Ralph Northam, Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney, and others have done nothing but cower in fear since protests began in Virginia in May.

Rather than protect homes, businesses, and property, Democrats have carefully avoided criticizing rioters. Instead, Democrats have pivoted toward defunding the police.

Republicans will never hide our flag. We will always defend it.

A significant amount of the criminal justice reform proposed by Democrats amounts to letting criminals out of jail early, easing sentences, and generally falling back into the "soft on crime" stance. They also have floated proposals to "defelonize" attacks on law enforcement.

Police aren't perfect, but they're the only thing that separates us from chaos. Without police, the unarmed are at the mercy of those who are bigger, stronger, or better armed.

Republicans stand with law enforcement, and we will fight any attempt to defund their departments or defelonize attacks on them.

Virginia's truth in sentencing reforms worked. We have



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C. MATTHEW FARISS

a low crime rate and the lowest rate of recidivism. Criminals here know if they offend, they go to jail. Democrats would reverse all that and institute a "cash bail" reform that would let dangerous criminals walk away from jail, not unlike what recently happened in New York City.

The slow-motion disaster in Virginia's nursing homes continues, as two-thirds of confirmed deaths from COVID-19 have been residents of long-term care facilities. The governor's response to this from day one has been slow, inept, and bungled.

When it became clear that his administration had failed utterly, he changed the subject, and a compliant media followed him. Now, more than 1,000 nursing home residents are dead.

Gov. Northam's failure to lead continued last week with his team's inept handling of school reopening. After his administration put out an unrealistic 130-plus-page document detailing how schools should reopen, parents revolted at the awful plans that came about as a result.

Northam then punted responsibility to local school boards, saying that they, not his administration, were responsible for reopening plans. Not only is that rank cowardice, it's the latest flip-flop in a series of COVID-related decisions the governor has made.

Last week, my office hosted a virtual town hall for Campbell County schools along with State Sen. Frank Ruff, Del. Kathy Byron, Del. James Edmunds, Dr. Bobby Johnson and moderator Jack Dean. We covered many topics and a great deal was discussed and learned about the tentative school plan. The meeting in its entirety can be seen on my Facebook page and if you have any further questions, please email webmaster@campbell.k12.va.us.

I will be hosting two similar virtual meetings for Appomattox and Buckingham on July 14. You can also find information for both meetings on my Facebook page. I also urge you to contact your school board members to voice your concerns on the 2020-21 school year.

Virginia gun sales soared to historic levels in June, the second record spike in three months, in a tumultuous year marked by the long-term uncertainty of COVID-19, the economic turmoil it's brought, protests over racial injustices and activists' demands to defund the police.

The June figure is the highest monthly total on record for any month since state police began tracking the data in 1990. It represents an increase of 157% over the number of transactions conducted during the same month in 2019.

My office has received several calls and emails pertaining to any new legislation that may arise during the special session in August. Please know that I am a strong Second Amendment supporter and will not vote for any gun control measures set forth in the special session.

DEL. C. MATTHEW FARISS represents Buckingham in the Virginia House of Delegates. His email address is DelMFariss@house.virginia.gov.

Public meetings should actually include the public

It is time to put the public back into public meetings. The experiment of using conference calls, Facebook Live and whatever other concocted means local governments have cobbled together to narrowly satisfy the open meeting requirements during the pandemic has been a failure.

I spent four hours listening to last week's Farmville Town Council retreat. It was like listening to a cacophony of Charlie Brown's teacher. It was impossible to tell who was speaking and more difficult to understand what they were saying. It is obvious the council just plopped down a phone in the middle of the table and expected that to be enough to satisfy those attempting to hear the meeting. It was actually easier to hear discussions during the breaks than during the meeting.

Meetings with the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors have not been any better. People announcing their names as they enter the meeting in the middle of conversations combined with others not muting their phones, and providing some interesting running commentary on the proceedings, have been a problem. The last monthly meeting was interrupted by a screeching sound that lasted more than five minutes.

This is no way for local governments to interact with the public.

We are in this age when we have the technology to do this much better. Lots of municipalities have been broadcasting their meetings on local cable channels for years. Dozens of churches in the area made quick transition to having very nice services over Facebook Live. Local governments can start by doing simple things like identifying themselves when they are speaking and making sure the people sitting far away from the phone can be heard clearly.

Prince Edward County will have a critical discussion on the STEPS recycling program Tuesday night and hold eight public hearings. Many of the public hearings are for rezoning and



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special use permits. These are decisions that affect neighbors and neighborhoods. During the previous month's meeting the county came within a couple votes of permitting an asphalt plant in an area where citizens were speaking out against it. These are decisions that should not be discussed over terrible conference call connections. Citizens deserve the opportunity to look their supervisors in the eye and speak their piece.

This can be accomplished while maintaining social distancing and COVID-19 safety requirements. Everyone coming to a public meeting should wear a mask. They should be allowed into the meeting for the public hearing they are interested in, make their comments and then leave.

Lunenburg County never closed their public meetings. They have required everyone to be six feet apart, wear masks and encouraged citizens to send in comments before the meeting but have not closed the doors to the public. I thought that was a little crazy back in April. Now, I think this is exactly the way to make this work.

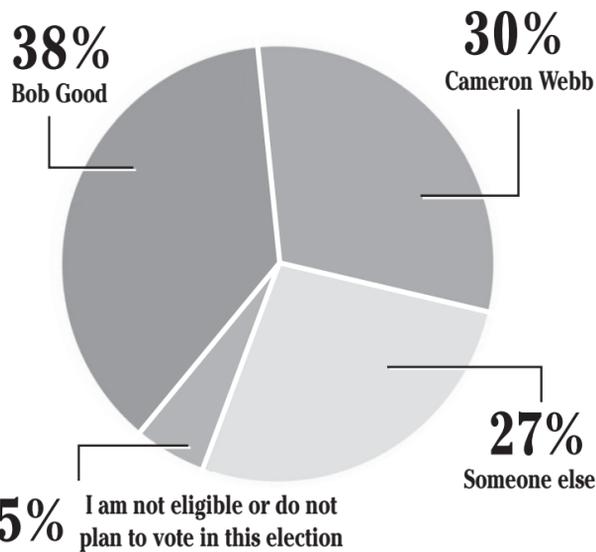
With the pandemic stretching on into the fall and potentially into 2021, some new ideas on putting the public back into public meetings are needed.

Public officials need to figure out how to allow face-to-face public participation again before we all suddenly wake up one day to find an asphalt plant in our neighborhood and wonder how it happened.

ROGER WATSON is editor of *The Farmville Herald*. His email address is Roger.Watson@FarmvilleHerald.com.

| YOUR PULSE |

THE QUESTION: In the 5th District Congressional race, I plan to vote for?



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| YOUR VIEWS |

Council doesn't want our opinion

To The Editor:

Choo, choo, choo! You have just been railroaded by your town council. Oops, it's obviously not your town council. It belongs to someone across High Street from the statue that does not pay taxes or live in the county. He resides in Richmond.

The governor says one solution to a statue's future location is a referendum by citizens of the town. That makes a lot of sense, because the statue was originally given to the town of Farmville and not the town council. It may be too late to get it on this November's ballot, but the town council can easily vote to delay the decision until after a future vote by the citizens next year.

And to make sure that just a few people show up at the August 19 meeting to speak against its removal, the council has eliminated the crowds by scheduling it in the small council chambers where there will be limited seats available because of COVID-19. They could easily move the meeting to the Fireman's Arena or even Jarmon Hall. The county moved the discussion on sanctuary cities to the high school auditorium where over 650 people attended.

Obviously, this council doesn't want our opinion. Someone called me to say that they had sent the town a Freedom of Information Request over two months ago and heard nothing. That is illegal and I gave them FOIA's number in Richmond to file a protest. FOIA will look into it, and the town will be fined. If the town

falsifies information or fails to deliver what was requested, they will be in deeper trouble. There is also a question of legality about the meeting where the vote was taken the night the soldier was removed. This council believes they are above the law. And, gosh, I guess it was just a coincidence that a crane was parked next to the statue while the vote to remove it was taking place.

It's laughable about councilmembers saying they have gotten calls to move the statue to Cumberland. One posting on social media can generate all those calls easily. I might add, I tried to send emails to the council members addresses listed on the town website so as not to bother them on the phone, and I had Chuckie Reid's and Dan Dwyer's returned to me marked "undeliverable."

Whatever the decision provided by a referendum; it should be the citizens of the town who have the right to make that decision. Heck perhaps a better referendum to have would be a recall election. I understand it only takes a petition of 25% of the people who voted in the last town election. That means only 139 signatures on a petition could get us a truly representative government.

Jim Wilck
Farmville

(Editor's note: Jim Wilck is a member of the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.)

Assault on town council is an assault on us all

To The Editor:

Mr. Jim Wilck's recent rantings against our elected representatives on Farmville Town Council are lacking in substance, clarity and validity.

The removed Confederate soldier statue was given to the Town of Farmville in 1903 by a local branch of the Daughters of the Confederacy. That town council in 1903 allowed its placement without a public referendum on the matter. Hence, the statue's removal without a referendum is legitimate. The statue belongs to the town, not to the county or outlying areas. Our council's intent was to safely remove and protect the statue and to avoid physical conflict. This was accomplished.

The town owns and maintains a Confederate cemetery. Any who wish to visit the cemetery to pay respect to the deceased or to gaze upon statuary may do so to their heart's content. Based on Mr. Wilck's fervency for the town statue, I imagine that he spends a great deal of time there. His assertion that a relocation of the Confederate statue would harmfully impact

local tourism is laughable. Saylor's Creek Battlefield and the 31 mile High Bridge Trail should certainly satisfy even the most ardent Civil War enthusiasts.

Other than that which Mr. Wilck is trying to foment, there has been no hue and cry to return the statue to its former location. I have lived at the same address in Farmville for 45 years as an adult and grew up at Dowdy's Corner. I feel that I have a finger on the pulse of this community.

Mr. Wilck does not. He is a relative newcomer to the local stage and has not invested his life to the betterment of this community. Now he attacks our earnest and well respected town council.

These accusations are ill informed, poorly conceived and insulting to the vast majority of us who have lived here, worked here and raised our families here.

This assault on our Farmville Town Council is, in essence, an assault on all of us.

Charles R. Green
Farmville

SVCC to reopen with options

Southside Virginia Community College will reopen its doors Monday, Aug. 24, with a full schedule of offerings and a range of attendance options that incorporate in-person, on-line, and hybrid classes. Short-term workforce programs that require hands-on learning will be offered in small groups. We have reconfigured classroom and laboratory spaces to meet social distancing requirements, and in accordance with guidelines, SVCC will require face coverings on campus.

Taking steps to minimize risks while preserving student momentum toward the attainment of education goals is of paramount importance. At this complicated time in our nation's history, educational offerings at community colleges have never been more important. This is especially true in places like southside Virginia, where historic gaps in opportunity produced enormous impacts on rural and minority communities.

One important means of improving earnings abilities among rural residents and members of racial and ethnic minorities is the attainment



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of credentials and certifications that are in high demand among local employers. The community college mission incorporates this kind of education, training, and upskilling to help people launch academic journeys, find careers, or get back to work.

At SVCC, we are proud of our efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. We bolster student success through mentoring programs, such as Make It Happen and WISE, and a robust student support system that incorporates tutoring, academic advising, career counseling, and financial assistance.

Diversity in the classroom also demands diversity in staffing. Our goal is to have

a college community that is reflective of the communities and students we serve. Keith Harkins, Ph.D., vice president of academic and workforce programs is providing oversight for a college-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee to develop a plan that will include recommendations, timelines, and measurable outcomes. Bethany Harris, human resources director, is actively involved with the Search Advocate initiative, which will help overcome implicit biases in the hiring process.

Many other local employers are also seeking to increase diversity. As a part of those processes, some who recognize the need to increase the education and training pipeline have partnered with the college to establish scholarship programs that will lead to better equity in their workforce demographics.

In these unprecedented times, however, addressing diversity issues and financial concerns is not enough. SVCC is also working to tackle inequities created by the existing digital divide. To bridge this gap, we and our community

Businesses get crumbs in county CARES funding

Local businesses seem to have gotten the short end of the stick from Prince Edward County officials when it comes to grant funding from the CARES Act.

So far, the county has allocated only \$100,000 to be used for small business grants and nonprofits. That's only 2.5% of the nearly \$4 million coming to the county through the CARES Act program.

The county has chosen to use the money to buy equipment for the Emergency Medical Services, highlighted by two new ambulances at a cost of \$480,000. Through two rounds of funding, EMS expenses make up 21% of all county CARES Act funding available and 40% of the \$2 million in allocations made so far. Law enforcement has made up another big chunk of the allocations, comprising 21% of the money allocated so far and 11% of the total money available.

Prince Edward County's businesses are being thrown table scraps from the county government compared to what other local governments in the state and around the country are doing to help their local businesses.

Every county received CARES money, so it's easy to look around and see the differences in decision-making around the country. It is hard to find any place providing less of a percentage in help to local businesses than Prince Edward.

Lunenburg County has set aside \$400,000, or 37% of its total allocation, for small business grants. Down near the shore, Hampton is using \$1.25 million (5.4%) of its \$23 million CARES allocation to aid small businesses. In addition, the town has set aside \$2.5 million to assist individuals with housing and day care. Newport News is using \$9 million, or 29%, of its \$31.3 million CARES allocation for what they call "community well-being and resiliency." The program includes small business grants, a program for assisting individuals, homeless population care, community telemedicine, workforce training, support for nonprofits and internet access programs.

Other counties are using almost all their CARES money to get the local economies running again. Madison County, Illinois, received \$1,755,949 in CARES funding. The county is giving \$1.5 million in small business grants and \$250,000 to public

partners are making alternatives available for students who do not have adequate high-speed internet at home.

At various locations across the college's 4,200-square-mile service area, SVCC's campuses and off-campus sites will grant students access to computer labs and high-speed internet connections, while still complying with appropriate distancing guidelines.

At SVCC, we care about our

service agencies. That's 100% of the CARES funding going right back into the community.

Anne Arundel County in Maryland has spent \$18 million of its \$101 million (18%) in CARES funding on grants and contributions to businesses, individuals needing help and nonprofit organizations. Middlesex County in New Jersey is giving \$30 million in small business grants of as much as \$30,000. That's more than 20% of the \$144 million the county was provided in CARES Act funding.

So why is Prince Edward valuing small businesses at such a low level? It could be that the small business advocates in town are at their least influential in years. The Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce has a new interim executive director and the Farmville Downtown Partnership does not have a program manager.

Someone needs to be in front of this board pounding the table demanding that the local businesses who pay the taxes get a fair shake. A pool of \$100,000 just isn't going to get it done for small businesses that have already lost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The county has allocated only around \$2 million of the nearly \$4 million it has available. County personnel need to look around and see what other counties are doing to help small businesses and make some changes. They have obviously asked EMS and law enforcement officials what they need. It is time to bring the local business community to the table and ask them what they need as well.

The county has been given a chance to give the local economy a boost by using this money to get businesses back on their feet. It is an investment that will pay for itself many times over in the coming years.

ROGER WATSON is editor of *The Farmville Herald*. His email address is Roger.Watson@FarmvilleHerald.com.



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ROGER WATSON

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Johns should be honored with statue in Capitol

Barbara Johns' story of courage and determination that began Monday, April 23, 1951, when the 16-year-old led a walkout of 450 students at Moton High School should continue to be told and immortalized with a statue in the U.S. Capitol.

Johns should be chosen by the Commission for Historical Statues in the U.S. Capitol to join George Washington as Virginia's two choices for Statuary Hall. Washington founded a nation, Johns helped bring equality to its people.

Through the great history of Virginia, there have been many citizens who may be worthy of a statue in the U.S. Capitol. George C. Marshall, Booker T. Washington and Oliver Hill have also been mentioned as potential choices, but arguably no one has had as large an impact on the American education system as Barbara Johns. Her action also helped spark the civil rights movement

coming, four years before the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott and nine years before the lunch counter sit-ins in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The match she struck that day when the then-16-year-old school girl led her fellow students to walk out of their overcrowded, underfunded high school ignited a nation. As a result of her courage, a Supreme Court case ended school segregation and guaranteed equal public education for all. It was the beginning of a movement that would eventually bring about the Civil Rights Act and help end Jim Crow laws.

And yet, years later, there are many more miles to be traveled on this road to equality for Black Americans. The statues in Statuary Hall itself lend testament to just how far we have to go to recognize Black lives that have made significant contributions to our society. There are only two African Americans represent-



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ed in statues designated by states. The first one did not arrive until 1818 when Florida chose educator and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune to be one of its two statues in the hall. Arkansas added civil rights activist and journalist Daisy Bates in 1919. Statues of Rosa Parks and Frederick Douglass, along with busts of Martin Luther King Jr. and Sojourner Truth, were added to the hall by Congress.

A 16-year-old school girl who

stood up and said, "Enough," to the educational inequality she saw all around her is not only the story of Johns, Farmville and Virginia, it is the story we are living in America today as people across the nation stand up and say enough to police brutality, enough to filling our prisons with Black men, enough to discrimination against African Americans in housing, employment and health care. Enough.

Johns' statue in Statuary Hall will tell a story of a girl who was not satisfied with her assigned station in life, was not content to go along as thousands had before — thinking nothing could be done about the situation. It will be a story as old as America itself of someone who had dreams of a better life and put everything on the line to make that dream a reality.

The selection of Johns would shout, "Yes, we can" to those who continue the struggle for

equality today. It would provide a shining example of how someone of little resources and no social standing can overcome and change a society for the better. It would bring hope to those who watch another police shooting of an unarmed Black citizen and fear change will never come. It will empower the young people of today who will look and see what Johns did as a teen to make a change for the betterment of the country.

There is no better example for a Virginia looking to shed the burdens of its past and move forward to a fresh, hopeful tomorrow than the story of Barbara Johns. Her statue and her story should proudly be included as a representative of Virginia, and all that it stands for, in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall.

ROGER WATSON is editor of *The Farmville Herald*. His email address is Roger.Watson@FarmvilleHerald.com.

| YOUR VIEWS |

Thanks for Early article

To The Editor:

Thank you, Alexa Massey, for the article, "Coming to terms with the past." I'm grateful for the perspective of a Confederate general's ancestor. I find that looking more deeply into commonly held opinions often leads to new understanding and decisions.

We surely will be stronger when we stand united in our United States of America.

**Kenda Hanuman
Buckingham**

Democrats' agenda weakens law enforcement efforts

The House of Delegates adjourned last Friday and is subject to the call of the speaker with 48 hours notice.

As of this writing, that means the earliest we could be recalled would be Wednesday, no doubt to another virtual session. We still have no idea why the special session is moving so slowly and how long it may last.

Democrats continue to show they have no idea how to run the House. Legislation is being presented to delegates after votes are taken. Amendments are unwritten before votes, and members are having trouble seeing legislation, let alone members of the public.

It is the Democrats goal to defund the police. They have pushed through legislation in the Senate that will make it less of a crime to assault police officers and first responders, and there are budget amendments pending that would make major cuts to police budgets.

Democrats like Lee Carter are proud of this. Last week he said that police were the major enforcers of "class roles," something straight out of the Marxist handbook. They want resource officers out of our schools and one delegate has a budget amendment to zero out school resource officer grant funding. Make no mistake in knowing that I fully support the SRO funding and the work School Resource Officers do to protect our school's students and staff.

Democrats went out of their way to tell us that they were not going to defund the police. Let's be clear, Republicans want to improve policing, and we stand with our public safety professionals. We stand with the people

who put their lives on the line every day, keeping us safe.

The Democrats in the House Public Safety Committee, on which I serve, passed legislation banning police from using tear gas and rubber bullets that departments around the state and country have deployed in response to recent widespread civil unrest. One police officer testified that

without these tools to apprehend criminals on a daily basis there would undoubtedly be more police shootings instead of less.

The House advanced legislation Friday that would require cities and counties across the state to establish civilian review boards with the authority

to investigate citizen complaints and take disciplinary action against police officers. The bill sets a deadline of July 1, 2021, for localities to set up the review boards, which have become one of the leading police reforms pushed by protesters across the country. They set no criteria for experience or training for those that would serve on these review boards. In fact, our sheriffs already have citizen's review boards — they are called elections.

We are very fortunate to have the men and women in our area that serve on the various police forces. I do not support anything that would make their jobs harder or more dangerous. All of this legislation that the Democrats are pushing during the special session would make it more difficult to retain and recruit people to serve in law enforcement — something that is already a challenge in rural Virginia.

DEL. TOMMY WRIGHT can be reached via email at DeltWright@house.virginia.gov or (804) 698-1061.



| YOUR TURN |
TOMMY WRIGHT

Redistricting amendment is fair

For three quarters of the last century, Virginia was effectively a one-party state. That political party could enact anything they wanted. Because they controlled the redistricting

process, they could draw district lines to prevent the minority party from gaining much traction at all. Likewise, they were able to draw districts that made it almost impossible for minorities to win seats in the Virginia General Assembly.

In fact, in the Richmond area, multi-member districts were created to dilute the minority vote in the City of Richmond. This was done by lumping mostly white Henrico County with Richmond into one large district. It was so bad that the courts opined that those multi-districts had to be redrawn as single member districts. That decision by the Supreme Court forced a second redistricting and election the next year that saw an increase in minority districts as well as Republican districts.

During the 90s, there was an upswing of Republican victories culminating with the Republican Party having the numbers needed to control the redistricting process. As expected, the Republicans drew districts to their advantage after the 2000 census. Likewise, the Republicans in the House did the same in 2011, and the Democrats in the Senate, who had regained a majority, drew lines to suit themselves. Hence the 15th District was redrawn, in which I lost over half of my old constituents, and gained more from other districts.

Neither party had pure hands, but the re-districting process, despite its long history, became an albatross around our necks. A majority of both parties in both bodies concluded that there has to be a better way. We began the process needed to change the state constitution to have bipartisan redistricting. Changing the constitution requires that the General Assembly agree to proposed changes during two legislative sessions. If that occurs, it goes to you, the voters, to approve any changes.

While it passed last year and this, a majority of Democrats in the House suddenly decided that, while they loved it last year when Republicans held power, they now think the constitutional amendment should be defeated so they can re-draw the districts. Arguing that they would be

fair. They would have you forget their history of preventing minorities from being represented.

That is almost laughably silly. One of their reasons for now trying to convince you to defeat the amend-

ment is that it does not guarantee Black representation on the bipartisan redistricting panel. That might be a reasonable argument if the Senate Chairman of Rules that will oversee the Senate Democrat appointments wasn't a minority, and if the House Majority Leader who is

also a minority would not guarantee minority representation.

LOOK AT THEIR LAST FAIRNESS

The 15th Senate District is a perfect example of what should not happen. The Democrats wanted to help Louise Lucas and then Henry Marsh in the east, so they pushed out as many Republicans as possible from Prince George, Dinwiddie, and Brunswick. In an effort to save Roscoe Reynolds in the west, they found as many Democrat precincts as possible in Danville, Pittsylvania, and Halifax and added them to that district. Leaving the 15th District to stretch from the James River south of Hopewell to the Franklin County line in the west. It is a great district with great constituents, however, I'm not sure that those in Prince George feel a relationship with those in Pittsylvania. Likewise, I know those in Appomattox and Prince Edward share more kinship with Charlotte and Lunenburg than they do with Goochland and the City of Lynchburg.

I encourage everyone to make sure that when you vote, you look for the proposed constitutional amendment change. It was fairly written with input from members of both the House and Senate as well as members of both parties. It is time that districts are drawn as fairly as possible with consideration of communities of interest rather than how it suits one party or the other. How you vote is your decision, I only suggest you consider what is fair and reasonable.

THE SPECIAL SESSION

The special session appears to look as if it will continue for several more weeks. I will try to keep you posted, but be assured most patriots will be appalled with the results.

FRANK RUFF JR. serves as the 15th District senator in Virginia. He can be reached at Sen.Ruff@verizon.net, (434) 374-5129 or P.O. Box 332, Clarksville, VA 23927.



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