



SPONSOR: Sen. Katz  
Sens. Peterson, Simpson, Sorenson

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
146th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 9

URGING AN OPEN AND TRANSPARENT REDISTRICTING PROCESS WITH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

1 WHEREAS, the citizens of Delaware should be entitled to comment on the redrawing of Legislative district lines  
2 as the process unfolds; and

3 WHEREAS, the migration of more people to the south compared to older residential patterns in this State may  
4 require the shifting of more than a few Census Tracts from within their current Representative and Senatorial districts lines  
5 to others; and

6 WHEREAS, not only Legislators, but their constituents, also have strong feelings about the geographic  
7 cohesiveness and the partisan balance of districts; and

8 WHEREAS, citizens should be able to recommend redistricting plans for the House and Senate they feel will  
9 represent the public interest;

10 NOW, THEREFORE:

11 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 146<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that:

12 (1) The 2010 Redistricting process for the Delaware Senate should be open and transparent;

13 (2) All drawing of lines or grouping of Census Tracts to produce new Senate Districts should be discussed and  
14 explained in a public forum with appropriate public notice;

15 (3) The Legislative Council should provide purchase information on the computer program and Census data used  
16 by the General Assembly;

17 (4) Opportunities should be provided for proponents of plans to present them in public to the Senate and/or the  
18 committees or persons charged with the task of Redistricting the Senate; and

19 (5) The final plan or plans to be voted on by the Senate should be a product of this public process.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the 146<sup>th</sup> General Assembly believes the public can fairly weigh  
21 all information that should go into considering how Census Tracts should be grouped and while they may be likely to favor  
22 people from their area, they will also be motivated to preserve fundamental fairness for all future candidates.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the objective of redistricting, as established by the United States and  
24 Delaware Constitutions, is to make election districts fair, and this should be the goal that drives the process--numerical  
25 equality in persons represented per district, along with equality of opportunity for anyone to be elected in districts balanced  
26 by party, race and ethnicity.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Resolution declares the intent of the Senate to have the redistricting process open and transparent. Specifically, this Resolution calls for open meetings and opportunities for the public to be heard in the redistricting process.

Author: Senator Katz