

TOWNSHIP OF SILVER SPRING

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-7

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER SPRING,
COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, PENNSYLVANIA,
REQUESTING LEGISLATIVE ACTION BY THE
PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PROMOTE
PRIOR PUBLIC INPUT AND TRANSPARENCY IN
DELIBERATIONS AND DECISION-MAKING WITH
RESPECT TO CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT
AND LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

WHEREAS, following each federal decennial census, a Legislative Reapportionment Commission is required to undertake consideration and approval of a plan to delineate state legislative districts governing representation in the Pennsylvania General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, following each federal decennial census, the Pennsylvania General Assembly is required to undertake consideration and approval of a plan to reapportion and delineate federal congressional districts within the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, historically, neither the Legislative Reapportionment Commission nor the General Assembly have provided sufficient means for public input and scrutiny prior to the creation and adoption of state legislative and congressional redistricting and reapportionment plans (both plans herein referenced as "Redistricting Plans"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Silver Spring Township ("Board"), has determined that a transparent process for public notice and input prior to the creation and adoption of Redistricting Plans is invaluable and in furtherance of the public interest and common welfare of the citizens of this Township and the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the need for reform of this process has been further underscored by the most recent state Supreme Court decision that has rejected as unconstitutional the 2011 Legislative Reapportionment Commission's legislative redistricting plan; and

WHEREAS, the state's highest court has rejected the Legislative Reapportionment Commission's plan, in part, because it conflicts with constitutional provisions requiring that no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming state legislative districts "unless absolutely necessary;" and

WHEREAS, statewide, using the Polsby Popper Compactness measurement, where a circle is 100% compact, the compactness of Redistricting Plans averages only

23.4% in the case of state Senate districts, only 26% in the case of state House districts and only 16.3% in the case of Congressional districts; and

WHEREAS, within the boundaries of Cumberland County, two municipalities, Upper Allen Township and the Borough of Mechanicsburg would be, under the devised plans, unnecessarily split between two congressional districts and two municipalities, Southampton and Silver Spring Township, would be represented in the state House of Representatives by two different legislators; and

WHEREAS, this Board strongly believes that the current constitutional crisis that has now been created -- a crisis that now threatens this year's electoral process in Pennsylvania and poses the risk of disenfranchising certain segments of our citizenry -- could have been averted had there been a more transparent, timely and thorough and deliberative process that actively sought out public input and involvement throughout; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined to adopt this Resolution calling for legislative consideration of appropriate procedures to ensure full and meaningful opportunities for public input, after proper notice, prior to the consideration and delineation of Redistricting Plans, which procedure should comport with fundamental principles of transparency and fairness; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined to present this Resolution to the General Assembly for its due and proper consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Silver Spring Township as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.
2. By adoption of this Resolution, this Board determines that appropriate procedures to ensure full and meaningful opportunities for public input, after proper notice, prior to the consideration and lineation of Redistricting Plans comport with fundamental principles of transparency and fairness and requests the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to promptly enact such measures as are deemed necessary and proper to implement such procedures in furtherance thereof.
3. The Township Secretary is hereby directed to provide a copy of this Resolution to the sitting members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly who represent citizens of Silver Spring Township and the respective leaders of the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

DULY ADOPTED this 11th day of April, 2012, by the Silver Spring
Township Board of Supervisors.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP OF SILVER SPRING



Township Secretary

By 

Chairman