COUNTY OF NEWBERRY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
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KIRKSEY KOON, VICE-CHAIRMAN
JOHN E. CALDWELL
EDGAR BAKER
WILLIAM D. WALDROP
LESLIE (LES) HIPP
STEVEN C. STOCKMAN

WAYNE ADAMS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
A.J. TOTHACER, JR.
COUNTY ATTORNEY
LAURIE N. RENWICK
CLERK TO COUNCIL

April 6, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The time for drawing new elective representation boundaries based on the 2010 Federal Decennial Census is near, and we the undersigned members of Newberry County Council find it necessary to stress the importance of maintaining SC House District 40 intact through the redistricting process.

SC House District 40 represents the vast majority of Newberry County's citizens – some are in House District 15 – and has provided for their focused representation in the South Carolina General Assembly. While the District is demographically and culturally diverse, its communities comprise a largely rural area whose fate is closely related to the I-26 corridor and suburbanization surrounding its borders.

There are doubtless many changes ahead for South Carolina over the coming decade. For its part, Newberry County desires a central point of legislative contact and a consistent voice in navigating these changes. The County's relatively compact nature and population recommend this course as do its widely shared values in such areas as economic growth, service expectations, taxation, and resource division.

As your committee moves forward in the very consequential process of redistricting, we ask that you strongly consider our request, as Council Members elected to serve the citizens of Newberry County, that our voice in the General Assembly be preserved. As currently drawn, SC House District 40 fulfills that need.

Should you have questions concerning this communication, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman

Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman

Edgar Baker, Councilman

John E. Caldwell, Councilman

Leslie (Les) Hipp, Councilman

Steven C. Stockman, Councilman

William D. Waldrop, Councilman

116 East Main Street
P.O. Box 590
Rock Hill, SC 29731
(803) 324-7500
Fax (803) 324-1889
www.yorkcountychamber.com

April 6, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: **The Honorable Alan D. Clemmons**
Chairman – House Election Laws Subcommittee

From: **Marvin Smith**
Chairman – York County Regional Chamber

Re: Public Hearing on Redistricting

Please see the attached resolution officially indicating (for the record) this organization's support for increasing York County based representation in the South Carolina legislature, as a result of the 2011 redistricting process.

Thank you very much.

Area Councils

Fort Mill
210 Tom Hall St.
P.O. Box 1357
Fort Mill, SC 29716
(803) 547-5900
Fax (803) 547-5922

Rock Hill
116 East Main Street
P.O. Box 590
Rock Hill, SC 29731
(803) 324-7500
Fax (803) 324-1889

Tega Cay
2222 Gold Hill Rd.
Fort Mill, SC 29708
(803) 54 8-2444
Fax (803) 548-2940

RESOLUTION
of
SUPPORT FOR INCREASING YORK COUNTY BASED REPRESENTATION IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE AS A RESULT OF THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS

WHEREAS, York County is a vital part of the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, York County is home to over 226,000 South Carolina citizens, which is nearly five percent of the state's total population; and

WHEREAS, York County is the state's second fastest growing county (37.3% in ten years) and has the state's seventh largest population; and

WHEREAS, State Senate and House of Representatives district lines are redrawn after and as a result of each census; and

WHEREAS, York County is currently served by leaders in both chambers of the State Legislature who ably represent the interests of the county together with the disparate interests of other counties; and,

WHEREAS, only five of eleven members of the York County Delegation now reside in this county; and

WHEREAS, the county's business community (including resident employees and employers) also desire more direct representation in the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, increased overall county-based representation that is respectful of geographic, economic and local representation needs are in the interest of all of York County.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the York County Regional Chamber of Commerce supports a redistricting process that fairly and equitably apportions York County-based representation in the South Carolina Legislature.

Done and ratified this 18th day of January, 2011.

M. C. Smith

Marvin Smith
York County Regional Chamber Chairman

Opinion

Editorial Board:
Michael Harrison
Gloria Davey
Sue Gulasky

FORT MILL TIMES
WWW.FORTMILLTIMES.COM

"Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote."
William E. Simon

Follow the debate online
Check out www.fortmilltimes.com/opinion

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Indian Land Reporter

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Fort Mill Times Editorial

iss your chance to vote

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S.C. Senate
The winner
Mick Mulva-
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and send them e-mails to facilitate a response.

Far too often, voters fail to show up at the polls, then later complain about how they are being represented. voting is the core of democracy. Don't pass up a chance to participate in it.

Let common sense rule redistricting

Speaking of elections, a public hearing was held last week to get residents' input on how state officials should redraw legislative districts. The effort follows the census conducted every 10 years.

Weeks ahead of the hearing, a coalition of local civic leaders and elected officials organized an effort to unite Fort Mill and Tega Cay in the same districts. That makes sense.

Among other things, the coalition argues that Fort Mill and Tega Cay are both a part of Fort Mill Township, which includes all areas in York County north of the Catawba River and that those communities share the Fort Mill School District. As the fast-growing area of the state, the township should have a unified voice and vote in Columbia.

We agree.

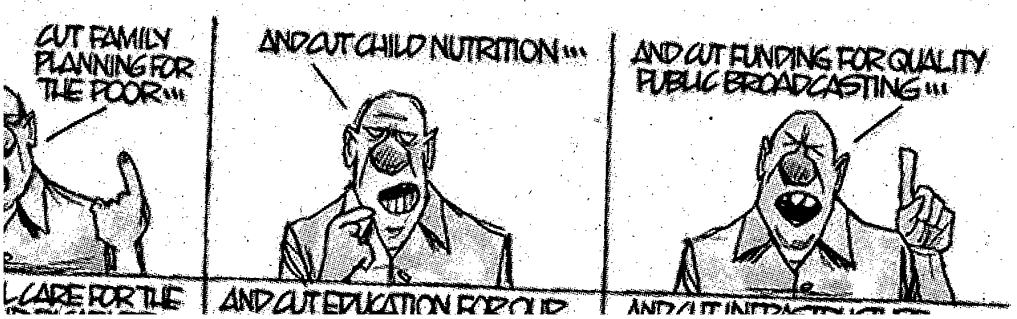
They also note that the Catawba River is a natural boundary and a critical resource. A fact sheet the group put together notes that "the 22-mile stretch between the Lake Wylie dam and Landsford Canal is the only remaining natural flowing section of the Catawba that is not under a lake. Each side of the river-lake has their own unique problems and characteristics that we all deal with. Since we live between the river and Charlotte, we are much better prepared to govern and protect the north and east sides in York and Lancaster counties."

Well put. They also could have pointed out that the way the district lines currently fall, there are polling places in different districts that are within a short walking distance of each other. That should change.

It's anyone's guess how the redistricting will play out, but we hope officials are taking the coalition's concerns seriously. If you agree, contact Sen. Glenn McConnell, chairman of the S.C. Senate's redistricting subcommittee, and the president pro tem of the Senate, and let him know how you feel.

Call McConnell at 803-212-6610 or contact him through is website at www.scstatehouse.gov/members/bios/1213636218.html.

OUR PERSPECTIVES



God, help *me*?

A lot of people are praying for me.

Not because I'm ill. Not even because of any immediate personal or family conce

Town of Little Mountain
Post Office Box 154
Little Mountain, SC 29075

April 6, 2011

Honorable James H. Harrison
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
South Carolina House of Representatives
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: 2011 Redistricting of
SC House District #40

Dear Chairman Harrison:

For the citizens of Newberry County and the Town of Little Mountain, this 2011 redistricting is of utmost importance. On behalf of the town government of Little Mountain, we strongly request that House District 40 be retained intact.

The 2010 US Census shows Newberry County has a population 37,508 which is very close to the ideal house district target population of 37,301. Currently this house district represents some 85% of Newberry County citizens. The other 15% is represented by the Clinton district.

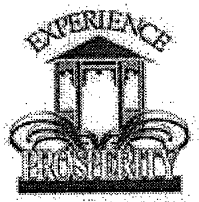
Newberry County and its municipal governments have progressed strongly over the past two decades in economic and community development. Newberry County citizens have approved by referendum, three sales tax bonds for capital projects since 1998. These capital projects are providing educational, water and sewer expansion, recreational and services necessary to sustain future growth. Newberry County has one school district, one countryside water & sewer authority, one recreational commission and one governmental association.

Since Newberry County meets the house district target population, has a strong commonality of purpose and is a proven community of interest, it is in the best interest of Newberry County and the Town of Little Mountain to retain House District 40 intact and to have a state representative who shares this vision.

Thank you and the House Judiciary Committee for your consideration of our strong recommendation.

Sincerely,

O. L. Johnson, Jr.
Mayor



TOWN OF PROSPERITY
POST OFFICE BOX 36
116 McNEARY STREET
PROSPERITY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29127
(803) 364-2022

April 4, 2011

Rep. James H. Harrison
Chairman
SC House Judiciary Committee

Dear Rep. Harrison,

I am writing to express my interest and concerns regarding the 2011 redistricting that is taking place statewide. Currently, 85% of Newberry County's residents are represented in House District 40. The 2010 census places the population of Newberry County at 37,508, slightly above the ideal House District population target of 37, 301. Because District 40 covers only 85% of Newberry County's residents, House District 40 shows 2,402 residents short of meeting the ideal House District target of 37,301.

Newberry County is comprised of one school district, one central water and sewer provider, county wide recreation availability, and one county governmental association. It is in the best interest of all the citizens of Newberry County, including the Town of Prosperity and the other municipalities, to have one resident representative who will share our goals, our vision, our identity and our future.

Since Newberry County has met the ideal House District population target of 37,301, it is paramount that Newberry County maintains its community of interests and commonality of interests by having one resident representative.

Very Respectfully,

Derek M. Underwood
Mayor
Town of Prosperity
Newberry County

First, let me say that this comment is not a complaint about the quality of the representation residents of York County have received from our legislators. I believe the representation has, on balance, been quite good.

What this comment does attempt to do is to look objectively at the process of determining what level of "Resident Representation" York County and its residents are to have for the next decade.

As you know, York County's legislative delegation is composed of the State Senators and State Representatives who, collectively, represent portions of York County. Currently, and for the greater part of the last decade, our delegation has been composed of one (1) Senator resident in York County, three (3) non-resident Senators, four (4) resident Representatives, and three (3) non-resident Representatives. The total: five (5) resident legislators and six (6) non-resident legislators. Only 45% of our overall State legislative representation comes from within York County. Needless to say, our Non-Resident Senators and Representatives, if push comes to shove, are primarily beholden to and concerned about the issues most relevant to the residents of Chester, Lancaster, and Cherokee Counties.

York County is the 7th largest and the 2nd fastest growing County in South Carolina, according to the 2010 Census. York County grew over 37% in the last decade, exceeded only by Dorchester County, and nearly matched by Horry County. In York County the growth over the last decade alone justifies one and two-thirds (1 and 2/3) additional House seats at the rate of 37,300 population per seat indicated by the 2010 Census. Greenville, Richland, and Horry are the only others with comparable absolute population growth, and Greenville and Richland already control as many seats as their new population justifies. This leaves Horry one short, and York two short on House seats out of the largest 7 counties.

In the SC House, the four (4) resident House seats are the only ones controlled by the residents of York County and represent only 57% of the House portion of our legislative delegation. All of the largest 6 counties control at least 79% of the House portion of their legislative delegations with an average level of control of 83%. Again, that compares directly to 57% in York County. York County is the only one of the largest 7 counties in SC that does not control as many house seats as were justified by its population as of the 2000 U.S. Census. York's population justified over 5 House members, but we've gone the last decade with only 4. All of the other 6 of the largest 7 have controlled at least as many House seats as their populations justified over the last decade. For example, Greenville controlled 12 and justified 12. Richland controlled 10 and justified 10. Charleston controlled 11 but justified only 10. Spartanburg controlled 8 and justified 8. Horry controlled 6 and justified 6. Lexington controlled 8 but justified only 7. York controlled 4 while justifying 5.

As I said, there are only two (2) counties out of the largest 7 which grew enough since the 2000 Census to justify additional House seats, Horry County and York County. Horry now justifies over 7, but has only 6. York now justifies over 6, but has only 4. York is now the only county which, if it stays as it is today, will be two (2) resident House seats short of what it should have.

While it's not practical with readily available information to closely estimate the percentage of the residents of York County that are currently, based on the 2000 Census, represented by House districts controlled by the residents of York County. Suffice to say, it is less 79%. In all of the other 6 larger counties, the comparable number is likely above 95%. If York County doesn't get a fifth and sixth resident House District in the current redistricting process, York will immediately fall to less than 65% of residents being represented by House districts controlled from within the county. And if growth picks up again over the coming decade, that number will continue to fall, likely to the point that less than half of York County residents will have little or no say in their House representation by the end of this decade. This is somewhat analogous to having one of our two U.S. Senators for South Carolina living in and primarily representing Kentucky. The legislature should be embarrassed and ashamed to admit they can't (or won't) do a better and truly representative job of setting legislative districts.

Representative Delleney was kind enough to come to a recent meeting in Rock Hill where he described the redistricting process. He indicated that the primary "redistricting principles" were to consider "communities of interest"; compactness and contiguity; county lines; and applicable laws and standards. Let's consider each of those as it applies to York County and our future representation:

- There are few "communities of interest" at any level as clearly appropriate and important as the county level. It's the county that assesses, levies and collects most of our taxes, provides a major portion of our public services, controls much of our planning and zoning, provides a major part of our law enforcement service, funds much of our fire protection, and, in general, deals with our growth and well-being. What more important "community of interest" is there as relates to our representation at the State level?

- With regard to compactness and contiguity, the county is politically, economically, geographically and socially the most compact and contiguous unit.

- County lines are well defined and, in great part, are the dividing lines between the residents of the county and other counties not just geographically, but also as it relates to dealing with their everyday needs and concerns.

- Applicable laws and regulatory standards are what they are, and need to be taken into account.

- A fifth formal area of consideration which is clear to many, certainly including all of you, is "continuation of similar representation". That translates to the status quo being favored by legislators because it protects their incumbency, even if it means poor representation for the people. This is truly the fox minding the henhouse. To me, this consideration represents a glowing endorsement for the institution of an independent, non-partisan commission appointed by the Governor to study and recommend the structure of our districts including Senate, House, and Congressional. Such an approach would remove or at least have the potential to reduce the substantial and unjustified leverage that incumbency has today.

The characteristics not considered in this list are fairness and equitability. These say that persons should be represented by elected officials who live, work, and share primary interests and concerns with those who are represented.

Representatives and Senators come and go (some would say not often enough), but the county endures. The priority in considering how districts should be formed should be to insure the most appropriate and responsive representation of the people. This means that, wherever possible, the representation should come from and be resident within the most meaningful common denominator and community of interest which is clearly the county. What this means, in turn, is that, if combinations are needed, smaller counties should be combined in contiguous common districts representing the likely common communities of interest which exist in more sparsely populated and slower growing areas. Population location will dictate some overlap across the county lines of sparsely and densely populated counties, but this should be kept to a minimum in order to focus on commonality of district characteristics. Unnecessarily mixing the representation between sparsely populated, slower growing areas, and heavily populated, faster growing areas does a major disservice to both, since one or the other or both will be less well represented based on the residence of the representative.

We should put aside the almost total focus on preserving the status quo and the incumbency of the current representatives, and get back to representing the people rather than representing the representatives.

DON LONG
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