



Goals and Purposes of the Commission: The goals and purposes of the Commission are to ensure that the election districts within Harford County, Maryland are established in compliance with applicable and governing State and local laws and statutes, demographically balanced based upon the most current census and population data, created with logical boundaries and not drawn, or gerrymandered, to favor, or disfavor any political party, candidate or group of constituents. The Commission believes that no resident of Harford County should be disenfranchised, or unfairly burdened, by the artificial, illogical or improper manipulation of election districts. A secondary, but not insignificant, goal of the Commission is to work with the Board of Elections to identify and eliminate “ghost precincts” which are areas in which no registered voters exist, or could exist.

Key Components and Guiding Principles:

- a) The Goals and Purpose of the Commission (hereinafter “Goals and Purposes”) should be used as the ‘North Star’ when making any decision or deciding between two positions.
- b) Due to the truncated time period resulting from the delay in finalizing and normalizing the census data (resulting from the disruption caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic) the County Council may be asked to reduce the amount of time they have for review and consideration of the recommendations of this Commission with the goal of affording the Board of Elections more time to undertake its implementation work.
- c) When possible, and in keeping with the Goals and Purposes articulated above, existing election districts, and the voting precincts located therein, should be preserved to: minimize consumption of the time and resources of the Harford County Board of Elections, preserve familiarity residency compliance among voters and candidates and foster continuity in the voting process.
- d) The entire process should be open, transparent and conducted in a bi-partisan manner. Debate, no matter how spirited, should be respectful, productive and undertaken with the sole purpose to educate and/or persuade the Commissioners, not insult or abuse any participant.
- e) Leaders of the main political parties, community groups and citizens will be afforded the opportunity to provide their input and suggestions via public comments and through the submission of written reports and position papers.