EXHIBIT IX

Executive Order 01.01.2015.21

The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2015.21

Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission

WHEREAS, The integrity of elections is essential to the success of our democracy;

WHEREAS, Fairness in process and good governance are what the citizens of Maryland expect and deserve;

WHEREAS, The process of redistricting should be fully transparent and subject to input and scrutiny from the public;

WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of Marylanders favor an independent, non-partisan commission for redistricting over the existing process for drawing district lines;

WHEREAS, It could be considered a conflict of interest for politicians to redraw the districts in which they run for re-election;

WHEREAS, National publications have listed Maryland as having some of the most "gerrymandered" congressional districts in the United States;

WHEREAS, Maryland's redistricting can negatively impact the creation of majority-minority districts causing underrepresentation of racial minorities;

WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to keep communities, counties, and municipalities within a single election district to help ensure all Marylanders have effective representation;

WHEREAS, Independent commissions in other states have greatly reduced politics and partisanship in redistricting and have established more election districts based on population, compactness, and natural boundaries;

WHEREAS, Maryland should lead on this issue and should not wait for the federal government or other states to act on the issue of redistricting reform; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission would benefit the State by gathering citizens, experts, and interested parties to conduct a comprehensive examination of Maryland's redistricting process and make recommendations on ways to reform our system.

NOW THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. There is a Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission (Commission).

B. Membership. The Commission consists of the following voting members:

(1) Two members of the Maryland Senate, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(2) Two members of the Maryland House of Delegates, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Delegates;

(3) Two representatives from policy research organizations;

(4) One representative from a non-profit voter advocacy organization;

(5) One representative from a government reform advocacy organization; and

(6) Up to five additional members appointed by the Governor.

C. The members identified in Sections B(3) through B(6). shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

D. The Governor shall designate the Chair or Co-Chairs from among the members.

E. In the event of a vacancy, the Governor shall appoint a successor to fill the remainder of the term.

F. To the extent practicable, the members of the Commission shall reflect the diversity of the population of the State.

G. Procedures.

(1) The majority of voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(2) The Commission shall hold publicly announced meetings at such times and such places as it deems necessary. The meetings shall be accessible to the general public in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act or other applicable law.

(3) The Commission may adopt such other procedures as may be necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business, including the creation of committees.

(4) The Chair or Co-Chairs may, with the consent of the Commission, designate additional individuals, including interested citizens, elected officials, educators, or specialists with relevant expertise, to serve on any committee.

(5) The Commission may consult with the principal departments of State government to obtain such technical assistance and advice as it deems necessary to complete its duties. All Executive Branch departments shall cooperate with and assist the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities.

H. Duties. The Commission shall:

(1) Conduct a comprehensive examination of ideas that could enhance the integrity of Maryland's congressional and legislative redistricting process;

(2) Review approaches of other states that have established independent, non-partisan redistricting commissions;

(3) Conduct regional summits in various parts of the State, including the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, Western

Maryland, and Central Maryland to allow citizens to offer their ideas and input on redistricting reform;

(4) Provide an electronic portal for citizens to submit their comments to the Commission;

(5) Develop a recommendation for a constitutional amendment on congressional and legislative redistricting; and

(6) Promote redistricting reform publicly across the State as an essential component of ensuring fair elected representation and election integrity in Maryland.

I. Reports and Recommendations.

(1) The Commission shall issue a report addressing the duties listed in Section H.

(2) The report shall be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, no later than November 3, 2015.

(3) The Commission may issue additional reports as directed by the Governor.

J. Termination of the Commission. The Commission shall terminate on November 8, 2016, unless the Governor declares before that date that the Commission shall remain in operation.

Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 6th Day of August, 2015.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State