

# SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

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CLEO E. POWELL  
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SENIOR JUSTICES  
CHARLES S. RUSSELL  
LAWRENCE L. KOONTZ, JR.  
LEROY F. MILLETTE, JR.



SUPREME COURT BUILDING  
100 NORTH NINTH STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219  
(804) 786-6455

CLERK  
MURIEL-THERESA PITNEY

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
KARL R. HADE

CHIEF STAFF ATTORNEY  
K. LORRAINE LORD

REPORTER OF DECISIONS  
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Press Release: December 8, 2021

## THE SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REDISTRICTING MAPS PROPOSED BY THE COURT'S SPECIAL MASTERS, SEAN P. TRENDE AND BERNARD N. GROFMAN

Pursuant to [Virginia Code § 30-399\(F\)](#), the Court unanimously appointed Sean P. Trende and Bernard N. Grofman to serve as Special Masters for the preparation of proposed redistricting maps for the Virginia House of Delegates, the Senate of Virginia, and Virginia's representatives to the United States House of Representatives. The proposed maps prepared by the Court's Special Masters and their written report have been posted and are available on the Court's public website, [https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/redistricting\\_information.pdf](https://www.vacourts.gov/courts/scv/districting/redistricting_information.pdf).

**Public Hearings:** The Court is committed to providing continued opportunities for the public to comment on the redistricting process and the proposed redistricting maps prepared by the Court's Special Masters. Accordingly, two public hearings will be held virtually via a live internet-based platform on **December 15 and 17, 2021 from 1 pm to 4 pm** to receive public comment on the proposed plans.

Members of the public, including elected officials, are invited to attend the hearing virtually and to provide live comments virtually. No in-person public hearings are scheduled. In order to participate and offer public comment, participants must notify the Clerk of Court prior to the meeting by sending an email to [Redistricting@vacourts.gov](mailto:Redistricting@vacourts.gov) indicating they wish to offer public comment and specifying which date they prefer (December 15 or 17, 2021). The email must include the requester's name and email address and indicate in what area of the Commonwealth of Virginia the person resides. In response, a meeting link will be sent by email in advance of the hearing to the email address provided. Requests to participate must be received at least 24 hours before the start of the public hearing. Members of the public will be emailed instructions on what to expect and how to participate. Individuals will be invited to speak on a first-come, first-served basis based on their sign-in time. Individuals will be given an amount of time to provide comment not to exceed three minutes, exclusive of any clarifying questions from members of the Court. The Court's Special Masters will be listening to all comments.

The process for making public comment will be as follows: when called upon to speak by the Chief Justice, commenters should state their name in a clear, audible tone of voice for the record.

All comments shall be directed to the Court as a whole, not to any individual member of the Court. Commenters will be called upon in the order that they have signed in and invited to speak for a set time not to exceed three minutes. Commenters will be informed when their time has expired, and the next speaker will be invited to begin. Commenters may not yield any time to another speaker and questions of the Court will not be permitted. Any person making rude or inappropriate comments will forfeit the remainder of their time and will be excluded without further notice.

The Court recognizes that the establishment of voting districts for the Virginia General Assembly and Virginia's congressional representatives will have significant and lasting impact on every Virginian. For this reason, public comment is encouraged.

**Written comments:** The Court will continue to receive written comments from the public, including elected officials, and to post them on the Court's public website. Comments on maps proposed by Special Masters may be made directly on the interactive maps by clicking on the appropriate link on the Court's website. All other public comments, including those made by elected officials, should be submitted to [Redistricting@vacourts.gov](mailto:Redistricting@vacourts.gov) and will be posted and accessible through the "Public Comments" link on the Court's website and must be germane to the topic of Virginia redistricting. Written comments must be submitted by 1:00 pm on December 20, 2021. Written comments submitted after 1:00 pm on December 20, 2021 will not be reviewed by the Court or its Special Masters.

Media Contact: Alisa W. Padden, Director of Legislative and Public Relations, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia, (804) 786-6455.