From: clerk@fluvannacounty.org
To: Clerk to the Board
Subject: Form submission from: My Two Cents
Date: Tuesday, December 14, 2021 2:20:10 PM

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] USE CAUTION.

Submitted on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 - 2:20pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Category Concern
Message To Board of Supervisors
Name Millie Fife
Email [redacted]
Comments
As I process the staff reports and public comments and study more about good governance, I find more reasons to support the Five Districts – Scenario Two option.

When looking for information on how governing bodies function and what models work best, I discovered a short article about non-profit boards. The author makes several useful suggestions regarding governance, but in particular he says this about the matter at hand, " [t]he research indicates that members of boards with an odd number of directors are more likely to cast their vote based on organizational performance considerations. Where there are an even number of directors, and the preferences of the members are apparent prior to voting, individuals will more often than not abandon performance criteria and instead conform with the remaining uneven number of directors so as to be on the 'winning' side" (http://www.governinggood.ca/is-your-board-odd-4/). In other words, an organization (or the people) are better served when their leaders prioritize their interests, not simply a desire to be on the winning side.

Some have argued that with six districts in the past there wasn't much gridlock. If that was the case, is the reason not more likely to be that the board was comprised of people of the same mindset on issues? Today, to reflect the diversity of our county we are owed representatives who can understand and reflect the opinions and needs of a wider range of people.

I agree with Mr. Payne in his assertion that maintaining five districts is the best route and least likely to promote a lawsuit. This seems not only a possibility but a probability considering all the unknowns when it comes to newly elected officials, diluting certain voter populations, etc. Essentially inviting lawsuits would not be the best use of anyone's time or the taxpayers' resources.

As far as the projected cost, it was noted that the numbers for adding districts have a "+/-" range of $20,000. As far as I can tell, that variance only takes into consideration insurance choices. What about unforeseen costs? There are almost always unanticipated costs for anything involving manpower and materials. For example, what about staff costs? Surely, having another BOS member, school board member, social services board member AND Planning Commission member will mean more work for staff – communications, preparation

of meeting materials, etc.

From what I've read/seen/heard in the way of public comments, the community is overwhelmingly in support of the Five Districts-Scenario Two map. When I hear complaints that opposition to six districts is a "coordinated effort," I'm baffled. If residents respond to matters individually or in concert with their neighbors, faith communities, organizations they belong to, is this a bad thing? Did those expressing concerns about a "coordinated effort" do so when there were large turnouts for the second amendment sanctuary vote? At those public meetings I witnessed several people handing out stickers from a statewide gun rights organization, The Virginia Citizens Defense League. The VCDL used social media to encourage action "We need to pack the next Fluvanna County Board of Supervisors meeting and people need to speak on the County passing a 2A Sanctuary resolution."

All of these factors - a better functioning government, minimizing the chance of litigation, cost savings, public opposition – all argue for not implementing six districts. Please vote for Five Districts – Scenario Two.
If there are specific, compelling reasons that on balance outweigh all of these, I'd appreciate learning what they are.

Millie Fife
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The results of this submission may be viewed at:

https://www.fluvannacounty.org/node/6221/submission/11861