



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Attorney General

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April 12, 2022

SENT VIA UPS and
EMAIL (demartin@fredericksburgva.gov)

Dori E. Martin
Assistant City Attorney
City of Fredericksburg
City Attorney's Office
601 Caroline Street, Suite 200B
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Re: Request for Certification of No Objection
from City of Fredericksburg, Virginia

Dear Ms. Martin:

The Office of Civil Rights has completed its review of the Request for Certification of No Objection submitted by the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia ("Fredericksburg") to the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia, Office of Civil Rights in accordance with the Virginia Voting Rights Act, Va. Code § 24.2-129. We received your submission on March 31, 2022.

As outlined in your request, Fredericksburg is adjusting the boundaries of three of its four election districts to apportion population figures more evenly based on 2020 census data. Fredericksburg proposes no changes to the locations or number of voting precincts or polling places, but some precinct boundaries have been changed to correspond with election district boundary changes.

Fredericksburg has one existing majority minority election district, and the proposed boundary changes will create a second majority minority district. Its two other districts will remain majority districts. The proposed changes to district boundaries result in no demographic shifts over 5%, and the proposed election districts are within 5% of the ideal district size.

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These changes do not appear to have the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the right to vote based on race or color or membership in a language minority group, nor does it appear that the covered practices will result in the retrogression in the position of members of a racial or ethnic group with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.

Under these facts, we find no reason to object to Fredericksburg's proposed changes to its voting practices. Accordingly, on behalf of the Attorney General and pursuant to Va. Code § 24.2-129, this letter serves as the Attorney General's **certification of no objection** to the proposed changes.

Please be advised, however, that the Attorney General's certification of no objection to the covered practices discussed above will not bar a subsequent action to enjoin enforcement of such qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure should the Attorney General subsequently have reason to believe such practice may have a discriminatory effect on members of a racial or ethnic group. Moreover, this certification of no objection does not remove or otherwise alter any requirement imposed upon Fredericksburg by any federal, state, or local ordinance, statute, or regulation, including **any requirement imposed by the Department of Elections that you provide it with this certification of no objection.**

If you have any questions, please contact us at (804) 786-3998 or at votingrights@oag.state.va.us.

Respectfully,



Christine Lambrou Johnson
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Chief, Office of Civil Rights