



Alicia Kallen calls for end to partisan redistricting.

Alicia Kallen, candidate for the House of Delegates in Virginia's First District, has called for an end to partisan redistricting in legislative and congressional districts. Calling legislative redistricting a thin cover for incumbent protection, Kallen would sponsor legislation to abolish the practice, and adopt the Arizona Plan that avoids partisan redistricting.

Kallen points out that several years ago, when the legislative chambers were divided, Senator Creigh Deeds attempted to reform the process, but the Republican House of Delegates, including Terry Kilgore, blocked such an attempt. "Partisan redistricting decreases competition, increases the influence of money in politics, and encourages extremism on both side of the aisle by making a seat safe from bipartisan evaluation of the incumbent, but making them vulnerable to challenges from the extreme" said Kallen.

Additionally, partisan redistricting causes geographically illogical districts that do not serve a common interest. "It is ridiculous that East Pound and West Pound have different delegates, and Big Stone Gap and East Stone Gap have different State Senators", to use two examples from her home county of Wise. Although Kallen promotes the Arizona plan, she is open to other plans if it will accomplish her goal of having districts that serve the people, rather than the incumbents.