

THE SOUTH CAROLINA BLUES FEDERAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



July 2021

Group of Seven (G7) Summit

The G7 Summit is an organization of the largest, advanced economies of the world. Those include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the United States. India, South Korea, and Australia were invited guests this year. Russia joined in 1998 making it the G8 but was excluded in 2014 for its takeover of Crimea. China has never been a member due to its relatively low level of wealth per person excluding it from being perceived as an advanced economy.

The 2021 G7 Summit was held at Caris Bay Hotel in Cornwall, UK from June 11-13. The presidency of the group rotates annually and is currently held by Prime Minister Boris Johnson from the UK. The Summit is designed to allow for frank conversations between leaders to promote and deliver on domestic and international priorities. The G7 leaders cannot make any laws because each country has their own government.

This year started with a dinner attended by the Queen and members of the Royal Family. Some of the main topics discussed over the three days was COVID-19 recovery, creating a stronger global health system, climate change, and fair trade. Here's a closer look at what was discussed and agreed to.

End the pandemic and prepare for the future by distributing over 2 million vaccines worldwide, increasing manufacturing capacity on all continents, improving early warning systems, and supporting science in the development of safe and effective vaccine treatments and tests from 300 to 100 days.

Reinvigorate our economies by shifting the focus from crisis response to promoting growth. Plans include creating jobs, investing in infrastructure, driving innovation and supporting people leaving no one behind.

Secure our future prosperity by reforming our global trade system and creating a fairer tax system.

Protect our planet by supporting a green revolution that creates jobs, cuts emissions and seeks to limit the rise in global temperatures. Goals have been set of reaching a net zero by 2050, halving emissions by 2030, increasing and improving climate finance to 2025, and conserving 30% of land and oceans by 2030.

Strengthen member country partnerships with others by investing in infrastructure and increasing support from the International Monetary Fund to \$100 billion for countries in need.

Embrace our values by harnessing the power of democracy, freedom and equality and invest in the Global Partnership for Education.

Following the Summit, a number of ministerial-level meetings will take place throughout the year resulting in joint plans of action. Engagement groups are also created to provide recommendations annually to the G7. These groups center around business, civil society, labor, science, think tank, women, and youth.

Fun side note – all G7 leaders reiterated their support of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020 in a safe and secure manner. The Olympic Games will be from July 23 – August 8, 2021 and includes 33 competitions, 339 events and 42 venues. The Paralympic Games will be from August 24 – September 5, 2021 and includes 539 events across 22 sports and 21 venues.



Delayed Census = Problems for Redistricting

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the maps that decide the makeup of congressional and state districts. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the redistricting process has been shortened. Typically, census data is released at the end of the census year; however, it was pushed back from December 2020 to April 26, 2021 and the in-depth data isn't expected until mid-late August. This limits the amount of time states have to draw new district lines. Redistricting is about so much more than just population.

With the delay, problems are coming for state legislative elections being held in 2021 and constitutional or statutory deadlines tied to the actual publication or receipt of redistricting data.

Since they hold elections for their state legislatures in 2021, New Jersey and Virginia specifically have been impacted by the delays. Neither state has had enough time to remap and have opted to hold the elections under current districting lines. Which party benefits the most is a worrying political ramification.

In Virginia, it is feared, that history might repeat itself and the courts will require a special election in 2022 for all House seats. After the 1980 census, Virginia ran into this issue and federal courts compelled them to hold special elections in 1981, 1982, and 1983. New Jersey has been more proactive, and voters passed a constitutional amendment in November 2020 that allowed for a redistricting delay if census data wasn't received by February.

A large portion of states have constitutional or statutory deadlines with fixed dates or ones tied to the census year for state legislative redistricting and about 36% of the states have congressional line-drawing deadlines. Illinois and Oklahoma specifically fall into this category and have already drawn mostly final maps for state legislatures. Neither state wanted the mapmaking process to be sent to the bipartisan commission; therefore, Illinois and Oklahoma used data from the American Community Survey. It is feared that if challenged after the elections, the courts may throw out the new maps.

In states like New York where one specific party controls both houses, it is feared that they will use this delay as a reason to change the actual rules around redistricting to benefit their party.

States such as Texas, Georgia, North Carolina and Florida who have had massive growth in population since the 2010 census data is presenting a major issue as well. There is concern that using old data to make the new maps will leave portions of their population under-represented through numerous voting cycles.

Redistricting is a highly watched and scrutinized process because it affects elections for the next decade.

