

# Committee Report

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**October 25, 2022**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

The Committee on Special Committee on Redistricting  
to which was referred HB 51,

AN ACT apportioning state senate districts. Having  
considered the same, report the same: **NOT  
RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION.**

**Rep. Steven Smith  
FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Special Committee on Redistricting
Bill Number:	HB 51
Title:	apportioning state senate districts.
Date:	October 25, 2022
Consent Calendar:	REGULAR
Recommendation:	NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

The committee recommends that this bill not be introduced as written or as might be otherwise proposed. This bill proposed redistricting of the State Senate Districts. The committee recommended Interim Study to provide a vehicle for a redistricting plan should another plan fail. State Senate Districts have been adopted and have been implemented for the 2022 election. This bill is not necessary.

Vote 12-0.

Rep. Steven Smith  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Special Committee on Redistricting

**HB 51, apportioning state senate districts. NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION .**

Rep. Steven Smith for Special Committee on Redistricting. The committee recommends that this bill not be introduced as written or as might be otherwise

proposed. This bill proposed redistricting of the State Senate Districts. The committee recommended Interim Study to provide a vehicle for a redistricting plan should another plan fail. State Senate Districts have been adopted and have been implemented for the 2022 election. This bill is not necessary. **Vote 12-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**November 16, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Special Committee on Redistricting  
to which was referred HB 51,**

**AN ACT apportioning state senate districts. Having  
considered the same, report the same with the  
recommendation that the bill be REFERRED FOR  
INTERIM STUDY.**

**Rep. Carol McGuire  
FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Special Committee on Redistricting
Bill Number:	HB 51
Title:	apportioning state senate districts.
Date:	November 16, 2021
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

This bill provides for the apportionment of state senate districts after the decennial federal census. The committee agreed that this bill is not necessary since the Senate has introduced a bill to apportion senate districts. That bill will be used to define the new districts. Interim study is preferable since it prevents an obstacle to receiving the senate bill and allows further house action if needed.

Vote 15-0.

Rep. Carol McGuire  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Special Committee on Redistricting

**HB 51, apportioning state senate districts. REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**  
Rep. Carol McGuire for Special Committee on Redistricting. This bill provides for the apportionment of state senate districts after the decennial federal census. The committee agreed that this bill is not necessary since the Senate has introduced a bill to apportion senate districts. That bill will be used to define the new districts. Interim study is preferable since it prevents an obstacle to receiving the senate bill and allows further house action if needed. **Vote 15-0.**

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Special Committee on Redistricting**

**BILL NUMBER: HB 51**

**BILL TITLE: apportioning state senate districts.**

**DATE: March 9, 2021**

**THE COMMITTEE HAS VOTED TO RETAIN THIS BILL.**

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**Rep. B. Griffin, Chair**



# Voting Sheets

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 51**

**BILL TITLE:** apportioning state senate districts.

**DATE:** October 25, 2022

**LOB ROOM:** 201-203

**MOTION:**

Interim Study (2nd yr) Not Recommended for Future Legislation

Moved by Rep. Steven Smith Secoded by Rep. Bergeron Vote: 12-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Wayne MacDonald, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 51

BILL TITLE: apportioning state senate districts.

DATE: 10/25/22

LOB ROOM: 201-203

MOTION:  Recommended for Future Legislation

Not Recommended for Future Legislation

Moved by Rep. Stever Smith

Seconded by Rep. Paul Barron Vote: 12-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. W. J. Marshall  
Committee Clerk



2022 SESSION

Special Committee on Redistricting

Bill #: 51 Motion: Rest AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 10/25/21

	<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman		✓		
Smith, Steven D. Vice Chairman		✓		
<del>McGuire, Carol M.</del> - <u>Walt Stapleton</u>		✓		
Turcotte, Leonard P.				✓
MacDonald, Wayne D.		✓		
Lynn, Bob J.		✓		
Berry, Ross		✓		
O'Hara, Travis J.				✓
<del>Cote, David E.</del> <u>Mary Hadden-Phillips</u>		✓		
Smith, Marjorie K.		✓		
Bergeron, Paul R.		✓		
Lane, Connie B.		✓		
Piedra, Israel F.				✓
<del>Weber, Lucy M.</del> <u>Tim Hornigan</u>		✓		
Wilhelm, Matthew B.		✓		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>		<u>12</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>0</u>



2021 SESSION

Special Committee on Redistricting

Bill #: HR51 Motion: Interim Study AM #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec Session Date: 11/16/21

*McGrath*  
*Turcotte*

Members	YEAS	NAYS	NV
Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Smith, Steven D. Vice Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
McGuire, Carol M.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Turcotte, Leonard P.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
MacDonald, Wayne D.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lynn, Bob J.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Berry, Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<del>Offara, Travis J.</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<del>OTEN DAVIDEN</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Smith, Marjorie K.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Bergeron, Paul R.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Lane, Connie B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Piedra, Israel F.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Weber, Lucy M.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Wilhelm, Matthew B.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
TOTAL VOTE:			

*Alexis Simpson*  
15-0



Special Committee on Redistricting

Bill #: 51 Motion: Retain AM #: --- Exec Session Date: 3/9/21

Members	YEAS	NAYS	NV
Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman	✓		
Smith, Steven D. Vice Chairman	✓		
McGuire, Carol M.	✓		
Turcotte, Leonard P.	✓		
MacDonald, Wayne D.	✓		
Lynn, Bob J.	✓		
Berry, Ross	✓		
O'Hara, Travis J.	✓		
Cote, David E.	✓		
Smith, Marjorie K.	✓		
Bergeron, Paul R.	✓		
Lane, Connie B.	✓		
Piedra, Israel F.	✓		
Weber, Lucy M.	✓		
Wilhelm, Matthew B.	✓		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>15</b>		

M - STEVE SMITH  
S - LEONARD TURCOTTE

# Public Hearings

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

### VIA ZOOM

MARCH 9, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman, Rep. Barbara Griffin, at 10:02 AM. She asked Rep. Wayne MacDonald to call the roll. All fifteen members were in attendance. Rep Griffin explained that we are not expected to have the census data necessary to do our work until September. She has, however, filed the six pieces of legislation that will address the redistricting effort. Rep. Steven Smith, the Vice Chairman of the Committee, listed the bills, which included the redistricting of the New Hampshire House, the New Hampshire Senate, the Executive Council, the two Congressional Districts, county commissioner districts and the districts for delegates to political party conventions. Rep. Griffin said that no one had signed up to speak to any of these pieces of legislation and recommended that all of the bills be retained, until the census data is available to the committee.

A couple of members of the public did ask to speak. Olivia Zink, the Executive Director of Open Democracy, said that she had tried to sign up before the meeting, but the link wasn't working. Ms. Zink stated that thirty towns were considering warrant articles today, which was town election day in many communities, which called for an open and transparent redistricting process and no gerrymandering. Ms. Zink urged the committee to make the redistricting process a fair one. Rep. Connie Lane asked Ms. Zink for a copy of the warrant article. Ms. Zink said that she would provide that and a list of the communities in which it was being considered. Ms. Zink said that her home community of Franklin had already approved the warrant article.

Liz Tentarelli, the President of the League of Women Voters, also offered testimony. Ms. Tentarelli emphasized the importance of the redistricting process being open and transparent and expressed confidence that it would be that way. She said that the League of Women Voters was willing to assist in any way they could to make that happen.

Rep. Carol McGuire expressed the concern that every town which is eligible for its own state representative gets it. She said that didn't happen ten years ago.

Rep. Lucy Weber pointed out that she serves in a four-member, four-town district. Her district had grown larger geographically and not smaller after the last redistricting was done.

Rep. Griffin explained that districts will definitely change, because the population has changed since the redistricting was last done. She said that the public hearing schedule was uncertain at this point. The next meeting of the committee might occur in mid-April.

Rep. Weber indicated that any scheduling was difficult at the present time, because there were no other dedicated committee meeting days. Rep. Griffin said that we would be using the Zoom platform for now.



Rep. Paul Bergeron said that the census data hadn't followed the ward lines in cities, such as in Nashua, in 2001 and in 2011. The lines had to be redrawn.

Rep. Robert Lynn asked why the committee would need to meet as soon as April, if the census data wasn't going to be available. Rep. Griffin explained that the purpose of such a meeting would be to decide on the process we would be following, once the data did become available.

Rep. Marjorie Smith observed there were two members on the committee with the same last name, herself and Rep. Steven Smith and any references to them should include their first name. She also emphasized that the committee needed to be ready for when the data became available and seek meaningful public input with an open process.

At this point, the committee went into executive session. Rep. Wayne MacDonald read the roll for motions to retain HB50, HB 51, HB 52, HB 53, HB 54 and HB 55. In each case, the motion to retain passed unanimously, 15 – 0.

Rep. David Cote explained that he usually didn't like to take up bills in executive session on the same day they were introduced.

Rep. Weber recommended that Rep. Griffin check with the chairmen of other committees, before she scheduled the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.

# Testimony

## Redistricting Testimony submitted by Rep. Lee Oxenham

I strongly urge you to reject the Majority map with its severing of District 1 into unrelated units. Cornish and Plainfield in particular are integrally interwoven and should not be separated. The two communities share commercial establishments, electronic and print media (Connect Cornish and Plain Facts), innumerable roads and bridges, provide each other with police and fire back-up, as well as the Cornish Rescue ambulance service whose ranks are filled with volunteers from both towns.

Our churches share congregation members, our elementary schools share their Superintendent, our high school students go to the same schools, we utilize each others' libraries, participate in the Plainfield Fourth of July parade together and combine our Town Energy Committees. We have an Aging in Place group which provides resources and services across town boundaries and shared medical equipment to seniors at no cost.

Our joint Food Pantry is located in Plainfield, while serving both communities, and another food bank - Willing Hands - is located in Cornish, but serves both towns. Numerous church congregations and service organizations draw members from both towns. We are both Connecticut River communities and share many issues from bank erosion and flooding to public access that none of the other towns in the area experience. Conserved, open space spans our lengthy shared land boundary and thanks to volunteers from both towns they provide essential wildlife corridors, recreational opportunities and trails for residents of both.

Contrast this with the situation as proposed in the Majority map. Plainfield and Croydon share no social, administrative, organizational, shoreline or commercial ties. There isn't even a road that connects them as they are completely separated by Corbin Park – a private game preserve, as well as a mountain. Neither are there any substantial administrative, social or economic ties linking Cornish to Newport. Again there are accessibility issues – requiring anyone going from Cornish to Newport to drive all the way to Claremont first. And it is Croydon, not Cornish, that has ties with Newport.

When erosion threatened the integrity of Rte. 12A, and the viability of commercial establishments in both communities, District 1's shared Representatives were able to effectively advocate for alterations in DOT's plans. When speeding issues threatened lives and safety on Rte. 120, again we were able to bring the influence of more than just one Rep. to bear in the search for solutions.

A commonality of interests and community interaction should be the overriding principles at the basis of redistricting. District 1 could be left in its current configuration

– providing two Representatives for the 4 towns of Plainfield, Cornish, Grantham and Springfield, or one could adapt the Minority Report’s suggestion of a single Representative for the linked towns of Plainfield and Cornish. In that case Croydon could be merged into a shared district with Grantham, while Springfield is best aligned with Sunapee. Goshen could be connected to any number of towns in the southern half of the state and be better served than it is in combination with Cornish and Croydon.

To: House Special Committee on Redistricting and Senate Redistricting Committee

From: Liz Tentarelli, resident of Newbury NH (Merrimack county)

September 14, 2021

Re: Public comments about the redistricting 2021 process

Many people I have spoken with about redistricting voice two concerns: that the process of drawing the maps be done with transparency and public input, and that the criteria the committees will use be clearly stated. Those of us who tried to follow the process in 2011 realize how important both of these are.

Therefore here are some questions I hope the committees will address publicly in the coming weeks:

Obviously you will adhere to the federal and state constitutions about equal representation, but has your committee decided what will be an acceptable deviation from the ideal numbers for each of the four plans? When will you make that public?

Since 2006, the NH Constitution requires that towns that are large enough to have their own representative seat be allotted its own district seat. (This year that is 3,444 residents.) In 2011 that was not followed for 62 small towns that qualified. While I realize geography may make it impossible to allocate those seats in all cases, volunteers have shown that in all but 10 towns it is possible. Will your committee work to make that happen, and where does adhering to that constitutional requirement fall in your list of priorities?

“Communities of interest” is a broad term, but many are wondering which communities of interest your committee believes are important considerations when determining which towns should be grouped together. Have you set any priorities, such as keeping regional school districts in the same senate district, or grouping neighboring towns that share common problems such as water quality issues or natural resources conservation or public health issues? If not, when do you expect to set those priorities and will you make them public on the committee’s website?

Merrimack county is currently divided among six senate districts. The towns in our county range from small ones (like my little town of Newbury) in the west to the cities of Concord and Franklin. Forming state senate districts is about the numbers, of course, but what other demographic aspects will you be considering?

Finally, I suggest that until draft maps are drawn and made available to the public, it is an exercise in abstraction to discuss what makes sense for any particular town or city. Therefore I suggest another round of these county input sessions where the maps will be shown so that specific comments from the municipal officials and the public can be heard for your consideration.

Thank you for holding this first round of listening sessions in the counties, for creating a website where materials will be publicly available, and for your hard work on this important decennial project.

September 14, 2021

Chair Griffin and Redistricting Committee Members  
Special Committee on Redistricting  
Concord, NH

Dear Chair Griffin and Redistricting Committee Members:

Thank you for providing livestream access to the public for this hearing, crucial to our state's next decade.

According to Article 11 of the New Hampshire Constitution, "*every inhabitant of the state of 18 years of age and upwards shall have an equal right to vote in any election.*"

Some people interpret that sentence to only mean that every inhabitant of age may place their vote in a ballot box. But we all know that the weight of that vote can be enhanced or diminished by the actions of this committee. An equal right to vote depends upon this committee's diligence in dividing districts as fairly as possible. An equal right to vote means that a party with fewer than 3 in 10 voters as members does not dominate every legislative body, passing the most extreme budget in 50 years, containing policies that most of the people of New Hampshire strongly disagree with. An equal right to vote means that the desire by most of the people of New Hampshire to conserve energy, minimize fossil fuels and set clean-air standards cannot be upheld in vetoes. An equal right to vote means that the support of most of the people of New Hampshire for educating children and young adults rather than giving a fourth tax cut to businesses and cutting the interest and dividend tax for the wealthy will result in the politicians who support such actions being turned out on their noses.

This committee has the responsibility to create districts that result in the will of the people being reflected in the actions of the legislature, executive council and Congressional districts.

I challenge you to act with integrity and uphold your Constitutional responsibility to redistrict fairly.

Jeanne Dietsch  
43 Pine Street  
Peterborough, NH 03458

September 14, 2021

Madame Chair and members of the Special Committee on Redistricting,

As a resident of New London and as Moderator for the town of Newbury for 25 of my years living there, I have an active commitment to the value of EACH vote of qualified voters. Thank you for this opportunity to offer public comment on redistricting, which will determine how every New Hampshire vote will be valued for the next ten years of our lives.

In 2010, of 152 communities eligible for their own representative, 62 were not assigned theirs. Although New London had 4,397 residents in 2010 when the required number was 3,291, it was not assigned its own district or its own representative. Now in 2021 every community with a population of 3,444 or higher is constitutionally guaranteed its own district and representative. New London's population has risen to 4,400. Model Fair Maps have been drawn to show that all but 10 qualified towns can, by the numbers, be assigned their district and exclusive State representative. I urge you to redistrict New London and other eligible towns so that they are assigned the representation they are legally due.

Please also pay quality attention to floterials, assuring more closeness and shared interests of their towns. As I drive to Plainfield each year to moderate for the LWVNH the Candidate Forum for the floterial which includes Sunapee, the easiest route from New London, then Sunapee, is through Newport and Claremont. What does that say about the lack of even physical closeness in that floterial district?

When a leading Republican politician bragged in January that redistricting would assure a Republican US Representative in District 1, he reflected all that is unethical in partisan gerrymandering. You have the opportunity to do what you were elected to do – serve the citizens of New Hampshire by assuring each voter that their vote counts equally.

Thank you for this opportunity to urge non-partisan decision-making by your Committee so New Hampshire can be proud of 2021 redistricting.

Submitted in the expectation that your results will value EVERY vote equally,

Nancy Marashio  
New London, New Hampshire 03257



Chairwoman Griffin and Committee members:

*Sept. 14, 2024*

I am Joe Magruder, a Concord resident since 1980 and a New Hampshire resident since 1976. I am deeply concerned about the erosion of longstanding democratic norms in our state and country, and by diminishing public and institutional support even for some fundamental principles of our democracy.

One such principle is that we the people get to choose our representatives on Election Day, and we get to pass judgment again in subsequent elections. In her dissent to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2019 ruling in *Rucho v. Common Cause*, Justice Elena Kagan said "If there's a single idea that made our nation," it's that. "Election Day ... is the foundation of democratic governance. And partisan gerrymandering can make it meaningless."

The 5-4 *Rucho* decision leaves future cases involving partisan gerrymandering to state legislatures and courts. A growing number of states have turned redistricting over to independent, multi-partisan commissions, either to do the job or to make recommendations based on testimony and research. Sadly, bipartisan bills to create a commission in New Hampshire were vetoed by Governor Chris Sununu in 2019 and 2020.

Your work, and that of your colleagues drawing new maps for state Senate and U.S. House districts, will have profound effects on our state in the decade ahead. We are counting on you to do your work openly, transparently and fairly.

Joe Magruder

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Magruder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.



9.13.21

Time: 2:00

Madam Chair, and Members of the Special Committee on Redistricting:

As you are aware, I have presented personally, and over the past 18 months virtually, many times. My interest in election-law related matters is neither fleeting nor superficial. Thus, I relate my deep disappointment that without remote access during an ongoing pandemic in which infections are nationally 300% greater now than this time a year ago, I am denied meaningful participation simply because I choose to take the virus seriously, and do not wish to be inside a crowded room, with the additional risk of being among unmasked legislators.

I am aware of the House You Tube Channel. It does not rise to the level of meaningful participation. Zoom access provides me, through gallery view, with the facial expressions of those on the committee: are they paying attention; are they distracted; are they wearing a mask; will they snicker when I speak of the Big Lie, or when I speak of the need for remote access, or at the mention of Delta preventing me and even a member of your committee from participating? How do you justify this situation? It cannot be lack of technology, because the general court did such a good job in providing remote access up until recently. If lack of WiFi, that is a hindrance easily rectified – schedule public hearings where there is adequate transmission; if lack of available financial resources, that could have been rectified in the recently passed state budget; if not wanting to provide meaningful public participation, that cannot be rectified, nor justified.

The special committee has the daunting task of refraining from the drafting of gerrymandered maps when the Supreme Court of the United States has given you leave to do so. Once again, I challenge you to do the right thing for the people versus the party: work in good faith to produce maps that will reflect the will of the people and provide value equilibrium among all votes cast, together with the goal of accommodating the 2006 amendment to the NH Constitution.

Bob Perry  
Strafford, NH

Madam Chair and members of the committee:

My name is Corinne Dodge. I am a voter in Derry NH.

Trust in our election system is crucial as demonstrated by the 74 NH cities and towns whose citizens have recently called upon you as a member of the Special Committee for Redistricting to see that our NH redistricting process will be transparent and nonpartisan, and that the maps will be created without manipulation for political reasons. Citizens across NH heard the remarks of the NH Republican leadership this summer stating that he will guarantee that there will be a Republican Congressman sent to Washington after the next election because the Republican Party is in charge at the State House this year. Whether or not this statement has any validity, making such a statement, creates serious mistrust in our elections in the minds of voters. Many citizens are now concerned about the clear possibility that the maps will be gerrymandered. It is therefore important for us citizens to clearly see transparency in the making of the maps.

I seriously hope that we will not see packing and cracking of voting districts in the maps which you create. I did attend the first meetings of your committee at the statehouse, and was hoping to be at this first listening session tonight. However I will not be there in person because of my concern for the increasing numbers of NH people contracting Covid in the past few weeks, and I thank you for accepting my testimony.

Thank you your time

Corinne Dodge

Dear Speaker Packard, Chairwoman Griffin, and the House Special Committee on Redistricting,

• **REMOTE ACCESS:**

I am unable to participate in the Redistricting Listening Session today in person because there is no remote access provided, and I am immunocompromised. I strongly recommend making ALL meetings and hearings accessible in the future, especially those related to redistricting. Why would you want to shut out your constituents and prevent their participation?

• **REDISTRICTING:**

Gerrymandering is wrong when Democrats do it. Gerrymandering is wrong when Republicans do it. Gerrymandering is wrong when Libertarians do it. Gerrymandering is just plain wrong.

Fair maps for NH should be drawn so that voters pick their politicians, not so politicians pick their voters.

• **TRANSPARENCY AND CONSTITUENT INPUT:**

Also, transparency and honesty in this process is of the utmost importance. I would also like to suggest that you hold more public meetings (with remote access) on redistricting. Not just "listening sessions" now, but especially in the future as the committee drafts maps and discusses options. You need to get a lot of public input before you finalize your maps - and you need to provide transparency and accountability during the entire process.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. I appreciate your dedication and service to all Granite Staters.

Sincerely,

Mel Hinebauch  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-224-4866

September 14, 2021

Dear Members of the House Redistricting Committee,

With 74 NH Towns having passed resolutions for a fair, transparent redistricting process, you know that New Hampshire citizens are WATCHING the proceedings – making sure

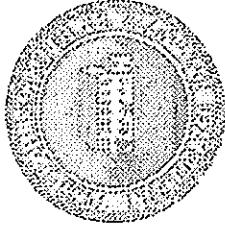
- that meetings are advertised sufficiently in advance,
- that you are explaining your criteria,
- that you are accepting comments,
- that you will give the public sufficient advance notice of when the next set of meetings will occur,
- and that revised maps demonstrate inclusion of public comments in your deliberations.

I am deeply troubled that you have not allowed Nashua Representative David Cote to participate remotely in these proceedings. You rob his constituents of their voice. You deprive the committee of a thoughtful member who has devoted himself to these issues. And I believe you VIOLATE the AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT by failing to make these meetings accessible for those immune-compromised representatives who do not take lightly the deadly possibility of COVID infection in a crowded, unventilated space with unmasked occupants.

Finally, please scrutinize the maps that have been drawn by the citizen's MAP-A-THON process. It is clear that FAIR MAPS are possible, respecting the concerns of NH's public while balancing the mathematical requirements. YES, we CAN give each citizen an EQUAL VOTE. The public expects no less. Don't sacrifice political goodwill for inequalities, which will be seen by all.

Thank you!!

Susan Richman  
16 Cowell Drive  
Durham, NH 03824  
603-868-2758  
[susan7richman@gmail.com](mailto:susan7richman@gmail.com)



**TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH**  
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James C. Bailey III, Chairman  
John P. Stohrer  
David J. Rogers  
Board of Selectmen

Laura Buono  
Town Administrator

June 23, 2020

Governor Chris Sununu  
107 N. Main Street #208  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

We are writing you to make you aware of a vote of the residents of the Town of Hillsborough at our recent Town Meeting.

The residents of the Town voted to urge the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, to do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. In order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates.

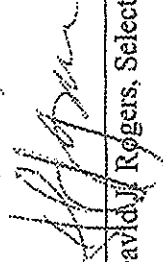
As the Governor, we respectfully request that you honor this vote by leading the implementation of appointing an independent redistricting commission.

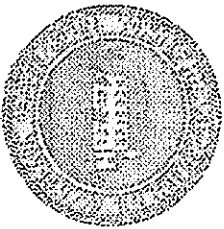
Thank you for your anticipated assistance with this extremely important issue.

Very truly yours,  
HILLSBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
James C. Bailey III, Selectman

  
John P. Stohrer, Selectman

  
David J. Rogers, Selectman



**TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH**  
27 School Street, P.O. Box 7  
Hillsborough, NH 03244  
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[www.town.hillsborough.nh.us](http://www.town.hillsborough.nh.us)

James C. Bailey III, Chairman  
John P. Stohrer  
David J. Rogers  
Board of Selectmen

Laura Buono  
Town Administrator

June 23, 2020

Senator Ward  
Legislative Office Building Room 103-A  
33 State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Senator Ward.

We are writing you to make you aware of a vote of the residents of the Town of Hillsborough at our recent Town Meeting.


The residents of the Town voted to urge the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, to do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. In order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates.

As an elected representative for Hillsborough, we respectfully request that you honor this vote by becoming active in the implementation of appointing an independent redistricting commission.

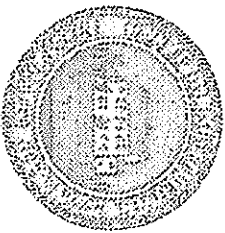
If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Town Administrator so that she may set up a time and date for you to meet with the Selectmen. Thank you for your anticipated assistance with this extremely important issue.

Very truly yours,  
HILLSBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
James C. Bailey III, Selectman

  
John P. Stohrer, Selectman

  
David J. Rogers, Selectman



**TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH**  
27 School Street, P.O. Box 7  
Hillsborough, NH 03244  
Tel (603)464-3877 Fax (603)464-4270  
E-Mail: [hillsboro@hillsboroughnh.net](mailto:hillsboro@hillsboroughnh.net)  
[www.town.hillsborough.nh.us](http://www.town.hillsborough.nh.us)

James C. Bailey III, Chairman  
John P. Stohrer  
David J. Rogers  
Board of Selectmen

Laura Buono  
Town Administrator

June 23, 2020

Ms. Marjorie Porter  
64 School Street  
Hillsborough, NH 03244

Dear Ms. Porter,

We are writing you to make you aware of a vote of the residents of the Town of Hillsborough at our recent Town Meeting.


The residents of the Town voted to urge the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, to do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. In order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates.

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HILLSBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

  
James C. Bailey III, Selectman

  
John P. Stohrer, Selectman

  
David J. Rogers, Selectman



James C. Bailey III, Chairman  
John P. Stohrer  
David J. Rogers  
Board of Selectmen

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Laura Buono  
Town Administrator

June 23, 2020

Mr. Jim Fedolfi  
21 Bradford Court  
Hillsborough, NH 03244

Dear Mr. Fedolfi,

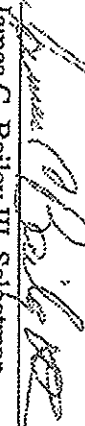
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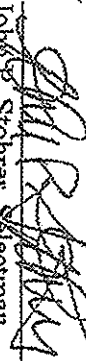
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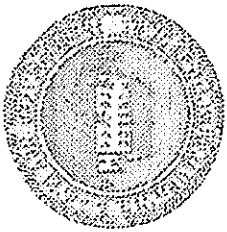
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John P. Stohrer  
David J. Rogers  
Board of Selectmen

Laura Buono  
Town Administrator

June 23, 2020

Mr. James Bosman  
243 Journeys End Road  
Francesstown, NH 03043-3508

Dear Mr. Bosman,

We are writing you to make you aware of a vote of the residents of the Town of Hillsborough at our recent Town Meeting.

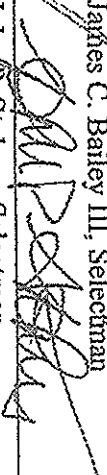
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As a representative of District 38, we respectfully request that you honor this vote by becoming active in the implementation of appointing an independent redistricting commission.

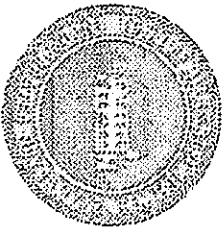
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Laura Buono  
Town Administrator

James C. Bailey III, Chairman  
John P. Stohrer  
David J. Rogers  
Board of Selectmen

June 23, 2020

Mr. Chris Balch  
531 Lyndeborough Ctr. Rd.  
Wilton, NH 03086-5215

Dear Mr. Balch,

We are writing you to make you aware of a vote of the residents of the Town of Hillsborough at our recent Town Meeting.


The residents of the Town voted to urge the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, to do so in a manner that ensures fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters. In order to fulfill this obligation the New Hampshire General Court shall appoint an independent redistricting commission that draws the new district maps in a way that does not rely on partisan data such as election results or party registration or favor particular political parties or candidates.

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	Hillsborough County Towns	2010 Population	District	#Reps	Floterial District	#Reps shared	TOTAL REPS	Population/3290 average*
1	Windsor	224	1	2 shared	38	2	4	xxx
2	Sharon	352	25	2shared	x	x	2	xxx
3	Temple	1366	25	2shared	x	x	2	xxx
4	Mason	1382	26	2shared	x	x	2	xxx
5	Bennington	1476	3	1 Rep	38	2	3	xxx
6	Francestown	1562	4	2shared	38	2	4	xxx
7	Hancock	1654	3	1 Rep	38	2	3	xxx
8	Lyndeborough	1683	4	2shared	38	2	4	xxx
9	Greenfield	1749	3	1	38	2	3	xxx
10	Deering	1912	2	3 Reps	39	1	4	xxx
11	Greenville	2105	4	2shared	38	2	4	xxx
12	Mt Vernon	2409	5	2shared	40	1	3	xxx
13	Antrim	2637	1	2 Reps	38	2	4	xxx
14	Wilton	3677	4	2shared	38	2	4	1.117
15	Brookline	4991	26	2shared	x	x	2	1.517
16	New Ipswich	5099	25	2shared	x	x	2	1.549
17	New Boston	5321	5	2	40	1	3	1.617
18	Hillsborough	6011	1	2 Reps	38	3	5	1.827
19	Peterborough	6284	24	2	x	x	2	1.910
20	Hollis	7684	27	2	40	1	3	2.335
21	Litchfield	8271	20	2	44	2	4	2.513
22	Weare	8785	2	3	39	1	4	2.670
23	Amherst	11201	22	3	41	1	4	3.404
24	<b>Pelham</b>	<b>12897</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7+2shared</b>	x	x	9	3.920*
25	Milford	15115	23	4	40	1	5	4.594
26	Goffstown	17651	6	5	39	1	6	5.365
27	Bedford	21203	7	6	41	1	7	6.444
28	<b>Hudson</b>	<b>24467</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7+2</b>	x	x	9	7.436*
29	Merriamack	25494	21	8	x	x	8	7.748
30	Nashua	86494	28-36	27	x	x	27	26.289
31	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>109,565</b>	<b>8-19, 42,43, 44,45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Shares Litchfield</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33.30</b>
BUT	Manchester + Litchfield	117,836					33	35.816

Note 1: In 2011, 3290 was the average number of residents represented by a NH state representative

Note 2:

Floterial District #38 appears to represent 22,778 residents.

Floterial District #39 appears to represent 28,348 residents.

Floterial District #40 appears to represent 25,208 residents.

Floterial District #41 appears to represent 32,404 residents.

Submitted by: Marie Morgan, Goffstown, NH 10.18.21

Barbara Schuit  
11 Honeysuckle LN, Goffstown NH 03045

September 29, 2021

To Special Committee on Redistricting  
NH House (General Court)

RE:Hillsborough County

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the public hearing on September 30, 2021, being held at St. Anselm College.

I appreciate the hard work you are all putting in to the process of drawing fair electoral maps for NH for all the voting districts (US Congress, county, Executive Council, NH Senate, NH House).

I have 4 specific asks for your consideration:

- 1). Make your criteria for drawing the maps available to the public. Transparency is key for the electorate to be assured the maps are fairly drawn.
- 2). Once the maps are ready, a second round of public hearings are necessary so that the citizens can provide input, once they have seen the maps actually drawn. This is a significant and vital step to the process.

In addition, provide ample time for the the public to digest and understand the maps, before notice of the public hearing to receive input on these drawn maps.

3). Special attention to the Executive Council districts is needed before they are redrawn, especially concerning District 2, and careful study must be made to the new maps so that the districts are balanced and fair.

4). Goffstown currently has a NH House flatorial district representing Goffstown, Weare, and Deering. We (Goffstown) have no connection or affiliation (ie. shared schools, sports etc) with Weare or Deering. I would ask that you look at this flatorial district and reconsider the inclusion of these unrelated towns, especially Deering, which might more appropriately be linked to the town of Hillsboro. It is quite a stretch for a representative to live in Deering and be able to talk with constituents in Goffstown (or vice versa).

I am confident the committee will assure integrity and fairness, and will heed the testimony submitted at these public hearings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,  
Barbara Schuit  
Goffstown  
Hillsborough County

October 14, 2021

I am unable to attend the hearing on October 18. Still, I am very concerned that the redistricting process will be rushed through, resulting in unfair districts and gerrymanders.

It is very important that citizens have an opportunity to see the maps and study them before they are finalized. I believe that we need at least four public hearings with adequate notice so people can plan to attend. We need to see actual draft maps and have comments made before November 18th.

The last redistricting was a closed door affair without citizen input. I encourage the committee to be careful not to repeat that.

Nancy Salmon  
24 Union St  
Peterborough NH 03458

Residents of the Town of Brookline, Hillsborough County

10/18/21

To Special Committee on Redistricting - NH House (General Court)

RE: Hillsborough County

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the public hearing on October 18th, 2021, being held at the Goffstown High School – Theater, 27 Wallace Rd. Goffstown, NH.

We appreciate the hard work you are all putting into the process of drawing fair electoral maps for NH for all the voting districts (US Congress, NH Executive Council, NH Senate, NH House). It is incredibly important to us that all residents can vote easily and fairly.

We have 4 specific asks for your consideration:

- 1) Make your criteria and software program used for drawing the maps available to the public. Regarding the software program, nobody outside of the Special Committee has the opportunity to understand exactly what the tool considers for checking legitimacy of districts, etc. Regarding criteria, it would be beneficial to consider the communities of interest identified by Open Democracy's Map-a-Thon effort for grouping towns into districts where/when necessary. Transparency is of utmost importance for the electorate to be assured the maps are fairly drawn.
- 2) Once the maps are ready, a second round of public hearings are necessary for citizens to provide input, once they have seen the maps actually drawn. This is a significant and vital step to the process. In addition, provide ample time for the public to digest and understand the maps, before notice of the public hearing to receive input on these drawn maps.
- 3) Special attention to the Executive Council districts is needed before they are redrawn, especially concerning District 2, and careful study must be made to the new maps so that the districts are balanced and fair. For instance, considering the concept of communities of interest, Brookline is currently in a district with Mason, but we share a more substantive interest with Hollis through our shared school district, making the current coupling with Mason somewhat unfounded. The schools in Brookline/Hollis are a key driver in our population increasing so our district members should be representing this common interest.
- 4) Brookline is eligible for its own House district now based on our population and the guidelines/requirements in the NH Constitution. In fact, 8 towns in Hillsborough County, including Brookline, are presently not in their own districts but are eligible for their own districts.

Our current Senate district is not drawn to benefit all residents within. For instance, Rindge has little to nothing in common with Nashua but some of Nashua is in the same district as Rindge. Towns with like values, populations, interests should be grouped together to best represent them and their needs.

We are confident the Special Committee will ensure integrity and fairness, and will heed the testimony submitted at these public hearings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Residents of the Town of Brookline, Hillsborough County:

Elissa Rasmussen  
Kyle Rasmussen  
Melanie Levesque  
John Cross  
Robert Rushton  
Melissa Leitten  
Carl Leitten  
Amy Tate  
Bob Tate  
Alexandra Putney  
Barbara Bluhm  
Robert Bluhm  
Kacie Petrin Ellis  
Lloyd Ellis  
Lloyd Ellis Jr  
Erin Sawicki  
Robert Danckert  
Jillian Gibson  
James Gibson  
Catie Parkh  
Katherine Elkins  
Steve Russo  
Michelle Andrigetto  
Carla Andrighetto  
Chiara Cross

Resident of Hollis, Hillsborough County  
Joline Manseau

Redistricting Testimony for Mary Beth Raven, Merrimack, NH

Hello,

My name is Mary Beth Raven, and I have lived for 30 years at 9 Four Winds Rd. in Merrimack, NH.

I am a registered voter, and I am unaffiliated. Some people call this "independent." I favor neither the Republican nor the Democrat party. This is the main reason that I am against gerrymandering.

About 40% of New Hampshire's voters are unaffiliated. No party can win elections in NH without votes from unaffiliated voters. Gerrymandering alienates unaffiliated voters.

The voters in the town of Merrimack want fair districts. I know this because Merrimack had a warrant article on their town ballot this spring, asking for fair redistricting. It passed 3 to 1. Please respect the wishes of the voters in the town of Merrimack.

Thank you

Mary Beth Raven

9 Four Winds Rd.

Merrimack, NH


603-529-0619



## To the NH Redistricting Committee

I have driven almost an hour to attend the redistricting hearing for Grafton County at 6pm Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. I would like to express my strong support for the process followed by the nonpartisan redistricting group (a combination of Open Democracy, the League of Women Voters, and the Kent Street Coalition). Their maps are the result of careful surveys, public input, and clearly explained criteria. I am disappointed that there is as yet no plan for the public to express any opinions AFTER your committee proposes specific maps because I consider a fair and transparent process extremely important. I consider partisan gerrymandering one of the most destructive forces threatening our state, our country, and our democracy. Districts drawn to be "safe" for one party encourage extreme positions and discourage the negotiation and compromise on which I believe our strength and unity depend. I feel so strongly about this issue that it will be the major consideration in my votes as I follow the work resulting from your committee.

I will not stay inside for this meeting, but will only hand in this letter after driving to the Grafton County Courthouse, because I live with someone at extremely high risk for covid-19. I am disappointed that there is no provision for people to explain their views if they are uncomfortable being in enclosed spaces for long periods of time with potentially unmasked, unvaccinated people. I would stay and speak if a safer meeting space (tent outside?) were provided.



Suzanne Brown  
394 Dogford Road  
Etna, NH 03750

# MAP-A-THON

## Granite Staters Drawing Fair Voting Maps



Chairwoman Griffin, Chairman Gray, and Members of the Redistricting Committees:

My name is Brian Beihl, and I am deputy director of Open Democracy Action, a nonpartisan nonprofit working on pro-voter reforms here in New Hampshire. We were founded by Doris "Granny D" Haddock, whose mission was to end special interest control of government and return it to the hands of the people. I live in Alton, after spending 35 years in Antrim, in the Monadnock Region.

You've been seeing a lot of me lately, and I'd like to spend a few minutes talking about why that is, then I'd like to make a proposition to the two committees.

Throughout this year and part of last year, I've been engaged in educating the public on the redistricting process, what it means to have a fair process, and ways to create better maps than have been produced in the past two decades. We've run workshops about the best practices for fair redistricting featuring national experts that some of you have attended. We've educated towns about our Constitutional provisions for redistricting, and we, with our partners, assembled the Map-a-Thon coalition, in which over 250 people have now volunteered.

We helped 74 towns around the state -- from red towns like Alton, Franklin, Londonderry and Rindge, to blue towns like Lebanon, Durham and Keene, and every color in between. Those 74 towns represented 561,000 Granite Staters. With only five losses, it was only available time and the pandemic kept that number from being a supermajority of New Hampshire voters. They varied slightly in the language, but this cities and towns were asking for a fair, nonpartisan and transparent process. You can knit pick about it being a nonbinding resolution, but tell that to the voters who braved the pandemic to come out and voted on it, making it clear they want fair maps. I'd say they took it pretty seriously.

In May, the Map-a-Thon coalition began its work, surveying NH cities and towns for communities of interest data. What we didn't get through surveys, we followed up by phone calls to town administrators. This yielded a list of 60 communities of interest which the larger Map-a-Thon participants whittled down to five. The all-volunteer Mapping and Technical team was formed as a subset of this larger group, and is comprised of engineers, data analysts, software specialists, and GIS mapping experts.

Taking that criteria, our Mapping & Technical Team assembled maps from the State of New Hampshire Department of Education, Department of Environmental Services, Department of Health and Human Services and federal and academic sources. This helped us to create the overlays that you see on our maps of regional high schools, health care regions, regional planning districts, shared municipal water and sewer, shared police and fire, and a couple of others. It's important to note that these overlays can be used with anyone's maps, as they are available for the asking.

In addition to the overlays, members of the Map-a-Thon Mapping and Tech team created the analysis tools which can test our maps, and the maps of others, to see where there are weaknesses, mistakes, or intentional manipulation.

Like Mr. Joel Anderson's software, one of our team members, Phil Hatcher, developed a computer software tool which makes mapping suggestions based on the NH and US Constitutional mandates and other factors. This has been a useful tool which has already made some suggestions that we hadn't thought of.

While our maps are not perfect, we've proven that communities of interest can be implemented to retain regional high schools, shared water systems, health care regions, regional planning areas, and shared police, fire and EMS services -- some of which you've heard asked for in these hearings. This community of interest data, along with our maps, and supporting documentation is readily accessible to the committee.

Tonight, I'd like to take one more step and make a proposition. In consultation with the members of Map-a-Thon Mapping and Technical Team, we are offering our services to the two committees.

- The House Special Committee is up against a tight deadline. Our House maps are nearing completion, as close as we can get without redistricted city wards.
- We can work with you, side-by-side, joining your policy & constitutional expertise and our technical expertise.
- I have confidence that we can help the House Special committee meet its deadlines and produce a worthy product.
- While our DRA 2020 software had a limitation in being able to show floterial districts, this problem has now been solved.
- The DRA software allows for the implementation of many useful tools, including overlays, additional data sets and other tools not available in Mr. Anderson's software.
- While the Senate has more time to create its Senate and Executive Council maps, we have proposals ready to analyze which improve competitiveness, compactness, competitiveness, while being sensitive to communities of interest.

New Hampshire has a long tradition of volunteer contributions to developing legislation. I'm hoping the House and Senate committees will give our serious offer of technical support consideration, and together we can share maps we can all be proud of at future public hearings.

Thank you for your time in service to our state, for being committed to a fair, nonpartisan and transparent process, and for logging all these miles to listen to the input of your constituents.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Beihl, Deputy Director, Open Democracy  
Primary organizer, the Map-a-Thon Citizen Mapping Project  
[brian@opendemocracy.me](mailto:brian@opendemocracy.me)  
603-620-8300

Aldebran Longabaugh  
157 Alton Mountain Road | Alton Bay, NH 03810

October 15, 2021

House Special Committee on Redistricting  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301 | (603) 271-3661

Dear Special Committee Members,

As a Granite State citizen and registered voter, I am very concerned about the redistricting process and how it will impact the future of my home. I request you make the upcoming Belknap County listening session available by remote access so I could give verbal testimony. I cannot attend in person.

Currently all three state representatives for Alton are residents of our town, but they are shared with Gilmanton and Barnstead. Under the NH State Constitution (Part 2, Article 11) Alton is entitled to have its own NH state representative, as its population is over 3,444 (actually over 5,894 currently). Under current legislative maps, Alton could end up being represented by 2 Gilmanton residents and 1 Barnstead resident, or even 3 Gilmanton residents. Alton doesn't even share a high school with Gilmanton, so one of the most important areas of community focus is absent. While the current status is especially unfair to Gilmanton, any election could result in a situation unfair to Alton.

At Alton's March 9, 2021 election, Warrant Article #45 passed by a wide and clearly non-partisan margin, showing that the town strongly favors fair redistricting and having its own dedicated representative.

I understand you (the Redistricting Committee) are making the listening sessions available for live streaming on the House of Representatives channel on YouTube, yet there is no provision for the public (or state legislators, for that matter) to participate remotely. Considering the current increase in Covid infections, especially the Delta variant, failure to provide a means to participate remotely violates the goal of transparency. The technology for remote participation is clearly available, so it is up to you to make this process available to our citizenry.

Finally, it is imperative for you to hold additional hearings after the maps are drawn, for public input and transparency. Past committees have eroded the public trust in this process. This committee has a chance to restore it. Voting integrity starts with fair, nonpartisan maps. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Aldebran Longabaugh  
she/her | 978-912-0780 | [aldebranlongabaugh@gmail.com](mailto:aldebranlongabaugh@gmail.com)

Aldebran Longabaugh  
157 Alton Mountain Road | Alton Bay, NH 03810

October 15, 2021

House Special Committee on Redistricting  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301 | (603) 271-3661

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Sincerely,

Aldebran Longabaugh  
she/her | 978-912-0780 | [aldebrantonqabaugh@gmail.com](mailto:aldebrantonqabaugh@gmail.com)

Testimony for the Special Committee on Redistricting  
Belknap County- Town of Meredith  
October 19<sup>th</sup> at Belknap Mill Laconia

Good evening Madam Chair and members of the special redistricting committee

My name is Jim McFarlin from Meredith and I volunteered to create a Warrant Article at our Town Meeting for the NH Resolution for Fair, Non-Partisan & Transparent redistricting in 2021.

As in 74 other NH towns, this Resolution was passed overwhelmingly by Meredith's voters.

This is a powerful and clear message to your committee that voters across the political spectrum care deeply that this once every decade redistricting be done fairly and impartially with no more *gerrymandering*. Our District 2 representative Jonathan Mackie testified at Town Meeting, on the record, to support restoring Meredith to our own district with our own exclusive representative.

Transparency in crucial to restore voter confidence lost in 2011's partisan, secretive and unfair redistricting which favored the party in power.

Transparency means the following:

- 1) The software algorithm and criteria that will be used must be public. Why is it not yet available?
- 2) 2020 census data for redistricting must be shared fully and openly with the public. Why is this not so?
- 3) Committee meetings must be open to the public with at least 7 days advance notice.
- 4) Detailed Redistricting Committee meeting minutes must be promptly posted publicly.
- 5) The hearings and listening sessions should be live-streamed and recorded and available on the committee's website so they are widely accessible.
- 6) Your meetings and County "Listening Sessions" like this one should be on ZOOM to allow those unable to physically attend to safely participate. Why are you not allowing this during a pandemic?
- 7) This committee must release your "draft" maps with sufficient time for public review/response.
- 8) Proposed drafts of maps must be shown at 2<sup>nd</sup> County Listening sessions for public response before they are voted on and adopted.
- 9) Soliciting the contributions of and review by professional, non-partisan redistricting experts to assist the committee with the process, structure and criteria employed in redistricting challenges.
- 10) Your maps for submittal to the legislature for final vote to approve must have a consensus of approval from New Hampshire's voters. Without this, voter trust in you our leaders and democracy will further deteriorate. You can and must restore your voters faith and defend democracy in NH. No gerrymandering (cheating). Honor your oath.

Specific to Meredith, per the November 7<sup>th</sup> 2006 Constitutional amendment on NH House redistricting, your committee must honor this amendment and restore Meredith to our own district with our own exclusive NH House representative(s). To do otherwise is to perpetuate the injustice inflicted on Meredith's voters in 2011 depriving us of our rightful representation.

In closing, thank you for listening.

Each individual member of the this critically important committee must call upon your own good conscience, consider your legacy and choose to defend rather than destroy democracy in New Hampshire. You must put aside the partisan pursuit of power and provide proof you can create truly fair maps.

Good evening. My name is Sandy Mucci, and I'm a resident of Meredith. I want to begin by providing my credentials as an expert on New Hampshire's Lakes Region Communities.

I'm an 8th generation New Hampshire native born in Wolfeboro. I've spent all 70 of my summers in the Lakes Region, worked at Harts Turkey Farm in the 1960s, and in 1975 moved to Meredith with my late husband, where we raised our family. Of course, my Wolfeboro cousins still call me the Connecticut cousin because my father was from Connecticut and met my mother when he did a postgraduate year at Brewster Academy after World War II. My work and volunteer activities have brought me to most of the towns in the Lakes Region. I know this area very well.

My local knowledge is pertinent because decisions are being made that affect the rights of our citizens. The lines which are drawn connecting communities need to be executed with a clear understanding of local conditions.

From Europe, all New England seems the same, and the differences between Rhode Island and Vermont are all but invisible. The entire Lakes Region may seem the same from outside the region, but it's not. The beauty and intent of New Hampshire's massive House of Representatives is to provide local representation. It's part of our unique and proud tradition. When communities that do not share common interests and goals are combined into one legislative district, as with Meredith and Gifford, both communities are disenfranchised. I know that is neither the intent nor the purpose of this Commission. Although Meredith and Gifford may appear similar from afar and share a common boundary somewhere in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee, they are unrelated in all the important ways.

When Meredith had its own representatives, they were known in the community. We would run into them at the dump, the post office, and the bar at Harts. They shopped at the local stores, knew kids at the local schools, belonged to the local service clubs. They were part of the community. I'm sure that's true for Gifford too. Although I don't know because even though I have friends in Gifford and have done business in Gifford, I'm not part of their community, I don't see how they work.

And that is the problem with the current configuration. The geography, including Lakes and Mountains, affects the travel patterns, and there is no natural connection between Meredith & Gifford. NONE! Although that location in the middle of the lake may fulfill the letter of the law, which requires a common boundary, the spirit and intent of the law are frustrated. By combining the two towns, both are disenfranchised. Right now, Meredith is underrepresented, but the same could happen to Gifford. I encourage you to repair this mistake and return Meredith to its own district. Thank you for your time and attention.



Good evening and thank you for holding these very important hearings.

My name is Lew Henry and I live in Gilmanton.

Your Redistricting task is a very difficult one, but it is extremely important! The Redistricting's ten year life span means that having it done correctly now is paramount.

Redistricting needs to be accomplished in a fair, nonpartisan, and transparent manner, unfortunately the previous two Redistricting Plans, from 2001 and 2011, were not done this way, leading to much controversy. A lot of time and money went into, unfortunately, less than successful attempts to correct them.

So I thank you again for being here this evening seeking input into the process, and I thank you in advance for coming back here to hold a similar listening session when you have completed your preliminary mapping.

In 2011 my home town of Gilmanton was Constitutionally entitled to a single, non-shared seat in the NH House. We did not get it. Not only is this seat specified in the NH Constitution, it is also the fairest way to reach the ideal of "one person, one vote". Instead we were given two seats shared with Alton, and one seat shared with Barnstead and Alton. Gilmanton is a very different place than Alton, we share very little except a border. We do not share a school nor an Executive Councilor. Our geography is different, as we are mostly fields, forests, and farms, with very few businesses. We do not share a shoreline of Lake Winnepesaukee with Alton. Our tax structure is very different from Alton's. Because of the total lack of transparency and fairness in the 2011 Redistricting process we had no input into correcting it. This is a violation of the NH Constitution which we hope your Committee will rectify before more violations are forced on us. The next thing that could happen is placing us in a district with a non-contiguous town, which would also violate the Constitution.

I am including with this statement a copy of the letter from Gilmanton's Board of Selectmen to the leaders of the NH House and Senate and also a copy of the Warrant Article 18 that was voted on at our Town Meeting. Based on the overwhelming, bipartisan vote (435 yes, 125 no) in support of Warrant Article 18 titled "New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting", our Board of Selectmen urge that the Redistricting Committee ensure a fair and transparent Redistricting plan, without gerrymandering, by holding public meetings such as you are here, and that Gilmanton be given its single, non-shared Representative in the NH House.

Thank you, Lew Henry

My NH Redistricting Committee, Belknap County Listening Session presentation  
(general testimony).

From: Lew Henry (lewhenry@yahoo.com)

To: housespecialcommitteeonredistricting@leg.state.nh.us; senate.redistricting@leg.state.nh.us

Date: Monday, October 18, 2021, 08:58 AM EDT

Good evening and thank you for holding these very important hearings.

My name is Lew Henry and I live in Gilmanton.

Your Redistricting task is a very difficult one, but it is extremely important! The Redistricting's ten year life span means that having it done correctly now is paramount.

Redistricting needs to be accomplished in a fair, nonpartisan, and transparent manner, unfortunately the previous two Redistricting Plans, from 2001 and 2011, were not done this way, leading to much controversy. A lot of time and money went into, unfortunately, less than successful attempts to correct them.

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Thank you, Lew Henry

**A Petition to Add a Warrant Article Resolution to the 2021 Town Meeting Warrant**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTION FOR FAIR NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING**

A petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Gilmanton to see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering. Additionally, these voters ask the town of Gilmanton to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

Furthermore, as the New Hampshire State Constitution, Part 2, Article 11 allows towns of sufficient population to have their own state representatives, not shared with other towns, for the town of Gilmanton to petition the NH General Court for its own exclusive seat(s) in the NH House of Representatives if it does not already have it, ensuring that State Representatives properly represent the town's interests.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to Gilmanton's state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.

Your name as registered to vote \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your street address, as registered to vote \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You!

**SELECTMEN'S OFFICE**

TOWN OF GILMANTON  
 PO Box 550, Gilmanton, NH 03237

Ph: (603) 267-6700 Fax: (603) 267-6701 Website: [www.gilmantonnh.com](http://www.gilmantonnh.com)



The Honorable Sherman Packard  
 Speaker of the House  
 New Hampshire House of Representatives  
 107 North Main Street  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

The Honorable Chuck Morse  
 President of the Senate  
 New Hampshire House of Representatives  
 107 North Main Street  
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Vote of Gilmanton Town Meeting  
 Resolution for Fair, Nonpartisan Redistricting

Dear Speaker Packard and Senate President Morse:

On March 9, 2021, the Town Meeting for the Town of Gilmanton New Hampshire voted to approve Warrant Article 18, captioned "New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting" by a measure of 435 "yes" and 125 "no." A copy of the Town of Gilmanton's 2021 Town Meeting Warrant, with vote tallies is enclosed with this letter.

In accordance with the vote of the Town Meeting, the Gilmanton Board of Selectmen hereby urges the New Hampshire General Court conduct redistricting to ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering. The Gilmanton Board of Selectmen further urges the General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, without favoring any particular political party, and to include communities of interest and the minimize multi-seat districts.

Lastly, on behalf of the voters of the Town of Gilmanton, the Board of Selectmen respectfully requests on behalf of the voters that, as part of the General Court's redistricting effort, the Town be given one representative that exclusively represents the Town of Gilmanton, and no other community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Town of Gilmanton  
 Board of Selectmen

By:

*[Signature]*

By:

Vincent Balocchi

By:

*[Signature]*

Even Collins

## Testimony for the Special Committee on Redistricting

Oct 19<sup>th</sup> at the Belknap Mill, Laconia

Belknap County- Town of Belmont

Good evening, Madam Chair and members of the special redistricting committee,

My name is Don House. I'm a resident of Belmont NH. I created Warrant Article 26 on fair, non-partisan redistricting that appeared on Belmont's March 2021 Town Election.

This warrant article passed with a strong majority of voters expressing their preference for a fair, non-partisan redistricting process. Seventy four other towns in NH have passed similar resolutions.

Transparency and fairness are crucial to restore voter confidence in our election process.

My view of transparency and fairness is the following:

- 1) Committee hearings should be open for remote testimony via Zoom or other technology. One way streaming is not sufficient. Forcing voters to come to an in-door meeting restricts participation and forces votes to choose between their health and the democratic process. I ask you to offer this option in future hearings that are scheduled.
  - 2) Draft maps should be available with sufficient time for public review and commentary. I want to see the maps before your committee votes on them. When will the draft maps be available?
  - 3) An independent, non-partisan group of NH voters should endorse any final maps that are recommended
  - 4) Five towns within Belknap County (Meredith, Gilford, Acton, Tilton, and Gilmanton) qualify for their own separate representative according to the NH Constitution. I would expect the outcome of this process to provide these towns with their own representation and not shared with another town.
- As a Belmont voter, I expect the end result of this process is that Belmont will continue to have 2 of their own state representatives and continue to share a floterial district with another town or city within Belknap County.

As committee members that have been given this important responsibility, you have a choice in showing democracy can be done in a fair and open process. I hope you choose this option and avoid the pitfalls and controversy that were associated with the process completed in 2011.

In closing, thank you for listening. I look forward to the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft maps at another similar session. I hope you will be sharing information about the next steps in the process soon.

Good evening. My name is Sandy Mucci, and I'm a resident of Meredith. I want to begin by providing my credentials as an expert on New Hampshire's Lakes Region Communities.

I'm an 8th generation New Hampshire native born in Wolfeboro. I've spent all 70 of my summers in the Lakes Region, worked at Harts Turkey Farm in the 1960s, and in 1975 moved to Meredith with my late husband, where we raised our family. Of course, my Wolfeboro cousins still call me the Connecticut cousin because my father was from Connecticut and met my mother when he did a postgraduate year at Brewster Academy after World War II. My work and volunteer activities have brought me to most of the towns in the Lakes Region. I know this area very well.

My local knowledge is pertinent because decisions are being made that affect the rights of our citizens. The lines which are drawn connecting communities need to be executed with a clear understanding of local conditions.

From Europe, all New England seems the same, and the differences between Rhode Island and Vermont are all but invisible. The entire Lakes Region may seem the same from outside the region, but it's not. The beauty and intent of New Hampshire's massive House of Representatives is to provide local representation. It's part of our unique and proud tradition. When communities that do not share common interests and goals are combined into one legislative district, as with Meredith and Gilford, both communities are disenfranchised. I know that is neither the intent nor the purpose of this Commission. Although Meredith and Gilford may appear similar from afar and share a common boundary somewhere in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee, they are unrelated in all the important ways.

When Meredith had its own representatives, they were known in the community. We would run into them at the dump, the post office, and the bar at Harts. They shopped at the local stores, knew kids at the local schools, belonged to the local service clubs. They were part of the community. I'm sure that's true for Gilford too. Although I don't know because even though I have friends in Gilford and have done business in Gilford, I'm not part of their community, I don't see how they work.

And that is the problem with the current configuration. The geography, including Lakes and Mountains, affects the travel patterns, and there is no natural connection between Meredith & Gilford. NONE! Although that location in the middle of the lake may fulfill the letter of the law, which requires a common boundary, the spirit and intent of the law are frustrated. By combining the two towns, both are disenfranchised. Right now, Meredith is underrepresented, but the same could happen to Gilford. I encourage you to repair this mistake and return Meredith to its own district. Thank you for your time and attention.

Thank you, Chairman Griffin and Members of the Redistricting Committee, for affording the public the opportunity to express our hopes and concerns regarding redistricting. I would like to advise the Committee that I am a Belknap County Commissioner, but my presentation today is on my own behalf as a citizen of Belknap County, and not on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

\* The primary aim of representative districting should be fairness, and a major component of fairness (made clear by the NH Constitution and NH Supreme Court opinions) is that voting districts should be consistent with the goal of “one person – one vote”.

\* A second major component of fairness in districting is to divide the state into as many voting districts as feasible to promote localized representation. The fact that the NH House of Representatives is comprised of 400 members exemplifies the preference for smaller voting districts where voters and their representatives are likely to have direct contact with each other. It should be noted that Belknap County is a relatively simple case to deal with, as it has the fewest municipal units (one city and 10 towns) of any county. Matching NH House seats to the towns and city in Belknap is much easier than in a county where there are fewer House seats available compared to the number of towns.

\* The formula used to create House districts is the population of NH (currently 1,377,529, based on the 2020 census) and divide it by 400, which gives the “ideal population” number to be used in determining representative districts. At the present time, that number is 3,444. In other words, a town or area with at least 3,444 residents is entitled to its own house representative. The NH Supreme Court has also made clear that “reasonable deviation” is allowed in making these determinations.

\* The danger of having excessively large, or combined districts, is illustrated by events following the 2000 redistricting. Belknap District 5, with 7 representatives, was created, comprised of 4 towns and including 40% of the county population. By 2008, 4 of the 7 representatives were from the same town. The plan clearly did not promote localized representation.

\* The 2010 redistricting improved on the 2000 situation somewhat, by changing District 5, but it created other problems. The following are my suggested changes to the 2010 redistricting.

\* In particular, under the 2010 plan, Gilmanton no longer had its own representative, despite meeting the “ideal population” number to warrant having its own seat. Gilmanton was instead paired with Alton for 2 shared seats, and with Alton and Barnstead for a floterial seat. For much of the period since 2010, Gilmanton has not had a representative who resides in Gilmanton.

\* The 3 towns of Alton, Barnstead, and Gilmanton all meet the “ideal population” threshold for separate representation based on the 2020 census. If the population numbers for Alton and Barnstead are combined, they exceed 10,332 (3 times 3,444), which means that the 2 towns should each have their own representative, and the combined overage should be the basis of a floterial seat for Alton and Barnstead. Although I will defer to other speakers addressing the issue of “communities of interest”, it should be noted that Alton and Barnstead share a high school, and a superintendent of schools.

\* Gilford and Meredith currently share 4 representatives, but it makes sense to split this combined district into 2, with Gilford and Meredith each having 2 representatives. Gilford currently meets the “ideal population” number for 2 representatives (over 6,888), and Meredith comes very close, with only a 3% shortfall. That minor shortfall should be viewed as a “reasonable deviation”, especially since the shortfall is likely to disappear in the coming years. In addition, other speakers will address the very

substantial differences between the 2 towns, making it inappropriate to combine them in a voting district.

\* The third change I recommend, based on considerations of fairness, is to allocate a 5<sup>th</sup> representative for Laconia. Using the 3,444 magic number, Laconia falls just shy of the 17,220 figure for 5 seats, as the 2020 population of the City is 16,871. That number places Laconia at 98% of the ideal number, clearly an insignificant and “reasonable deviation”. The population of Laconia is about 26% of the county population, and 5 seats would represent 26% of the 18 representative seats for Belknap. Finally, there is undoubtedly general agreement that the City of Laconia has an array of issues and problems setting it apart from the towns in Belknap County.

\* A fourth possible change concerns the currently combined district of Tilton and Sanbornton. Although Tilton meets the “ideal population” number, Sanbornton falls short by 418, a deviation of about 12%. If we emphasize the preference for smaller districts that allow more localized representation, the 2 towns would each be allotted a separate seat, but I acknowledge that the numerical deviation is greater than the prior examples.

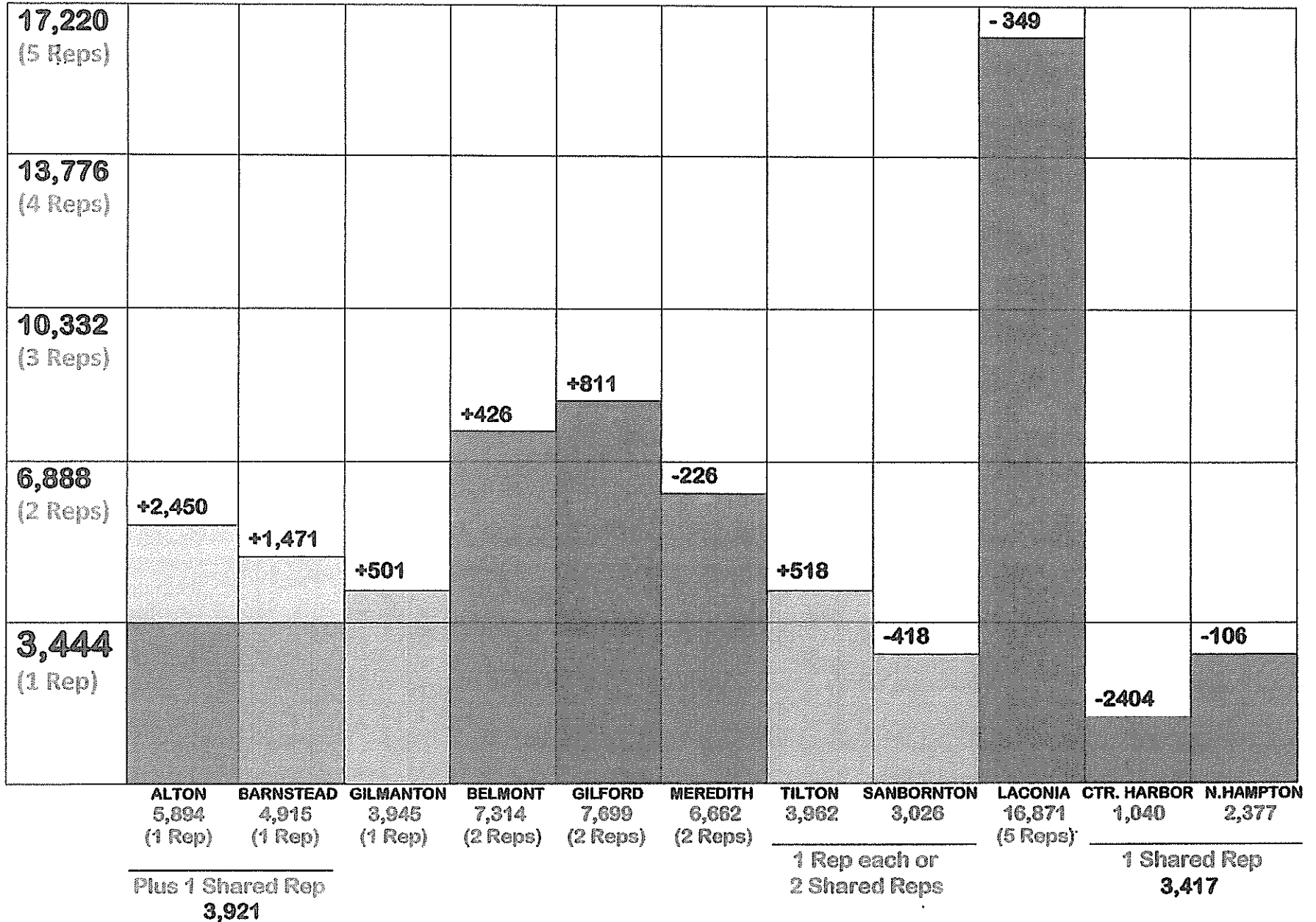
\* In my view, Center Harbor and New Hampton would necessarily continue to be represented by one combined seat, based on the population numbers.

I have attempted to make this presentation clear and not too “in the weeds”. And I hope that the Committee will find the graphics I have provided in a separate packet helpful.

Let me just say in closing that those of us who are taking an interest in the redistricting process hope very much that the Committee will have a second round of sessions after the preliminary maps are drawn, to allow for input on those proposals.

# BELKNAP COUNTY

## Population





Request to the General Court regarding Redistricting.

10/18/2021

To the NH Redistricting Committee

For every Gilmanton resident who pays a tax bill, the fattest part of that bill is for education. When we pay that bill, it is like being forced to buy expensive new shoes, or a fancy bicycle. Since we must educate our children, we can take pride in that purchase, because it is for our children and their futures.

But the situation is this: For the same service of education, the Alton resident must only buy an average priced pair of shoes, or a discount store bicycle. They get the same result but pay less money. I feel differently about this situation as a resident of Gilmanton than a similarly situated resident of Alton. The policies of the State impact us differently, so we are very likely to have different views on this subject.

It is a disease of the current Political climate that we can look at something that has a plain truth on its face and call it its opposite. Following the path of redistricting as it has proceeded up until now would be an example of doing exactly that.

I would like to join the Gilmanton Select Board in urging the New Hampshire General Court to conduct redistricting to ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering. I also join them in further urging the General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, without favoring any particular party, and to include communities of interest and to minimize multi-seat districts.

Yours Truly

Nathaniel Abbott, Gilmanton NH  
Elizabeth Abbott, Gilmanton, NH

## Comments on Redistricting Belknap County

State Rep. Timothy Horrigan (Strafford 6; Durham); October 19, 2021

Our state constitution specifies that state representative districts should be contiguous. The current plan, which was put together in 2012 includes a district which fails to meet even that simple requirement. Gilford and Meredith's shared boundary is way out in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee, but they also share a state representative district.

Art. 11, Part 2<sup>nd</sup> states in part:

**When the population of any town or ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population for one or more representative seats, the town or ward shall have its own district of one or more representative seats.**

Article 11 goes on to talk about how to handle “excess” population by creating at-large or floterial districts “conforming to acceptable deviations.” We legislators decide what is “reasonable” or “acceptable” but we do have to take federal voting rights law into account, including the principle of “one person one vote.”

In 2012, the General Court decided that state representative districts could not vary by more than 10% (or plus or minus 5%.) This made it almost impossible to meet the spirit of Article 11, Part 2<sup>nd</sup>, since the Granite State is a small state with a large legislature, where state representative districts can't cross county lines and where towns and city wards can't be split in two. Our next door neighbor, Vermont got away with a plan where state representative districts varied by 20% (plus or minus 10%) even though Vermont towns can be split in two.

The first problem with drawing district lines for Belknap County is that the county is theoretically entitled to 18,498 representatives out of 400. On the other hand, we don't have to worry about the ward boundaries in Laconia, since this rather small city is just barely big enough for 5 representatives but has 6 wards. I created a plan with 18 representatives (3539.17 residents/rep) where the ratio of residents to reps varies by 17.83%.

- 1.Center Harbor (1040) & New Hampton (2377); 1 rep; deviation -0.80%
- 2.Meredith (6662); 2 reps; deviation -3.29%
- 3.Laconia (16871); 5 reps; deviation -2.04%
- 4.Gilford (7644); 2 reps; deviation +11.76%
- 5.Belmont (7314); 2 reps; deviation +6.17%
- 6.Sanbornton (3026) & Tilton (3962); 2 reps; deviation +1.44%
- 7.Gilmanton (3945); 1 rep; deviation +14.53%
- 8.Alton (5894) & Barnstead (4915); 3 reps; deviation +4.60%

Representative Sallie Fellows  
Grafton 8 - Holderness, Hebron and Plymouth

Date: October 19, 2021

To: Redistricting Chairperson Griffin and Committee Members,

Thank you for providing an opportunity for community input. There are three things I respectfully ask you to consider.

I have a suggestion that you might find helpful in trying to keep all districts within the 5% deviation limit. This is most likely to be useful for counties with smaller populations where the perfect seat allocation (which is a two-digit decimal number) includes a fraction close to one-half.

For example, Grafton county, with a population of 91,118, has a perfect allocation of 26.46 seats. While I was able to successfully map 27 seats (the current allocation) with just a few adjustments to the current configuration, I couldn't map 26 seats, even when using 3 or 4 floterials, and keep within the 5% deviation from the statewide target of 3,444. What I discovered was that only 3 seats were below the statewide target. The other 23 were over the target. The only one outside the 5% range was over by just 5.47%. So, I wondered why so lopsided, with 3 under and 23 over.

Since Grafton's allocation of 26 seats is nearly one-half a percent below the perfect allocation of 26.46 seats, there are 1,574 extra people that must be squished into 26 seats. That's an average 61 extra people, or 1.76% of the target, for each seat. If that excess could be evenly distributed over all seats, each would have a deviation of plus 1.76%. A deviation of that magnitude is more than 1/3 of the way to the maximum allowable deviation of 5%.

My suggestion, is to develop county maps based on the statewide target of 3,444 people per seat, but if a few seats are a bit outside the 5% limit, test the deviation using a target that is the county population divided by the number of county seats. (For Grafton that would be 3,505.) If all the seats are then within 5%, I suggest the map should be deemed acceptable.

My second request is that after preparing draft maps please provide a second opportunity for community input. It is the people who live in each town who know which other towns are part of their community. This is particularly important for Grafton county, because it does not have a representative on the Redistricting Committee.

It is generally accepted that public schools are an important element of shared interest. My third request is that instead of using SAUs as the school link, you use high school of attendance. The only common denominator that all SAUs provide is shared SAU staff. Some don't include a high school, and some have districts that use different high schools. NHDOE publishes two high school lists, but neither has all towns by high school attended. I can provide you with a spreadsheet that can be sorted by town or high school.

Testimony for the Special Committee on Redistricting  
Belknap County- Town of Meredith  
October 19<sup>th</sup> at Belknap Mill Laconia

Good evening Madam Chair and members of the special redistricting committee. My Name is Steve Merrill and I have been a resident of Meredith NH for over 20 years.

I am here today to express my concern for the future of our great republic. Over the past few decades I have witnessed the deterioration of our norms and the decay of our core institutions. A deterioration which has accelerated over the past decade. A deterioration that began in our nation's capital and now has bled into our great state. A deterioration that if left unchecked could undermine the very foundation of the country we all love.

The reasons for this state of affairs are numerous and complicated but at the core it comes down to greed; greed for money, greed for power. The financial greed can be seen in the lobbying industry, social networking companies, political parties, and our news media to name a few. Fear and hate sell and too many are all happy to sell it. The greed for power can be seen in legislative chambers and conference rooms around the country, including this very room.

Certainly one significant influence on this insidious decay has been partisan gerrymandering which has grown more powerful and more effective with the information technology revolution of the past 30 years. Modern computing technology combined with modern data analytics enable politicians to leverage voter data to maximize their probability of remaining in power against the will of the people. Just as Facebook, Apple and Google can predict which ads you're likely to click on, voter analytics can predict how groups of people are likely to vote.

With a background in physics and engineering and experience teaching statistics at the university level, I have the good fortune or perhaps misfortune of understanding just how powerful this technology is and how it can be used to undermine the principle of one person one vote which is at the core of our system of government.

In 2010, a wave of republicans swept into our state capital and boldly asserted their authority over our voting system. The gerrymandering that resulted left one party with an unfair advantage in elections for the ensuing decade. To achieve this goal, legislators chose to sacrifice the independence of Meredith and many other towns by taking away their representation. Though Meredith leans Republicans (or rather because of this fact), we were combined with Gilford to form a single district with 4 representatives. Never mind that the only border we share is on the lake or that we share no resources or infrastructure. The obvious objective was to increase the number of house seats in the "r" category for the next decade. And it worked!

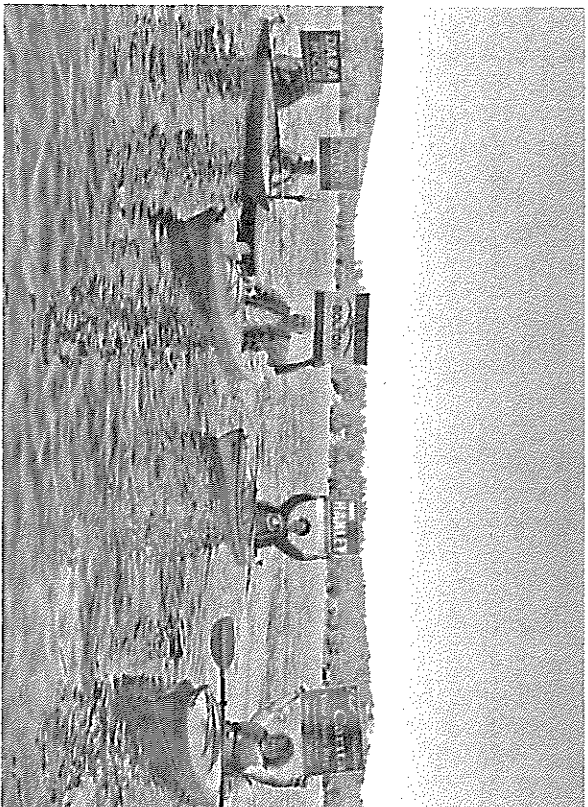
The results of the 2010 gerrymander also had a profound impact on our state senate. From 2010 to 2020, Republicans controlled the state senate for 8 of the 10 years in spite of losing the overall vote total (i.e. the combined total of all 24 state senate races) by about 1.6%. The democrats needed a wave of their own to take the chamber for only 2 of the 10 years in the decade. In 2018, Democrats won the total vote count for the 24 seats by nearly 8% (53.9% - 6.1%) but only won 14 of the 24 seats. In 2012, the totals were 51-49% for the democrats, yet the republicans

won 13 seats and thus chamber control. In 2014, the tally was 50.3%-49.7% again for the democrats. This time the Republicans picked up a seat, winning 14 that year. You heard that right, Democrats won more votes, but lost the election in both 2012 and 2014. In 2016, the Republicans finally won an election. The count was 50.3% - 49.7% and you guessed it, the Republicans held the chamber, 14-10. Democrats needed an 8% point margin to win the same number of seats. The Republicans could win or lose by 1% and still win 14 seats.

We have an evenly divided state and yet 16 of 24 state senate districts were controlled by a single party for the entire decade. Please don't repeat this mistake.

For the good of our state, for the good of our people, please restore fairness to our electoral process. And please restore Meredith's independence. Give us back our seats.

## Let's Re-Draw the District 2 Belknap Maps allowing Meredith and Gifford "Fair Representation."



*Meredith and Gifford share a "nautical" border only, somewhere in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee.*

### Why it makes sense?

- Under the NH Constitution (Part 2, Article 11), towns with a population of 3,444 or more, or a "reasonable deviation" from that, are entitled to their own state representative. With a 2020 census population of 6,662, Meredith should have 2 designated representatives. The deviation from 6,888 (3,444 doubled) is reasonable and minimal. In fact, Meredith's population is increasing. At the time of the 2010 census, it was 6,241, so it has added 421 during that period.
- The towns of Meredith and Gifford are NOT contiguous. In addition to the federal requirements of one person, one vote and the Voting Rights Act, **NH State law requires that state legislative districts "be contiguous, and maintain the boundaries of towns, wards, or unincorporated places."** The closest driving distance between the 2 towns is almost 9 miles. The 2 towns share no borders other than a nautical border on Lake Winnepesaukee (see above photo).
- The towns of Meredith and Gifford do not share any elementary, middle or high schools or any other municipal services.
- With Meredith and Gifford each having their own 2 legislators, representation will be spread evenly, ensuring the most equitable representation from officials that live in their respective town. Local representatives are more knowledgeable about issues facing individual residents, businesses, and schools in their own town and therefore can be more effective advocates. In addition, having 2 representatives per town prevents any one town from having all 4 state representatives in any one term.

Testimony for the Special Committee on Redistricting  
Belknap County - October 19, 2021

Madame Chair and members of the Special Redistricting Committee,

My name is Lynn Montana and I am from Meredith.

I am grateful for this opportunity to speak at this very important public session, on an extremely important subject; the Constitutional Nonpartisan Democratic procedures of redistricting.

Every NH Voter has the right to expect this special committee to follow the Non Partisan and Independent process for fair and transparent redistricting.

Unfortunately in 2010..." REDMAP (short for Redistricting Majority Project), was adopted by the Republican State Leadership Committee of the United States to increase Republican control of congressional seats as well as state legislators, largely through determination of electoral district boundaries.

The project made effective use of partisan gerrymandering, relying on specific mapping software, where there was a Democratic majority but which they could swing towards Republican with appropriate redistricting. The project was launched in 2010 and estimated to have cost the Republican party around \$30 million."

REDMAP's own website proudly sums it up best: "The party controlling that effort, controls the drawing of the maps - shaping the political landscape for the next 10 years". Even Karl Rove took to The Wall Street Journal saying "He who controls redistricting, controls Congress".

This was not the outcome that the framers of the NH Constitution intended when they spoke of redistricting after each Census.

Whether Republican, Independent or Democrat, the majority of NH voters understand that it is advantageous to us all, to have fair, transparent and NON PARTISAN redistricting procedures no matter which party holds the majority In Concord.

Unfortunately in 2011 these procedures were not only absent in NH, but deliberately obfuscated and hidden from the public by party politicians who formed the Committee, and the result was a very partisan rearrangement of voting districts which, quite frankly to a great many NH voters, was appalling, shameful, and very UN- democratic.

In 2011:

1. Decisions were made by three politicians, and held in secret behind doors.
  2. Public meetings were held after very short notice, with no maps for them to see.
  3. Our state legislators were only allowed to view the maps a few days voting on the districts.
  4. Any opposition or improvements were silenced!
- And so we NH voters are here today in solidarity to tell you that we expect you, the newest appointed members of this special committee to act independently and without party bias when drawing up the redistricting maps for 2021 and the next 10 years. We are asking YOU to fix these maps, and use fair methods. You can request that the Organization FAIR MAPS assist you if you need help doing so.
- Over the last 10 years, NH voters have been denied our rights to choose our elected leaders fairly; due to gerrymandering, which must end now.
- We would like to see you restore a fair and transparent voting system to our State in 2021.

And last but by far not least... I am from Meredith. I have lived here most of my life, and voted since 1970. Prior to 2010, Meredith was its' own singular voting district with two town representatives. This has not been the case since 2011, when we were coupled together through redistricting with Gilford. Numerous other NH towns have also been denied their historically independent districts. Meredith needs to have our district and representatives reinstated as it was prior to 2011 making it once again, comply correctly with the NH Constitution.

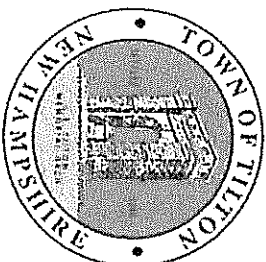
Thank you again for this opportunity and I truly hope the voters of Belknap County and NH can rely on you, our newest committee members to fulfill their duties with honesty and integrity and carry out Fair Nonpartisan and Transparent Redistricting according to the law.

Lynn Montana, Meredith voter.

October 19,2021



**Town of Tilton**  
257 Main Street  
Tilton, NH 03276  
603.285.4521 Town Hall  
603.285.3519 Fax  
www.tiltonnh.org



**Board of Selectmen**  
Eric Pyra, Chair  
Fabrizia Corsantino, Vice Chair  
Joseph Jasseman  
Scott Ruggles  
Jonathan Scanlon

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Robert Giuda  
The Honorable Juliet Harvey-Bolia  
The Honorable Timothy Lang

Dear Elected Officials:

At the Town Meeting on March 13, 2021, the Town of Tilton voters approved Warrant Article 16. Article 16, captioned "New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting," had been duly submitted by petition signed by 30 residents.

The Article, as written, states:

**Article 16.**

NEW HAMPSHIRE RESOLUTION FOR FAIR NONPARTISAN REDISTRICTING  
By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Tilton to see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the town of Tilton to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from town officials to Tilton's state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote. (submitted by petition)

The results of Article 16 at the Tilton Town Meeting on March 13, 2021 are as follows:

The moderator asks if anyone wants to move this article. Lauren Noether moved Article 16 to the floor, seconded by Jane Alden. The moderator recognizes Peter Fogg who asks if the signer is here to speak to it, and the moderator states it was submitted by Lucinda Pope. The moderator asks for

any other questions or comments seeing none, all those in favor say aye, opposed, nay. I'm gonna ask you to hold your card up. All those in favor 20, opposed 13. Article 16 passed as presented. The Town of Tilton will be responsible with making some correspondence to the General Court."

TILTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Eric Pyra, Chair ..... Patricia Consentino, Vice Chair .....

Joseph Jesseman ..... Scott Rugles .....

Jonathan G. Scanlon .....

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Testimony to the NH House Redistricting Committee**

October 19, 2021

Good evening, Madam Chair Griffin, and members of the Redistricting Committee,

My name is Claudia Ferber, and I am a NH registered voter and reside in Gilmanton, NH.

Tonight, I bring questions to this Committee about how redistricting impacts my Town of Gilmanton and what the Committee can do to ensure our voters get fair representation.

Why DOESN'T the Town of Gilmanton have an exclusive seat in the NH State House of Representatives?

The NH State Constitution Pt 2 Art 11 says a town/city must have a population of more than 3,444 to have an exclusive seat. Gilmanton meets this threshold according to the 2020 US CENSUS. Gilmanton met this threshold in 2010. Because of the 2010 redistricting Gilmanton and Alton share 2 seats in the State House of Representatives and one floterial seat with Alton and Barnstead.

Is the Committee aware that Gilmanton passed a warrant article (435 yes – 125 no) in March 2021 asking for an exclusive seat and a fair, transparent, and nonpartisan redistricting process?

Hopefully, you have read the March 15 letter sent to Speaker Packard and Senate President Morse from the Town of Gilmanton Selectmen: Mark Warren, who also serves as the NH State Senate chaplain, Vincent Baiocchetti, and Evan Collin.

The Selectmen asked on behalf of the Gilmanton voters for an exclusive seat and a fair, transparent, and nonpartisan redistricting process AND they emphasized without gerrymandering.

Why does Gilmanton share 2 house seats with Alton and one house seat with Barnstead?

Other than sharing land boundaries, Gilmanton does not share any municipal services. Our tax base is quite different. One might ask “was there gerrymandering in 2010?”

Is this Committee aware Gilmanton has been its own district in the past?

Gilmanton was its own district until the end of the 1960's and then again for a period beginning in the 1970's. At that time, George B Roberts, Jr (R) who still resides in Gilmanton represented Gilmanton and served fourteen years in the House and as Speaker of the House from 1975-1980.

In 2010, redistricting changed things and Gilmanton and Alton became a district sharing 2 house seats and one floterial seat with Alton and Barnstead .

Why does Belknap County have 3 NH State Senate Districts?

One can travel north to south, east to west of Belknap County in less than one hour. Currently, Belknap County's has towns/cities divided up into 3 districts with towns/cities from Grafton, Strafford, and Merrimack Counties.

Gilmanton is currently in District 6 and shares a NH State Senator with New Durham, Farmington, Rochester, Alton, and Barnstead. The only commonality is that Alton and New Durham have a common land boundary.

I ask the Committee members to consider my following request:

1. **Redistrict** so **Gilmanton and Alton each has an exclusive seat** in the NH House of Representatives.
2. **Redistrict** the NH State Senate seats so that Gilmanton's representation is in a **District with only towns within Belknap County**.
3. Schedule **PUBLIC HEARINGS** before the legislature votes on the redistricting maps.

Thank you for your attention and time this evening.

Claudia J. Ferber

6 Willow Avenue

Gilmanton, NH 03247

Ph 603 731-5705

Email: [cferber22@gmail.com](mailto:cferber22@gmail.com)

## Testimony to the New Hampshire House Redistricting Committee

November 10, 2021  
Kim Frost, Etna, NH

Hello. My name is Kim Frost, and I live in Etna, NH. I am a member of League of Women Voters of NH and a member of the NH Map-a-Thon's technical team. The following testimony is my own.

As you know, the Map-a-Thon team has spent the last several months collecting data on communities of interest, developing criteria for evaluating maps, and drafting fair maps to share with the public & with your committee. We believe that democracy depends upon a fair and open redistricting process and that voters should choose their representatives rather than representatives choosing their voters.

I attended the hearing last week when Republicans and Democrats on this committee shared their redistricting proposals for New Hampshire's two congressional seats. Representative Ross Berry explained that the rationale for the GOP map was to unite the communities in the southern tier. In particular, Representative Berry wanted to unite the towns of Hudson, Windham, Litchfield, Pelham, Salem and Atkinson in one congressional district. He explained that the proposed map was necessary in order to do this. Other Republicans on the committee voiced their support for this objective and for the resulting map.

This is, of course, a community of interest (abbreviated in the redistricting literature as a COI). The support of Representative Berry and other Republican Representatives for the importance of COIs in the redistricting process was a pleasant surprise. I coordinated the analysis of COI data for the Map-a-Thon project, and we believe that keeping COIs together is an important goal.

I had not, however, previously heard that these towns comprised an important COI for the people of New Hampshire. We collected data on COIs from over 200 participants, and this particular COI – let's call it Representative Berry's COI, for ease of reference – was not mentioned by anyone. Participants in our non-partisan process identified the following COIs, listed here in order of priority:

- Shared high school SAUs
- Shared water & sanitation services
- Shared police & fire services
- Shared Public Health Regions
- Communities high in social vulnerability (as defined by NH DHHS)
- Shared Regional Planning Commissions

It turns out the Representative Berry's COI crosses boundaries for the counties in the southern tier and for the Public Health Region and Regional Planning Commission COIs. It also does not have significant shared high school SAUs, water & sanitation services, police & fire services, or communities high in social vulnerability that appear to connect the towns into a larger community defined by this COI. As a result, we had not previously taken Representative Berry's COI into account in our analyses.

Being the dedicated data geeks that we are, however, several members of the technical team immediately set to work to see if Representative Berry's COI could be combined with these other COIs to create a map that responded to this hitherto unknown COI and still respected the other COIs and all of the other important redistricting concerns, such as low deviation, compactness, competitiveness,

splitting, and preservation of the core of the prior districts. Five us spent about 15 minutes apiece creating alternative maps in Dave's Redistricting software.

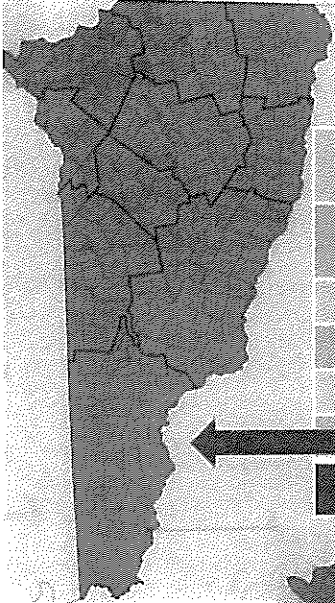
I am sure that members of the committee will be pleased to hear that each of us was easily able to generate a map that respected this critical new COI and had lower deviation, was more compact and competitive, split fewer counties and fewer other COIs, and preserved more of the core of the prior districts. I have attached these maps and their associated analyses in case none of the committee members have 15 minutes of their own time to dedicated to this difficult task.

If COIs are important to the NH Redistricting Committee, I would respectfully suggest that they take another look at either the original Map-a-Thon proposal or Alternative #1, both of which do a much better job with COIs than the Republican proposal.

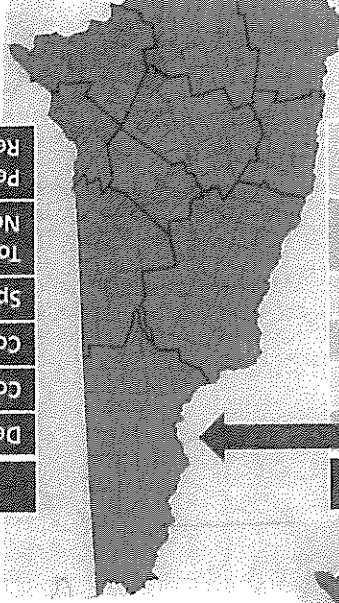
I do wonder, however, if the fact that the GOP's proposed map is eerily similar to the gerrymandered maps published by FiveThirtyEight in February of 2018 might be another factor in this proposal. If so, I would like to point out that the proposed map is the ideal for gerrymandering by either the Republicans or the Democrats.

I have also attached the analysis by FiveThirtyEight that shows that the current NH congressional districts are highly competitive and proportionately partisan and that the gerrymandered maps will result in two districts where the other party has less than a 1-in-6 chance of winning an election.

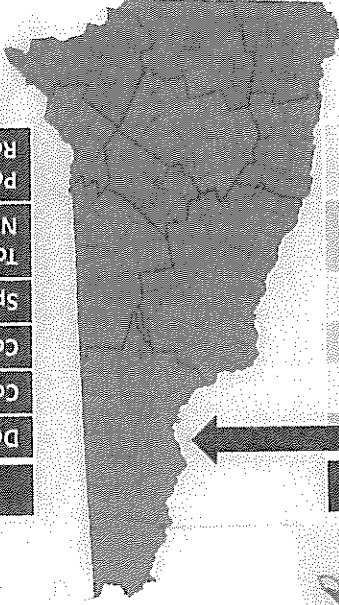
Heavily gerrymandered maps such as the one proposed by the Republicans on the committee will create more extreme candidates for both parties and drive us further apart. This is a terrible plan for the people of New Hampshire.



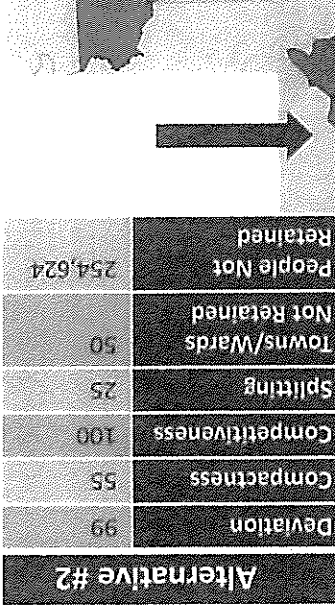
<b>Alternative #5</b>	
Deviation	881
Compactness	44
Competitiveness	82
Splitting	75
Towns/Wards Not Retained	86
People Not Retained	514,337



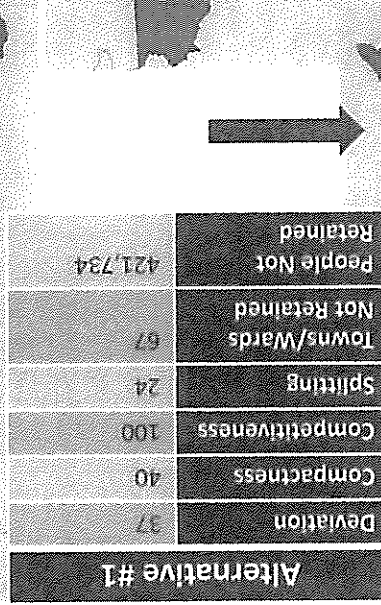
<b>Alternative #4</b>	
Deviation	147
Compactness	58
Competitiveness	83
Splitting	25
Towns/Wards Not Retained	50
People Not Retained	254,624



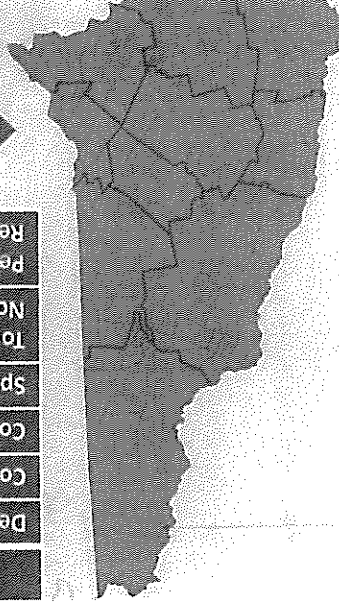
<b>Alternative #3</b>	
Deviation	141
Compactness	31
Competitiveness	84
Splitting	64
Towns/Wards Not Retained	141
People Not Retained	746,136



<b>Alternative #2</b>	
Deviation	99
Compactness	55
Competitiveness	100
Splitting	25
Towns/Wards Not Retained	50
People Not Retained	254,624

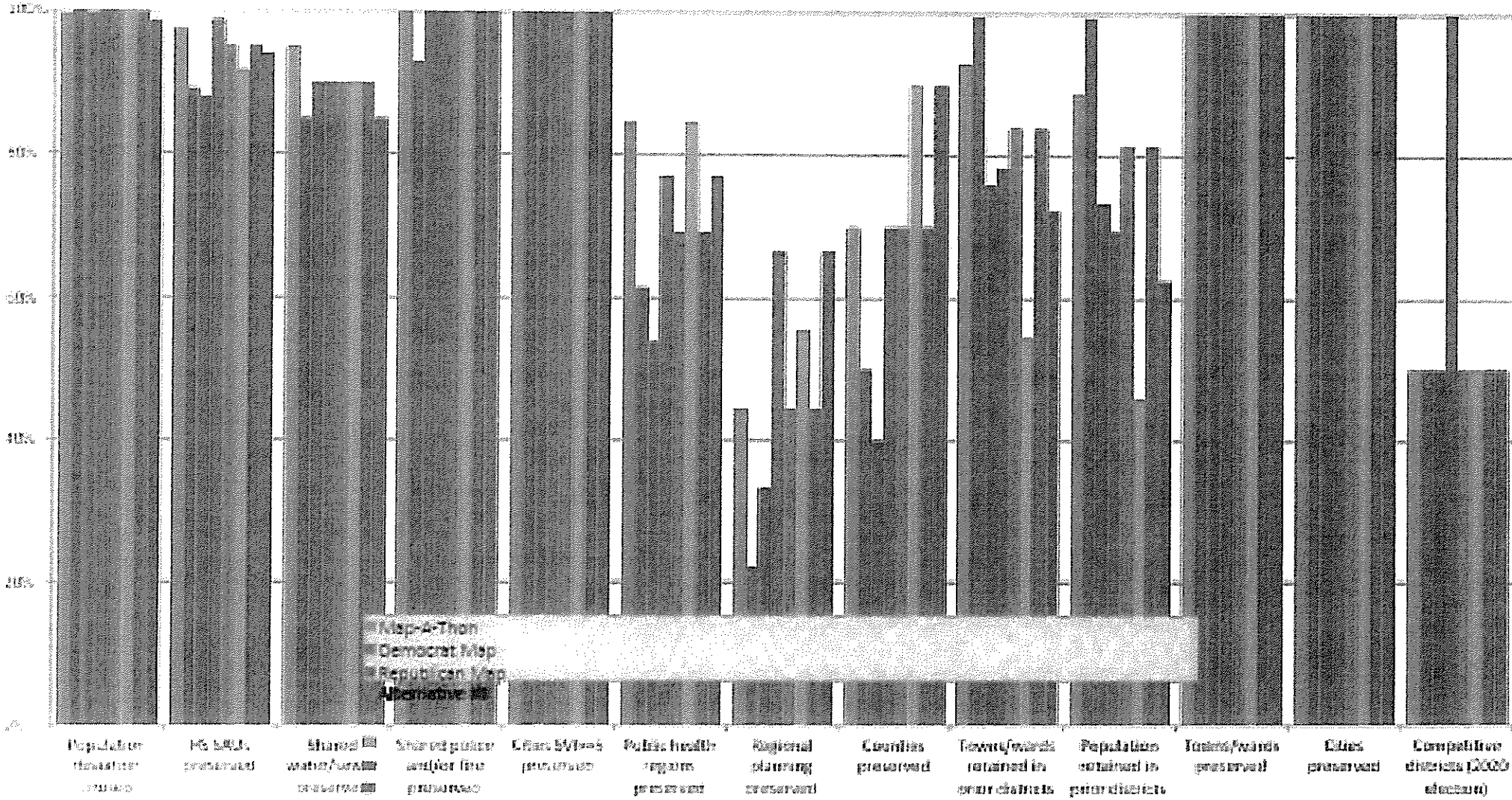


<b>Alternative #1</b>	
Deviation	37
Compactness	40
Competitiveness	100
Splitting	24
Towns/Wards Not Retained	67
People Not Retained	421,734



<b>Republican Proposal</b>	
Deviation	177
Compactness	28
Competitiveness	60
Splitting	14
Towns/Wards Not Retained	75
People Not Retained	365,703

## U.S. House Map Comparison





William W. Farnum  
1854 Great Hill Road  
Tamworth, NH 03886  
603-986-0994

[williamwfarum@gmail.com](mailto:williamwfarum@gmail.com)

November 2021

To: New Hampshire's House Redistricting Committee

Subject: Congregational district maps

**Competitiveness in elections:**

What does it produce?

- ~Competition promotes more choice for the voters.
- ~Competition promotes dialogue between people with different points of view.
- ~Competition promotes better understanding of the issues.
- ~Competition promotes dialogue about desired outcomes.
- ~When elections are competitive, the candidates must articulate how they will represent all of their constituents. (I would like to add here that an elected official represents all of the people in a district- whether they voted for that candidate or not. )
- ~Competition generates more voter turnout, thus better representation of all the voters.
- ~Competition ensures the best candidate will be elected, regardless of party.

**Non-competitiveness in elections:**

What does it produce?

- ~Less choice.
- ~ A more shallow understanding of complex issues (The candidates have no reason to explain what they can do for all the constituents they will represent; they only need to appeal to one group.)
- ~More extreme, partisan candidates.
- ~No competition between different points of view and no discussion of different goals.
- ~Less voter turnout, thus less representation and less engagement with democracy.
- ~ Lower voter turnout can have consequences for down-ballot seats.
- ~No cooperation between the parties, no discussion of the goals and needs of the constituents.

Moving 75 towns out of one congregational district and placing them in another is a major change. The proposed Republican map would move 365,703 people.

The purpose of this change was stated by Republican Party Chairman Steve Stepanek, who argued the party's newly won majorities in the state House and Senate would give them an opportunity to change the congressional maps in their favor. Stepanek said, **Quote:** "Because of this, we control redistricting. I can stand here today and guarantee

you that we will send a conservative Republican to Washington, D.C., as a congressperson in 2022.”

To which I would say that this fits the definition of gerrymandering.

In an interview with WMUR in July, Sununu said he would veto a redistricting proposal  
**Quote:** “If it doesn’t pass the smell test and it looks like gerrymandering districts.”

If the proposed Republican Congressional District is put forward, the Governor will have to hold his nose or veto it.

Thank you for your time and work on this issue.  
William W. Farnum

Hillsborough County Map by House Committee REPUBLICANS 11.3.21

	Hillsborough County Towns	2020 Population	District	#Reps	Floterial District	#Reps shared	Total Reprs
1	Windsor	262	41	(3)	xx		3
2	Sharon	359	39	(2)	xx		2
3	Temple	1382	35	(4)	F38	(2)	4
4	Mason	1448	35	(4)	F38	(2)	<del>4</del> 6
5	Bennington	1501	41	(3)	xx		3
6	Francestown	1610	43	(1)	xx		1
7	Hancock	1731	40	(1)	xx		1
8	Lyndeborough	1702	36	(2)	F38	(2)	<del>2</del> 4
9	Greenfield	1716..	40	1	xx		1
10	Deering	1904..	43	1	xx		1
11	Greenville	1974..	35	(4)	F38	(2)	6
12	Mt Vernon	2584	36	(2)	F38	(2)	4
13	Antrim	2651	41	(3)	xx		3
14	Wilton	3896	36	2	F38	(2)	4
15	Brookline	5639	35	(4)	F38	(2)	6
16	New Ipswich	5204	35	4	F38	(2)	6
17	New Boston	6108	44	(4)	F45	(1)	5
18	Hillsborough	5939..	41	3	xx		3
19	Peterborough	6418	39	2	xx		2
20	Hollis	8342	32	2	34	(1)	3
21	Litchfield	8478	28	2	29	(2)	4
22	Weare	9092	44	4	F45	(1)	5
23	Amherst	11753	33	3	34	1	4
24	Pelham	14222	26	4	xx		4
25	Milford	16131	37	4	F38	2	6
26	Goffstown	18577	42	5	F45	1	6
27	Bedford	23322	31	7	xx		7
28	Hudson	25394	27	6	F29	2	8
29	Merrimack	26632	30	8	xx		8
30	Nashua	91322	1-9	27	xx		27
	91,322/3444= 26.51						
31	Manchester 115,644/3444= 33.58 reps	115,644	10-24	24	F13,17 21,25	8	32
	(xx) means that Representative already counted						
	Submitted 11.10.21 Marie Morgan Goffstown, NH						

I'm Sue Nastasi & live in Rollinsford. Proudly, I am 1 of the 3 Supervisors of the Checklist for the town. Learning the details of voting laws, elections, & keeping files up to date throughout the year has been a rewarding experience.

As a member of the New Hampshire League of Women Voters I have learned more details of voting rights & fully support the League's mission: Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. In both situations I can say, I know & recognize nonpartisanship. Not being biased or partisan, especially toward any political group.

Rollinsford has & it's proposed to keep 4 State Representatives for the population of 2,597. If only looking at Rollinsford, I can't agree but it's important to understand the larger picture of Stafford County & that is where 4 Representatives are acceptable.

Once again looking at the larger picture & this time for the state's Congressional redrawn maps, it is packed, gerrymandered, OR a prime case where legislators pick their voters, where it should be that voters choose their representatives.

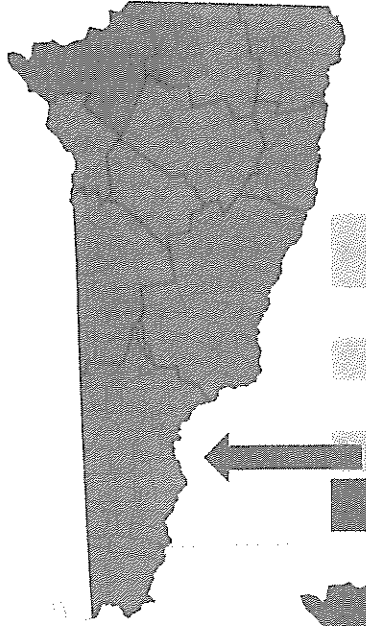
This committee is smarter than this proposed Congressional map.

There is more work for you all to do. You have all done work in traveling to each county, listening to an array of thoughts for the voters' towns & counties.

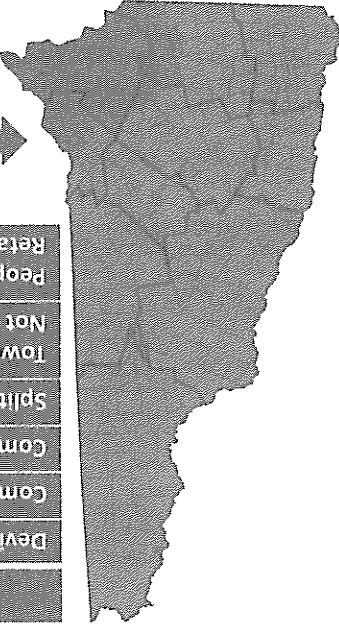
In order to represent correctly, the voters, your constituents elect you. Again not the other way around.

All Granite Staters are entitled to fair voting districts. Thank you for your time but more of your work is necessary.

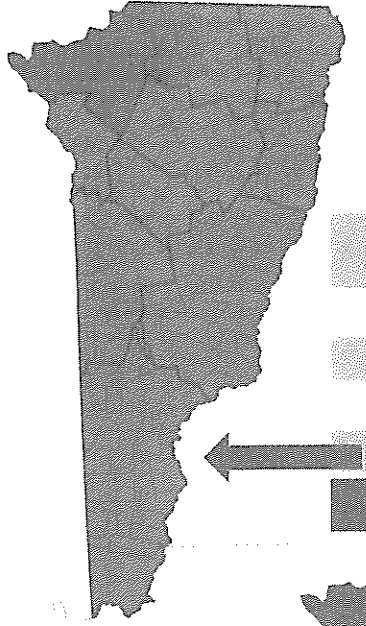
Packing districts: In redistricting, **packing** refers to the practice of drawing electoral districts to consolidate the population of a community or constituency into a small number of districts. By concentrating the population of a group within a small number of districts, its influence can be minimized in other districts. This practice contrasts with cracking, in which a community or constituency is split across a number of districts to dilute its ability to elect its preferred candidates. Cracking and packing may be used in conjunction to minimize the influence of a particular voting bloc to benefit another, a practice referred to as gerrymandering. [1][2][3]



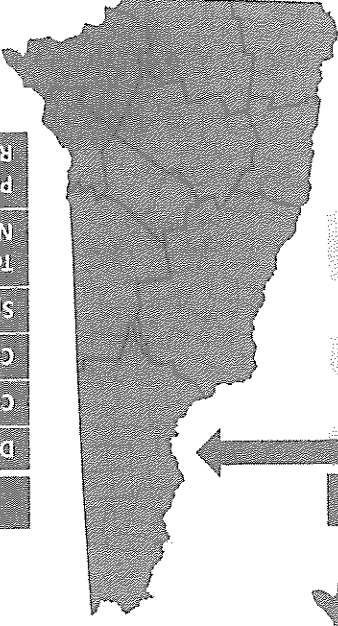
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Competitiveness	100
Splitting	25
Towns/Wards Not Retained	50
People Not Retained	254,624



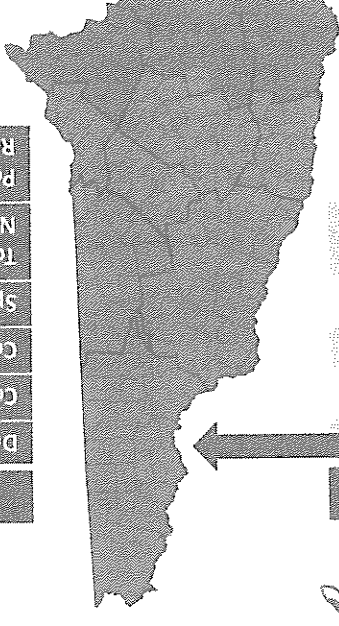
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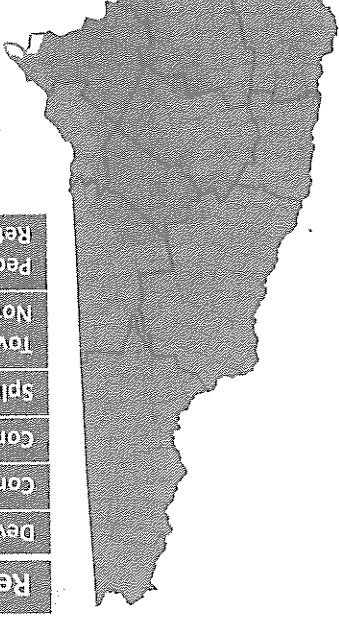
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People Not Retained	254,624

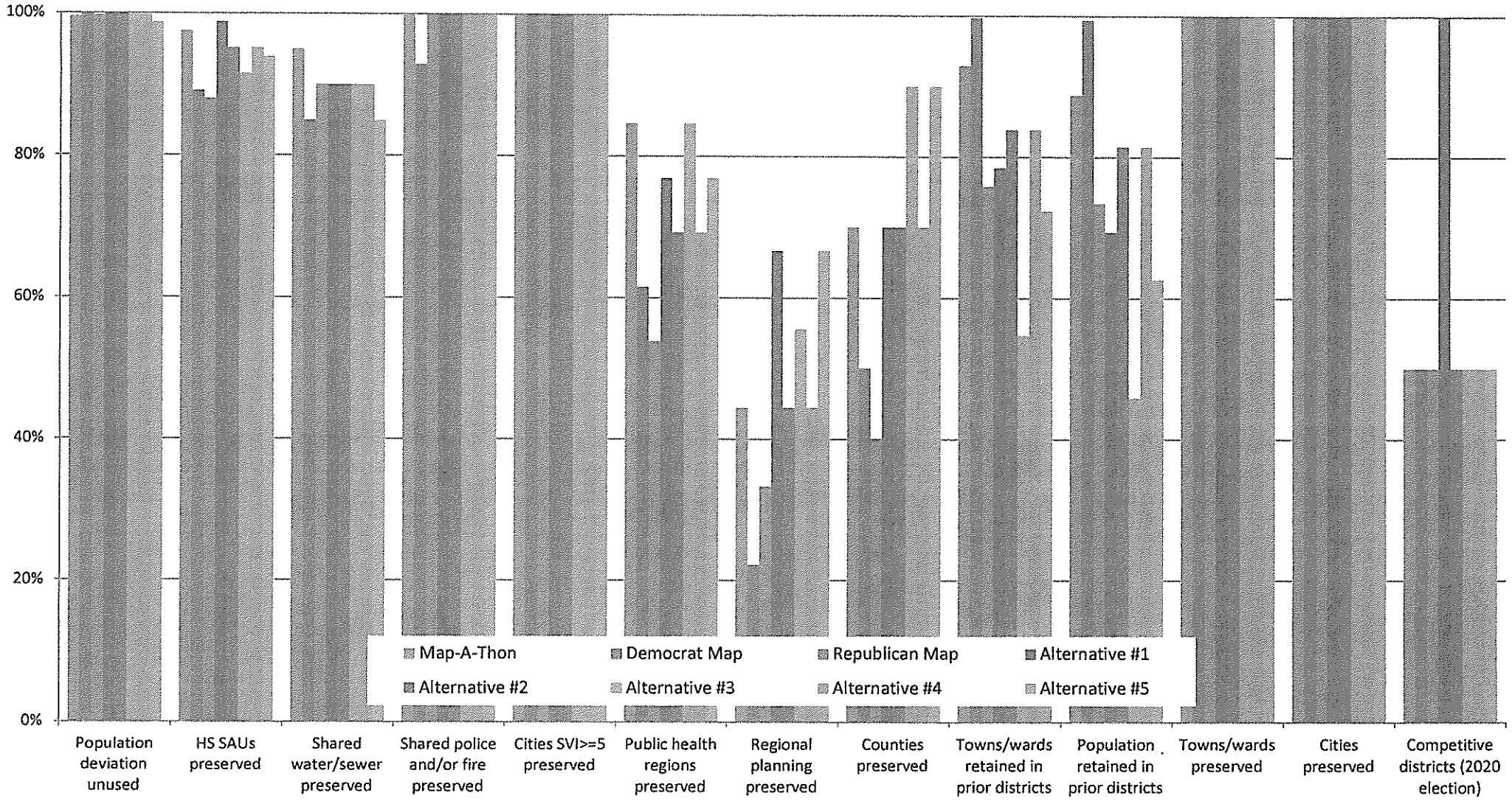


Republican Proposal	
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Compactness	28
Competitiveness	60
Splitting	14
Towns/Wards Not Retained	75
People Not Retained	365,703



Alternative #3	
Deviation	141
Compactness	31
Competitiveness	84
Splitting	64
Towns/Wards Not Retained	141
People Not Retained	746,136

## U.S. House Map Comparison



# Gerrymandered congressional districts to favor Republicans & Democrats were published by FiveThirtyEight in Jan. 2018 and are identical

**New Hampshire districts gerrymandered to favor Republicans**  
 How often would expect a party to win each of New Hampshire's 2 seats over the long term — not specifically the 2018 midterms — based on historical patterns since 2008  
 CHANCE OF BEING REPRESENTED BY OTHER PARTY

**New Hampshire districts gerrymandered to favor Democrats**  
 How often would expect a party to win each of New Hampshire's 2 seats over the long term — not specifically the 2018 midterms — based on historical patterns since 2008  
 CHANCE OF BEING REPRESENTED BY OTHER PARTY



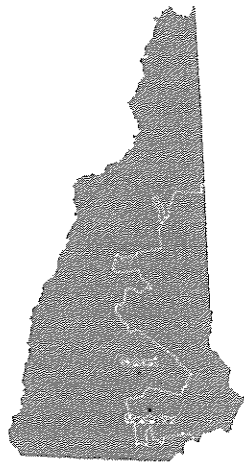
<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/new-hampshire/#Dem>  
<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/new-hampshire/#GOP>

# According to FiveThirtyEight, the existing map is identical to the highly competitive map

## New Hampshire's current congressional district boundaries

How often we'd expect a party to win each of New Hampshire's 2 seats over the long term — not specifically the 2018 midterms — based on historical patterns since 2006

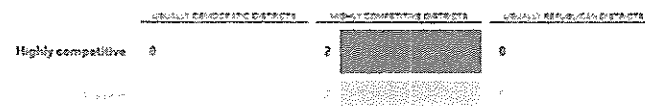
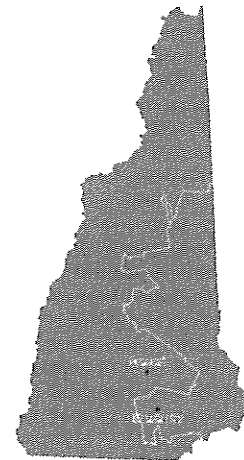
CHANCE OF BEING REPRESENTED BY EITHER PARTY



## New Hampshire's districts drawn to promote highly competitive elections

How often we'd expect a party to win each of New Hampshire's 2 seats over the long term — not specifically the 2018 midterms — based on historical patterns since 2006

CHANCE OF BEING REPRESENTED BY EITHER PARTY



<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/new-hampshire/>  
<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/new-hampshire/#Competitive>

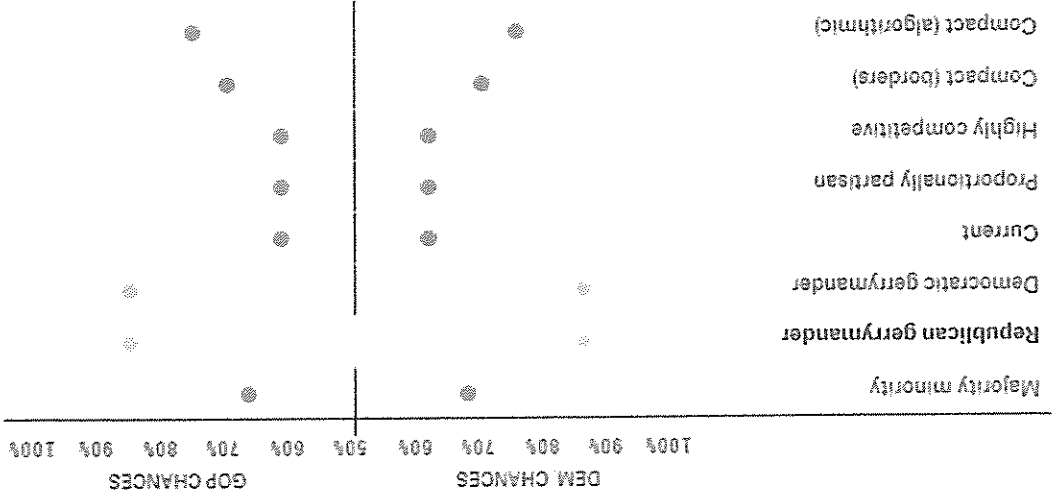
Kim Frost  
 Etna, NH  
 11/10/2021



With these gerrymandered maps, there is less than a one-in-six chance that District 1 will be won by a Democrat or that District 2 will be won by a Republican

### The politics of New Hampshire's maps

Party probabilities  
Every district by the chance it will be represented by either party



- Primaries will be dominated by the extremes, and general elections will no longer matter.
- Why bother to vote?
- Should we just let the parties assign representatives for life?

<https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-maps/new-hampshire/#GOP>

To: House Special Committee on Redistricting

From: Liz Tentarelli of Newbury NH (contact [LWV@kenliz.net](mailto:LWV@kenliz.net))

Re: NH House redistricting

Testimony submitted on Nov. 9, 2021—**NH House districting for small towns**

Among New Hampshire's 239 populated cities and towns, fewer than half are large enough to qualify for their own state representatives in this round of redistricting (population of 3,444 or larger).

Today I would like to address the situation of the 135 towns with populations under that target figure, many of them significantly under and unlikely to ever reach the status of qualifying for their own rep. That includes my town of Newbury, on the western edge of Merrimack county. Our 2020 population is 2,172, not much changed from 2010 or 2000.

One of the joys of living in a small town is knowing your elected officials personally, seeing them at town events or the transfer station, sharing concerns neighbor to neighbor. I won't try to speak for everyone, but many of us feel that our representative's political party is less important than his or her knowledge of and involvement in the life of the town and our local needs.

Our huge House of Representatives has been called a citizen legislature for good reason. Its 400 seats exist because NH citizens want localized representation. Most of our largest cities have tried to maintain that feeling of localized representation by dividing themselves into wards, with a small number of representatives from each ward. so that the interests of the neighborhoods in each ward will be considered at the state level.

The problem for small towns is that when they are grouped into large multi-seat districts with a number of other towns, we lose our connection to localized representation. None of us expect that every year we can have a representative that lives in our town. But we do want and hope that this committee will facilitate a redistricting plan that groups just a few contiguous small towns into a district whose representative will know and understand the issues in all of the towns. Neighbors knowing neighbors.

What we do not want to see is four or five or more small towns grouped with a much larger town whose candidates could easily dominate an election, just by having an address in that larger town. This happened with the 2001 redistricting that was so bad it had to be redone before the next election.

It also led to the constitutional amendment of 2006 that made floterials official but also called for those towns that meet the target number for representation to be allotted their own reps. I realize it is not always possible, but it is obvious from the draft maps presented so far that some members of your committee are working on that goal.

But let's get back to the small towns, those that don't qualify. We too were considered in the 2006 amendment, even though it is rarely mentioned now.

Attached to my written testimony is a page from the House Election Law Committee report, dated Feb. 22, 2006. It is the "Statement of Intent" of CACR 41, which was recommended unanimously by the committee, passed in the House and Senate, and then passed by the voters in Nov. 2006 with more than 70% of the vote.

The “Statement of Intent” reads:

“The long standing tradition in New Hampshire is to have as many small representative districts as possible so as to best represent all the people of New Hampshire. This CACR, as amended, will allow the legislature to use floterial districts as used in the past without question or challenges in the courts. This will make sure that our state will have as many small house districts as possible.” Signed by Richard B. Drisko for the committee. (emphasis added)

Of course the details of the constitutional amendment itself address those towns within a standard deviation of the target number for a House seat and multiples thereof, entitled to their own seats. But the statement of intent should be taken into consideration for the 139 smaller towns that need to be linked to other towns to form a district.

**I ask the committee to look at each of the House maps as proposed and to find and recommend those with “as many small representative districts as possible” so that the new maps will “best represent all the people of New Hampshire.” I personally, and perhaps others as well, would happily tolerate a larger deviation in districts in order to facilitate a greater number of smaller and therefore localized representative districts. That’s why we have a 400-seat house!**

To get specific: starting in my own Merrimack county, the minority map suggests one district with four towns, several three-towns districts, a few two-towns districts, all of which have multiple seats. These do not foster local representation.

The majority map is good in several respects, but has one district of five towns that is part of an eight-town floterial. I think localized representation has been lost for those towns, and that goes against our NH tradition.

In Carroll county, four small towns along the Maine border in both maps are linked to the much larger town of Wakefield. Also in both maps they are joined with several other towns to become part of a large U-shaped floterial. Carroll is challenging, as even the Mapathon gurus admit, but the Mapathon map has some smaller districts you might consider.

Cheshire county, with a state boundary on the south and the west, is a challenge. In the majority’s map we see 3 towns along the river that are large enough for their own reps joined with three smaller towns into a string. Not good for the small towns; not constitutional for the bigger ones. The minority’s map creates smaller districts, which lets citizens of small towns feel more connection even if their rep doesn’t come from their town. It increases the number of single-seat districts from 11 to 15, which goes along with the intent of smaller, localized districts.

Sullivan county is another challenge, but the tortuous floterial 7 on the minority map and the sprawling floterial 10 on the majority map make it hard to imagine common interests among these towns. I do appreciate that both maps keep the city of Claremont separate from its suburbs. Hope you can do better with the towns.

In closing, thank you all for your work on these maps, and please remember the little towns. We matter and we care. We want localized representation!

# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Election Law

BILL NUMBER: CACR 41

TITLE: relating to representative districts. Providing that representative districts shall be apportioned according to specified standards.

DATE: February 22, 2006

CONSENT CALENDAR YES  NO

OUGHT TO PASS

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY  
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

STATEMENT OF INTENT  
(Include Committee Vote)

The long standing tradition in New Hampshire is to have as many small representative districts as possible so as to best represent all the people of New Hampshire. This CACR, as amended, will allow the legislature to use Notarial districts as used in the past without question or challenges in the courts. This will make sure that our state will have as many small house districts as possible.

Vote 16-0.

Rep. Richard B. Drisko  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
cc: Committee Bill file

## Testimony for the Special Committee on Redistricting

November 9<sup>th</sup> at the State House, Concord, NH

### Comments on Belknap County and Congressional Districts

Good morning, members of the special redistricting committee,

My name is Don House. I'm a resident of Belmont NH which is located in Belknap County. I created Warrant Article 26 on fair, non-partisan redistricting that appeared on Belmont's March 2021 Town Election.

This warrant article passed with a strong majority of voters expressing their preference for a fair, non-partisan redistricting process. Seventy-four other towns in NH have passed similar resolutions.

Transparency and fairness are crucial to restore voter confidence in our election process.

I have reviewed the proposed district map by this committee and by other groups such as open democracy. Based on population alone, 8 of the 11 towns/cities in Belknap County meet the criteria for their own representatives. However, none of the maps proposed give all eight of these towns their own representatives. The feedback from Belknap County voters shared at the Oct 19<sup>th</sup> hearing indicated that Tilton, Alton, Gilford, Meredith, and Barnstead should have their own representatives instead of sharing reps with other towns. All of the proposals disregarded this feedback.

I think the most important principles for redistricting Belknap County are to apply the following principles in order:

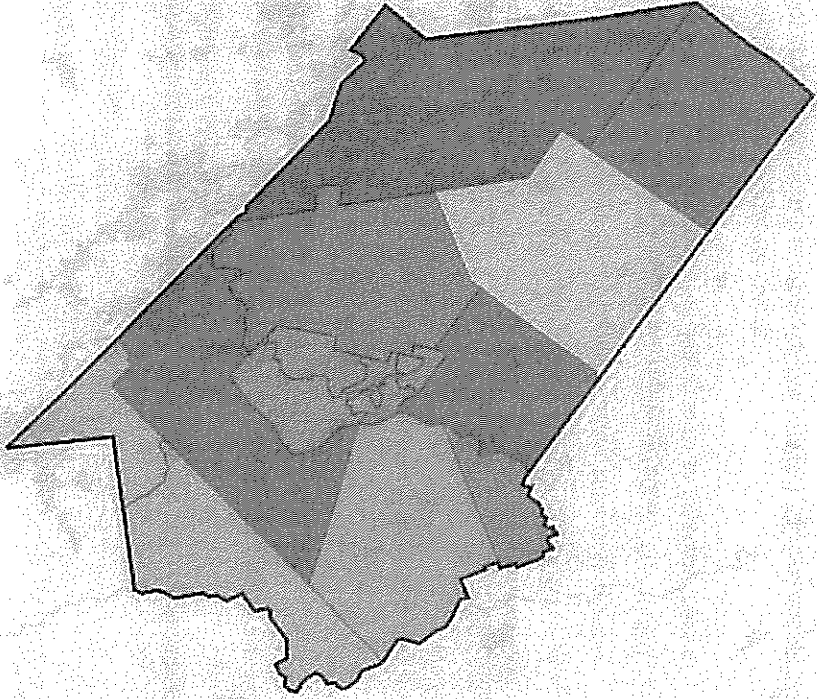
- 1) Each town that has a population of at least 3444 should receive its own state representative
- 2) Towns with population less than 3444 should be combined into a floterial district with an adjacent town to achieve as close to 3444 as possible
- 3) Laconia should remain intact and not split wards with other adjacent towns
- 4) Towns are best served by representatives that are elected from their town or the smallest floterial district that combines towns
- 5) The smaller the district, the better the representation
- 6) Based on their population, some towns should be given multiple representatives
- 7) The use of floterial districts and combining two adjacent towns to share representatives should be minimized
- 8) If any towns remain unassigned after the first three principles are applied, consider a deviation of up to 15% from the 3444 number.

Applying these principles to Belknap County, the county would receive 18 representatives. This is a number that everyone seems to be in agreement with. These 18 representatives should be allocated to the 11 towns/cities in Belknap County as follows:

- 1) Alton - 1 rep with another floterial rep with Barnstead
- 2) Barnstead – 1 rep with another floterial rep with Alton
- 3) Belmont – 2 reps
- 4) Center Harbor and New Hampton – a floterial district with 1 rep
- 5) Gilford – 2 reps
- 6) Gilmanton – 2 reps
- 7) Laconia – 5 reps (reps should be assigned to individual wards where possible, or the three smallest wards would share 2 representatives)
- 8) Meredith – 2 reps
- 9) New Hampton and Center Harbor – a floterial with 1 rep
- 10) Sanbornton – 1 rep
- 11) Tilton – 1 rep

In summary, nine of 11 towns/cities get their own representatives in my scenario. The two towns with populations less than 3444 are combined into a floterial district.

Here is what this map would look like:



+

Now some of you will probably object to my scenario because some of the deviations will exceed the general rule of plus or minus five percent. I've reviewed the Supreme Court decisions that this plus or minus five percent is based on. The US Supreme Court has allowed for greater deviations when there is a legitimate constitutional purpose. I believe that the redistricting process has become too focused on this general rule and ignored the NH constitution rule concerning towns having their own state representative when they meet the population criteria of 3444.

My other feedback is on the two congressional districts for NH. These should be drawn to minimize the number of towns that switch districts. Most of the towns in the southeastern portion of NH should stay within a single district. The proposed maps are clearly gerrymandered for the political benefit of Republicans. Longstanding competitive districts -- districts that were originally drawn by generations of Republican legislators -- are now being redrawn. The existing congressional districts have remained nearly the same for the last 140 years because population shifts have been minimal. This break with long-standing precedent further underscores how fundamentally unfair these lines are. Both congressional seats should remain competitive, mirroring the state as a whole.

In summary, the maps as proposed don't meet the criteria that most voters indicated were important to them. The maps need to better reflect the feedback from the voters and eliminate the gerrymandering that has spoiled the maps. Redistricting impacts many issues in our daily lives. The drawing of district lines not only determines who is elected, but also how the state's financial resources are allocated for schools, hospitals, roads and other services. Everyone in NH deserves far better than the majority party's maps released so far.

Barbara Schult  
11 Honeysuckle Lane, Goffstown NH 03045

November 4, 2021

To Members of House Committee on Redistricting:

I spoke at the public hearing for Hillsborough County held at Goffstown High. I stated that I had faith in the committee, that you will heed the voices of the constituents you represent, and those of your fellow legislators who in two consecutive sessions, reached a bipartisan agreement calling for fair and independent redistricting. I trusted that you recognized that thousands of people in 74 towns, at their town meetings, sent a clear message, regardless of party, that they want fair maps drawn.

Viewing the current rendition of the majority map for proposed Congressional districts, my faith was mistaken.

First and foremost, these maps are not visually compact. The proposed CD2 almost draws a circle or enclosure around CD1. This is intentionally partisan.

Fair maps enable a candidate a fair shot at being elected. Scooping the seacoast region and packing it into CD2 is an intentional design to make sure that voters of a certain party in CD2 may as well not vote.

Voting is a citizen's voice. This is an egregious denial of a person's voice actually mattering.

If you allow this version of the map to proceed, you will see an even greater disengagement with our democracy. Voters who know their candidate doesn't stand a chance won't bother to turn out.

Furthermore, while I am appreciative of the 2 scheduled public hearings to comment on the proposed maps, the purpose of public input would be to comment on the map version that the committee was actually sending to the legislature for a vote. The expectation was that the committee would work towards consensus and present one map to the public for comment. Therefore, it is imperative that additional public hearings be held on the version of the map your committee will be sending to the legislature for a full vote.

Lastly, I urge you to disclose the reasons for your proposed changes. Transparency is encouraged; explain why you are suggesting the map be drawn as it has.

There are many citizens of this great state, who, in the interest of the common good, have put many hours into drawing fair maps, and delineating their reasoning as well. I encourage you to look at their work. It is publicly posted as testimony.

The citizens of NH want fairness. You represent that constituency. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Barbara Schult

House Special Committee on Redistricting,  
State House  
Concord NH

Re: NH Redistricting of Congressional districts

To Members of the House Special Committee on Redistricting:

In looking at the recently proposed NH Congressional map, I am trying to understand the criteria the committee used in drawing the two NH Congressional districts. In fact, the criteria was never revealed, despite scores of voter requests to do so. So, why, after 140 years of a consistent Congressional district map drawn by Republicans, does the new proposal no longer resemble its predecessors?

If you considered compactness as a criteria, this certainly has not been achieved. CD1 looks like an angry voter shouting out at CD2. It's chin is jutting out westward, its hooked nose overhangs an open mouth, and the back of its head drops down to shoulders outlined by a ridge of towns, oddly allocated to the other district, CD2. What possible criteria could have created such a figure?

Moreover, the proposed Congressional map has shifted the partisan balance of the districts. What justification do you have for packing Democrats into District 2, and moving more Republicans into District 1, and making both districts less competitive? If one of the redistricting principles was political fairness, this clearly has not been met. What has been accomplished is that Republican, Democratic and unaffiliated voters now have had the power of their votes diminished, which is a sad accomplishment, indeed.

There is no other conclusion but that dishonesty and gerrymandering have been at work.

You have the power to change this. It's not too late for a do-over, and rather than letting the candidates pick the voters, please work within the committee to come up with a Congressional map that lets the voters pick the candidates. Make the Congressional maps more competitive. It would be the right, and the smart, thing to do, just as your fellow Republicans have done for a hundred years before.

Ann Garland,  
Lebanon



To: NH STATE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

From: Susan C Jamback, Dunbarton

Date: 11/8/2021

Dunbartonians voted for a Fair & Independent Redistricting Committee in March 2020, but Governor Sununu vetoed HB 1665 which would have established that committee. Now both parties propose to separate us from Bow, the town with whom we share a school district. The GOP wants to pair us with towns unlike ours: Hooksett, Allenstown, and Epsom. Additionally, the GOP proposes to move us into US House District #1.

Dunbarton is not a political pawn. It is a lovely thriving community whose citizens work together on numerous civic projects regardless of political party. We have our own elementary school, but we send our children to Bow for middle and high school. Recently we lost two students in a tragic car accident. They were residents of Bow, but our towns grieved as a single community, linked by the bonds that are forged through a vibrant and excellent public school system. Our current representatives respect and support our views on our school system. How will 4 dedicated representatives and 2 floaterials even begin to cover 4 school districts adequately?

Please do not separate us from Bow and do not throw us into US House District #1. We are a rural community. Our community Facebook page is filled with stories and videos of animal sightings, plus beautiful pictures of sunrises, sunsets, and animals. We have several conservation properties that we maintain. I doubt you'd find the same in Hooksett. So how can anyone from Hooksett understand and fairly represent the interest of Dunbartonians, much less Allenstown and Epsom? They can't. Please redraw these districts, taking into consideration people, not just the number of people.

TESTIMONY ON FAIR AND TRANSPARENT REDISTRICTING  
NH House SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING HEARING

NOVEMBER 9, 2021

To: Members of the NH House Special Committee on Redistricting  
From: Janet Ward, NH Citizen, Contoocook, NH

Re: The proposed redrawn map for Congressional Districts 1 and 2

The U.S. Supreme Court observed that the process of redistricting, which often involves gerrymandering, is a “political” process and that it would not become involved in this process. This was a bad decision on the part of the Supreme Court. Why? Because the purely political act of gerrymandering effectively silences the voices of legitimate voters and makes it impossible for voters to have their votes truly count. The fact is that gerrymandering turns democracy on its head. It enables candidates to choose their voters and denies voters the right to choose their candidates.

Any reasonable person who has looked at the Republican map of U.S. Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 2 can see that its convoluted borders serve one purpose and one purpose only. As drawn, this map lets Republican candidates running in District 1 select their voters while District 2 lets Democratic candidates choose theirs. Yes, voters will cast their votes in these districts, but the outcome is predetermined in these packed, cracked, purposefully and artfully drawn GERRYMANDERED districts.

What the Republican members of the Special Committee on Redistricting have done is to silence the voices of voters, Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. This is a display of raw political power and it is wrong.

Congratulations to the Republican committee members! You have won a temporary battle, the capture of a newly gerrymandered district, one that will, as you so clearly stated at the outset, send a Republican to Congress in 2022. Your process was dishonest, partisan and unfair and contradicted the in depth, conscientious, objective feedback from NH voters. 74 towns voted in favor of a fair, transparent process. Your shenanigans have only served to fuel their fire. We will not stop working to ensure that voters, not politicians, decide elections.

Gerrymandering is as old as the hills, a corrupt process that we will continue to oppose. This topic will certainly take center stage when we canvass and speak directly with the public about what fair redistricting looks like. Armed with all the documentation we need we have the energy and willpower to push for fair elections until we succeed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Podlipny, Chester

Dear Committee,

At your Rockingham County listening session, I reminded you that your predecessors were adamant the people assure no group of men pervert the ends of government for their own emolument (Article 10 of the NH Bill of Rights).

What means of regress do you leave us if you put one group above another by continuing to gerrymander NH districts? Over thirty-seven percent of NH voters are registered un-declared, but you are stacking the deck against us by packing party leaning communities into opposite districts.

What respect can our youth and younger generations have for our democracy if you continue to rig the system and put party above people?

I implore you to have the fortitude to free NH of the slightest sent of gerrymandering. The map-a-thon project proves there are better solutions. Our democracy only functions as designed when our leaders climb above partisanship.

If you are struggling to stand up to party pressure, feel free to blame me and all the others who want to keep our democracy from being perverted by political parties.

The seventy-four communities who voted to tell you they want fair and open redistricting are a statistically significant sample, clearly communicating NH does not want to be gerrymandered.

Respectfully Yours,

Steven Borne

Rye

Author of Consuming Government

Steven Borne

Cell: +1 603 770 1743

Hello,

My name is Polina Sayess. I live and work in Lebanon, NH, which is in Grafton country. I would like to express my concern about the currently proposed maps for House seats. Even though Hanover is eligible for its own district based on the population size, the current proposals from either Democratic or Republican Parties did not grant that representation. As of the 2020 census, the population of Hanover was 11,870. Every 3,444 people are supposed to get their own state representative. This technically diminishes the voice of Hanover voters and is not fair. Thus, I strongly suggest adopting the map from Map-a-Thon, which takes Hanover's population size into account and grants this city its own district.

My second concern is about the Congressional proposal from the Republicans. This is the biggest shift of NH towns in 140 years without a good reason except for pure gerrymandering. It packs Republicans into Congressional District 1 and Democrats into Congressional District 2, thus making it very unlikely for Democrats to win in CD1 and impossible for Republicans to win in CD2. This will eliminate the competitive nature of NH elections. If members of the same party win year after year, voters will become disenfranchised and will no longer feel motivated to continue participating in elections. It really is disconcerting that the Republican party takes away the power of members of its own party in the Congressional District 2. Thus, I speak against the Republican proposal and call to adopt either a democratic or Map-a-Thon proposal for congressional redistricting.

My third concern is about this process, poor communication with the people who elected you. The public was given short notice, there is no interactive option to attend public hearings online. The Special Committee did not fully disclose what criteria they used in creation of their maps or how the reconciliation process will be handled. This is NOT open or transparent!

Thank you for your attention. I submitted my testimony in writing as well.

To the Honorable Travis O'Hara and Committee Members:

Thank you for your commitment to honor our US and NH Constitutions. I appreciate your passion for our republic and representative government. I am a born and raised Granite Stater who has owned houses in Laconia and Belmont for more than 25 years. Throughout my 57 years, I have loved and respected our collective commitment to representative government - and the fact that your state representative could literally be your next door neighbor!

Having our very own local representation is so key to ensuring the vision our forefathers created for all of us. Our nation relies upon a governing structure that limits government at the federal level, conveys and protects another level for each state, and then ensures a local level for maximum self governance. Within our NH Constitution, we take this commitment to a deeper level through our amazing ratio of people to state representatives. I believe our NH forefathers made an incredible commitment to fair representation in our 3-level governing framework when we implemented this strong representation requirement. They knew and understood that local matters often intersected with state matters, and that state business further intersected with federal matters. They got it! They knew that in order to maximize local control, we had to have state representatives allocated to the small populations that were NH communities in the early days.

For every community that has a solely dedicated state representative, we can have faith that we have a 100% dedicated voice to help us bridge the gap between school district or municipal issues to corresponding state issues. It is a great weapon against oppression and government overreach and a fantastic jewel to preserve self-governance at the closest level possible. Every time we force neighborhoods and communities to share representatives across those neighborhood and community lines, we inherently water down all of their voices.

We the people deserve to be heard within the concentration our three-tiered governmental structure was envisioned to bestow upon us. We should not have to share representation across neighborhood and community lines unless it is otherwise impossible to give us our own representative. For larger roles, such as state senator, federal congressional and senatorial, the commitment to preserve access to as localized a level as possible should remain the sole and primary objective. Failure to do so only weakens the people's voice and undermines the representative government we were all promised. Our voices should matter no matter political party or donor status. Our freedoms are not supposed to be for sale or auctioned off to political parties. We live in NH -- the Live Free or Die state for this very commitment to freedom. We cannot ensure maximum self governance if we redistrict based on political parties instead of local community. We will only further find our voices silenced in schools, towns, and county business by splitting our voices abnormally based on partisan lines.

I have voted for people of every party over the years; issues matter more than parties. Please honor our great tradition of independence by supporting a redistricting plan that -- whenever and wherever possible -- gives people 100% dedicated representation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Diana Lacey, Belmont*

NH Redistricting Committee Members:

Congratulations to the Republican committee members! You have won a temporary battle, the capture of a newly gerrymandered district, one that will, as you so clearly stated at the outset, send a Republican to Congress in 2022. Your process was dishonest, partisan and unfair and contradicted the in depth, conscientious, objective feedback from NH voters. 74 towns voted in favor of a fair, transparent process. Your shenanigans have only served to fuel their fire. We will not stop working to insure that voters, not politicians, decide elections. Gerrymandering is as old as the hills, a corrupt process that we will continue to oppose. This topic will certainly take center stage when we canvass and speak directly with the public about what fair redistricting looks like. Armed with all the documentation we need we have the energy and willpower to push for fair elections until we succeed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Podlipny, Chester

NH Redistricting Committee:

My Name is Becky O'Donnell and I am a resident of Londonderry

I was at the State House last week when your Redistricting Committee presented your proposals for redistricting maps. I am particularly concerned about the Republican proposal for Congressional District maps which clearly shows favoritism to the Republican Party, just as the Chair of the NH Republican party promised earlier this year. The purpose of redistricting is to protect the right of all citizens to have their vote counted equally, not to guarantee that one party has a strong advantage over another party.

What you are doing is gerrymandering, as your congressional map clearly shows. What we NH voters want is fairness in redistricting, not gerrymandered maps. I ask that you rethink your maps. Thank you.



I would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to speak before you this morning and convey my concerns with the proposed maps for redistricting in NH. I am from the town of Deerfield, where this past spring voters by a margin of more than two to one voted their desire for this committee to minimize multi-seat districts.

I am not originally from New Hampshire. But I did spend all my childhood summers and went to college here. I loved NH as my second home and I chose to come back to New Hampshire after working for several years in other states. I wanted to raise my children here in part because of the quality of life that I believed existed for myself and my family in NH. Coming back here as an adult, I knew there were two very particular things that defined New Hampshire and its approach to policy and politics. Those two things were "Live Free or Die" and the governing concept of "local control." These were more than slogans, they were part of what makes NH unique.

Live Free or Die meant maintaining a limited role for government; To not have unnecessary governmental influence in people's lives as they make a life for themselves and their families here. But it also communicates how vitally

important this state considers freedom and a democratic system of government to be. *Included in that value of freedom is the right to have one's voice heard.*

Local control meant that the citizens of NH had a close relationship to and could have direct impact on how their communities were run. They would know who was making decisions on their behalf and could communicate easily with policymakers because they were members of the same community. And in the last 26 years of living here I have heard these principles cited over and over by policymakers as the rationale for many a piece of legislation or other policy.

*for state legislative districts*

In looking at the proposed maps, I scratch my head and wonder where these two vitally NH concepts have gone.

I attended more than one of the public hearings held by this committee in each county across the state. And what I heard from many people across many, many towns was the desire to have their communities be represented by a single state representative. Again and again, it was said that the ability for a town to choose who represents them in the legislature, without their vote being diluted or skewed by voters in an adjoining town or towns, is a priority. Having someone

who truly knows your community and its unique needs and concerns as laws and policy are crafted here in this building is invaluable and allows for the local voice to be part of that process. And it is consistent with the concept and the values of local control.

The continued use of multi-town districts, when towns clearly desire and the state Constitution supports the critical value that town specific representation provides, is disheartening. Particularly when these proposed districts have the same number of representatives as the number of towns, so the rationale cannot be restrictions needed in the numbers of representatives. Multi-town districts reduce the voices of voters and because of that they weaken the democratic underpinnings of our government. They should be used only in situations where the numbers make them unavoidable. The maps as currently proposed feel very much like unnecessary governmental influence.

If the voices of the people are not heard then we are not truly free and our state motto "Live Free or Die" has been gutted. We have lost what makes NH New Hampshire.

Maurice Quin  
(603) 785-7583

8 November 2021

To All Involved in the Current Redistricting New Hampshire Proposals:

We request that the designers of any new districting map become acquainted with the 'PEOPLE' history, particularly within two towns being considered for possible changes: Cornish and Plainfield.

In the 677 page History of Plainfield --- *Choice White Pines and Good Land* --- Springfield is not mentioned even one time. Croydon is mentioned only in terms of the old Croydon Turnpike and when a section of that town was annexed to Cornish in 1819. No associations between Plainfield and either of those two towns was apparently significant in the 250 years since the settling of Plainfield in 1761.

HOWEVER, the CORNISH entries number 69 in relation to our joined histories.

Apparently the connections between Plainfield and Cornish ARE SIGNIFICANT.

Please understand that such former ties have formed bonds between these two towns. Please read, hear and understand that RECENT and CURRENT ties also are bonding and binding in this area. You may hear from people who will speak to the importance of such daily community associations as: The Cornish Fair, Kimball Union Academy Fire Brigade, Church Activities, Police Sharing, Fire Department Cooperation, Elementary School Study, Family Ties, etc. Please internalize these values and reasons for keeping our communities united. Keep these two towns together in the district --- as they have been and continue to be today --- in real and daily life.

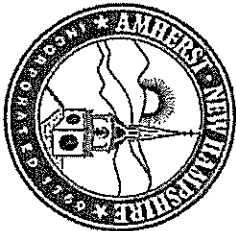
As the bestseller New Hampshire American Author, Jodi Picoult, writes: "History isn't about dates and places and wars. It's about the people who fill the spaces between them."

Cornish and Plainfield continue to find and positively live in the many spaces opportuned between our communities --- among our citizens. PLEASE commit to keeping Plainfield and Cornish in the same District.

Thank you. Donna and Steve Beaupre', Meriden, NH, a village in the town of Plainfield



Submitted by printed letter November 2021 to the Redistricting Committee



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF AMHERST, NH**

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2 Main Street  
Amherst, NH 0301  
Tel: (603) 673-6041 Fax: (603) 673-6794

July 1, 2021

Dear Representative Murray:

By a vote of 1,613 to 543 the following Article, which had been placed on the Amherst, NH Town Ballot by petition, passed and is being transmitted to Amherst's legislators as directed by the voters:

**"ARTICLE 34: New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting (By Petition)**

By petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the town of Amherst to see if the town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering.

Additionally, these voters ask the town of Amherst to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

Furthermore, as the New Hampshire State Constitution, Part 2, Article 11 allows towns of sufficient population to have their own state representatives, not shared with other towns, for the town of Amherst to petition the NH General Court for its own exclusive seat(s) in the NH House of Representatives, ensuring that the State Representatives properly represent the town's interests.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the selectmen to Amherst's state legislators, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of the vote."

Sincerely,

Peter Lyon, Chair  
Amherst Board of Selectmen



Statement by Henry Klementowicz, Staff Attorney, ACLU-NH  
House Special Committee on Redistricting  
House Bill 52  
November 9, 2021

I submit this statement on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire (“ACLU-NH”)—a non-partisan, non-profit organization working to protect civil liberties throughout the state for over 50 years. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 52, the proposed reapportionment of the state’s two congressional districts

This reapportionment plan is an example of the worst excesses of partisan gerrymandering. The proposed plan, according to statistical analysis from FiveThirtyEight, would turn New Hampshire’s two competitive congressional districts into one safe Democratic seat and one safe Republican seat.<sup>1</sup> For this reason, the *Union Leader* has opposed these maps, asking “Anybody have an eraser?”<sup>2</sup> For over one hundred years, New Hampshire’s congressional districts have largely remained the same—one district in the east, and one in the west, with shifts only to correct for population changes.<sup>3</sup> However, this map would upend this long standing tradition and would cause 364,703 people—more than a quarter of New Hampshire residents—to end the year in a different congressional district than they began it in. The plan splits up the seacoast region and puts Durham, Rochester, and Portsmouth in the same congressional district as Keene.

So why was this done? The only explanation, as some members of the committee have acknowledged, is for partisan political gain. Respected University of New Hampshire Professor Dante Scala explained that he and his research assistant tried to create districts with more of a partisan advantage to Republicans than this proposed one. They couldn’t.<sup>4</sup> Our analysis of the partisan lean of each district shows a clear partisan gerrymander. Under the current maps, in 2020, former President Trump would have one 46 percent of the vote in District 2 and 47 percent of the vote in District 1. Under the proposed plan, he would have won 42% of the vote in District 2, and 51% of the vote in District 1.

Voters should pick their politicians, and not the other way around. But this map does exactly the opposite—it moves a quarter of the state into a different district and up-ends more than a hundred years of precedent to maximize partisan advantage. Redistricting is a solemn, constitutional obligation for this committee, and the voters of New Hampshire deserve better.

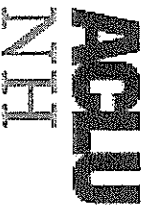
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<sup>1</sup> [https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/new-hampshire/house\\_gop\\_proposal/](https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting-2022-maps/new-hampshire/house_gop_proposal/)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/redistrict-plan-back-to-the-drawing-board/article\\_4ff0ca9-c5a8-5d8d-862f-6b08b1b6f21d.html](https://www.unionleader.com/opinion/editorials/redistrict-plan-back-to-the-drawing-board/article_4ff0ca9-c5a8-5d8d-862f-6b08b1b6f21d.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://what-the-district.aclu.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/Grantiprof/status/1456236375569747971>



Statement by Henry Klementowicz, Staff Attorney, ACLU-NH  
House Special Committee on Redistricting  
House Bill 50  
November 9, 2021

I submit this statement on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire (“ACLU-NH”)—a non-partisan, non-profit organization working to protect civil liberties throughout the state for over 50 years. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 50, the proposed reapportionment of the state’s House of Representative Districts.

In this testimony, we raise a number of areas of concern with the proposed map. Specifically, our concerns with 1) prison gerrymandering, 2) malapportionment, 3) potential racial gerrymandering in Nashua, and 4) partisan gerrymandering.

## I. Prison Gerrymandering

As you know, the Census Bureau counts anyone incarcerated in your jurisdiction as part of your resident population. However, you may not be aware that this practice can distort representation in your districts or that local governments across the country are already taking steps to avoid these problems.

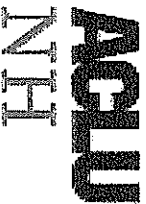
Because the Census counts someone incarcerated at a correctional facility as if that were their home, when states, cities, school boards, or other local governments use Census data on institutionalized persons to redistrict, any district with a correctional facility will have fewer actual, vote eligible residents than will districts without prisons. This gives extra representation to the residents of districts with prisons and dilutes the representation of residents where prisoners live and often intend to return. For example, in a jurisdiction where each district contains 4,000 people, a decision to include a 1,000-person prison in one district will mean that every three residents of that district will have as much representation as four residents elsewhere.<sup>1</sup>

For example, Concord Ward 3 is 30.5%<sup>2</sup> incarcerated, which means that residents in that district have more political representation than residents in other districts. Luckily, the solution to this problem is simple. These numbers mean that each group of 70 actual residents in the

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<sup>1</sup> People incarcerated on a felony in New Hampshire are not eligible to vote. The New Hampshire State Prisons almost exclusively house people serving time on a felony.

<sup>2</sup> The plan currently assumes Concord Ward 3 will have 4397 residents. As of November 5, 2021, there were 1341 people incarcerated in Ward 3. Currently, Ward 3 has one representative, and shares two representatives as part of a floater district.



district was given as much representation as 100 residents in districts without prisons. To avoid prison gerrymandering, governments can remove correctional facilities from their redistricting data prior to drawing new districts and count them in their home communities. Doing so will allow you to create districts that each contain the same number of actual, vote-eligible Concord residents, so that the residents of every district will have equal representation in their local government. Importantly, the practice of removing prisons from redistricting data prior to drawing districts is also consistent with New Hampshire law, which states that a prison cell is not a residence for voting purposes. RSA 654:2-a, 1.

To remedy this malapportionment, the Committee should choose to count incarcerated residents of New Hampshire in their home communities—not where they are incarcerated.

## II. Malapportionment

As you know, Part II, Article 9 of the New Hampshire Constitution requires that representation in the House of Representatives “shall be as equal as circumstances will admit.” The United States Constitution has a similar requirement. *See Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 579 (1964) (“The overriding objective [of apportionment] must be substantial equality of population among the various [legislative] districts, so that the vote of any citizen is approximately equal in weight to that of any other citizen in the State.”) “Minor deviations from mathematical equality among state legislative districts are insufficient to make out a prima facie case of invidious discrimination under the Fourteenth Amendment so as to require justification by the State.” *Voinovich v. Quilter*, 507 U.S. 146, 161 (1993). “As a general matter, ... an apportionment plan with a maximum population deviation under 10% falls within this category of minor deviations.” *Id.* “A plan with larger disparities in population ... creates a prima facie case of discrimination and therefore must be justified by the State.” *Id.*

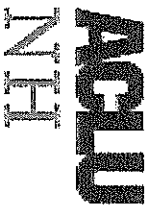
The proposed plan gives Manchester 32 representatives,<sup>3</sup> and, as a result, each ward ends up with a deviation of 4.94%—under the threshold that creates a presumption of discrimination.<sup>4</sup> However, this calculation is based on the unrealistic assumption that Manchester will be divided perfectly into twelve equal-sized wards. In fact, it is very unlikely that there will not be minor deviations in ward populations as Manchester as the City undertakes its own-redistricting process. And given how close to the safe-harbor threshold this plan is, a deviation that leads to a ward having as few as two or three more people that this plan’s assumption could place the plan out of compliance with the minor-deviation safe harbor threshold. As a result, this plan will very likely under represent Manchester voters in a constitutionally suspect way following the City’s

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<sup>3</sup> Dividing Manchester’s population of 115,644 by the ideal district population suggests Manchester should have 33 or 34 representatives.

<sup>4</sup> Although with a deviation of -5.01%, Hillsborough District 35 in the majority’s proposed plan would place this plan outside the safe harbor threshold.





redistricting, and is therefore likely to face litigation if enacted. To remedy this, the Committee should give Manchester the representation it is entitled to—33 or 34 representatives.

By the same token, the proposed map over represents the City of Claremont. The proposed plan gives each ward a seat, and creates a flateral district that gives the City a fourth seat. This ends up with each Ward having a deviation of -6% or -5.99%. As with Manchester, this deviation is likely to increase (in the absolute sense) if Claremont's wards do not end up with exactly the same number of people following the City's redistricting.

### III. Potential Racial Gerrymander in Nashua

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in a designated language minority group.<sup>5</sup> In *Thorburg v. Gingles*, 478 US 30 (1986), the Supreme Court set forth the standard for determining when apportionment plans violate Section 2. In that case, the court examined a plan that included six multi-member districts, and struck it down as violative of Section 2 because the plan impaired the ability of Black citizens to elect representatives of their choice.

The proposed plan would apportion 27 representative seats for the City of Nashua, by making nine three-member districts (one for each ward). Depending on how the City conducts its redistricting, that means that there could be as few as zero majority-minority districts out of 27 in a city where over 13%<sup>6</sup> of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latinx. By contrast, if drawing single member districts, the Committee may be able to create more majority-minority seats.

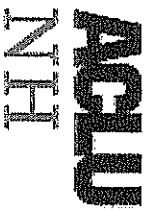
While we understand this Committee's desire to keep wards whole pursuant to the New Hampshire Constitution, complying with state law is no defense to violating the Voting Rights Act. *See* U.S. Const. Art. VI, para. 2. As communities of color become an increasingly large part of our vibrant and diverse state, their growing political power (and that of Hispanic and Latinx voters in particular) must be considered as this Committee completes its work. This Committee must examine its plans and consider whether it is unfairly and unlawfully diluting the power of minority voters, or it risks the possibility of a Section 2 lawsuit.

### IV. Partisan Gerrymandering

Our analysis of the proposed plan reveals that it builds on and increases the partisan tilt towards Republicans in a way that is unfair. The mean seat lean difference is defined as the difference between the partisan lean of the State's median district and the State as a whole. The mean seat lean under the current plan is R +.008. Under the proposed plan, it is R +1.3. This demonstrates an unfair partisan tilt.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/crt/section-2-voting-rights-act#sec2>

<sup>6</sup> <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/profile?g=1600000US3350260>



## V. Conclusion

Districts should respect fair districting principles without targeting “safe” and predictable results or having to take partisan sides. Voters should pick their politicians, and not the other way around. Redistricting is a solemn, constitutional obligation for this committee, and the voters of New Hampshire deserve better.

Nov. 8, 2021

Members of the NH Special Redistricting Committee:

My name is Corinne Dodge, and I live in Derry.

Last Jan. the people of NH heard Republican Chairman Stepanek say that because Republican legislators will have control over redistricting maps this year, “I can stand here today and guarantee you that we will send a conservative Republican to Washington, D.C. as a Congress person in 2022”. A clear statement of intent to gerrymander. Chairman Stepanek can't make that guarantee, but you, the majority of this committee can, and last week we watched you do just that, gerrymander our Congressional District maps. You are taking away the power of my vote.

I realize that redistricting almost always requires some changes to the current district maps, but fairness and non-partisanship dictates that changes should be kept at a minimum unless a change in population requires that change or that a change is necessary to rectify constitutional errors in past redistricting maps. Why then does the Republican map make changes in 54 towns, when it can easily be done by moving only one town, Hampstead? And why is the proposed Republican map in Congressional District 2 “packed” with Democrats in a manner similar to the 2010 NH Executive Council District? And why was Portsmouth moved out of the Seacoast District? And if anyone doubts that these changes were not made for political reasons, we have, Republican Representative and former NH Supreme Court Chief Justice, Bob Lynn to set us straight, as he openly acknowledged that the intent behind the new maps was to consolidate partisan power.

Your proposed maps are as unfair to Republican voters in District 2 as they are to Democratic voters in District 1, and all this so that the Republican Party will have an unfair advantage in winning elections for the next ten years. Stop the gerrymander!<sup>Cheating</sup>

To the members of the N H Redistricting Committee,

My name is Celia Randall. I live in Brookfield.

I am writing to express my outrage at what I am hearing reported on NHPR, and in reading online articles from NH journalists concerning the outright partisan manipulation of my vote. The proposed gerrymandered plan ensures a district that will produce a Republican outcome, and another that will likely favor Democrats. This plan negates our choices and creates more of the partisan conflict we have all witnessed these past several years. This is unfair to NH voters.

New Hampshire constituents demand of you to put in place a redistricting plan that is fair and evenly divided based on population shifts, not political parties! Please do not invalidate my vote.

Celia Randall

Brookfield, NH

Nov. 8, 2021

Special NH House Redistricting Committee members:

I wish to express my opposition to the House Special Committee on Redistricting's proposed maps. The purpose of redistricting is to keep the population in each congressional district roughly even. Redrawing district lines to favor one party or the other, to protect incumbent elected officials, or to help or harm a specific demographic group is an abuse of the redistricting process. Representative Lynn (R-Windham) is on the record stating that the political considerations were taken into account while redrawing the districts, rather than making simple adjustments to districts to balance the population of districts based on the 2020 census data.

The House Special Committee on Redistricting's proposed maps are a significant change from the current maps. Seventy-five towns and 365,703 people are moved into a different district. It will also create confusion with voters who are moved. Redistricting always moves voters into new districts, but from a historical point of view, an unprecedented number of voters will change districts.

The committee's proposed maps are clearly politically motivated and seek to change the partisan balance of the current maps. This is an affront to the voters of NH.

Patricia Anastasia  
50 Holstein Avenue  
Londonderry, NH

NH Redistricting Committee Members:

Congratulations to the Republican committee members! You have won a temporary battle, the capture of a newly gerrymandered district, one that will, as you so clearly stated at the outset, send a Republican to Congress in 2022. Your process was dishonest, partisan and unfair and contradicted the in depth, conscientious, objective feedback from NH voters. 74 towns voted in favor of a fair, transparent process. Your shenanigans have only served to fuel their fire. We will not stop working to insure that voters, not politicians, decide elections. Gerrymandering is as old as the hills, a corrupt process that we will continue to oppose. This topic will certainly take center stage when we canvass and speak directly with the public about what fair redistricting looks like. Armed with all the documentation we need we have the energy and willpower to push for fair elections until we succeed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Podlipny, Chester

Nov. 8, 2021

Members of the Special NH House Redistricting Committee:

Good afternoon,

I'm writing this to you to ask to stop the gerrymandering and make the redistricting of New Hampshire ~~to be~~ fair for elections. It's time both sides (Democrat and Republican) make the changes to truly allow for "We the People."

This new gerrymandering policy is damaging to fair elections for years to come. Please allow a non-partisan group to redistrict the state so that all votes count properly and do not give favor to one side or the other.

Thank you.

David Murray, Tuftonboro

House Special Committee on Redistricting,  
State House  
Concord NH

Re: NH Redistricting of Congressional districts

To Members of the House Special Committee on Redistricting:

In looking at the recently proposed NH Congressional map, I am trying to understand the criteria the committee used in drawing the two NH Congressional districts. In fact, the criteria was never revealed, despite scores of voter requests to do so. So, why, after 140 years of a consistent Congressional district map drawn by Republicans, does the new proposal no longer resemble its predecessors?

If you considered compactness as a criteria, this certainly has not been achieved. CD1 looks like an angry voter shouting out at CD2. It's chin is jutting out westward, its hooked nose overhangs an open mouth, and the back of its head drops down to shoulders outlined by a ridge of towns, oddly allocated to the other district, CD2. What possible criteria could have created such a figure?

Moreover, the proposed Congressional map has shifted the partisan balance of the districts. What justification do you have for packing Democrats into District 2, and moving more Republicans into District 1, and making both districts less competitive? If one of the redistricting principles was political fairness, this clearly has not been met. What has been accomplished is that Republican, Democratic and unaffiliated voters now have had the power of their votes diminished, which is a sad accomplishment, indeed.

There is no other conclusion but that dishonesty and gerrymandering have been at work.

You have the power to change this. It's not too late for a do-over, and rather than letting the candidates pick the voters, please work within the committee to come up with a Congressional map that lets the voters pick the candidates. Make the Congressional maps more competitive. It would be the right, and the smart, thing to do, just as your fellow Republicans have done for a hundred years before.

Ann Garland,  
Lebanon



To the Special Committee on Redistricting:

I would like to ask the committee members, of both the majority and minority parties, to reconsider providing a dedicated representative to the individual towns of Deerfield, Northwood, Nottingham, Candia and Auburn.

Both plans combine two or three towns, although not in the same combinations, leading to five representatives among the five towns. Both plans call for a float with two additional representatives, leading to seven representatives in total.

Giving each of the five towns its own representative, plus the float, would amount to the same number of total representatives. All five communities skew Republican so the party balance would be unlikely to change. But, dedicated representatives would allow for a closer relationship between the representative and constituents.

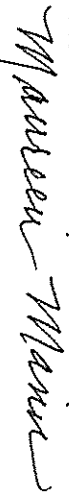
Having said that, if it cannot be done. I am asking that you please accept the plan for the town of Deerfield that combines Deerfield with Northwood and Nottingham. In that way, Deerfield would have something in common with the towns with which it is combined.

1. Deerfield, Northwood and Nottingham are in the same **state senate** district. Candia and Auburn are in a different district.
2. Candia and Auburn send their **high school students** to Pinkerton, with a few to Manchester. Deerfield, Northwood and Nottingham all send some number of students to Northwood-Coe Brown .
3. Candia and Auburn are **suburbs of Manchester and have slower growing populations**. Deerfield, Northwood and Nottingham are **oriented toward Concord and the seacoast and have more rapidly growing populations**. That may account for the fact that in the current district, Candia as the smallest town and smallest growing town, has not had a state representative elected from that community for almost 10 years.
4. For towns without high schools, **middle school sports** are important ways to bring communities together. Deerfield, Northwood and Nottingham are all members of the Southeast League; their middle school students play each other and their parents work together for the league. Candia and Auburn are part of a different league.
5. Deerfield shares a **state park**, Pawtuckaway, with Nottingham. It shares Northwood Meadows State Park with Northwood.
6. Deerfield shares two **lake** communities with Northwood, Pleasant Lake and Northwood Lake.
7. Deerfield was once part of Nottingham and they share several historical aspects.

Communities of Interest are important as they share the same issues and experiences.

Thank you for your time, and consideration of this matter.

Maureen Mann, Deerfield (603-490-9422)



The overall standard deviation for Rockingham County is approximately -5/+5 or close to 10 percent. Both plans fall well within this range and have similar combined standard deviations.

However, the plan combining Deerfield, Northwood, and Nottingham also includes communities of interest, as does the plan combining Auburn and Candia. In both scenarios, the same float deals with the difference.

	<u>Plan Majority</u>		<u>Plan Minority</u>	
Auburn			Deerfield	
Candia			Northwood	
Deerfield	36	3	Nottingham	1
				3
				1.97%
Northwood			Auburn	
Nottingham	38	2	Candia	2
				2
				3.03%
Auburn			Auburn	
Candia			Candia	
Deerfield			Deerfield	
Northwood			Northwood	
Nottingham	F37	2	Nottingham	F28
				2

Dear Committee,

At your Rockingham County listening session, I reminded you that your predecessors were adamant the people assure no group of men pervert the ends of government for their own emolument (Article 10 of the NH Bill of Rights).

What means of ~~regress~~ do you leave us if you put one group above another by continuing to gerrymander NH districts? Over thirty-seven percent of NH voters are registered un-declared, but you are stacking the deck against us by packing party leaning communities into opposite districts.

What respect can our youth and younger generations have for our democracy if you continue to rig the system and put party above people?

I implore you to have the fortitude to free NH of the slightest sent of gerrymandering. The map-a-thon project proves there are better solutions. Our democracy only functions as designed when our leaders climb above partisanship.

If you are struggling to stand up to party pressure, feel free to blame me and all the others who want to keep our democracy from being perverted by political parties.

The seventy-four communities who voted to tell you they want fair and open redistricting are a statistically significant sample, clearly communicating NH does not want to be gerrymandered.

Respectfully Yours,

Steven Borne

Rye

Author of Consuming Government

Steven Borne

Cell: +1 603 770 1743

Nov. 8, 2021

Special NH House Redistricting Committee members:

I wish to express my opposition to the House Special Committee on Redistricting's proposed maps. The purpose of redistricting is to keep the population in each congressional district roughly even. Redrawing district lines to favor one party or the other, to protect incumbent elected officials, or to help or harm a specific demographic group is an abuse of the redistricting process. Representative Lynn (R-Windham) is on the record stating that the political considerations were taken into account while redrawing the districts, rather than making simple adjustments to districts to balance the population of districts based on the 2020 census data.

The House Special Committee on Redistricting's proposed maps are a significant change from the current maps. Seventy-five towns and 365,703 people are moved into a different district. It will also create confusion with voters who are moved. Redistricting always moves voters into new districts, but from a historical point of view, an unprecedented number of voters will change districts.

The committee's proposed maps are clearly politically motivated and seek to change the partisan balance of the current maps. This is an affront to the voters of NH.

Patricia Anastasia  
50 Holstein Avenue  
Londonderry, NH

Nov. 8, 2021

To-NH House Redistricting Committee Members

I am outraged after reviewing material on the proposed Republican redistricting changes for NH. New Hampshire is the cradle of American democracy. Let us not defile this deep rooted tradition through partisan rancor.

Respectfully,  
Ruth Sexton  
Wolfeboro, NH

Dear Special Committee Members,

I attended the Special Committee work sessions on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> when these maps were first presented. I want to begin by saying that I appreciate the time and effort the committee spent to make sure the maps could meet the constitutional and state requirements, and I especially want to thank the committee for the opportunity to now speak about the proposals. I sincerely hope that you will take my comments and the comments of other Granite Staters into consideration before you finalize your decisions.

First, I want to raise my heartfelt objection to the Congressional map drawn by the majority. This Republican plan would destroy the competitive congressional districts in our state.

I went back and reviewed at the voting records for both districts for the past 140 years. Both District one and District 2 have historically swung between Republican representation and Democratic representation. This has been a good thing. We want our districts to be competitive. Competitive districts help unify our state, as candidates must appeal to voters with diverse ideas. Competitive districts also bring out the very best candidates.

The map created by the Republicans transfers the key Republican leaning districts of Hudson, Salem and Windham to District 1, while at the same time shifting Democratic leaning Dover and Durham from Congressional District 1 to District 2. This would not only transfer 75 towns in the state to a new district, but would create two highly partisan, clearly gerrymandered districts.

I believe the members of this committee will lose credibility if they do not modify the majority congressional plan. Fair, nonpartisan redistricting is popular with voters and these hearings are being watched closely. I recommend using the nonpartisan map drawn by the citizen mapping project, Map-a-Thon. This map maintains integrity, competitive districts and keeps communities of interest together. I also support the minority map. Democratic members of the committee succeeded in maintaining competitive districts and did not need to move huge numbers of voters into new districts to comply with the constitutional and state rules.

As a Carroll County resident, I would also like to comment on the proposed House plans. I acknowledge how complex the process is for creating these districts! Both the Democratic and Republican plans have advantages and are similar in some ways. However, I prefer the Democratic plan, which creates smaller districts. I believe that the smaller districts make it easier for our representatives to know their communities. I also think more candidates would run for house if districts were smaller, as their campaigns would not be expensive.

My first choice for a Carroll County map is reserved for the Map a Thon map that places *deviats* *WIS* Tamworth, Madison, Freedom, Effingham and Eaton together. ~~Even though the violations are~~ *Major* under this plan, the map maintains smaller districts, groups communities of interest together and helps more qualifying towns have their own representative.

Ellen Farnum, Tamworth, NH

To the Honorable Travis O'Hara and Committee Members:

Thank you for your commitment to honor our US and NH Constitutions. I appreciate your passion for our republic and representative government. I am a born and raised Granite Stater who has owned houses in Laconia and Belmont for more than 25 years. Throughout my 57 years, I have loved and respected our collective commitment to representative government - and the fact that your state representative could literally be your next door neighbor!

Having our very own local representation is so key to ensuring the vision our forefathers created for all of us. Our nation relies upon a governing structure that limits government at the federal level, conveys and protects another level for each state, and then ensures a local level for maximum self governance. Within our NH Constitution, we take this commitment to a deeper level through our amazing ratio of people to state representatives. I believe our NH forefathers made an incredible commitment to fair representation in our 3-level governing framework when we implemented this strong representation requirement. They knew and understood that local matters often intersected with state matters, and that state business further intersected with federal matters. They got it! They knew that in order to maximize local control, we had to have state representatives allocated to the small populations that were NH communities in the early days.

For every community that has a solely dedicated state representative, we can have faith that we have a 100% dedicated voice to help us bridge the gap between school district or municipal issues to corresponding state issues. It is a great weapon against oppression and government overreach and a fantastic jewel to preserve self-governance at the closest level possible. Every time we force neighborhoods and communities to share representatives across those neighborhood and community lines, we inherently water down all of their voices.

We the people deserve to be heard within the concentration our three-tiered governmental structure was envisioned to bestow upon us. We should not have to share representation across neighborhood and community lines unless it is otherwise impossible to give us our own representative. For larger roles, such as state senator, federal congressional and senatorial, the commitment to preserve access to as localized a level as possible should remain the sole and primary objective. Failure to do so only weakens the people's voice and undermines the representative government we were all promised. Our voices should matter no matter political party or donor status. Our freedoms are not supposed to be for sale or auctioned off to political parties. We live in NH -- the Live Free or Die state for this very commitment to freedom. We cannot ensure maximum self governance if we redistrict based on political parties instead of local community. We will only further find our voices silenced in schools, towns, and county business by splitting our voices abnormally based on partisan lines.

I have voted for people of every party over the years; issues matter more than parties. Please honor our great tradition of independence by supporting a redistricting plan that -- whenever and wherever possible -- gives people 100% dedicated representation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

*Diana Lacey, Belmont*

## Testimony for the Special Committee on Redistricting

November 9<sup>th</sup> at the State House, Concord, NH

### Comments on Belknap County and Congressional Districts

Good morning, members of the special redistricting committee,

My name is Don House. I'm a resident of Belmont NH which is located in Belknap County. I created Warrant Article 26 on fair, non-partisan redistricting that appeared on Belmont's March 2021 Town Election.

This warrant article passed with a strong majority of voters expressing their preference for a fair, non-partisan redistricting process. Seventy-four other towns in NH have passed similar resolutions.

Transparency and fairness are crucial to restore voter confidence in our election process.

I have reviewed the proposed district map by this committee and by other groups such as open democracy. Based on population alone, 8 of the 11 towns/cities in Belknap County meet the criteria for their own representatives. However, none of the maps proposed give all eight of these towns their own representatives. The feedback from Belknap County voters shared at the Oct 19<sup>th</sup> hearing indicated that Tilton, Alton, Gilford, Meredith, and Barnstead should have their own representatives instead of sharing reps with other towns. All of the proposals disregarded this feedback.

I think the most important principles for redistricting Belknap County are to apply the following principles in order:

- 1) Each town that has a population of at least 3444 should receive its own state representative
- 2) Towns with population less than 3444 should be combined into a floterial district with an adjacent town to achieve as close to 3444 as possible
- 3) Laconia should remain intact and not split wards with other adjacent towns
- 4) Towns are best served by representatives that are elected from their town or the smallest floterial district that combines towns
- 5) The smaller the district, the better the representation
- 6) Based on their population, some towns should be given multiple representatives
- 7) The use of floterial districts and combining two adjacent towns to share representatives should be minimized
- 8) If any towns remain unassigned after the first three principles are applied, consider a deviation of up to 15% from the 3444 number.

Applying these principles to Belknap County, the county would receive 18 representatives. This is a number that everyone seems to be in agreement with. These 18 representatives should be allocated to the 11 towns/cities in Belknap County as follows:

- 1) Alton - 1 rep with another floterial rep with Barnstead
- 2) Barnstead – 1 rep with another floterial rep with Alton
- 3) Belmont – 2 reps
- 4) Center Harbor and New Hampton – a floterial district with 1 rep
- 5) Gilford – 2 reps
- 6) Gilmanton – 2 reps
- 7) Laconia – 5 reps (reps should be assigned to individual wards where possible, or the three smallest wards would share 2 representatives)
- 8) Meredith – 2 reps
- 9) New Hampton and Center Harbor – a floterial with 1 rep
- 10) Sanbornton – 1 rep
- 11) Tilton – 1 rep

In summary, nine of 11 towns/cities get their own representatives in my scenario. The two towns with populations less than 3444 are combined into a floterial district.



Barbara Schult  
11 Honeysuckle Lane, Goffstown NH 03045

November 4, 2021

To Members of House Committee on Redistricting:

I spoke at the public hearing for Hillsborough County held at Goffstown High. I stated that I had faith in the committee, that you will heed the voices of the constituents you represent, and those of your fellow legislators who in two consecutive sessions, reached a bipartisan agreement calling for fair and independent redistricting. I trusted that you recognized that thousands of people in 74 towns, at their town meetings, sent a clear message, regardless of party, that they want fair maps drawn.

Viewing the current rendition of the majority map for proposed Congressional districts, my faith was mistaken.

First and foremost, these maps are not visually compact. The proposed CD2 almost draws a circle or enclosure around CD1. This is intentionally partisan.

Fair maps enable a candidate a fair shot at being elected. Scooping the seacoast region and packing it into CD2 is an intentional design to make sure that voters of a certain party in CD2 may as well not vote.

Voting is a citizen's voice. This is an egregious denial of a person's voice actually mattering.

If you allow this version of the map to proceed, you will see an even greater disengagement with our democracy. Voters who know their candidate doesn't stand a chance won't bother to turn out.

Furthermore, while I am appreciative of the 2 scheduled public hearings to comment on the proposed maps, the purpose of public input would be to comment on the map version that the committee was actually sending to the legislature for a vote. The expectation was that the committee would work towards consensus and present one map to the public for comment. Therefore, it is imperative that additional public hearings be held on the version of the map your committee will be sending to the legislature for a full vote.

Lastly, I urge you to disclose the reasons for your proposed changes. Transparency is encouraged; explain why you are suggesting the map be drawn as it has.

There are many citizens of this great state, who, in the interest of the common good, have put many hours into drawing fair maps, and delineating their reasoning as well. I encourage you to look at their work. It is publicly posted as testimony.

The citizens of NH want fairness. You represent that constituency. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Barbara Schult

House Special Committee on Redistricting,  
State House  
Concord NH

Re: NH Redistricting of Congressional districts

To Members of the House Special Committee on Redistricting:

In looking at the recently proposed NH Congressional map, I am trying to understand the criteria the committee used in drawing the two NH Congressional districts. In fact, the criteria was never revealed, despite scores of voter requests to do so. So, why, after 140 years of a consistent Congressional district map drawn by Republicans, does the new proposal no longer resemble its predecessors?

If you considered compactness as a criteria, this certainly has not been achieved. CD1 looks like an angry voter shouting out at CD2. It's chin is jutting out westward, its hooked nose overhangs an open mouth, and the back of its head drops down to shoulders outlined by a ridge of towns, oddly allocated to the other district, CD2. What possible criteria could have created such a figure?

Moreover, the proposed Congressional map has shifted the partisan balance of the districts. What justification do you have for packing Democrats into District 2, and moving more Republicans into District 1, and making both districts less competitive? If one of the redistricting principles was political fairness, this clearly has not been met. What has been accomplished is that Republican, Democratic and unaffiliated voters now have had the power of their votes diminished, which is a sad accomplishment, indeed.

There is no other conclusion but that dishonesty and gerrymandering have been at work.

You have the power to change this. It's not too late for a do-over, and rather than letting the candidates pick the voters, please work within the committee to come up with a Congressional map that lets the voters pick the candidates. Make the Congressional maps more competitive. It would be the right, and the smart, thing to do, just as your fellow Republicans have done for a hundred years before.

Ann Garland,  
Lebanon

**TO: NH STATE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING**

**From: Susan C Jamback, Dunbarton**

**Date: 11/8/2021**

*Dunbartonians voted for a Fair & Independent Redistricting Committee in March 2020, but Governor Sununu vetoed HB 1665 which would have established that committee. Now both parties propose to separate us from Bow, the town with whom we share a school district. The GOP wants to pair us with towns unlike ours: Hooksett, Allenstown, and Epsom. Additionally, the GOP proposes to move us into US House District #1.*

*Dunbarton is not a political pawn. It is a lovely thriving community whose citizens work together on numerous civic projects regardless of political party. We have our own elementary school, but we send our children to Bow for middle and high school. Recently we lost two students in a tragic car accident. They were residents of Bow, but our towns grieved as a single community, linked by the bonds that are forged through a vibrant and excellent public school system. Our current representatives respect and support our views on our school system. How will 4 dedicated representatives and 2 floaterials even begin to cover 4 school districts adequately?*

*Please do not separate us from Bow and do not throw us into US House District #1. We are a rural community. Our community Facebook page is filled with stories and videos of animal sightings, plus beautiful pictures of sunrises, sunsets, and animals. We have several conservation properties that we maintain. I doubt you'd find the same in Hooksett. So how can anyone from Hooksett understand and fairly represent the interest of Dunbartonians, much less Allenstown and Epsom? They can't. Please redraw these districts, taking into consideration people, not just the number of people.*

TESTIMONY ON FAIR AND TRANSPARENT REDISTRICTING  
NH House SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING HEARING  
NOVEMBER 9, 2021

To: Members of the NH House Special Committee on Redistricting

From: Janet Ward, NH Citizen, Contoocook, NH

Re: The proposed redrawn map for Congressional Districts 1 and 2

The U.S. Supreme Court observed that the process of redistricting, which often involves gerrymandering, is a “political” process and that it would not become involved in this process. This was a bad decision on the part of the Supreme Court. Why? Because the purely political act of gerrymandering effectively silences the voices of legitimate voters and makes it impossible for voters to have their votes truly count. The fact is that gerrymandering turns democracy on its head. It enables candidates to choose their voters and denies voters the right to choose their candidates.

Any reasonable person who has looked at the Republican map of U.S. Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 2 can see that its convoluted borders serve one purpose and one purpose only. As drawn, this map lets Republican candidates running in District 1 select their voters while District 2 lets Democratic candidates choose theirs. Yes, voters will cast their votes in these districts, but the outcome is predetermined in these packed, cracked, purposefully and artfully drawn GERRYMANDERED districts.

What the Republican members of the Special Committee on Redistricting have done is to silence the voices of voters, Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. This is a display of raw political power and it is wrong.

Congratulations to the Republican committee members! You have won a temporary battle, the capture of a newly gerrymandered district, one that will, as you so clearly stated at the outset, send a Republican to Congress in 2022. Your process was dishonest, partisan and unfair and contradicted the in depth, conscientious, objective feedback from NH voters. 74 towns voted in favor of a fair, transparent process. Your shenanigans have only served to fuel their fire. We will not stop working to ensure that voters, not politicians, decide elections. Gerrymandering is as old as the hills, a corrupt process that we will continue to oppose. This topic will certainly take center stage when we canvass and speak directly with the public about what fair redistricting looks like. Armed with all the documentation we need we have the energy and willpower to push for fair elections until we succeed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Podlipny, Chester

Dear Committee,

At your Rockingham County listening session, I reminded you that your predecessors were adamant the people assure no group of men pervert the ends of government for their own emolument (Article 10 of the NH Bill of Rights).

What means of regress do you leave us if you put one group above another by continuing to gerrymander NH districts? Over thirty-seven percent of NH voters are registered un-declared, but you are stacking the deck against us by packing party leaning communities into opposite districts.

What respect can our youth and younger generations have for our democracy if you continue to rig the system and put party above people?

I implore you to have the fortitude to free NH of the slightest sent of gerrymandering. The map-a-thon project proves there are better solutions. Our democracy only functions as designed when our leaders climb above partisanship.

If you are struggling to stand up to party pressure, feel free to blame me and all the others who want to keep our democracy from being perverted by political parties.

The seventy-four communities who voted to tell you they want fair and open redistricting are a statistically significant sample, clearly communicating NH does not want to be gerrymandered.

Respectfully Yours,

Steven Borne

Rye

Author of Consuming Government

Steven Borne

Cell: +1 603 770 1743

Hello,

My name is Polina Sayess. I live and work in Lebanon, NH, which is in Grafton country. I would like to express my concern about the currently proposed maps for House seats. Even though Hanover is eligible for its own district based on the population size, the current proposals from either Democratic or Republican Parties did not grant that representation. As of the 2020 census, the population of Hanover was 11,870. Every 3,444 people are supposed to get their own state representative. This technically diminishes the voice of Hanover voters and is not fair. Thus, I strongly suggest adopting the map from Map-a-Thon, which takes Hanover's population size into account and grants this city its own district.

My second concern is about the Congressional proposal from the Republicans. This is the biggest shift of NH towns in 140 years without a good reason except for pure gerrymandering. It packs Republicans into Congressional District 1 and Democrats into Congressional District 2, thus making it very unlikely for Democrats to win in CD1 and impossible for Republicans to win in CD2. This will eliminate the competitive nature of NH elections. If members of the same party win year after year, voters will become disenfranchised and will no longer feel motivated to continue participating in elections. It really is disconcerting that the Republican party takes away the power of members of its own party in the Congressional District 2. Thus, I speak against the Republican proposal and call to adopt either a democratic or Map-a-Thon proposal for congressional redistricting.

My third concern is about this process, poor communication with the people who elected you. The public was given short notice, there is no interactive option to attend public hearings online. The Special Committee did not fully disclose what criteria they used in creation of their maps or how the reconciliation process will be handled. This is NOT open or transparent!

Thank you for your attention. I submitted my testimony in writing as well.

## Sullivan County Redistricting Hearing 10/13/21

I am Linda Tanner from Sunapee and State Representative in Sullivan District 9.

I represent a floterial district with a total population of 20,761 in the 2020 census. If my math is correct this floterial district represents a 350% deviation from the 3444 voters per representative as prescribed in the 2020 redistricting guidelines.

New Hampshire, as well as Sullivan County, have some grossly gerrymandered districts. I am concerned about fair maps in the Congressional Districts, the Executive Council and Senate districts. These districts like Senate District 9 and Executive Council District 2 result in unequal representation and represent a partisan priority and need to be addressed. However, tonight, I am speaking about the Sullivan County House Districts.

I believe strongly in fair redistricting maps and an open and transparent process. I supported an independent redistricting committee last term and would do so today.

Here are the new census figures along with the current number of Representatives in 8 towns in my floterial district:

Cornish	1616	3 Reps
Croydon	801	2 Reps
Grantham	3404	3 Reps
Newport	6299	3 Reps
Plainfield	2459	3 Reps
Springfield	1259	3 Reps
Sunapee	3342	2 Reps
Unity	1581	3 Reps

The goal of fair redistricting should be equal population among the various districts so that the vote of each citizen for representation in New Hampshire's House is approximately equal in weight to that of any other citizen. A 5% deviation is allowed.

Floterial districts are complicated and confusing. They consist of many towns, 8 towns in my case, with vastly different populations, connections, and economies. The fact that a town or two towns have one representative from their area as well as one floating over them gives the impression that they have two Representatives in the House. That is misleading. It treats these towns as if they had a 2 or 3-member district which they do not.

Floterial districts pose several disadvantages for the voters. The average citizen doesn't know what a floterial district is, what it accomplishes, or why it exists. Voters are less likely to know who is their floterial district Representative because the floterial district covers such a large area. The floterial district Representatives are not part of the everyday interactions and connections in the individual



communities. For example, the two ends of my district, Plainfield is much different from the other end, Unity. Plainfield population 2459 is truly part of the upper valley with ties and connections in the upper part of Sullivan County while Unity population 1581 has strong connections with Claremont. When voting on an issue arises in the House, with 8 towns it is difficult to represent all their local government, schools, and economies fairly.

In 2002 in Burling v Chandler the court rejected floterial districts as an unsound redistricting device.

We are a representative democracy. Whenever possible, redistricting should produce one person for one vote. Districts should be drawn so that every voter has the same equal representation as every other voter. This is accomplished by creating as many single districts as possible. I urge you to consider single districts in Grantham population 3404 and Sunapee 3342 for a single representative district, Newport with 6299 for a 2 representative district. Further, I would urge the committee to set multi-town districts with a priority to their economic and governmental connections and eliminate floterial districts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Tanner".

Linda Tanner  
State Representative  
Sullivan District 9

communities. For example, the two ends of my district, Plainfield is much different from the other end, Unity. Plainfield population 2459 is truly part of the upper valley with ties and connections in the upper part of Sullivan County while Unity population 1581 has strong connections with Claremont. When voting on an issue arises in the House, with 8 towns it is difficult to represent all their local government, schools, and economies fairly.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Tanner".

Linda Tanner  
State Representative  
Sullivan District 9

I am Suzanne Gottling, presently representing Sullivan County District 2 which is comprised of the towns of Sunapee and Croydon and am a member of the Sunapee Board of Selectmen. I am speaking here tonight as a long-time resident to suggest the redistricting committee follow the NH Constitution and restore Sunapee's status as a single district. Based on the 2000 census, Sunapee was a single district, a status that many of the town's citizens had worked hard to achieve and valued highly. However, during the 2010 redistricting process, Sunapee lost its standing as a single district even though its population was within 2% of the perfect number. Sunapee found itself allied with a town with whom it shared virtually no common interest as well as enrolled in a huge flatorial district of 8 towns. To many, it felt like a gerrymandered decision, hoping to tilt the political winds and ballot results in a certain direction. It did not feel as if the Constitutional requirement was being followed. As of now Sunapee is again easily within the 5% standard. Are the town's citizens once again going to feel as if that constitutional promise is always dangling just out of reach?

If the interim map you design keeps Sunapee connected to one or two or even eight towns, try to give us a partner(s) with whom we share common interests. For instance, the town of Springfield has a contractual agreement with Sunapee to use the transfer station. Because the towns also share a watershed, many citizens participate in joint efforts to maintain the natural resources of our area. Thank you.

I am Ellis Robinson, a resident and voter in Grantham.

Welcome to Sullivan County, Chair Griffin and each committee member (with a special shout out to our county's own Representative Steve Smith). Special thanks to each of you for the extraordinary time and energy you are putting into this so-important project to set the groundwork for New Hampshire elections for the next ten years.

I'll make this quick:

1. As you consider Sullivan County's Communities of Interest, please keep in mind that ours follow major transportation routes. For example
  - a. I-91 and Rt. 12A along the Connecticut River make it easy for the towns on the west side of the county to connect (Plainfield through Langdon).
  - b. There is only one continuous east-west route in the county: St. Rt. 11 that stretches from Sunapee to Newport to Claremont.
  - c. Grantham has easy access to I-89, and orients along that major route. Any town not directly along one of those three routes must travel through one or more of these "border towns" or outside the county to reach a major transportation route.
2. Sullivan is a purple county. Checklists on file with the Secretary of State reflecting voter registration as of the 2020 General Election show a near tie between Democrats and Republicans (9,676 Democrats vs. 9,415 Republicans) with 12,865 Undeclared. Please make sure that voting districts reflect this balance.
3. New Hampshire is also a purple state. As you amend districts for the Executive Council, US House of Representatives, and State Senate, please pay special attention to this balance and make districts as competitive as possible.
4. Finally, thank you again for holding these valuable county meetings. Once you establish draft maps that you are comfortable with, please hold one more series of meetings for each county's residents to comment on your work. Governor Sununu told NHPR's Laura Kroy this spring, "If any of the redistricted maps are gerrymandered, I will veto them." Only with balanced, nonpartisan districts, established with a transparent public process, can we be assured that our state government will fairly represent all New Hampshire residents.

Thank you for your attention. I am happy to address any questions or clarifications.

It is NOT true that ...

To: Special Committee on Redistricting  
From: Spec Bowers, Grantham

I want to correct a misstatement that has been repeated in previous meetings and among the general public.

It is NOT true that "the NH Constitution requires that towns that are large enough to have their own representative seat be allotted its own district seat."

It is NOT true that "New London is constitutionally guaranteed its own district and representative," or that "Canaan is legally entitled to its own representative district."

It is NOT true that "In 2011, 152 towns were eligible, but 62 of those towns did not receive their own House District, violating the Constitution as amended."

What the NH Constitution says is "When the population of any town or ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population for one or more representative seats, the town or ward shall have its own district of one or more representative seats."

The key phrase is "reasonable deviation". A town is not entitled to its own district just by being large; its population must be within a reasonable deviation.

New London's population is 4400, which is a deviation of 28% - far beyond what is considered reasonable. Canaan's deviation is 10%, beyond the guideline for reasonable.

In 2011, there were 152 towns with large population but most of them were beyond reasonable deviations. I estimate that about 30 towns were within reasonable deviations.

If you look at the legislative history of the Constitutional amendment that the voters passed in 2006, you will see that the bill as introduced said that "when a town or ward has enough inhabitants to equal or exceed the number required for one representative seat, it shall have its own district." But that language was amended by the General Court; what the voters approved was the "within a reasonable deviation" language.

In Cheshire, Walpole's population deviation is 5.5%, barely outside the guideline for reasonable. Personally, I think that is a very reasonable stretch and very justifiable under redistricting case law.

The Keene wards deviate 34% from ideal population. They are not entitled to their own districts.

I urge the committee to look at the actual language of the Constitution, not what various people think it says.

Please do NOT attempt to give every large town its own district. I have seen maps that started out by making every large town its own district. To then fix unreasonable deviations, they had to produce large and ugly fioterial districts that defeated the intent to have locally elected representatives.

Please DO attempt to eliminate the huge fioterial districts from the current map. Please DO attempt to create small districts that meet the intent of the Constitution - even if you slightly stretch the deviation guidelines.

Ben Mortell  
356 Quaker City Road  
Unity, NH 03603

October 13, 2021

Sent via email only

House and Senate Redistricting Committees

[HouseSpecialCommitteeOnRedistricting@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:HouseSpecialCommitteeOnRedistricting@leg.state.nh.us)

[senate.redistricting@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:senate.redistricting@leg.state.nh.us)

Dear Committee members:

I have been a resident of Unity since 1984 and worked with low income individuals and families in Sullivan County for over 30 years. I am also a new Board member of Granite State Interfaith Action Fund (GSIAF). GSIAF is a statewide, interfaith organization dedicated to increasing voter turnout in Low Income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities and in ensuring that all have access to the ballot. GSIAF works to unite religious, labor and community organizations rooted in faith and democratic values; to strengthen their voices in decisions that shape New Hampshire communities; and to advocate for policies that will broaden and deepen the constituent organizations, build communities and promote a just society for the people of New Hampshire.

Fair redistricting maps need a transparent and inclusive process. A fair redistricting map responds to the will and needs of the people. When any one party controls the legislative and executive branches, the process of redistricting can lead to the results being subject to political partisanship and gerrymandering. It is disappointing that legislative efforts to create a better process were defeated. Improvements such as an advisory committee on redistricting, procedural rules to ensure bipartisanship or an independent redistricting committee would have improved the current redistricting process. There is a real danger that the current process will lead to citizens becoming cynical about how politicians work for their own narrow advantage. Please do not disappoint us and to the best of your ability make this a transparent, inclusive, and fair process with a just result.

Here are some specific recommendations about Sullivan County that relate to the concept of community of interest. This refers to whether voters joined together through redistricting have common interests. This includes do the residents live in primarily rural or urban communities and whether or not they share common interests such as: common schools and youth programs, where they work and shop, where they receive medical care, and share natural resources like common recreational areas and transportation systems.

Senate Districts: The residents of Sullivan County would be better served if all of Sullivan County was in one Senate District. We share common economic and social problems

better served by a Senator who represents only us or at least all of us. I live in Unity which is part of Senate District 8 which stretches down south to Weare. I am using Weare as an example because I know a little about Weare since my wife spent her later teen years growing up in North Weare and her parents still lived in Weare when we later started dating. Weare is a bedroom community to Manchester and further south and shares little or no community of interest with my town. I suspect few voters in Weare have any idea even where Unity is located. Their economic and social needs and the needs of many other municipalities in Senate District 8 are not the same as Unity or the other Sullivan County towns joined into Senate District 8.

House Districts: Unity is now part of the house district that includes Newport. The population of Newport and Sunapee are large enough to each have a house district. The little towns of Sullivan County like Unity would be better served by that change. Unity is a small population town with a relatively large geographic area. I live in West Unity and my economic and social interest are tied to Claremont. That is where we grocery shop, our family worked and my children went to school. When I first moved to Unity it was part of the house district that included Claremont and I felt better represented. However, many residents in Unity live in East Unity and are at least geographically closer to Newport so the shifting back and forth between Claremont and Newport may not serve their community of interest. There is no perfect solution to this problem but the smaller towns of Sullivan County in many ways share more in common with each other than they share with the larger municipalities. This also solves the problem of some residents in a town being part of a house district with a larger community where they share few common interests.

Executive Council: Sullivan County municipalities should be part of one Executive Council district with other municipalities in southwestern New Hampshire. The 2020 Map-athon Executive Council map is not perfect but accounting for population requirements is fairer than the current District 2. Unity and other Sullivan County municipalities are part of District 2 which has been described as shaped like a dragon across the state. Residents of Sullivan County do not share a community of interest with the municipalities on the seacoast. This is a clear example of excessive partisanship in redistricting. The map or shape of District 2 allowed the Republican party to aggregate many registered voters into one district. This is classic gerrymandering and Councilor Warmington is the only democratic party member in the Executive Council. That result leads to voters being cynical of the political process and of politicians in general.

In conclusion: Thank you for journeying to Sullivan County to hear our concerns. To complete your job, you need to return to Sullivan County after the proposed new maps have been created. True transparency and a fair and inclusive process requires that the public have the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed maps before redistricting is final.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ben Mortell

To: House Special Committee on Redistricting and Senate Redistricting Select Committee

From: Liz Tentarelli, resident of Newbury NH (Merrimack county)

September 14, 2021

Re: Public comments about the redistricting 2021 process

Many people I have spoken with about redistricting voice two concerns: that the process of drawing the maps be done with transparency and public input, and that the criteria the committees will use be clearly stated. Those of us who tried to follow the process in 2011 realize how important both of these are.

Therefore here are some questions I hope the committees will address publicly in the coming weeks:

Obviously you will adhere to the federal and state constitutions about equal representation, but has your committee decided what will be an acceptable deviation from the ideal numbers for each of the four plans? When will you make that public?

Since 2006, the NH Constitution requires that towns that are large enough to have their own representative seat be allotted its own district seat. (This year that is 3,444 residents.) In 2011 that was not followed for 62 small towns that qualified. While I realize geography may make it impossible to allocate those seats in all cases, volunteers have shown that in all but 10 towns it is possible. Will your committee work to make that happen, and where does adhering to that constitutional requirement fall in your list of priorities?

“Communities of interest” is a broad term, but many are wondering which communities of interest your committee believes are important considerations when determining which towns should be grouped together. Have you set any priorities, such as keeping regional school districts in the same senate district, or grouping neighboring towns that share common problems such as water quality issues or natural resources conservation or public health issues? If not, when do you expect to set those priorities and will you make them public on the committee’s website?



Merrimack county is currently divided among six senate districts. The towns in our county range from small ones (like my little town of Newbury) in the west to the cities of Concord and Franklin. Forming state senate districts is about the numbers, of course, but what other demographic aspects will you be considering?

Finally, I suggest that until draft maps are drawn and made available to the public, it is an exercise in abstraction to discuss what makes sense for any particular town or city. Therefore I suggest another round of these county input sessions where the maps will be shown so that specific comments from the municipal officials and the public can be heard for your consideration.

Thank you for holding this first round of listening sessions in the counties, for creating a website where materials will be publicly available, and for your hard work on this important decennial project.

Sue Nastasi of Rollinsford.

I have a Dover mailing address but I live in and pay taxes in Rollinsford. The town votes for 4 state representatives. Our current representatives consist of 1 living in Rollinsford & 3 in Somersworth. Our town 2020 census shows us at a population of 2,597. I know you will have to combine us with Dover or Somersworth (but these cities are so much larger it drowns out the voices of Rollinsford voters). I am pleased & proud to be one of the 3 Supervisors of the Checklist. Serving the town & keeping our voting records exact & up to date has been meaningful!

My town is situated on the western bank of the Salmon Falls River which divides New Hampshire from Maine. It is approximately 14 miles from the Atlantic Ocean, and our neighboring cities are Dover and Somersworth, New Hampshire and South Berwick, Maine.

Thank you, Chairperson Griffin, for allowing me time to speak before the Redistricting Committee. I hope I will have time after the maps are drawn to add my voice to the debate.

Accurate Representation = Fair Maps

Being accurate is for the voters to choose their representatives, not for the any political candidate to decide their constituents.

Also being accurate is doing the job elected to do and following the constitution. We all have to answer to a "boss". The constituents are the "boss" for the elected officials.

When representatives are redrawing maps to pack districts, they are not doing their job.

Packing –The act of grouping together members of one group within a district to the point that they are a super-majority in that district. This reduces the electoral influence of the group in the surrounding districts. Executive Council District 2 is an example of packing and I hope you can do a better job on executive council map drawing.

Your work is appreciated by all in the state. So much work is done on your own time. The committee and COVID guidelines have caused increased demands of time, travel, & plain rearranging your life.

Please give all voters the confidence this Redistricting Committee *will do the right thing.*

Thank you for your time.

The following Warrant Article was passed on June 8<sup>th</sup> during the Town Meeting in Rollinsford, by a vote of 406 to 105.

#### **Resolution for Fair Redistricting**

*By Petition of 25 or more eligible voters of the Town of Rollinsford:*

To see if the Town of Rollinsford will urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the 2020 census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire residents by drawing the new district maps without relying on partisan data such as election results or party registration favoring particular parties or candidates and that all meetings, hearings and deliberations regarding redistricting shall be open to the public.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Rollinsford Select Board to the state legislators representing the Town of Rollinsford and to the Governor of the State of New Hampshire informing them of the instructions from their constituents within thirty (30) days of the vote.



TOWN OF DURHAM  
8 NEWMARKET ROAD  
DURHAM, NH 03824  
Tel: 603/868-5571  
Fax: 603/868-1858

## **RESOLUTION #2021-01 OF DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

### **REQUESTING NONPARTISAN FAIR REDISTRICTING IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The Town of Durham, through its Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the community, resolves as follows:

**WHEREAS**, a strong democracy depends on voters choosing their elected leaders, not the other way around; and

**WHEREAS**, redistricting maps have historically been created inappropriately to benefit one political party over another; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census will be completed in 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Hampshire General Court is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state for state and federal elected positions; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Hampshire General Court conducted the 2010 census redistricting in secret; and

**WHEREAS**, the redistricting process should be conducted in public, honoring principles of transparency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Durham supports open and transparent government;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council, the governing and legislative body of the Town of Durham, that it urges the New Hampshire General Court to ensure:

1. The process of redistricting for the State of New Hampshire shall be transparent and open to timely public disclosure and public input at all stages; and
2. Redistricting shall be designed to provide fair, nonpartisan districts that ensure effective representation; and

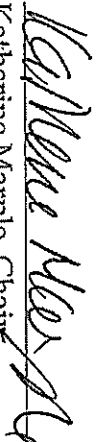


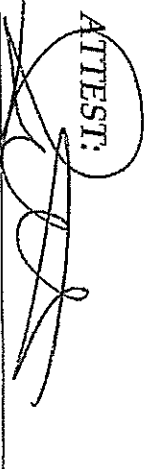
3. Voting maps shall not be gerrymandered to favor a political party or candidate; and
4. The Town of Durham calls upon both its own elected state legislators and all elected state legislators representing citizens across NH, to uphold these fair redistricting principles when creating state redistricting maps.

This resolution shall take effect upon its passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 by a Nine (9) to (Zero 0) roll call vote of the Durham Town Council as follows:

<i>Sally Tobias</i>	<u>Yes</u>	<i>Wayne Burton</i>	<u>Yes</u>
<i>Dimmy Waters</i>	<u>Yes</u>	<i>James Larson</i>	<u>Yes</u>
<i>Al Howland</i>	<u>Yes</u>	<i>Sally Needell</i>	<u>Yes</u>
<i>Katherine Marple</i>	<u>Yes</u>	<i>Andrew Corrow</i>	<u>Yes</u>
<i>Carden Welsh</i>	<u>Yes</u>		

  
Katherine Marple, Chair  
Durham Town Council

ATTEST:  
  
Lorrie Pitt, Town Clerk

Dear Madam Chair and Special Redistricting Committee members:

I am providing my written testimony regarding the NH State Redistricting in Strafford County. I am a resident of the town of Strafford, NH.

I am deeply concerned about the NH House of Representatives, District 3. Currently our town of Strafford is represented with the town of New Durham. Other than a point in the woods where our towns meet there is no direct connection, yet we are in a district with this town! To drive there you must drive through two other towns and even other counties. We do not share community activities such as youth sports, adult recreation, or religious organizations. We are not connected physically, or in any sense of community. Our current town population justifies that we have our own NH State Representative and I urge you to provide the representation we deserve and are guaranteed by our State's Constitution.

I am also concerned about the Executive Council District 2 seat. The current map for this seat is an unusual geographic representation of towns. It is not a logical area to be represented by one seat. This district, along with the other districts for the Executive Council need to be redrawn without gerrymandering.

Regards,  
Elizabeth Callahan  
Strafford, NH

Testimony to the Special Committee on Redistricting

Strafford County Listening Session: Wednesday, September 22, 2019

From:

James Verschuere  
102-B Sixth Street, Dover, NH  
603-978-0398  
[jd.verschuere@gmail.com](mailto:jd.verschuere@gmail.com)

As a former New Hampshire state representative, I know that the vast majority of us serve as elected officials because we care about our state and want the best for its people. I thank you for the extra mile each of you are going to serve on this Special Committee.

Yours is a sacred trust.

Sacred to our democracy, sacred to each of us who believe in the promise of America.

I have watched the earlier listening session you held in Merrimack County. Many there testified about the details of the 2010 redistricting, and many exhorted you to operate in a transparent manner and work to create a fair set of districts. I second those pleas – no need to repeat them here.

Yours is a sacred trust.

If we as a people are to continue to believe in our democracy, we must have trust that our votes, our most fundamental right and responsibility, will count. When districts are created to manipulate election results, we all lose. Republicans in gerrymandered Democratic districts may as well not vote. The same for Democrats in Republican districts. When state legislatures become lopsided in favor of one party or the other, unrepresentative of the state, because districts have been drawn to ensure partisan victories, we as a people lose our trust. Many give up on participation and our democracy is seriously eroded.

And so, I urge you – both Democrats and Republicans – to set aside your party affiliation, hard as that may be in these hotly partisan times. Set New Hampshire districts to make them – every possible one of them – as competitive as possible.

Yours is a sacred trust.

I wish you every success in fulfilling that trust. I will send this testimony to you electronically as well.

Thank you.

A strong, vibrant, and trustworthy democracy depends on voters choosing their elected leaders - not the other way around.

3444 are the 2021 #'s for a district so Somersworth should have it's own representatives.

district 17 ward 2 – Dover -peter, susan and ken  
district 18 ward 1,3 & 5 and rollinsford gerrri cannon  
district 21 dover rollinsford kat sandler

somersworth

ward 1 -2511

ward 2 - 2253

ward 3 - 2441

ward 4 - 2564

ward 5 - 2086

# City of Somersworth City Charter

## ARTICLE I - CITY ESTABLISHED

- 1.1. INCORPORATION. The inhabitants of the City of Somersworth shall continue to be a body politic and corporate under its pre-existing name and as such to enjoy all the rights, immunities, powers and privileges and be subject to all duties and liabilities now incumbent upon them as a municipal corporation. All existing property of the City shall remain vested in it and all its existing debts and obligations shall remain obligatory upon it under this revised Charter.

History: Laws 1893, Chapter #171

- 1.2. NUMBER OF WARDS. The City shall continue to be divided into five wards, and the general laws relative to wards of cities, offices thereof and voters, checklists, elections and jurors therein shall be applicable to such wards.

History: Referendum 11/6/1973

- 1.3. WARD BOUNDARIES. The said City of Somersworth is hereby divided into five wards, which shall be constituted as follows, namely—

WARD 1 shall include all the parts of said Somersworth bounded by a line described as follows: Commencing at the most northerly point of said Somersworth, on the line of the Town of Berwick and the State of Maine, and extending thence southeasterly by said Berwick to a point due east from the easterly end of Washington Street; thence westerly to and through Washington Street, westerly and northwesterly through West High Street and Gonic Road to the City of Rochester; and thence northeasterly by said Rochester to the State of Maine.

WARD 2 shall include all the part of said Somersworth bounded by the following described line: Commencing at the City of Rochester and the northeasterly corner of Ward One, and extending southeasterly and easterly by Ward One to Berwick, Maine at a point due east of the easterly end of Washington Street; thence southerly by Berwick, Maine to a point due east of the easterly end of Fayette Street; thence westerly to and through Fayette Street to Green Street; thence southerly through Green Street to its intersection with Franklin Street; thence westerly through Franklin Street and northwesterly through Memorial Drive to Cemetery Road; thence westerly through Cemetery Road to Maple Street Extension; thence southerly through Maple Street Extension to Blackwater Road; thence westerly through Blackwater Road to the City of Dover; thence northwesterly by said Dover to Rochester; and thence northeasterly by Rochester to Ward One.

WARD 3 shall include all that part of said Somersworth bounded as follows: Commencing at the City of Dover, and the southwesterly corner of Ward Two, and extending thence easterly, northerly and southeasterly by Ward Two to Berwick, Maine at a point due east of the easterly end of Fayette Street; thence southerly by Berwick, Maine to a point due east of the easterly end of Franklin Street; thence easterly to and through Franklin Street to its intersection with Green Street; thence southerly through Green Street to Myrtle Street; thence westerly through myrtle to Home Street; thence northwesterly thoroughly Horn Street to High Street; thence southwesterly through High Street to the City of Dover, thence northwesterly by said Dover to Ward Two.



WARD 4 shall include all the part of said Somersworth bounded by the following described line: Commencing at the City of Dover and the southerly corner of Ward Three, and extending thence northeasterly, southeasterly, easterly, northerly and westerly by Ward Three to Union Street; thence southerly through Union Street to Indigo Hill Road; thence westerly through Indigo Hill Road to its intersection with Green Street; thence southerly through Green Street to the Town of Rollinsford, thence southwesterly by said Rollinsford and the City of Dover to Ward Three.

WARD 5 shall include all the part of said Somersworth bounded by the following described line: Commencing at the Town of Rollinsford and the southeasterly corner of Ward Four; and thence extending northerly and easterly by Ward Four to Ward Three; thence westerly by Ward Three to Berwick, Maine, at a point due east of the easterly end of Franklin Street; thence southeasterly by said Berwick, Maine, to Rollinsford; and thence southwesterly by said Rollinsford to Ward Four.

No person shall have the right to file as a candidate for office in any of the wards hereby established unless he/she is a registered voter at the time of filing. No person shall have the right to hold office in any of the wards hereby established unless he/she shall have been an actual resident of such ward, or the territory embraced therein, for the period of six months next preceding such election or next preceding the passage of this act.

History: Referendum, 11/05/2013

1.4. CHANGES TO WARD BOUNDARIES. Every ten years, in conjunction with the federal census, a review of the ward boundary lines shall be conducted for the purpose of adjusting such boundary lines to ensure equalization of population within the wards. At such time, the Mayor will appoint a Ward Boundaries Review Committee comprised of no more than four (4) City Councilors. The Committee shall review the boundaries of each ward to determine if adjustments are necessary to ensure equal distribution of population within each ward. If adjustments are necessary the Committee shall propose such adjustments to the ward boundaries as will provide as nearly as possible an equal number of citizens within each ward. In doing so the Committee shall take into consideration the character and makeup of the wards as well as the most recent federal census, and to the extent possible try to maintain the integrity of each ward as a "city within a city". The Committee shall submit its recommendations to the City Council for review and approval. Upon approval by the City Council the changes shall be submitted to the voters for approval by referendum at the next election.

History: Laws 1973, Chapter 572, Referendum 11/6/1973; Referendum 11/3/2009; Referendum 11/5/2013; Referendum 11/6/2018.

1. We need to ensure that everyone has a say in the redistricting. Covid is still an issue and even if it were not there are always people who will find it difficult to attend meetings like this in person, we need Virtual accessibility, so people who can't attend can have a voice in the process!
2. We need a say not just before but the maps are drawn but before they are finalized. We need Public hearings to allow everyone be able to weigh in on the districts that we will have to live with for ten years.
3. Examples of local gerrymandering

We should all want to ensure that our legislators are beholden to their constituents, the severe gerrymandering taking place in NH and the US is destroying our democracy. Legislators act on their own or their donors interests because they know with the system in place they are unlikely to lose future elections. But there are many issues, and not everyone in either party agrees on all of them, even those who have gerrymandered to ensure easy victories for their legislators may find themselves subject to legislative votes that affect them detrimentally

The 2nd Executive Council, of which we are a part stretches from Vermont to Maine, this is gerrymandered to the nth degree, we have a right to fair representation and everyone to have an equal say. We have little in common with people living almost two hours away.

Somersworth and every town and city should have our own representatives, we have no one who is speaking just for Somersworth, though by the numbers we should have three who solely represent our citizens.

New Hampshire's state constitution (2nd §§ 11, 26) requires that state legislative districts be contiguous and preserve political subdivisions.

Ward lines are determined by our city charter and work has already begun in resetting the wards, however this will go into place after the redistricting of House and Senate districts so to minimize their affect the districts should be kept within the boundaries of the city, also giving us more of a voice and making it easier for our legislators to represent us.

**Testimony for the Special Committee on Redistricting  
From Virginia Schonwald, Barrington, NH  
September 21, 2021**

Good evening Madam Chair and members of the committee.

I believe that fair voting laws are the foundation for our nation's democracy. In regard to that aim, it is imperative that voting districts be drawn using independent, nonpartisan criteria so that every NH town has fair representation.

As I'm sure you know, 74 cities and towns in New Hampshire have passed the NH Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting. Across the political spectrum, citizens are calling out for an impartial process for redistricting. There has been such a loss of faith in the voting process in this country, partially due to a system of redistricting which disempowers the voices of the people.

I urge you to develop a process for redistricting that allows the people's voices to be heard by having more notice of hearings, allowing citizens to participate via Zoom in hearings, and ensuring that nonpartisan criteria are used to develop voting districts.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Schonwald  
Barrington, NH

I have lived in Deerfield since 1972. Up until 2002, Deerfield had its own House District and its own State Representative. He...or she...was a resident of Deerfield. He knew Deerfield well. He understood the issues affecting our town. He was an active contributor to the community. He was well respected. He was chosen by the people of Deerfield to be their Representative.

That is no longer the case. Since 2002, our State Representatives have been chosen by the majorities in our multi-town district, not necessarily by a majority of Deerfield residents. For example, we have had individuals run repeatedly for Deerfield town offices such as School Board and Select Board and each time they have lost. They are well-known in town and are not elected to these positions. And yet, these same individuals go on to become our State Representatives. Why? Because they are not known in the other towns; they are elected based on their party rather than their accomplishments or their integrity. This is not right.

It is time to return to our town of Deerfield our Constitutional right to have our own single District and a State Representative that is chosen by our own residents.

Bernadette Cameron  
Deerfield

Testimony of Frederick McGarry  
Board of Selectmen  
Town of Deerfield  
October 5, 2021

My name is Frederick McGarry and I am a member of the Deerfield Board of Selectmen. The Board has authorized me to speak on its behalf before the Special Committee on Redistricting.

At the Annual Town Election held in June, the Town by a vote of 477 to 233 urged the legislature to "ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters" and "to minimize multi-seat districts."

The New Hampshire Constitution, Part 2, Article 11, states "When the population of any town or ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population for one or more representative seats, the town or ward shall have its own district of one or more representative seats." The 2020 population of Deerfield was 4,855, well in excess of the population requirement of 3,445 for each representative in New Hampshire.

The Deerfield Board of Selectmen received petitions from over 80 voters calling for the Board to advocate for Deerfield's own representative district. Each member of the Committee has a packet with a copy of those petitions. At the August 2 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Board voted unanimously to urge the Special Committee on Redistricting to establish a representative district exclusive to Deerfield.

The Deerfield Board of Selectmen concurs with the vote at the Annual Meeting and the petitions it received and urge the Redistricting Committee establish a representative district specific to Deerfield.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony and I'd like to thank the Committee for holding this public hearing and providing New Hampshire citizens the opportunity to offer input into the redistricting process.

House Redistricting Session, Rockingham County, 10-5-2021

Thank you for holding this listening session, and for undertaking the important work of preparing a redistricting plan consistent with the constitution and laws of New Hampshire to ensure fair and effective representation for all citizens of Rockingham County and the State as a whole.

My name is Matthew Stover. I have lived in Chester for 18 years and have been honored to serve our community on the school board, the budget committee and the trustees of trust funds.

On May 15<sup>th</sup> of this year at the Chester Town Meeting, the voters – Republicans, Democrats, and Independents - passed unanimously an article to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party, to include communities of interest, and to minimize multi-seat districts.

The article, furthermore, cited that the New Hampshire State Constitution, Part 2, Article 11 allows towns of sufficient population to have their own state representatives, not share with other towns, and directed the Town of Chester to petition the NH General Court for its own exclusive seat in the House of Representatives properly represent the Town's interests.

Let me speak specifically to why Chester should be provided a dedicated representative under redistricting.

First, Chester currently is in Rockingham District 4, including Auburn, Chester and Sandown. They have 4,953, 4,786, and 5,986 citizens respectively, for a total of 15,707. Five representatives are elected to serve all three towns collectively. Since each town has more than the 3,444 citizens required for a dedicated representative under Article 11, it would be possible and in compliance with the Constitution to do so.

With respect to Chester, we are a unique community bound together by where we live and our common interest in supporting our friends and neighbors and the Chester way of life. We have long history and traditions. Next year, Chester will celebrate its 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We work together as citizens and volunteers whether it is to preserve our historic meetinghouse from the 1700's, or support the quality of our schools, our roads and bridges, our conservation land, and the quality of our water



and fields.

We also work together to keep our property taxes as low as we can. These are among the largest expenditures for most of our residents.

Our state representatives and the decisions of the General Court and the state government as a whole have a significant impact on the services and funding we receive each year to ensure our quality of life and determine how much our property taxes increase or decrease. It is important to have a dedicated representative who is always focused on the impact votes and decisions in Concord will have on our Chester's priorities and local taxes.

A dedicated representative from the Chester community will also be able to focus just on the citizens of Chester (4,700) rather than 15,700 across the current district. Gene Charron, one of our former representatives stated at Town Meeting, that

representatives perform a lot of work that people do not see for individual constituents, which is important and time-consuming.

He told us Chester qualified some years ago for a single representative, and that it was a stretch for him to serve all the residents across the three towns. He noted the Chester community “needs a representative who will have the time and interest in the Town to answer their phone and return constituent calls.

I expect the residents of Auburn and Sandown and other towns without dedicated representatives feel the way people in Chester feel. Each town is unique. It is the community where they live. They will benefit from a dedicated representative to help them in the State House, promote their views, and hold the State government accountable for taking actions which help control our local property taxes.

Along with the other citizens of Rockingham County, I look forward to the opportunity to review and comment on the redistricting proposal from your committee when it is complete, and I hope you will decide to provide dedicated representatives for Chester and other qualified towns.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input and for your consideration.

Good evening, my name is Jane Armstrong and I am a resident of Exeter here in Rockingham County.

I am concerned about a fair, nonpartisan and transparent redistricting process. This evening, however, I would like to speak to just one piece of the process but an important one. This topic is ensuring that every eligible town has its own district.

In New Hampshire we are proud of our unique legislature of 400 representatives. We talk about how it enables us to meet our representatives in our daily lives - shopping, at transfer stations and town events. This is why in 2006 we voted to pass the constitutional amendment which says that when a town population "is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population," (which in 2020 is 3,444,) "that town shall have its own district." So now giving towns of 3,444 their own representative is enshrined in our constitution.

Here in Rockingham County, 14 -- FOURTEEN! -- towns were eligible in 2010 for their own House district at the 2010 population of 3,192, but were denied. These include:

- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Atkinson  | Hampstead  |
| Auburn    | Newmarket  |
| Candia    | Nottingham |
| Chester   | Plaistow   |
| Deerfield | Rye        |
| Greenland | Sandown    |
| Kingston  | Seabrook   |

I am asking you to give these towns (and others in the state) what the NH constitution guarantees them. They deserve to have representatives who live in town. Representatives who know the people and the issues.

I also wonder why, if it was so hard in 2010, why has nothing been done to make the legislative and Constitutional changes to fix this problem? The legislature has had 10 years. I suspect there are some who didn't WANT to fix it.

I understand that the math makes it hard to get every eligible town its own district. But surely you can make the effort to get these towns the representation they deserve, and <sup>are</sup> entitled to receive.

Thank you.

To: Legislative Redistricting Committee

From: Skip Berrien, Exeter, NH

Re: Redistricting Senate District 23

Date: October 5, 2021

Thank you for your work to address the monumental task of creating social, economic and political balance within New Hampshire. This is a dangerously polarized time for our state and you have the opportunity to address this fractured status by creating responsible and fair electoral districts in an open and transparent manner.

Rockingham County has experienced considerable growth and transformation in the last decade with changes to its population's social, economic and political dynamics. In particular I would like to address the needs of Senate District 23 in which I live and from which I served for three terms in the NH House.

The current district includes towns extending from Exeter in the east to Chester in the west.. These towns have divergent orientations either toward the Salem/I-93 corridor versus the seacoast region of Rockingham County.

If you could consider a redistricting of Senate District 23, I propose a plan that would acknowledge the social and economic realities of this part of the state. (See reverse side). This plan would completely or almost completely include three large school districts or SAU's which are currently distributed among four separate Senate districts. This alternative district also includes major commercial centers located in Epping and Exeter which are frequented by the people in these towns. This alternative plan would take into account the natural affinities of this population in everyday life.

Politically, District 23 has been dominated by Republican voters for decades. This alternative plan by my estimation would continue with Republican voter domination. However, judging by the current House Reps in these towns, there would be a slight increase in Democratic voters, thus contributing to more equitable political division...a goal of redistricting.

I offer this plan for your consideration which maintains a stable population size within the district. As you proceed with your deliberations in an open and transparent manner with time for public scrutiny and comment I acknowledge that you have many issues to consider as you look at each and every electoral district in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration.

<b>Current District 23</b>	
<b>Town</b>	<b>'20 Population</b>
Exeter	16,049
Brentwood	4490
Kingston	6202
Fremont	4739
Chester*	5232
Danville*	4408
Sandown*	6548
Epping	7125
East Kingston	2441
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>57,234</b>

<b>Alternative District 23</b>	
Exeter	16,049
Brentwood	4490
East Kingston	2441
Newfields*	1796
Stratham*	7669
Kensington*	2095
Epping	7125
Kingston	6202
Newtown*	4820
Fremont	4739
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>57,426</b>

\* towns effected

October 5, 2021

Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Muns. I served as a State Representative representing Hampton between 2012 and 2014. I also was a candidate for the State Senate in District 24. I know what a commitment of time and energy this is for you, and I would like to thank each of you for your service.

There is nothing more central to our representative democracy than voters believing the process they must follow to elect their representatives is transparent and fair. To that end, I thank you for the opportunity you are giving individuals throughout New Hampshire to share their input with you. I hope the decisions you make will reflect the input you have received.

It is unfortunate, however, that given the recent increases in Covid cases across the State you chose not to provide an option for the public to testify remotely. I urge you reconsider that decision and to add that flexibility to the remaining listening sessions you have scheduled.

In light of comments made by the Chairman of the NH Republican Party that maps will be manipulated so as to favor his party, it is essential that you not only publicly renounce those statements but that you commit to holding another round of hearings AFTER the maps are drawn so that the public has a chance to provide you with their input and so that you can demonstrate that the process used to draw those maps was indeed fair. To give the public enough time to provide you with meaningful input, the public needs at least 10 days' notice of all future public hearings.

The two best litmus tests of whether the process is fair will be what you decide to do with our two congressional districts and 5 executive council districts.

Since there have been minimal changes in population between the existing congressional districts the changes to the maps of those districts should also be minimal. It will be telling, however, if you adopt a map that either bisects Manchester or proposes to move it from Congressional District 1 to 2.

Executive Council District 2 is currently one of the best examples of gerrymandering anywhere in the country. It and the other executive council districts need to be redrawn so that they better represent communities of



shared interest and the partisan balance that exists within the state. Failure to do so will cast doubt on the whole redistricting process.

That same principle – grouping communities together who have shared interests – should guide how state senate districts are drawn. In District 24 for example, Newton has more in common with Plaistow (currently in District 22) than it does with New Castle which has more in common with Portsmouth (currently in District 21). You need to end the practice of creating safe Republican and safe Democratic districts.

Wherever possible every town with more than about 3,500 residents should have at least one State Representative representing just that town and we should minimize the number of floterial districts.

Where a floterial district is necessary the principle of grouping communities with shared interests should be followed. Hampton Falls – which currently shares three seats with Seabrook - has less in common with Seabrook then, for example Kensington. And North Hampton, which currently shares a seat with Newington and Portsmouth, has less in common with those two towns then it does Greenland or Stratham.

Finally, as a former State Rep from Hampton, I would be remiss if I did not say that as a town with almost 16,000 people we should have AT LEAST 4 state representatives representing just Hampton.

Thank you for your time this evening and thank you again for your service.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Muns

5 Nersesian Way

Hampton, NH 03842

[chrismuns@chrismuns.net](mailto:chrismuns@chrismuns.net)

To: The Honorable Matt Wilhelm  
Re: Redistricting 2021  
Date: September 7, 2021

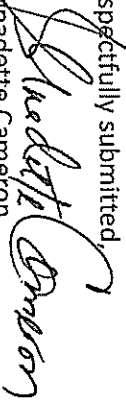
Enclosed is a packet of signatures from 83 Deerfield residents in support of restoring Deerfield's own House district. The packet includes signatures from 29 Republicans, 28 Undeclared, 26 Democrats as well as 4 former State Representatives – 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats.

Our town passed a resolution in June calling for a minimum of multi-town districts. Our Select Board voted unanimously on August 2<sup>nd</sup> to urge the NH House Special Committee on Redistricting to follow the guidelines of the NH State Constitution which specifies that towns of a sufficient size, of which Deerfield is one, have a State Representative that exclusively represents Deerfield.

Deerfield always had its own district until 2002 when the state redistricting plan eliminated the Deerfield-only district and created multi-town districts. We think it is vital that the State Representative that represents our town in Concord actually lives in our town, is familiar with our town's issues, and is voted into office by a majority of Deerfield residents rather than by a majority of another town's residents.

We urge you, as a member of the Special Committee to honor this request of our town residents and our Select Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Bernadette Cameron  
Deerfield, NH

(on behalf of the 83 residents on the following pages)

### Deerfield Representation in the New Hampshire House

This year the NH House Special Committee on Redistricting will submit a plan for New Hampshire state representative districts which will then be approved by the NH Legislature before the 2022 elections.

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1. The NH State Constitution, Part 2 Article 11 states that towns of a sufficient size shall have its own district of one or more representative seats. Deerfield, with a population of 4,208, more than meets the population requirement (3,445) to have our own representative.
2. Two of the three towns in our state rep district have passed resolutions supporting fair redistricting and minimal multi-town districts. In 2020 and 2021 both Deerfield and Nottingham passed similar resolutions supporting minimal multi-town districts.

Name	Address	Party Registration
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K. R. Chalbeck	5 Reservation Rd Deerfield NH	Republican
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Nancy Brown-McKinney	5 Wild Turkey Rd. Deerfield, NH 03037	Democrat
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Hebert G. McLeung	5 Wild Turkey Rd Deerfield, NH 03037	Demo.
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Dorothy D. Barnes	56 HAWKEYE RD DEERFIELD, NH 03037	R
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Carol E. Jorloff	121 Mt View Rd Deerfield, NH 03037	R
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Ronald Todd	121 Newsum View Rd Deerfield, NH 03037	R
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Marloth Tappin	59 Mountain View Rd Deerfield NH	R
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Bernadette Cameron	91 Mountain View Rd., Deerfield	Democrat
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Quaesth Beal	43 Mt. Delight Rd Deerfield	Republican
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P. W. B. B. B.	43 Mt. Delight Rd. Deerfield	Republican
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Jacey Brown	93 North Rd Deerfield	Republican
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Name	Address	Party Registration
Spiek Bangstad	23 Nottingham Rd.	UNDECLARED
John F. Mulla	36 Raymond Road, Deerfield, NH	Undeclared
Ashley Langlois	109 South Rd, Deerfield, NH	Democrat
Zach Langlois	109 South Rd, Deerfield, NH	Republican
Ari Leavitt	34 Raymond Rd	Deerfield, NH Democrat
Steph's Spitz	20 Karla's Rd	Deerfield, NH Democrat
Gene Miller	216 North Rd	Deerfield, NH Undeclared
Elizabeth Rimmoczy	81 Griffin Rd.	Deerfield, NH Democrat
Janice Leavitt	175, North Rd	Deerfield Republican
Frances Miller	38 Pleasant Hill Rd.	Deerfield Democrat
Gene Flesdenn	140 Nottingham Rd.	Deerfield Democrat

\* Short noticed due to rain damage

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Name	Address	Party Registration
1. Evelyn J. DiCota	129 Middle Rd.	Independent (U)
2. Timothy Griffin	14 Swamp Rd.	Republican
3. Anthony O'Neal	1 Millstone Lane	Independent (U)
4. [Signature]	1 Millstone Lane	Independent (U)
5. [Signature]	26 Hayes Rd.	Republican
6. [Signature]	196 Nottingham Rd	Republican (U)
7. [Signature]	13 Church St	Republican
8. [Signature]	5 Mount Doughty Rd.	Republican
9. Rebecca Hutchinson	30 Lang Rd	Democrat
10. Frances F. Newark	7 Pond View CN	Undeclared
11. Joanne G. Mason	161 So Road	14 Democrat (R)
12. Kathleen Brennan	623 Northlake Rd.	Democrat

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Name	Address	Party Registration
Melinda E Connon	91 Mountain View Rd.	Undeclared (U)
Doreen Jones	5 McCarson Rd. Deerfield	Democrat
Dana Gendal	31 Coffeytown Rd, Deerfield,	Undeclared
Ernie Craven	31 Coffeytown Rd, Deerfield	undisclosed
Nancy Bogart	146 Middle Rd Deerfield	IND.
Karen LeDuff	157 Middle Rd, Deerfield	undeclared
Susan Lassins	11 Meetinghouse Hill Deerfield	Democrat
Sumner McLeod	135 Nottingham Road Deerfield	Undeclared
Andrea Hatalung	1 Lakeview Ln, Deerfield	<del>Undeclared</del> Repub
Dorothy Prescott	108 Curran St Deerfield, NH	Democrat
Michael A. Bennett	65 Winwood St. Deerfield, NH	Democrat
Azrael Sheard	Birch Rd Deerfield	Democrat
Joe O'Leary	2 Birch Rd	Republican

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Name	Address	Party Registration
<u>Paula Jean</u>	<u>47A Nottingham Road</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Leann Hard</u>	<u>46 Nottingham Rd</u>	<u>I</u>
<u>Caroline Robinson</u>	<u>49 Nottingham Rd.</u>	<u>R</u>
<u>Laura Matthews</u>	<u>47 Candice Road</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Frank Mitchell</u>	<u>21 Meetinghouse Hill Rd.</u>	<u>I</u>
<u>Ann Emery</u>	<u>257 Middle Rd.</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Lebra C. Kelly</u>	<u>126 South Rd.</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>George J. Kelly IV</u>	<u>126 South Rd.</u>	<u>I</u>
<u>Suzanne Steen</u>	<u>8 Harvey Rd</u>	<u>D</u>

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Name	Address	Party Registration
<del>Zoe Prigent</del>	<del>23 North Main Rd.</del>	<del>UNDECLARED</del> <small>or other sheet</small>
1 Kelley G Steele	8 Harvey Rd	Democrat
3 Madeline Funks	26 North Main Rd	Democrat
4 Thomas G Funks	26 North Main Rd	Democrat
5 Andrew A. Sten	124 South Rd	Democrat
6 AZAH W. D.	56 Mountain Rd.	Undeclared
7 Craig R. Merrill	56 Mountain Rd.	Undeclared
8 [Signature]	56 Mountain Rd.	Undeclared
9 Gary Brunley	138 South Rd	IND.
10 Robert Spaul	15 Maple Ave	Republican
11 [Signature]	15 Maple Ave	Republican



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Name	Address	Party Registration
Paula P. White	127 Hatford Brook Rd.	Republican
Sam C. White	" "	" "
W.R. Barry	178 North Road	Republican
Dr. Michelle (McCracken)	53A Stage Rd	Republican
(Elected Messinia)	89A Nathan Ln	Republican
Gene Messin	89A Eastward Rd	Democrat
Jessy Meyer	37 Candice	<del>Democrat</del> (Republican)
Lisa Brunsol	230 North Road	Independent
Donna Burgess	315 South Rd	Republican
Barbara Burgess	150 South Rd	INDEPENDENT
Marlene D. Mann	52 Stage Road	Democrat

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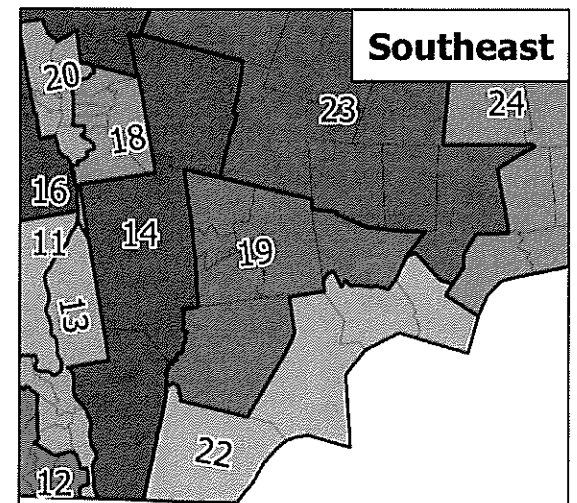
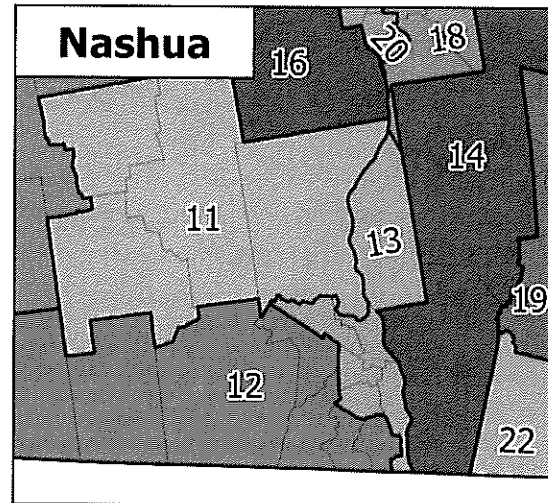
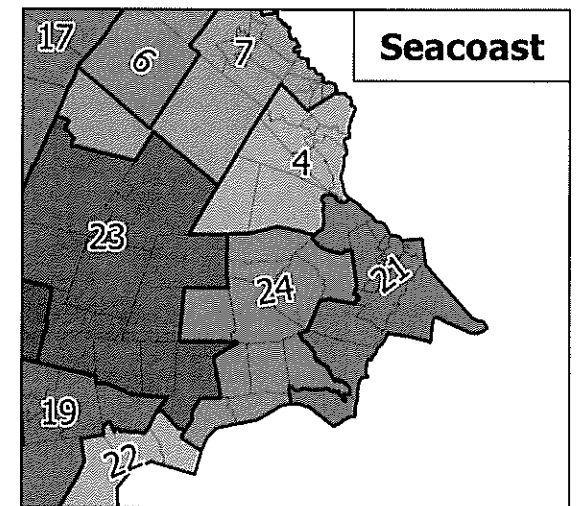
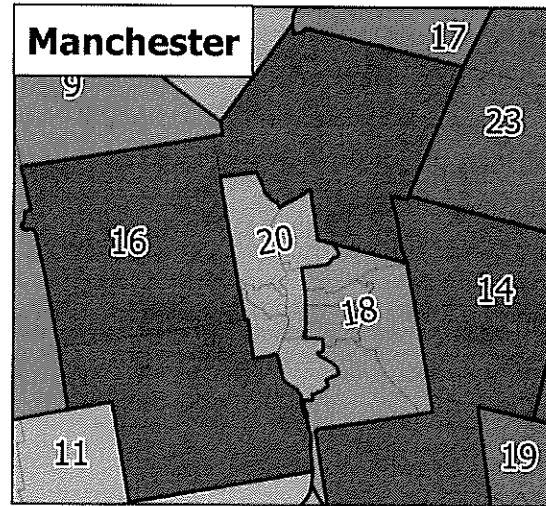
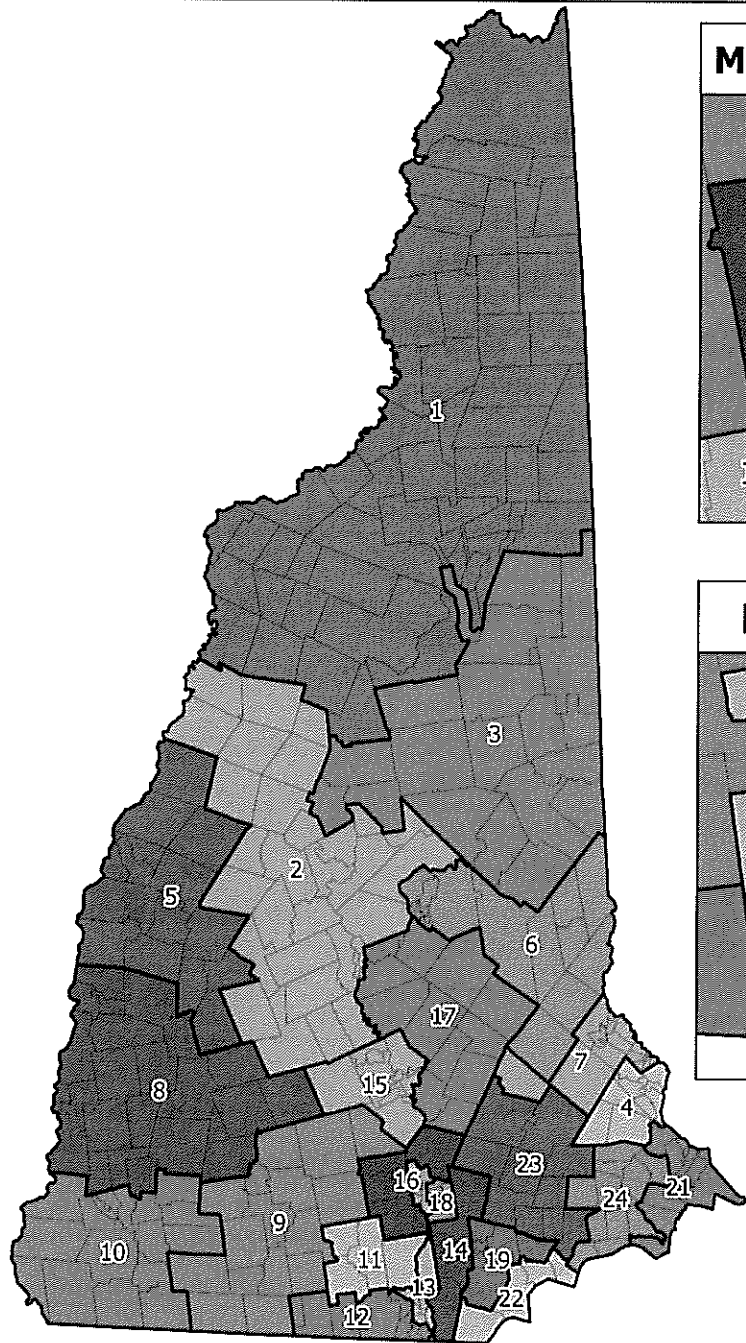
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Name	Address	Party Registration
Kimberly Stoddard	92 Mountain View Rd Deerfield, NH 03037	Undeclared
Conor Kilgore	↕	Republican
Steve Stoddard	92 Mountain View Rd	Republican
Sydney Kilgore	92 Mt. View Rd	Undeclared
Piper Kilgore	92 Mt View Rd	Undeclared
Edison R. Mahoney	28 Harvey Rd	Republican

# New Hampshire State Senate Redistricting Submission



See following page for district specifics

District	Total Population	White Pop.	Hispanic Pop.	Black Pop.	Asian Pop.
1	57,106	52,497	1,251	935	726
2	55,609	47,738	1,746	1,122	3,210
3	56,370	51,956	1,040	722	743
4	56,688	52,546	1,060	515	918
5	58,314	51,504	1,786	1,249	2,025
6	57,266	48,947	1,923	1,519	3,599
7	56,761	52,563	999	589	624
8	57,100	50,680	2,048	1,112	1,627
9	54,812	49,571	1,281	894	1,260
10	56,461	51,868	1,080	705	724
11	57,424	52,596	1,405	786	829
12	58,903	41,752	10,291	2,950	2,624
13	59,035	54,584	1,323	569	798
14	56,731	51,409	1,248	940	715
15	58,429	43,587	6,528	4,580	2,777
16	56,770	49,909	1,883	1,020	2,660
17	58,300	45,689	3,167	1,605	6,291
18	57,215	42,021	7,129	4,149	3,072
19	57,166	50,728	2,251	1,098	1,738
20	59,132	52,414	2,343	1,058	1,828
21	59,228	52,114	3,047	1,044	1,999
22	56,127	50,864	1,366	748	1,780
23	58,463	52,874	1,559	823	1,886
24	58,119	50,238	1,700	2,266	2,408
State	1,377,529	1,200,649	59,454	32,998	46,861

Ideal district population: 57,357

Most populous district: 21, (59,228)

Least populous district: 9, (54,812)

Most populous district's deviation from ideal: 3.26%

Least populous district's deviation from ideal: 5.56%

Map-wide deviation (overall range): 8.82%\*\*

\*The 2011 New Hampshire state Senate redistricting

plan was adopted with a deviation of 8.83%. Large

voting precincts prohibit the ideal zero/near zero

deviation.

\*\*It has been ruled that state legislative district maps

may not exceed 10% absolute deviation (Brown v.

Thomson).

Dear Chairperson Gray, Chairperson Griffin, and Members of the Senate and House 2021 Redistricting Committees,

I would like to request two matters be corrected in redesigning the Senate district that is currently District 21.

Please do not cross county lines. The current Senate District 21 is composed of four Rockingham municipalities (Portsmouth, Newington, Newfields, and Newmarket) and three Strafford municipalities (Durham, Madbury, Lee). Visually, the map of the current Senate District 21 does not even look compact.

Also, since the maps were last drawn in 2011, Barrington has begun to tuition some of its high school students into the Oyster River School District. Please continue to keep together Durham, Madbury, and Lee, which continue to constitute the Oyster River School District. Please consult with Barrington as to which of the municipalities now accepting Barrington students would make the best alliance in the formation of a Senate district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Richman  
16 Cowell Drive  
Durham, NH 03824  
603-868-2758  
susan7richman@gmail.com

**Testimony for the House Special Committee on Redistricting**  
**From Gregory Davis, Salem, NH 03079**  
**October 3, 2021**

Chairperson Griffin and members of this very important committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify regarding the redistricting process and bills.

By all accounts, our recent elections were the cleanest in history (absent of any systemic voter fraud). Yet gerrymandering is a national problem on both sides of the aisle, which undermines Granite Staters' faith in the political process and in the representative soundness of our democratic republic at all levels.

Redistricting is by no means an easy or formulaic task, and I do not envy you your challenges and responsibility. Yet for Granite Staters to respect your efforts and honor your results, the process must allow for credible public input, be fair, transparent and non-partisan in both appearance and fact. Some of the factors important in fostering this are:

- Publishing public meeting schedules with adequate (at least 7 day) advance notice
- Enabling remote attendance at public committee meetings at the local, county and state levels.
- Enabling remote participation in public committee meetings, while recognizing the need to maintain order, fairness and decorum.
- Publishing proposed redistricting maps with adequate (at least 10 day) advance notice and allowance for adequate (10 days?) analysis and public discussion
- Publishing the draft(s) and final redistricting criteria & rules, again with adequate (at least 10 day) allowance for analysis and public discussion
- Ensuring each town of at least 3,444 residents gets its own representative
- Drafting Senate districts that reflect communities of interest (e.g., shared school districts, public services such as fire departments, etc.)
- Revising the Executive Council map to better reflect communities of interest and NH's partisan balance
- Ensuring all districts are truly competitive
- Soliciting the contribution of and review by professional, independent, non-partisan redistricting experts to assist the commission members vis-à-vis the process, structure and criteria employed in the redistricting challenge.

As the saying goes: "Voters must choose their politicians, rather than politicians choosing their voters". I hope you will honor the trust Granite State voters have charged you with. We need a non-partisan, open, transparent and fair redistricting process and result to maintain faith in our electoral system. The political pressures on you are enormous, but I'm hoping you can rise above them for the health of our political future. Without fair redistricting, the promise and intent of "one person, one vote" is a legal fiction and a political lie.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this vital matter.

Respectfully,

Gregory Davis  
Salem, NH 03079

As an independent, I disagree with the new maps as what we have, works. I live in Carroll County which goes red *and* blue. This makes candidates have to really be committed to get elected. And that benefits me as an independent, and all of us. We get to meet all the candidates a lot because if they want to share their platform and have a chance to win, they have to let us really get to know them. If we end up in more party heavy districts we all lose. I don't want to be an Independent only to truly not have my vote count.

Keep the maps as they are!

Nancy Sheridan

Devon Christen

11/12/21

Rochester, NH

[Devon.christen90@gmail.com](mailto:Devon.christen90@gmail.com)

RE: State Senate Districts

To the Redistricting Committee:

This is my submission for consideration of the state senate districts. My intent was to draw the districts as compactly as possible without crossing county lines unless necessary. All counties smaller than a single district are contiguous. Districts are divided across two counties at most, and no two similar counties are divided across more than one district (e.g., Rockingham and Hillsborough are only divided along one district, Hillsborough and Merrimack, Merrimack and Rockingham, etc.)

The cities of Manchester and Nashua, each having populations larger than a single district, are divided amongst two districts each. Manchester comprises two entire districts, while Nashua is combined with a single neighboring town to create equal populations. The largest positive deviation is in district 14 with 3.62% more people than the ideal, and the largest negative deviation is in district 12 with 2.67% less people than the ideal. This results in a total deviation of 6.29%, less than the 10% limit.

The districts consist of the following counties/towns/wards as follows:

District 1: All of Coos County and the towns of Bath, Benton, Bethlehem, Easton, Ellsworth, Franconia, Haverhill, Landaff, Lincoln, Lisbon, Littleton, Livermore, Lyman, Monroe, Sugar Hill, Thomton, Waterville Valley, and Woodstock in Grafton County.

District 2: The towns/cities of Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Groton, Hanover, Hebron, Lebanon, Lyme, Orange, Orford, Piermont, Plymouth, Rumney, Warren, and Wentworth in Grafton County.

District 3: All of Carroll County and the towns of Ashland, Campton, and Holderness in Grafton County.

District 4: The towns/cities of Barnstead, Belmont, Center Harbor, Gilford, Gilmanton, Laconia, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, and Tilton in Belknap County.

District 5: The town of Alton in Belknap County and the towns/cities of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, Rochester, and Strafford in Strafford County.

District 6: The towns/cities of Barrington, Dover, Rollinsford, and Somersworth in Strafford County.



- District 7: The towns of Exeter, Newfields, Newmarket, and Stratham in Rockingham County and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Madbury in Strafford County.
- District 8: The towns/cities of Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, New Castle, Newington, North Hampton, Portsmouth, and Rye in Rockingham County.
- District 9: The towns of Brentwood, East Kingston, Epping, Fremont, Kensington, Kingston, Newton, Nottingham, Raymond, Seabrook, and South Hampton in Rockingham County.
- District 10: The towns of Auburn, Candia, Chester, Derry, and Sandown in Rockingham County.
- District 11: The towns of Atkinson, Danville, Hampstead, Plaistow, and Salem in Rockingham County.
- District 12: The town of Pelham in Hillsborough County and the towns of Londonderry and Windham in Rockingham County.
- District 13: The town of Hudson and the city of Nashua wards 3, 7, and 8 in Hillsborough County.
- District 14: The city of Nashua wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9 in Hillsborough County.
- District 15: The towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Mason, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Ipswich, and Wilton in Hillsborough County.
- District 16: The towns of Bedford, Litchfield, and Merrimack in Hillsborough County.
- District 17: The city of Manchester wards 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.
- District 18: The city of Manchester wards 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12.
- District 19: The town of Jaffrey in Cheshire County and the towns of Antrim, Bennington, Deering, Francesstown, Goffstown, Greenfield, Hancock, Hillsborough, Lyndeborough, New Boston, Peterborough, Sharon, Temple, and Windsor in Hillsborough County.
- District 20: The towns/cities of Chesterfield, Fitzwilliam, Hinsdale, Keene, Marlborough, Richmond, Rindge, Swanzeey, Troy, Westmoreland, and Winchester in Cheshire County.
- District 21: The towns of Alstead, Dublin, Gilsum, Harrisville, Marlow, Nelson, Roxbury, Stoddard, Sullivan, Surry, and Walpole in Cheshire County and all of Sullivan County.

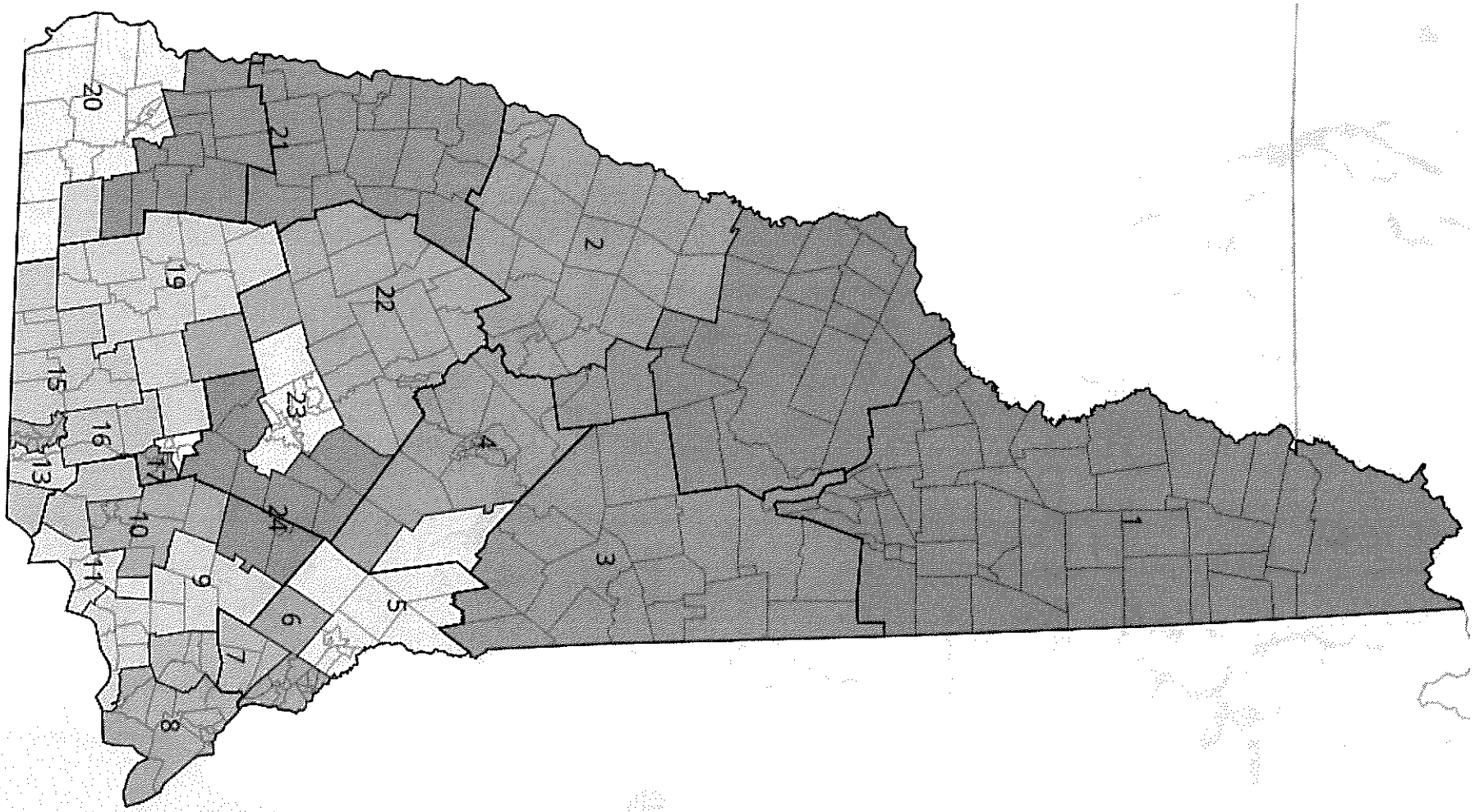
District 22: The town of Weare in Hillsborough County and the towns/cities of Andover, Boscawen, Bradford, Canterbury, Danbury, Franklin, Henniker, Hill, New London, Newbury, Northfield, Salisbury, Sutton, Warner, Webster, and Wilnot in Merrimack County.

District 23: The towns/cities of Concord, Hopkinton, and Pembroke in Merrimack County.

District 24: The towns of Allenstown, Bow, Chichester, Dunbarton, Epsom, Hookset, Loudon, and Pittsfield in Merrimack County and the towns of Deerfield and Northwood in Rockingham County.

The populations and deviations are shown in the table below:

District	Total Population	Deviation	Counties
1	57707	0.54%	Coos, Grafton
2	57394	-0.01%	Grafton
3	57392	-0.01%	Carroll, Grafton
4	57811	0.72%	Belknap
5	58336	1.64%	Belknap, Stafford
6	56519	-1.53%	Stafford
7	56845	-0.96%	Rockingham, Stafford
8	56532	-1.51%	Rockingham
9	57120	-0.48%	Rockingham
10	56056	-2.34%	Rockingham
11	58412	1.77%	Rockingham
12	55865	-2.67%	Hillsborough, Rockingham
13	57241	-0.27%	Hillsborough
14	59475	3.62%	Hillsborough
15	56971	-0.74%	Hillsborough
16	58432	1.80%	Hillsborough
17	57787	0.68%	Hillsborough
18	57857	0.80%	Hillsborough
19	57180	-0.38%	Cheshire, Hillsborough
20	57923	0.92%	Cheshire
21	56278	-1.95%	Cheshire, Sullivan
22	57841	0.77%	Hillsborough, Merrimack
23	57097	-0.52%	Merrimack
24	57458	0.11%	Merrimack, Rockingham
<b>Summary</b>	<b>57397</b>	<b>6.29%</b>	



11/12/21

Devon Christen  
Rochester, NH  
[Devon.christen90@gmail.com](mailto:Devon.christen90@gmail.com)

RE: State Senate Districts

To the Redistricting Committee:

This is my submission for consideration of the state senate districts. My intent was to draw the districts as compactly as possible without crossing county lines unless necessary. All counties smaller than a single district are contiguous. Districts are divided across two counties at most, and no two similar counties are divided across more than one district (e.g., Rockingham and Hillsborough are only divided along one district, Hillsborough and Merrimack, Merrimack and Rockingham, etc.)

The cities of Manchester and Nashua, each having populations larger than a single district, are divided amongst two districts each. Manchester comprises two entire districts, while Nashua is combined with a single neighboring town to create equal populations. The largest positive deviation is in district 14 with 3.62% more people than the ideal, and the largest negative deviation is in district 12 with 2.67% less people than the ideal. This results in a total deviation of 6.29%, less than the 10% limit.

The districts consist of the following counties/towns/wards as follows:

District 1: All of Coos County and the towns of Bath, Benton, Bethlehem, Easton, Ellsworth, Franconia, Haverhill, Landaff, Lincoln, Lisbon, Littleton, Livermore, Lyman, Monroe, Sugar Hill, Thornton, Waterville Valley, and Woodstock in Grafton County.

District 2: The towns/cities of Alexandria, Bridgewater, Bristol, Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Groton, Hanover, Hebron, Lebanon, Lyme, Orange, Orford, Piermont, Plymouth, Rummey, Warren, and Wentworth in Grafton County.

District 3: All of Carroll County and the towns of Ashland, Campton, and Holderness in Grafton County.

District 4: The towns/cities of Barnstead, Belmont, Center Harbor, Gilford, Gilmanton, Laconia, Meredith, New Hampton, Sanbornton, and Tilton in Belknap County.

District 5: The town of Alton in Belknap County and the towns/cities of Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, Rochester, and Stafford in Strafford County.

District 6: The towns/cities of Barrington, Dover, Rollinsford, and Somersworth in Strafford County.

- District 7: The towns of Exeter, Newfields, Newmarket, and Stratham in Rockingham County and the towns of Durham, Lee, and Madbury in Strafford County.
- District 8: The towns/cities of Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, New Castle, Newington, North Hampton, Portsmouth, and Rye in Rockingham County.
- District 9: The towns of Brentwood, East Kingston, Epping, Fremont, Kensington, Kingston, Newton, Nottingham, Raymond, Seabrook, and South Hampton in Rockingham County.
- District 10: The towns of Auburn, Candia, Chester, Derry, and Sandown in Rockingham County.
- District 11: The towns of Atkinson, Danville, Hampstead, Plaistow, and Salem in Rockingham County.
- District 12: The town of Pelham in Hillsborough County and the towns of Londonderry and Windham in Rockingham County.
- District 13: The town of Hudson and the city of Nashua wards 3, 7, and 8 in Hillsborough County.
- District 14: The city of Nashua wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9 in Hillsborough County.
- District 15: The towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Mason, Milford, Mont Vernon, New Ipswich, and Wilton in Hillsborough County.
- District 16: The towns of Bedford, Litchfield, and Merrimack in Hillsborough County.
- District 17: The city of Manchester wards 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.
- District 18: The city of Manchester wards 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12.
- District 19: The town of Jaffrey in Cheshire County and the towns of Antrim, Bennington, Deering, Frankestown, Goffstown, Greenfield, Hancock, Hillsborough, Lyndeborough, New Boston, Peterborough, Sharon, Temple, and Windsor in Hillsborough County.
- District 20: The towns/cities of Chesterfield, Fitzwilliam, Hinsdale, Keene, Marlborough, Richmond, Rindge, Swanzey, Troy, Westmoreland, and Winchester in Cheshire County.
- District 21: The towns of Alstead, Dublin, Gilsum, Harrisville, Marlow, Nelson, Roxbury, Stoddard, Sullivan, Surry, and Walpole in Cheshire County and all of Sullivan County.

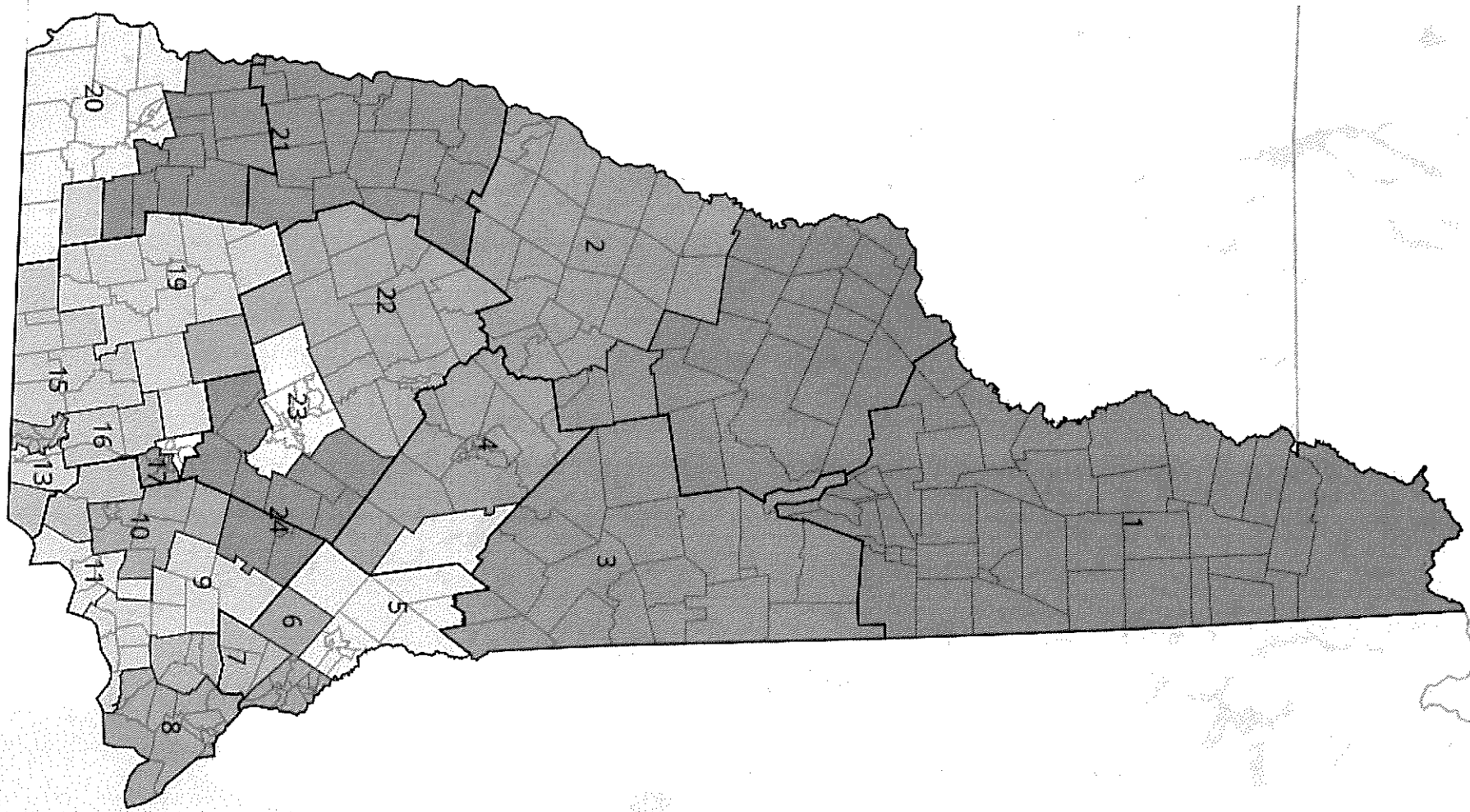
District 22: The town of Weare in Hillsborough County and the towns/cities of Andover, Boscawen, Bradford, Canterbury, Danbury, Franklin, Henniker, Hill, New London, Newbury, Northfield, Salisbury, Sutton, Warner, Webster, and Wilmot in Merrimack County.

District 23: The towns/cities of Concord, Hopkinton, and Pembroke in Merrimack County.

District 24: The towns of Allenstown, Bow, Chichester, Dunbarton, Epsom, Hooksett, Loudon, and Pittsfield in Merrimack County and the towns of Deerfield and Northwood in Rockingham County.

The populations and deviations are shown in the table below:

District	Total Population	Deviation	Counties
1	57707	0.54%	Coos, Grafton
2	57394	-0.01%	Grafton
3	57392	-0.01%	Carroll, Grafton
4	57811	0.72%	Belknap
5	58336	1.64%	Belknap, Strafford
6	56519	-1.53%	Strafford
7	56845	-0.96%	Rockingham, Strafford
8	56532	-1.51%	Rockingham
9	57120	-0.48%	Rockingham
10	56056	-2.34%	Rockingham
11	58412	1.77%	Rockingham
12	55865	-2.67%	Hillsborough, Rockingham
13	57241	-0.27%	Hillsborough
14	59475	3.62%	Hillsborough
15	56971	-0.74%	Hillsborough
16	58432	1.80%	Hillsborough
17	57787	0.68%	Hillsborough
18	57857	0.80%	Hillsborough
19	57180	-0.38%	Cheshire, Hillsborough
20	57923	0.92%	Cheshire
21	56278	-1.95%	Cheshire, Sullivan
22	57841	0.77%	Hillsborough, Merrimack
23	57097	-0.52%	Merrimack
24	57458	0.11%	Merrimack, Rockingham
<b>Summary</b>	<b>57397</b>	<b>6.29%</b>	



**Bill as  
Introduced**



HB 51 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0634  
11/04

HOUSE BILL        51

AN ACT            apportioning state senate districts.

SPONSORS:        Rep. B. Griffin, Hills. 6

COMMITTEE:       Special Committee on Redistricting

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes new state senate districts in accordance with the latest federal decennial census.

.....

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.

Matter removed from current law appears ~~in brackets and strikeouts~~ [in brackets and strikeouts]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT           apportioning state senate districts.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1     1 State Senate Districts. RSA 662:3 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

2           662:3 State Senate Districts. The state is divided into 24 districts for the choosing of state  
3 senators, each of which may elect one senator. The districts shall be constituted as follows:

4           I. Senatorial district number 1 is constituted of Atkinson & Gilmanton Academy Grant,  
5 Bath, Bean's Grant, Bean's Purchase, Benton, Berlin, Bethlehem, Cambridge, Carroll, Chandler's  
6 Purchase, Clarksville, Colebrook, Columbia, Crawford's Purchase, Cutt's Grant, Dalton, Dix's Grant,  
7 Dixville, Dummer, Easton, Errol, Erving's Location, Franconia, Gorham, Green's Grant, Hadley's  
8 Purchase, Jefferson, Kilkenney, Lancaster, Landaff, Lincoln, Lisbon, Littleton, Livermore, Low and  
9 Burbank's Grant, Lyman, Martin's Location, Milan, Millsfield, Monroe, Northumberland, Odell,  
10 Pinkham's Grant, Pittsburg, Randolph, Sargent's Purchase, Second College Grant, Shelburne, Stark,  
11 Stewartstown, Stratford, Success, Sugar Hill, Thornton, Thompson and Meserve's Purchase,  
12 Wentworth's Location, Whitefield, and Woodstock.

13           II. Senatorial district number 2 is constituted of Alexandria, Ashland, Bridgewater, Bristol,  
14 Campton, Center Harbor, Danbury, Dorchester, Ellsworth, Grafton, Groton, Haverhill, Hebron, Hill,  
15 Holderness, Meredith, New Hampton, Orange, Orford, Piermont, Plymouth, Rumney, Sanbornton,  
16 Tilton, Warren, Wentworth, and Wilmot.

17           III. Senatorial district number 3 is constituted of Albany, Bartlett, Brookfield, Chatham,  
18 Conway, Eaton, Effingham, Freedom, Hale's Location, Hart's Location, Jackson, Madison,  
19 Middleton, Milton, Moultonborough, Ossipee, Sandwich, Tamworth, Tuftonboro, Wakefield,  
20 Waterville Valley, and Wolfeboro.

21           IV. Senatorial district number 4 is constituted of Barrington, Dover, Rollinsford, and  
22 Somersworth.

23           V. Senatorial district number 5 is constituted of Canaan, Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish,  
24 Enfield, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, and Plainfield.

25           VI. Senatorial district number 6 is constituted of Alton, Barnstead, Farmington, Gilmanton,  
26 New Durham, and Rochester.

27           VII. Senatorial district number 7 is constituted of Andover, Belmont, Bosswen, Canterbury,  
28 Franklin, Gilford, Laconia, Northfield, Salisbury, and Webster.

29           VIII. Senatorial district number 8 is constituted of Acworth, Antrim, Bennington, Bradford,  
30 Croydon, Deering, Francestown, Goshen, Grantham, Hillsborough, Langdon, Lempster, Marlow,

HB 51 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 New London, Newbury, Newport, Springfield, Stoddard, Sunapee, Sutton, Unity, Washington,  
2 Weare, and Windsor.

3 IX. Senatorial district number 9 is constituted of Bedford, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Greenfield,  
4 Hancock, Jaffrey, Lyndeborough, Mont Vernon, New Boston, Peterborough, Richmond, Sharon,  
5 Temple, and Troy.

6 X. Senatorial district number 10 is constituted of Alstead, Chesterfield, Gilsun, Harrisville,  
7 Hinsdale, Keene, Marlborough, Nelson, Roxbury, Sullivan, Surry, Swanzey, Walpole, Westmoreland,  
8 and Winchester.

9 XI. Senatorial district number 11 is constituted of Amherst, Merrimack, Milford, and  
10 Wilton.

11 XII. Senatorial district number 12 is constituted of wards 1, 2, and 5 in Nashua, and  
12 Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Mason, New Ipswich, and Rindge.

13 XIII. Senatorial district number 13 is constituted of wards 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in Nashua.

14 XIV. Senatorial district number 14 is constituted of Auburn, Hudson, and Londonderry.

15 XV. Senatorial district number 15 is constituted of Concord, Henniker, Hopkinton, and  
16 Warner.

17 XVI. Senatorial district number 16 is constituted of wards 1, 2, and 12 in Manchester, and  
18 Bow, Candia, Dunbarton, and Hooksett.

19 XVII. Senatorial district number 17 is constituted of Allenstown, Chichester, Deerfield,  
20 Epsom, Loudon, Northwood, Nottingham, Pembroke, Pittsfield, Raymond, and Strafford.

21 XVIII. Senatorial district number 18 is constituted of wards 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in Manchester,  
22 and Litchfield.

23 XIX. Senatorial district number 19 is constituted of Derry, Hampstead, and Windham.

24 XX. Senatorial district number 20 is constituted of wards 3, 4, 10, and 11 in Manchester,  
25 and Goffstown.

26 XXI. Senatorial district number 21 is constituted of Durham, Lee, Madbury, Newfields,  
27 Newington, Newmarket, and Portsmouth.

28 XXII. Senatorial district number 22 is constituted of Atkinson, Pelham, Plaistow, and  
29 Salem.

30 XXIII. Senatorial district number 23 is constituted of Brentwood, Chester, Danville, East  
31 Kingston, Epping, Exeter, Fremont, Kingston, and Sandown.

32 XXIV. Senatorial district number 24 is constituted of Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls,  
33 Kensington, New Castle, Newton, North Hampton, Rye, Seabrook, South Hampton, and Stratham.

34 2 Application. The changes in state senate districts established by this act shall not affect  
35 constituencies or terms of office of senators presently in office. The state senate districts established  
36 by this act shall be in effect for the purpose of electing senators at the 2022 state general election. If  
37 there shall be a vacancy in a state senate district for any reason prior to the 2022 state general

HB 51 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 3 -

1 election, the vacancy shall be filled by and from the same state senate district that existed for the  
2 2020 state general election. No provision of this act shall affect in any manner any of the  
3 proceedings of the membership of the senate of the general court that assembled for a biennial  
4 session in January 2021.  
5 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.