

To the New Hampshire State Senators,

As a ward moderator, I strive to ensure that all voters in my local community have fair, safe access to the polls, that their ballots are accurately counted, and that they are treated with respect and dignity while they exercise their right to vote. More than once in the past two years, I have been compelled to defend the integrity of our election officials in the face of perceived unfairness in the system.

The newly drawn state senate and executive council district maps make no secret of the intent to tilt future elections in favor of one party, deepening voters' mistrust in the electoral process. Such politically motivated redistricting inherently disenfranchises certain voters and advantages others.

Given the substantial number of independent voters in our state, voting in New Hampshire has long been especially meaningful. The uncertainty of our elections' outcomes motivates individuals to show up at the polls, knowing their votes will have an impact. But districts aimed at making election outcomes a foregone conclusion will change the nature of our democracy and diminish engagement in our state and local elections.

Voters recognize that gerrymandering, by either political party, while legal, is simply unethical and leads to unrepresentative government. And partisanship in the drawing of voting district maps is a problem we can fix.

In a time when public mistrust in the electoral system threatens the future of our democracy, as clearly demonstrated by the events at the US Capitol one year ago, I urge the state senate to reject the proposed, deeply partisan district maps. I urge you to vote no on SB240 and SB241.

With gratitude for your service,

Kristin Swan

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Pronouns: she, her, hers