

As I view the GOP submitted proposed Senate map, I am overwhelmed by a feeling of disappointment. I have become very acquainted with you all while watching nearly every hearing of last year's election law committee. I felt like I had a sense for the direction of the committee. Granted it leaned to the right- but overall was a generally reasonable group and legislation from the respective members was the same, even when I did not always agree.

Seeing this Senate GOP drawn map, I am shocked at the blatant packing and cracking that has occurred here. There is no county remaining intact. There are no groupings of communities of interest. Instead, there are these sprawling, snaking districts which only make sense in the composition of voters. The districts are incredibly obvious for their packing the majority of Democrats in 8 of these districts and the majority skewed to make 16 of them heavily Republican.

Have we gotten so mired in to party politics that we have forgotten that the job is to serve in the interest of democracy- for all, and not just your immediate constituents? If you are serving in the NH legislature- all citizens of NH should be considered your constituents where your actions affect us all. And your actions should be to promote fair, balanced legislation including the drawing of these maps. I do not see that here at all. This GOP Senate map fails to serve the voting public of NH.

I do appreciate the work you all do- and have done over time. That said, my expectations have been dashed by these GOP submitted maps. The maps submitted by the Democratic team were much more balanced and despite leaning a bit toward the Republican side, they are much more fair and competitive- as they should be. It is my hope that the GOP maps will be amended to represent a fairer arrangement of our voting districts.

Thank you,  
Bev Cotton