

October 3, 2021

I have lived in Exeter which is part of senate district 23 for more than seven years. I am testifying at this hearing because I feel that senate district 23 fails to properly represent me due to a partisan advantage for Republicans in my district. This gerrymandering is subtle but significant.

Since we are in the process of redistricting, I'd like to see the new legislative lines drawn in a nonpartisan way instead of continuing to favor Republicans.

The process that I've noticed goes like this. My district has been designed so that the number of Democrats in the district are just enough to almost, but not quite win elections. As a result, for instance in the 2020 election, the large number of Democratic votes including my own have been essentially wasted because our votes have not been converted into seats.

In a 2016 article, New Hampshire Public Radio describes their election research; when one party consistently loses by thin margins, an "efficiency gap," that calculates wasted votes develops.

Diluting the Democratic votes this way makes my district and others less competitive. My voice and those of other Democrats have not been represented in Concord by the Republicans who have been elected in the past.

When this process happens across many districts, the partisan disadvantage for Democrats multiplies resulting in huge numbers of Democrats losing proper representation in Concord.

Now is the time to right this wrong. It is time to redistrict in a nonpartisan way.

Sincerely,

June Fabre