

Testimony for the Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
From Gregory Davis, Salem, NH 03079
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Chairperson Gray 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
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