



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

January 20, 2022

RE: 2022 Reapportionment (Redistricting)

Dear BCA Members and Town Clerks:

The House of the General Assembly has passed H.589, which proposes to reapportion (also known as “redistrict”) the House of Representatives into single- and multi-member districts based on the 2020 decennial U.S. Census population data and based on a reapportionment plan from the Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB), known as the LAB Alternate Map (or LAB Minority Map). House district maps based on H.589’s proposed plan may be viewed here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/reports-and-research/research/2022-reapportionment>. At this webpage you will be able to view single district maps, regional district maps, the statewide map, and the bill language of H.589. In addition, you will also be able to view the LAB’s statewide map for all single-member districts (known as the LAB Adopted Map or LAB Majority Map), which may look familiar to you as the LAB sent a prior version of this map to BCAs in October 2021 for feedback.

The House Committee on Government Operations is seeking:

- (1) feedback on the proposed district lines contained in these maps;
- (2) BCA proposals to subdivide H.589’s proposed two-member districts into two single-member districts (if desired);
- (3) BCA proposals on how to subdivide any initial district that is listed in H.589 as having three or more representatives into one- or two-member districts; and
- (4) any additional feedback on the LAB’s Adopted Map.

Committee hearings

In addition to the written feedback and proposals you may provide (see following pages for instructions and information on those items), the House Committee on Government Operations will be holding committee hearings for regions of the State on the following days:

January 27, 2022: Bennington & Windham Counties

January 28, 2022: Windsor & Orange Counties

February 1, 2022: Addison & Rutland Counties

February 2, 2022: Grand Isle, Franklin & Orleans Counties

February 3, 2022: Essex & Caledonia Counties; Chittenden County

February 4, 2022: Lamoille & Washington Counties

Invitations for BCA testimony at these hearing will be sent in a separate communication by email.

General instructions

Pursuant to Sec. 1(b) of H.589, the House Committee on Government Operations is providing these mapping resources for the purpose of seeking community input on the 2022 reapportionment of the House of Representatives. The initial district plan described in H.589 is not intended to describe any final district lines for the 2022 reapportionment of the House of Representatives. Similarly, the LAB Alternate Map is being used as a starting point for discussion on redistricting and proposes district lines to subdivide towns and cities outlined in H.589. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the House Committee on Government Operations conduct public hearings, take testimony from boards of civil authority, and request feedback on district lines from cities and towns prior to the General Assembly's enactment of final district lines.

To provide general feedback on proposed district lines

To provide general feedback on any of the maps included on the Reapportionment web page (such as suggestions on alternate district line locations, keeping a current two-member district rather than a proposed division into two one-member districts, stating a preference for a LAB Alternate Map versus a LAB Adopted Map district configuration, etc.), please see the Contact Information section below for submission instructions. Please note that the more detail included in your feedback, the easier it will be for the Committee to review and understand your town's or city's feedback. To the extent you wish to include maps with your feedback and are unable to send these electronically, please mail or deliver them to the address provided below in the Contact Information section.

If your district is listed as having two representatives in H.589

If your district is listed as having two representatives in H.589, you have the option of providing general feedback as described above or proposing how to subdivide the district into two one-member districts. 17 V.S.A. § 1906b(b) lays out the process for a BCA to consider subdividing an initial two-member House district. A copy of 17 V.S.A. § 1906b may be viewed here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/17/034A/01906b>

Also, pursuant to subsection (d) of section 1906b, any such subdivision should not extend the limits of the overall deviation of the initial districts in H.589. The overall deviation in H.589 is 15.4%, which comes from a highest high deviation of 7.5%, and a

lowest low deviation of -7.9%. Therefore, if the decision is made to propose subdividing your initial two-member district in H.589, the resulting two single-member districts should not go above an 7.5% deviation or below a -7.9% deviation.

Moreover, please take note that although 17 V.S.A. § 1906b(e) states that BCAs must submit proposed divisions by April 1, Sec. 3 of H.589 instead requires that these proposed divisions be submitted by February 15. This earlier submission date is due to ballot requirements that need to be met for the State's August primary date.

If the decision is made to *not* propose to subdivide your initial two-member district or if your BCAs opt to propose a different district configuration than outlined in H.589 or to provide general feedback, we respectfully request that you communicate this information by February 15 so that the General Assembly can move forward with finalizing the State's district lines.

If your district is listed as having three or more representatives in H.589

If your district is listed as having three or more representatives in H.589, you have the option of proposing how to subdivide the district. This can be done by proposing the subdivision outlined in the LAB Alternate Map, using some or all of the subdivisions outlined in the LAB Adopted Map for the region, or proposing a new subdivision configuration. 17 V.S.A. § 1906c(c) lays out the process for a BCA to consider subdividing an initial three or more member House district. A copy of 17 V.S.A. § 1906c may be viewed here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/17/034A/01906c>

Also, pursuant to subsection (d) of section 1906c, any such subdivision should not extend the limits of the overall deviation of the initial districts in H.589. The overall deviation in H.589 is 15.4%, which comes from a highest high deviation of 7.5%, and a lowest low deviation of -7.9%. Therefore, if the decision is made to propose subdividing your initial two-member district in H.589, the resulting two single-member districts should not go above an 7.5% deviation or below a -7.9% deviation.

Moreover, please take note that although 17 V.S.A. § 1906c(e) states that BCAs must submit proposed divisions by April 1, Sec. 3 of H.589 instead requires that these proposed divisions be submitted by February 15. This earlier submission date is due to ballot requirements that need to be met for the State's August primary date.

If your BCAs are unable to obtain a majority vote on a proposed subdivision or if your BCAs opt to propose a different district configuration than outlined in H.589 or to provide general feedback, please communicate this information to the House Committee on Government Operations by February 15 so the General Assembly can move forward with finalizing the State's district lines.

Contact information; submitting feedback and proposals (see next page)

Please direct all feedback, proposals, and any questions or concerns regarding any of the above information to Redistricting2022@leg.state.vt.us or by mail or delivery to:

Vermont General Assembly
Office of Legislative Counsel
Attn: Reapportionment
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amerin L. Aborjaily

Legislative Counsel
(802) 828-2231