



TOWN OF MONKTON

January 28, 2022

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

Re: 2022 Reapportionment (Redistricting)

Dear Members of the House Committee on Government Operations:

Thank you for this opportunity for the Town of Monkton to share our thoughts regarding the 2022 redistricting and an alternative redistricting proposal for Addison County.

The Town of Monkton Board of Civil Authority has reviewed the LAB Alternate Map and developed the following comments regarding the splitting of Monkton into two different legislative districts.

1. Moving 851 citizens of Monkton out of Addison-4 and into Addison-3 unfairly dilutes Monkton's voice in Montpelier. Monkton goes from being 23% of the population of Addison-4 to 15% of the population of Addison-4 and 10% of Addison-3.
2. Splitting towns makes the election process more complex and expensive. This is especially true for smaller towns and in cases where the two legislative districts don't share a school district.
3. There is no real connection between Ferrisburgh/Vergennes and Monkton. Ferrisburgh is oriented towards Lake Champlain and Route 7 with a cultural hub in Vergennes. Monkton, on the other hand has strong ties to Bristol as a shopping, dining and cultural center.
4. One of the things that fosters community is local schools and, as noted earlier, Monkton and Ferrisburgh do not share a school district. Splitting legislative districts across school districts, while necessary at times, is to be avoided if possible.

The Monkton BCA adopted the following resolution unanimously:

The Town of Monkton Board of Civil Authority strongly objects to the LAB Alternative Map which divides Monkton between two legislative districts since it unfairly dilutes our voice in Montpelier, makes the election process more expensive and complex and because there is no real connection between Monkton and Ferrisburgh/Vergennes.

Monkton would like to propose an alternative map to the LAB map. This map keeps follows all town boundaries with one exception. The Town of Middlebury is split into two parts for the purposes of drawing legislative districts – Middlebury and East Middlebury. This reflects the growth pattern in Middlebury and East Middlebury is already a census-designated location. The presumed population of East Middlebury for purposes of drawing this map is 600. The resulting districts are shown on the two attached maps labeled "Monkton Proposed Addison Districts with Statistics" and "Monkton Proposed Addison Towns in Districts". The legislative districts would be as follows:

District	No. Reps	Towns	Population	% of ideal size
Addison-1	2	Middlebury	8552	-0.26
Addison-2	1	East Middlebury Ripton Salisbury Whiting Leicester Goshen	4127	-3.73
Addison-3	2	Ferrisburgh Vergennes Panton Addison Bridport	8435	-1.62
Addison-4	2	Monkton Starksboro Bristol Lincoln	8990	4.85
Addison-5	1	Weybridge Cornwall Waltham New Haven	4150	-3.2
Addison-Rutland-1	1	Shoreham Orwell Benson West Haven Sudbury	4257	-0.7

This map shares many of the problems of the LAB map with districts crossing over school districts and county lines. However, this map has a total deviance from the ideal size of 14.36, an average of 2.4% versus the LAB map deviance of 24.54, an average of 4.1%. Another way of saying this is this map allocates representatives more fairly than the LAB map.

