

Colchester BCA Recommendation to House Government Ops Committee, February 8, 2022.

To start, thank you for the opportunity to address the House Government Operations Committee. I appreciate the work the LAB and the committee have done and will do.

The Colchester BCA initially met in November three times to gather and give information and to set goals & recommendations. The BCA met again January 31, 2022 to reaffirm the goals and make recommendations on the Alternative Plan approved by the House.

The Colchester BCA would like to keep the four representative seats currently allotted to Colchester in the two, two-person districts format. We would like them to represent as they have the last ten years with the current district lines.

With the Colchester population increasing 457 (2.7%) residents, the town districts can easily absorb the increase (with appropriate deviations of 1.5% and 2.8% within each district) within the current district lines.

When thinking about representation at the state, the BCA sees Colchester as different from our neighbors.

- Colchester has the most lake frontage of any municipality;
- Colchester has no identifiable town center;
- Colchester does not have large industry like both Milton (Husky) and Essex (Global Foundries);
- Colchester has St. Michaels College, UVM Med Ctr Fanny Allen Campus and the National Guard;
- Colchester has a Local Option Sales Tax.

These differences would make a representative need to focus on issues like clean water, infrastructure needs for a town that lacks a community sewer system, and keeping the Local Option Sales Tax to achieve these goals.

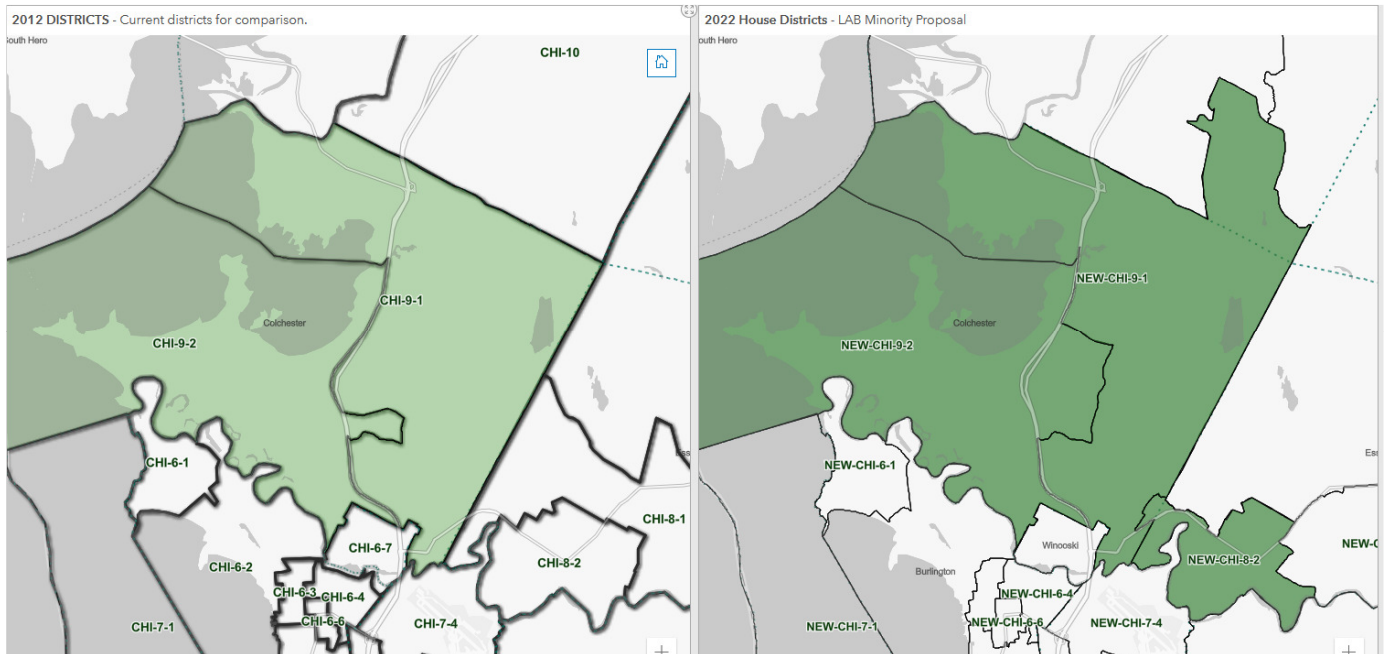
The BCA discussed important points of information within the Alternate Plan. I have included maps for Milton, Essex/Westford and Colchester of current district lines and the Alternate Plan for reference.

- The Alternate Plan has Milton divided into three districts Milton (10) and two portions with Westford/Essex (8-3), Colchester (9-1).
- Milton's growth was 3.6%(371). Milton changes relate to LAB wanting to keep Milton in Chittenden County.
- Westford continues to share a district with Essex and had minimal growth at 1.6% (33).
- Essex had a larger population growth with 2507 (12.8%). To be able to fit this growth into district(s) 1266 residents were added; to 8-3 with 352 residents from a portion of Milton and 914 from Colchester, Fort area in 8-2.

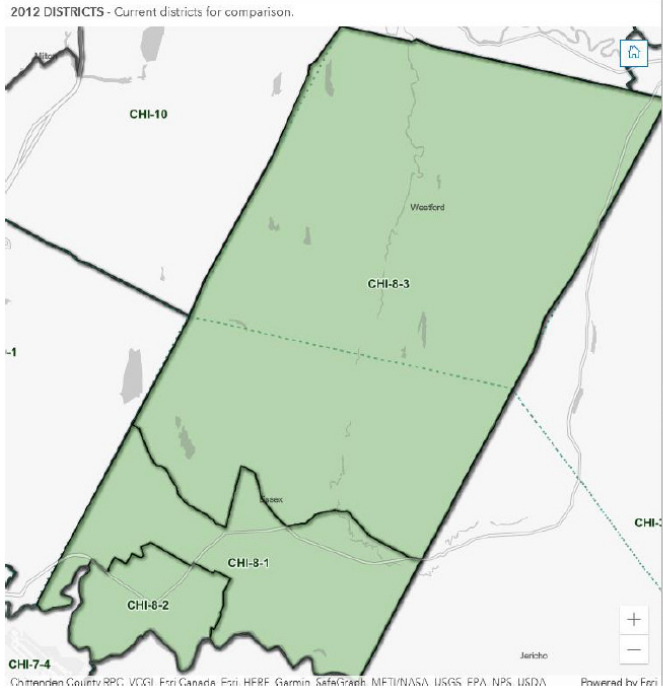
During the Colchester BCA meeting the motion to keep our districts as they are currently was made and approved. I was instructed to request that the 914 Colchester, Fort area residents be moved back to current district 9-1. Also, the Milton portion of 9-1 of the Alternate Plan be removed. That portion could be combined with 8-3, Westford and Essex District.

Colchester Current

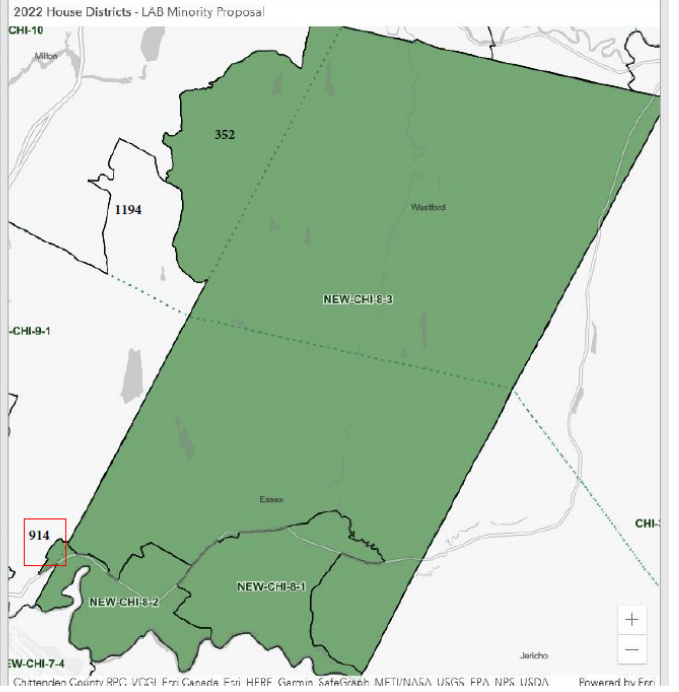
Colchester Alternate with Milton and loss of Fort to Essex



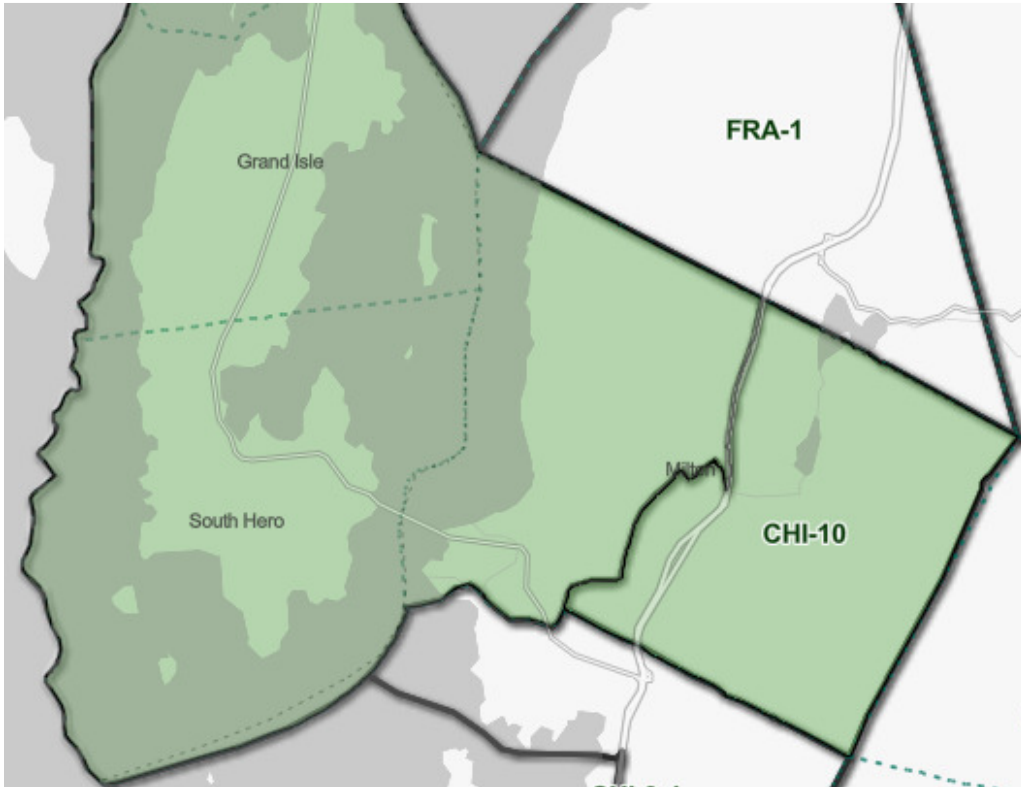
Essex/Westford Current



Essex/Westford Alternate with Colchester/Milton



Milton Current Districts



Milton Alternate Plan Map

