

## Milton BCA feedback to the House Government Operations Committee

February 11, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional feedback during this redistricting process. The Milton BCA met on October 27, 2021 to discuss the LAB's first redistricting proposal, which we strongly opposed. The Milton BCA met again on February 8, 2022 to discuss the alternate proposal.

Milton's BCA unanimously agrees that the Gov Ops proposal of splitting Milton into three new districts does not work for this community. Having two small populations of Milton residents represented by different communities (a Westford/Essex district and a Colchester district), will cause voter confusion and reduce Milton's representation.

The Milton BCA asks the Government Operations Committee to create Milton's main CHI-10 district, by starting on the East border, keeping Milton intact on the Westford side, and working west toward Grand Isle, pushing the excess Milton voters into a South Hero/Grand Isle district.

Please use large, natural boundaries and geography, like Interstate-89 and the Lamoille River, etc.

Milton voters have much more in common with the Islands, than they do with Westford/Essex. West Milton residents share common lakeshore with the Islands. The Sandbar State Park is located in Milton. Traveling from the interstate, people drive right through Milton to get to the Islands. East Milton residents don't have nearly as many common interests with Westford/Essex residents.

For the past twenty years, West Milton voters have gotten used to sharing a voting district with the Islands. Voters are starting to understand that district. To switch that now, over to the Westford/Essex side, will cause voter confusion, disillusionment, anger at the polls, feelings of disfranchisement, and claims of under-representation in Montpelier.

Thank you for taking the Milton BCA's feedback into consideration, as you undergo this difficult task. We appreciate all of your time and effort.

Kristin Beers, Clerk  
Milton Board of Civil Authority