

Testimony to House Committee on Government Operations

Bryan DesLauriers, representing the BCA of St. Albans Town

9 February 2022

Good afternoon.

My name is Bryan DesLauriers, representing St. Albans Town's Board of Civil Authority. I am a member of the Selectboard and a Justice of the Peace.

Personally, I have lived in both the City and Town of St. Albans and it is prudent for us to share representatives when necessary.

I appreciate the complexity of making these maps and understand that a change in one district has impacts on others. .

Our St. Albans Town BCA met on February 2 to consider the Minority/Alternate Maps that would change the House districts in the Town of St. Albans.

Our BCA voted on two motions.

1. We unanimously rejected the Minority/Alternate reapportionment map.
2. We unanimously accepted the Majority/first set of maps from this summer.

The Majority/first set:

Allows for 1 house district to be composed of 100% St. Albans Town voters. The other seat would be split nearly evenly between the City and Town. This would mean that no residents in our town would be in a district as a minority faction of that district. For example, the town voters would get a nearly equal voice in selecting the house member shared by the City and Town district. All voters in the Town would be located in a 1-member district.

The Minority/Alternate map puts a large portion of Town voters at a major disadvantage to voters of other municipalities.

NEW FRA 3-2: This 1-member district would have 100% St. Albans Town voters.

While one house district would remain composed of 100% Town voters, the rest of our residents would be voting in two separate 2-member districts as smaller minorities.

NEW FRA 3-1: This House district would remain much as it is currently. About 2,000 of our residents would remain in a 2-person district with the City of St. Albans. This leaves these two house seats in a district that has a large majority of City voters. Theoretically, the overwhelming

majority of City voters could enact their will over the Town voters for both seats in this two member district.

NEW FRA-4 Approximately 250 of our residents, myself and my nearest neighbors included, would be part of a 2-member district made up of towns such as Highgate, Sheldon, Franklin, and a portion of Swanton. The House members from this 2-member district could potentially ignore our voters from St. Albans Town

In addition to the concerns about representation of about a third of our residents that would be voting in other house districts where we are a minority, adding a third district in the Town of St. Albans would create an unnecessary burden on our Town Clerk's office and confusion for many of our town residents.

The Majority map is superior if we are to respect existing town borders, keep compact and cohesive districts, maintain and create more responsive 1-member districts, and include voters in districts with similar concerns.

Again, we strongly support the Majority reapportionment maps and urge you to abandon the Alternate/Minority maps.

Thank you for your time.