



**Town Clerk/Treasurer's Office  
PO Box 748  
Morrisville, VT 05661**

**802-888-6370  
Fax 802-888-6375  
shaskins@morristownvt.org**

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

February 14, 2022

Dear Amerin L Aborjaily,

The Board of Civil Authority (BCA) of the Town of Morrystown met on October 25, 2021 to review the draft Legislative Appropriation Board (LAB) proposed maps and again on February 10, 2022 to review the House district H.589 proposed maps. At both meetings the BCA voted in favor of creating an alternative district to the two that are proposed by LAB and in H.589.

The majority of the BCA strongly shared the viewpoint that the primary goal was to keep the Town of Morrystown whole which would ultimately require a two member district due to the current population.

The BCA approved an alternative proposal for a two member district that combines the two proposed single member LAB districts of LAM-3 & LAM-4. The alternative district would be the towns of Morrystown, Elmore, Wolcott and 877 members from Stowe.

The total population count of the alternative district is 8867. This is below the total proposed in H.589 of 9006 and closer to the ideal total.

The total deviation of the alternative district is 3.42%. This is below the deviation proposed in H.589 of 5.04% and closer to the ideal percentage.

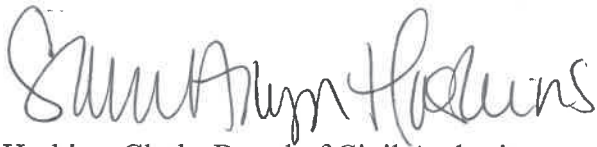
The BCA feels strongly that the composition of this alternative district aligns better with the interests of our communities vs the towns proposed in H.589. Morrystown, Elmore, & Stowe all share a unified union school district and most students in the four towns attend either one of the two middle and high schools located in Morrystown or Stowe. Due to the shared school districts most of the proposed towns have a close working relationship and are accustomed to working and holding elections together.

Elmore, Morrystown, Stowe & Wolcott are all located within the same county, share similar interests and geographical locations and are all within close distance to each other. Residents in those town often come to Morrystown to access shopping centers, the hospital and service agencies. Woodbury & Worcester are both located in a different county and there is over 10 miles of unpopulated forest to travel through to get from Elmore to Worcester. Woodbury is even further to travel to from Morrystown or Elmore. It is almost 20 miles away and you have to cross through two towns before arriving there.

I have included copies of the minutes from both BCA meetings approving this alternative district, a copy of the BCA feedback form submitted to the LAB and copies of the two LAB single district maps which we propose to join as one into a two member district.

Thank you for the consideration of our alternative proposal. Please contact me if you require further information about our alternative district proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Haskins". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sara Haskins, Clerk- Board of Civil Authority



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## BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING October 25, 2021

The Board of Civil Authority of the Town of Morristown, notified and warned, met in the Conference Room at the Municipal Office Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on Monday, October 25, 2021, immediately following the Board of Abatement Meeting.

### ***BCA Members present:***

Justice of the Peace: Brent Paine, Darcie Abbene (zoom), Donald Blake, Ed Wilson, Monte Mason, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, Siri Rooney (zoom) and Urban Martin

Selectboard: Bob Beeman (zoom), Judy Bickford, Brian Kellogg, Gary Nolan and Jessica Graham

Clerk: Sara Haskins

Guests: David Yacovone

- Ed Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.
- **Upon motion by Donnie Blake and seconded by Shelley Nolan the minutes of September 8, 2021 were approved. (15/0)**
- Sara Haskins shared with the Board that the Selectboard had set the date for a Special Town Meeting on December 7, 2021 to ratify the withdrawal of the Town of Stowe from the Lamoille South Unified Union School District in coordination with the Town of Elmore. The warning has not been finalized but it could contain other possible articles in addition to the school vote. The BCA discussed the location of the polling place for the special location. ***Shap Smith made a motion to hold the Special Town Meeting on December 7, 2021 at the Morrisville VFW from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM pending availability. Gary Nolan seconded the motion. Motion passed (13/2). Brent Paine (Y), Darcie Abbene (Y), Donald Blake (Y), Ed Wilson (Y), Monte Mason (Y), Shap Smith (Y), Shelley Nolan (Y), Siri Rooney (N), Urban Martin (Y), Bob Beeman (Y), Judy Bickford (N), Brian Kellogg (Y), Gary Nolan (Y) and Jessica Graham (Y), Sara Haskins (Y).***
- Sara Haskins presented a list of changes to the voter checklist since the last time reviewed on February 26, 2021 there have been 192 new voter registrations, 325 voters challenged, 137 voters purged and 74 voters transferred to other towns in Vermont. The BCA reviewed the changes.
- Sara Haskins shared the draft maps from the Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board. Their proposal is for 150 single member districts and proposes to divide the Town of Morristown into two different voting districts. The proposed LAM-3 District combines 1946 Morristown voters

with all of the towns of Elmore & Wolcott for a total of 4502. The proposed LAM-4 District combines 3488 Morrystown voters with 877 Stowe voters for a total of 4365. The Board discussed the pros and cons between single and two member district representation. The 2020 census shows Morrystown as having 5434 residents which is over the target threshold of approximately 4287 residents for a single member district. Many BCA members stated the goal of keeping the Morrystown community whole which would require a two member district. The Board also discussed continuing to share a district with Elmore, Woodbury & Worcester vs the newly proposed combined districts with Elmore, Wolcott & Stowe which would align more with geographical location and the shared school district. *Shap Smith made a motion to respond back to the Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board with a proposal for a two member district which would combine their two proposed districts of LAM-3 & LAM-4 which would be the towns of Morrystown, Elmore, Wolcott and 877 members from Stowe for a total count of 8867. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed 14/1. Brent Paine (Y), Darcie Abbene (Y), Donald Blake (Y), Ed Wilson(N), Monte Mason(Y), Shap Smith (Y), Shelley Nolan (Y), Siri Rooney (Y), Urban Martin (Y), Bob Beeman (Y), Judy Bickford (Y), Brian Kellogg (Y), Gary Nolan (Y) and Jessica Graham (Y), Sara Haskins (Y).* The BCA instructed Sara Haskins to complete the required BCA reporting form on their behalf.

- Under other business Donnie Blake acknowledged & congratulated Sara Haskins winning the 2021 VMCTA Award of Appreciation.

**With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM upon motion by Urban Martin and seconded by Judy Bickford.**

Respectfully submitted and filed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2021.  
Sara Haskins, Clerk- Board of Civil Authority



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## **DRAFT MINUTES: BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY MEETING February 10, 2022**

The Board of Civil Authority of the Town of Morristown, notified and warned, met in the Conference Room at the Municipal Office Building, 43 Portland Street in said town on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

### ***BCA Members present:***

Justice of the Peace: Aimee Towne (zoom), Brent Paine, Darcie Abbene (zoom), Donald Blake, Ed Wilson, Monte Mason, Shap Smith, Shelley Nolan, and Urban Martin (zoom).

Selectboard: Judy Bickford and Gary Nolan.

Clerk: Sara Haskins

Guests: David Yacovone

- Ed Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
- Added to the agenda: update on Town Meeting Ballots & upcoming election
- Sara Haskins informed the BCA that the annual meeting ballots were delayed in arrival due to a storm that effected the shipping company. They were mailed out in three batches. The first two batches have been mailed out and the last third is ready to be shipped first thing in the morning. Due to the overweight postage required and the time that mail can sometimes take to be delivered she is recommending that people return their ballots in the secure 24 hour drop box in front of the municipal building, to the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours or bring it to the polling place on election day to vote in person. Sara also informed the Board that Judy Bickford had previously agreed to serve as the democrat Justice of the Peace to deliver ballots to the ill, injured or disabled but she is a candidate of the ballot and therefore unable to do so. Aimee Towne volunteered to deliver ballots in her place.
- **Upon motion by Donnie Blake and seconded by Gary Nolan the minutes of October 25, 2021 were approved. (12/0)**
- **Upon motion by Donnie Blake and seconded by Shelley Nolan the minutes of January 19, 2022 were approved with the correction that Andrea Beeman attended via zoom. (12/0)**

- Sara Haskins shared the draft H.589 reapportionment map from the House of Representatives. This map is different from the one previously approved by the Vermont Legislative Apportion Board (LAB) that the BCA reviewed on October 25, 2021. In the H.589 proposal Morrystown is kept whole in a two member district with Elmore, Woodbury, Worcester & a small portion of Stowe. The Board discussed the pros and cons between single and two member district representation, the proposed H.589 map, the proposed LAB map and the alternative map approved by the BCA in October. Gary Nolan shared his concerns with the proposed H.589 map and the makeup of the towns in that district. Ed Wilson shared an article from Rob Roper regarding his view of single member districts. Sara Haskins shared information from other Town Clerks in towns that currently are divided into more than one district and the process and additional costs with having more than one district in a town. The majority continued to state the primary goal of keeping the Morrystown community whole which would require a two member district and that a combined district with Elmore, Wolcott & Stowe would align more with the geographical location and the shared school district. *Aimee Towne made a motion to resubmit to the Legislative Counsel the same alternative proposal that was approved by the BCA on October 25, 2021 and submitted to the Vermont Legislative Apportion Board for a two member district which would combine the two proposed LAB districts of LAM-3 & LAM-4 which would be the towns of Morrystown, Elmore, Wolcott and 877 members from Stowe for a total count of 8867. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed 12/0.* Sara Haskins will submit a letter to the Legislative Counsel on behalf of the BCA sharing their alternative proposal.
- Darcie inquired if this was the last time the BCA would need to review the reapportionment maps and if the BCA would be asked to officially review and weigh in on the Senate reapportionment maps.

**With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM upon motion by Shap Smith and seconded by Judy Bickford.**

Respectfully submitted and filed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022.  
Sara Haskins, Clerk- Board of Civil Authority

*Please note all minutes are in draft form and are subject to approval at the next BCA meeting.*

# BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY FEEDBACK FORM

For the Submission of Feedback on the: VERMONT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - TENTATIVE RE-APPORTIONMENT PROPOSAL by the LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT BOARD

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The following is a report of the decisions and discussions of the Board of Civil Authority of the town/city, concerning the initial House district reapportionment plan proposed by the Legislative Apportionment Board, as required by 17 V.S.A.

§1905: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/17/034A/01905>

It is due on or before November 15, 2021 through this online portal.

This form is for reporting from the BCA through its authorized representative only. There should be only one report from any one BCA. This is not a portal for public comment. This link is not for public distribution. The public should be encouraged to comment to the BCA directly or can reach out to the LAB through its website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/apportionment-board/contact-the-board/>

\* Required

**1. Town/City: \***

Morristown

**2. Name of Submitter: \***

Sara Haskins

**3. Role of Person Submitting This Form (Town Clerk, BCA Chair, etc.): \***

Town Clerk

**4. Contact Phone: \***

8028886370

**5. Contact Email: \***

shaskins@morristownvt.org

**6. Date(s) the Board of Civil Authority met on the reapportionment plan: \***

10/25/2021

**7. District(s) reviewed that the BCA recommends changing:**

Please use the district names used in the proposed map.

LAM-3 and LAM-4

**8. District(s) reviewed that the BCA recommends keeping as proposed:**

Please use the district names used in the proposed map.

Enter your answer



**9. Description of District(s) recommended to be changed: \***

Please provide a clear description of the recommended district. For an example of the way this has been done in the past, please refer to 17 V.S.A. §1893:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/17/034/01893>

Use as much detail as possible. If the BCA's proposed district(s) have more than one member, please include that detail. You may also copy the map provided to you and re-draw the line, if desired, but you must also include the description. If necessary, email any attachments to [sos.bcafeedback@vermont.gov](mailto:sos.bcafeedback@vermont.gov) and clearly include your town and district in the title and body of the email.

The Morrystown BCA recommends combining the proposed LAM-3 & LAM-4 districts into 1 two member district instead of 2 one member districts. This would be a district of Elmore, Wolcott, all of Morrystown and 877 members of Stowe for a total count of 8867 and within the acceptable deviation.

**10. Rationale and comments: \***

Please give in detail your rationale for the change(s) that the BCA made as well as rationale for leaving the district(s) as drawn by the Legislative Apportionment Board.

This proposal aligns more with the geographical location and shared school district than the current two member district towns. Most students in the four towns attend either one of the two middle and high schools in the area and most of the proposed towns are accustomed to holding school elections together. The BCA also feels strongly that it is in the best interest for our community to keep all of Morrystown in the same district and not split our community into

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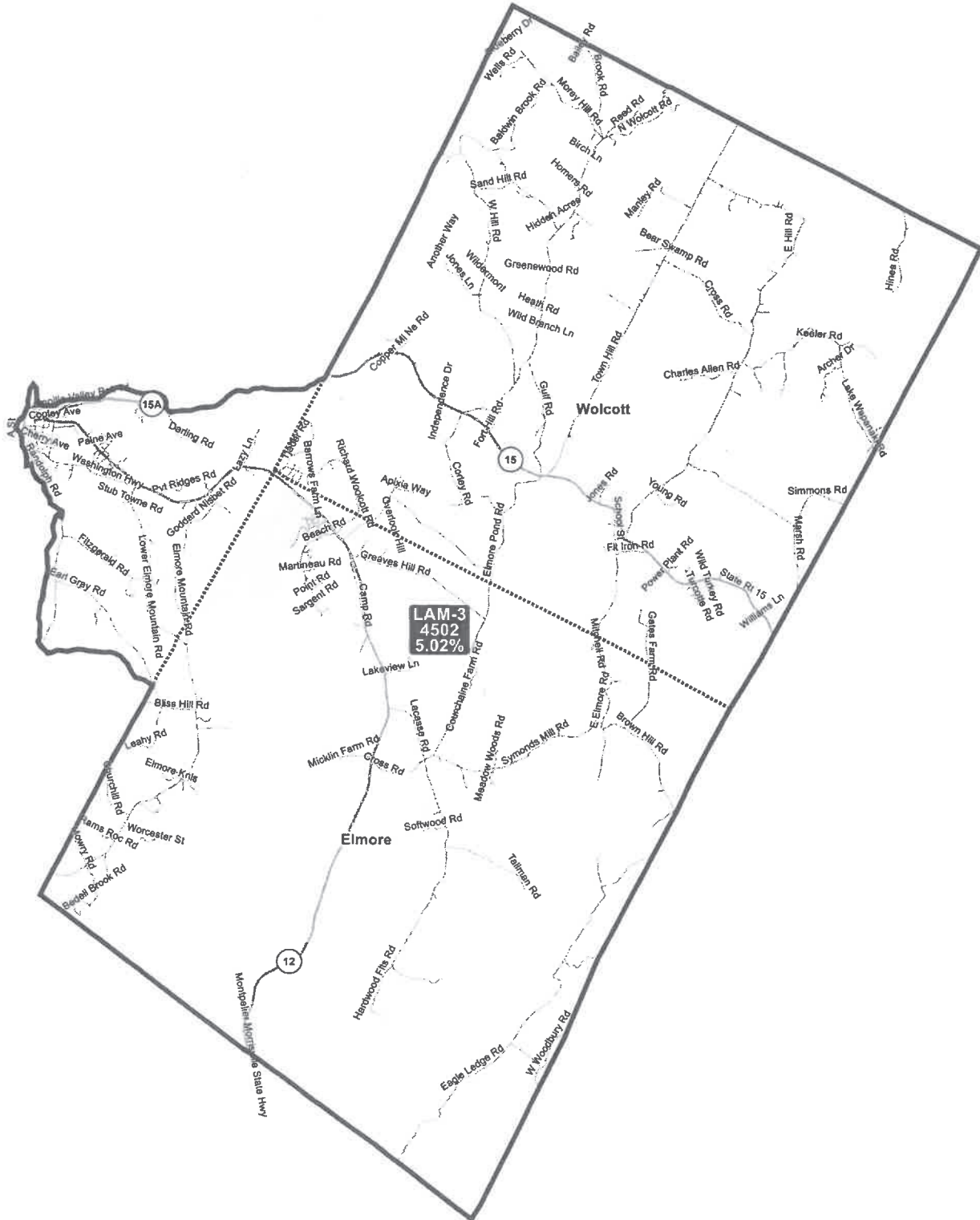


# State of Vermont

## 2021 Legislative Reapportionment

Field	Value
District	LAM-3
Population	4502
Deviation	215
% Deviation	5.02%

District: LAM-3





# State of Vermont

## 2021 Legislative Reapportionment

Field	Value
District	LAM-4
Population	4365
Deviation	78
% Deviation	1.82%

District: LAM-4

