

Jessi Tracy

From: Peter Romans <promans802@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2022 9:57 PM
To: Redistricting2022
Subject: [External] Fwd: Redistricting follow-up

[External]

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mike Metcalf" <MMetcalf@myfairpoint.net>
Subject: RE: Redistricting follow-up
Date: February 18, 2022 at 8:44:10 AM EST
To: "Peter Romans" <promans802@gmail.com>, "Tracy Collier" <tcollier@greensborovt.org>, "Dave Kelly" <dkelley@greensborovt.org>, "Matt McAllister" <mmcallister@greensborovt.org>, "Gary Circosta" <gcircosta@greensborovt.org>, "Judy Carpenter" <Judyc@vtelwireless.com>, <mayagratia@gmail.com>, "Tim Nisbet" <yellowbarn@vmlink.net>, "Stew Arnold" <stewarnold@hotmail.com>
Cc: "Kim Greaves" <townclerk@greensborovt.org>

Peter,
Thanks for forwarding this info.

The efforts to redraw representation into single-member districts certainly has some benefits. There can be awkward efforts to construct single member districts, especially when that means dividing larger communities or joining parts of different towns to meet the roughly equal population (one-person, one-vote) standard.

An alternate method – and one the redistricting committee chose to avoid – would allow some multiple-member districts with candidates running on a specific line. In other words, a candidate would have to choose whether to challenge Representative Strong *or* Representative Sims. Based on the population of specific towns, this *could* result in putting towns with more appropriate characteristics together.

The Wheelock concerns about the proposed district have some merit – especially for them. In the minority map, Greensboro is reasonably joined to other towns with an acceptable population base *and* some compatible characteristics.

In general, it makes sense to join communities that share a school, a shopping area, similar demographics... In general, people do their shopping in a larger town down hill from their own. (People in Wolcott tend to shop in Morrisville, though they are similarly close to Hardwick. People in Woodbury tend to shop in Montpelier/Barre/Berlin, partly because that is both in the same watershed and is the employment location for many in the bedroom community. A mountain ridge or a river with few major bridges, can seriously divide a district putting people with very different interests together.

An advantage of a multi-member district can be that by joining disparate groups together, the system pushes legislators to be compromisers. The state Senate, primarily consisting of multi-member districts, is generally more conducive to compromise than is the state House.

An additional difficulty with multi-member districts has to do with the costs of campaigning as well as the decrease service contact with constituents across the district.

For Greensboro, the minority-drawn districts makes great sense.

Thanks again for sending this out!
Mike Metcalf

From: Peter Romans [<mailto:promans802@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2022 8:03 AM
To: Tracy Collier; Dave Kelly; Matt McAllister; Gary Circosta; Judy Carpenter; mayagratia@gmail.com; Tim Nisbet; Stew Arnold; Mike Metcalf
Cc: Kim Greaves
Subject: Fwd: Redistricting follow-up

I'm forwarding this to the BCA members for comment. Because of the short notice, I don't think organizing a meeting is feasible. I'm suggesting that BCA members respond to this email and we'll send opinions to the legislative committee. I think that would be more influential than individual responses, but do as you please.

The new proposed district, comprised of four towns would be represented by one member in the House. I think the Wheelock BCA makes a compelling case (attached below) for redistricting. We have much more in common with the proposed district towns than some of the current towns. Responding to constituents in four towns would likely be more effective with a smaller population. Yes, we are currently represented by two reps, but they do not divide the constituency in half. Each member is beholden to the aggregate.

Thanks,

Peter

Begin forwarded message:

From: Katherine Sims <KSims@leg.state.vt.us>
Subject: Redistricting follow-up
Date: February 17, 2022 at 4:19:11 PM EST
To: Peter Romans <promans802@gmail.com>

Hi Peter -

Great to talk today.

Here's more info:

- The draft map for your district is here: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/WorkGroups/House%20Government%20Operations/2022%20Redistricting/Maps/Statewide%20Maps/Essex%20Orleans%20Counties/Essex%20Orleans/W~Essex%20Orleans%20Counties~Essex%20Orleans,%20New-ORL-5%20Map~2-10-2022.pdf>

- It would be really helpful for the committee to hear from your BCA about whether you support this map and why or if you don't think it makes sense, why and any alternative suggestions.
- You can submit feedback on the proposed map to Redistricting2022@leg.state.vt.us. Please also cc' the House Government Operations Committee chair, Sarah Copeland-Hanzas at scopelandhanzas@leg.state.vt.us.
- Attached is a feedback letter from the Wheelock BCA in case that's helpful to see a sample.

The committee chair has asked that all feedback be submitted by **Tuesday, February 22nd at the latest.**

Best, ks

Katherine Sims

State Representative

Orleans-Caledonia

she / her pronouns ([why?](#))

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ksims@leg.state.vt.us

KatherineSimsforHouse.com

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