

CITY OF RUTLAND VERMONT

Honorable House Government Operations Committee,

We the Rutland City Board of Civil Authority, Rutland City Board of Aldermen, and Rutland City Mayor strongly encourage you to finalize a redistricting process that leaves Rutland City with four city-only districts.

It is striking just how closely the proposed districts in the “Minority Map” you recently sent to local boards for comment mirrors the districts suggested independently by the Rutland City Board of Civil Authority at the end of the last review process.

The only real difference between the two maps is the inclusion of small portions of Rutland Town in two of the districts on the Minority Map. The population numbers from Rutland Town in both instances are small and change the overall population percentages in these two districts by a negligible amount.

We would therefore suggest that residents of both Rutland City and Town would be best served if the city was left with four districts completely in city limits. It is often the case that the city and town’s interests do not merge. To cite just one example that is currently under heavy discussion at the State House, it is almost certain that whatever changes are made to Pupil Weighting in our schools will positively affect one municipality but negatively affect the other. One or more representatives working for both Rutland City and Rutland Town would have conflicting messages from their two communities.

Additionally, while we recognize that you are working with the data from the most recent US Census, we have concerns that Rutland City was undercounted. It has been repeatedly documented that low income populations are traditionally undercounted in census efforts. Given the high number of registered voters in Rutland City (over 11,000) and that Rutland City continues to maintain a youth population large enough to justify being its own school district, we feel very confident that Rutland City is home to many people who were missed in the recent count and that if census numbers were accurate there would be no doubt that four city-only districts were justified.

Rutland City is also looking to the future. We have significantly invested in marketing efforts that have seen numerous families move to our community in recent years. In addition Rutland City is a designated refugee resettlement community and has begun to welcome Afghan families here. We believe that the census numbers are incorrect now and our city’s population will continue to steadily grow over the decade leading up to the next census count.

For these reasons, we the undersigned, strongly encourage the adoption of the proposed districts previously submitted by the Rutland City Board of Civil Authority for four city-only districts. We thank you for your detailed and diligent work throughout this process.

CITY OF RUTLAND VERMONT

Sincerely,

David Allaire; Mayor, City of Rutland

David W. Allaire

Matt Whitcomb; President, Rutland City Board of Aldermen

Matt Whitcomb

Authorizing members:

Samuel Gorruso

Samuel Gorruso

Thomas Franco

Thomas Franco

Carrie Savage

Carrie Savage

Devon Neary

Devon Neary

Michael Talbott

Michael Talbott

Mike Doenges

Mike Doenges

Bill Gillam Jr.

Bill Gillam Jr.

Paul Clifford

Paul Clifford

Thomas DePoy

Thomas DePoy

Sharon Davis

Sharon Davis

Henry A Heck; Clerk/Member Rutland City Board of Civil Authority

Authorizing members:

Joseph Barbagallo

Barry Beauchamp

Chris Bove

Mark Candon

Paul Clifford

Gale Courcelle

Yvonne Daley

Tom Depoy

Tom Donahue

Peg Flory

Cheryl Hooke

George Hooker

Carl Mazzariello

Mary Mazzariello

Jack Welch Jr.

Sam Garruso

Thomas Franco

Carrie Savage

Devon Neary

Michael Talbott

Mike Doenges

Bill Gillam Jr.

Sharon Davis

Matt Whitcomb

Henry A Heck

Memorandum

Date: November 9th, 2021

To: Rutland City BCA

From: BCA Apportionment Sub-Committee

RE: Recommendation to BCA on the House Re-Apportionment Proposal by the Legislative Apportionment Board

Members Present: Justice Donahue, Alderman Depoy, Alderman Neary, Alderman Talbott. Also Attending: Rutland City Representative Notte (District 5-4).

The BCA Apportionment Sub-Committee met on Tuesday, November 8th, 2021 at 6:30 PM to discuss their drafted apportionment proposal. The committee did not agree to the Legislative Apportionment Board Tentative Re-Apportionment Proposal.

Chair Donahue presented the detail of our modified district map based on the existing four wards. After review and discussion a motion was made by Alderman Talbott, seconded by Alderman Depoy to recommend this proposal* to the full BCA for consideration and approval; and to authorize the City Clerk to complete the required submission to the Legislative Apportionment Board subsequent to a vote of the BCA and by the deadline of November 15th.

Chair Donahue called for a vote which passed unanimously with 4 voting in favor and 0 voting opposed.

It is also noted that Rep. Notte expressed his support for the proposal. Chair Donahue also expressed the verbal support of Rutland City Rep. Fagan (District 5-1) as he was out of town at the time of the meeting and wanted to convey his concurrence as well.

*Proposal for the required on-line form submission consisting of:

- Revised District Map
- Revised District Description
- Rationale and Comments

Respectfully Submitted,



JP / Tom Donahue, Sub-Committee Chair

RUTLAND-5-1

That portion of the City of Rutland encompassed within a boundary beginning at the point where the boundary line of Rutland City and Rutland Town intersects with Lincoln Avenue and North Main St.; then southerly along the eastern side of the centerline of North Main St. to Vernon St.; then westerly along the center line of Vernon St. to Lincoln Avenue; then Lincoln Avenue to the intersection of West Street; then easterly along the northern side of the centerline of West Street across North Main Street; then easterly along the northern side of the centerline of Terrill Street to the intersection of Lafayette Street; then southerly along the east side of the centerline of Lafayette Street to the intersection of Easterly Avenue; then easterly along the northern side of Easterly Avenue to the intersection of Piedmont Drive; then easterly along the northern side of the centerline of Piedmont Drive to the intersection of Piedmont Parkway; then easterly

along the northern side of the centerline of Piedmont Parkway to the intersection of Stratton Road; then southerly along the eastern side of the centerline of Stratton Road to the intersection of Killington Avenue; then easterly along the northern side of the centerline of Killington Avenue, including both sides of Grandview Terrace, to the boundary between Rutland City and Rutland Town; then northerly along the boundary line to its intersection with Gleason Road; then westerly along the southern side of the centerline of Gleason Road to Woodstock Avenue; then following the boundary line back to the point of beginning

RUTLAND-5-2

That portion of the City of Rutland encompassed within a boundary beginning at the southernmost point where the boundary line of Rutland City and Rutland Town intersects with South Main Street; then northerly along the eastern side of the cen-

terline of South Main Street to the intersection of Strongs Avenue; then northwesterly along the eastern side of the centerline of Strongs Avenue to the intersection of Prospect Street; then northerly along the eastern side of the centerline of Prospect Street to the intersection of Washington Street; then easterly along the southern side of the centerline of Washington Street to the intersection of Court Street; then northerly along the eastern side of the centerline of Court Street to the intersection of West Street; then easterly along the southern side of the centerline of West Street to the intersection of South Main Street; then east across South Main Street along the southern side of the centerline of Terrill Street to the intersection of Lafayette Street; then southerly along the western side of the centerline of Lafayette Street to the intersection of Easterly Avenue; then easterly along the southern side of the centerline of Easterly Ave-

nue to the intersection of Piedmont Drive; then easterly along the southern side of the centerline of Piedmont Drive to the intersection of Piedmont Parkway; then easterly along the southern side of the centerline of Piedmont Parkway to the intersection of Stratton Road; then southerly along the western side of the centerline of Stratton Road to the intersection of Killington Avenue; then easterly along the southern side of the centerline of Killington Avenue to the boundary of Rutland City and Rutland Town; then southerly along the city line to the intersection of the city line and South Main Street to the point of beginning

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RUTLAND-5-3

That portion of the City of Rutland encompassed within a boundary beginning at the point where the boundary line of Rutland City and Rutland Town intersects with South Main Street; then northerly along the western side of the centerline of South

Main Street to the intersection of
Strongs Avenue; then northwesterly
along the western side of the center-

10. Rationale and comments:

The Rutland City Board of Civil Authority strongly recommended maintaining the existing four wards with single representation making just one change in district line between 5-1 and 5-4 to effectively move three contiguous blocks with a combined population of 114 people into 5-4 from 5-1.

Criterion 1: (Chapter II ss73 Vt. Constitution. This minor adjustment to district boundary lines meets the standard of substantial equality (within the desired 10% deviation measure for the ideal population of 4,287) and in fact closes the gap between the four districts to within 1.5% of each other.

This recommendation achieves equality of representation and provides a population of 3,893 people represented in Ward 5-4 and 3,994 people represented in Ward 1. The recommendation maintains as is - without change both Ward 5-2 with a population of 3,936 and Ward 5-3 with a population of 3,984.

Criterion 2 and 3: (Chapter II ss13 Vt. Constitution) The BCA recommended apportionment maintains geographic compactness and contiguity. This criterion aims to foster effective representation by ensuring that representatives are accessible to the people they represent.

Following the requirements that districts should be compact and contiguous, the Constitution also dictates that districts should follow existing boundaries of counties, towns, or other political subdivisions.

Criterion 4: (17 V.S.A. ss1903) The BCA recommended apportionment and maintenance of the existing four City ward structure achieves the criterion that legislative districts should be communities bound by shared values and interests which thus can be given effective voice in Montpelier.

Criterion 5: (17 V.S.A. ss1906B) "In making a proposal under this section, the boards of civil authority shall consider 1) preservation of existing political subdivision lines; (2) recognition of patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties and common interest; (3) use of compact and contiguous territory; (4) incumbencies.

Under state statute, only Boards of Civil Authority are directed to weigh incumbency when proposing the sub-division of initial, multi member districts. While these are districts with single representation. The apportionment board proposal removes the incumbent from Ward 5-2 and places him in Ward 5-1. The BCA apportionment recommendation maintains the current structure of Ward 5-2 and does not displace the incumbent.


For all these established reasons cited above the Rutland City Board of Civil Authority recommends the Legislative Apportionment Board adopt our proposed (unanimously) approved re-apportionment plan as submitted.



* Polling Places

- Ward 1 Godnick Senior Citizen Center
- Ward 2 Christ the King School
- Ward 3 American Legion
- Ward 4 Calvary Bible Church

 New Ward Line

 Ward Line Change

City of Rutland Ward Map

