

LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT BOARD  
*Title 17, Chapter 34A, Vermont Statutes Annotated*  
<https://sos.vermont.gov/apportionment-board/>

November 1, 2021  
9:00 – 11:00 A.M.

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)  
Meeting at Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier

Members Present: Tom Koch, Rob Roper

Members Present Remotely: Tom Little, Jeremy Hansen

Others Present: Chris Winters

Others Present Virtually: Eric Covey, Mia Kro

Members of the Public Present Virtually: Ed Cafferty, Robert-Bristow Johnson

1. Call to Order

Tom Little called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2021 Meeting (5 Minutes)(all times approx.)

Approval of the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was deferred until the end of the meeting.

3. Public Comment (per 1 V.S.A. sec. 312(h)) (up to 15 Minutes)

No public comment.

4. Review and Discuss Initial Responses and Questions from Boards of Civil Authority to Tentative House Districts Map (up to 60 Minutes)

Tom L. discussed some anecdotal feedback he has heard directly, in addition to the BCA feedback forms received so far, including a misunderstanding that any district deviation under 10%, as well as the total statewide deviation being under that percentage, is Constitutional, and would not be problematic, which is not the case.

Chris Winters and Eric Covey reported on the administrative questions that have been posed by towns (primarily from Town Clerks, but in some instances BCA Chairs and members, and Selectboard Chairs).

Member of the public Robert Bristow-Johnson pointed out that Burlington might want more granular detail on their maps.

Tom L. asked that the BCA Feedback Form compilation report be organized alphabetically by Town/City, and that it be posted for the public.

Tom L. asked Rob Roper and Jeremy Hansen if they have yet made any changes to their proposed map. Jeremy said that they have not, and he is waiting for feedback to address problem areas historically instead of creating more problems. Rob said he hasn't yet either, but asked that in areas that the issue would be contained and spread to districts around them, such as the Charlotte feedback they received, perhaps they could.

#### 5. Discussion of Senate Redistricting (up to 30 Minutes)

Tom L. highlighted the Senate map drafts that exist. Tom Koch believes there are a sufficient number of maps in draft form for them to work on.

Tom L. asked the Board when they should come together to attempt to coalesce towards consensus on a Senate map, saying perhaps they could try to schedule work melding the 3 maps together on 11/8/21 or 11/15/21.

Tom Koch believes that if they go with Jeremy's idea of 5 House districts per Senate district, which is an idea he kind of likes, they can't work on the Senate map until they have their final House map, but he also thinks the other maps look reasonable, such as Jeanne's map, where he also believes most of the five 3-member districts could be broken up into a 2/1 district pair.

Jeremy pointed out that unlike his House map, his Senate map does not split town lines.

Tom L. asked Jeremy about compactness in his map. Jeremy said the compactness is not that bad, but there are some areas like Johnson not being in a Lamoille district, or his Chittenden/Burlington 'donut district.'

Tom L. proposed taking a straw-poll on either all single member vs. not all single member map, to providing a guiding vote, and that is an action they could take. Jeremy pointed out that the member attendance for this meeting, and Tom L. said he was envisioning the following Monday meeting, the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Tom L. discussed the unique governance of the unincorporated Towns and Gores, mentioning an inquiry from the unorganized town of Ferdinand.

Member of the public Ed Cafferty said he would like to see the maps for Senate districts the LAB is considering. Vermont Secretary of State's office staff (VTSOS) will work with map-makers to get materials to the website. Member of the public Robert Bristow-Johnson said that data/excel spreadsheets as opposed to maps do not help him.

6. Updates from Legislative Counsel, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Secretary of State's Office (10 Minutes)

None.

7. Set Next Meeting Date; Other Business (5 Minutes)

The next meeting will take place on 11/8/2021 from 9am to 11am.

Rob Roper made a motion to approve the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes but withdrew his motion as there were not enough voting-eligible Board members to hold a quorum vote.

8. Adjourn

| The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 am.