

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

November 23, 2021
2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

MEETING DRAFT MINUTES
Meeting at Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier
(Telephone Conference Call Participation Available)

Members Present: Tom Koch

Members Present Remotely: Tom Little, Ed Adrian, Jeanne Albert, Rob Roper, Jeremy Hansen, Mary Houghton

Others Present: Chris Winters, Michael Chernick

Others Present Remotely: Eric Covey, Mia Kro

1. Call to Order

Tom Little called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of November 16, 2021 Meeting (5 Minutes)(all times approx.)

Action deferred.

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

None.

4. Review, Discuss and Act on Final House District Map (up to 60 Minutes)

Tom L. began by asking any additional reflection or comments by Rob or Jeremy on the revised single-member district map they have proposed. Rob felt they covered everything at the November 22nd meeting.

Tom L. asked if Rob wanted to present the district by district document he provided. Rob said it was the written version of what was presented at the 11/22 meeting, including a Rob/Jeremy description of how they attempted to respond to BCA feedback.

Tom L. believed that there was an incorrect example, Stamford, where in Rob and Jeremy's description they'd said Stamford did not object to the mapping proposal, but in Tom L.'s understanding they did.

Rob noted that it is not final, but he will finish it and it will be posted to the Secretary of State's website at <https://sos.vermont.gov/apportionment-board/resources/>.

Tom L. asked Jeanne to present the mapping proposal she has put forward.

Jeanne described ways her map was able to accommodate BCA feedback, such as Stamford and Readsboro being together, and putting Woodford with Searsburg.

Tom Koch asked if there are ways to provide a few additional options to towns. Tom L. said that there is a provision in the law that allows the Legislature to propose a multi-member district combining towns to those towns to receive input on how they may prefer the district to be subdivided.

Michael Chernick clarified that the Legislature can do this in their drafting of its initial House redistricting bill.

Other examples from Jeanne's proposed map include examples of Stratton and Winhall, and Weston and Londonderry, as being able to have their preferences accommodated in terms of being grouped together. She also described that Marlboro could be made whole on her map, increasing the deviation but to a level she believes the Board could live with.

Jeanne described changes to the middle Vermont section of her map, including Orange's addition to Barre and a two-member district that included Corinth, which said in its feedback it was sympathetic and while it preferred being a single member district, did not want to do so at the expense of splitting another town.

She did not divide Duxbury, Moretown, Fayston, Waitsfield and Warren, given their indication they preferred to remain together in a two-member district.

Tom L. and Jeanne discussed the island districts. Jeanne discussed the ability to make Newport City a single member district, as per their feedback received today, but she could not find a way to not divide Troy, though it's a small portion of the population (roughly 400 out of approx. 1,700).

Jeanne said she wasn't able to find a solution to the .5 of a district for Williston but would be open to possible solutions.

Tom L. asked if Jeanne, Rob and Jeremy have any comparables between the two maps, such as deviations, compactness, or other points they think are worth noting.

Jeanne had pulled together some information about how the plans did or did not meet statutory requirements, which includes largest deviations, overall deviation, distribution of deviation, etc.

A motion was made by Rob to adopt the single member district map as the Board's recommended map to the Legislature. The motion was seconded by Tom K.

The motion passed with a 4-3 vote. Those voting Yes: Ed Adrian, Jeremy Hansen, Tom Koch, Rob Roper. Those voting No: Jeanne Albert, Mary Houghton, Tom Little.

Tom L. discussed next steps, noting that report drafting duties will need to be assigned.

5. Review, Discuss and Act on Final Senate District Map (up to 30 Minutes)

Jeremy and Tom K. think it would be easy to take five house districts from the now-Board-approved House district map and combine them into single-member Senate districts.

Jeanne will also continue work on a Senate map. Rob agrees with Jeremy's plan of making 30 single member Senate districts out of the House district map.

All believe they could have maps ready for a vote by early next week.

Tom L. will draft a letter from the Board to the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House that summarizes where the Board is and where they expect to be by the statutory deadline, and what they expect to file at that time. He has been keeping Legislative leadership generally apprised of the Board's progress.

Rob and Jeremy will work out final details of the House map, and the Secretary of State's office will work with Legislative IT to finish the finalization of the mapping files and materials.

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

The Board will next meet at 9am on Monday, November 29th.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm.