

# Map-a-THON

Granite Staters Drawing Fair Voting Maps



Analysis of Proposed Congressional Map (HB52)  
w/o Amendment, & NH House Maps (HB50) with  
Senate's Amendment 2022-0339s

*January 28, 2022*

## Map-a-Thon Glossary

**Community of Interest (COI)** Communities of interest can take many forms, but generally refer to groups of people united by shared interests. In the context of redistricting, communities of interest are those communities that share policy concerns, such as similar economic interests, a shared school system, or common resources. Our maps use boundaries of shared high school districts, shared water systems, and shared police and fire protection -- in addition to the boundaries of towns and city wards-- to inform the redistricting process. More information about communities of interest can be found by visiting NYU's Brennan Center

**Compactness** Compactness helps us measure the cohesiveness of a district. When drawing districts to represent a region, it is best practice to strive for a compact district, since non-compact districts are less likely to share communities of interests (2010's Executive Council & some 2020 NH Senate districts), and the wider area makes it harder for representatives to understand and serve the needs of constituents. Compactness is also used as a check against gerrymandering (see below), since gerrymandered districts tend to not be compact. The compactness scores reported in our analysis come from the DRA compactness calculation described here:

**Contiguity** Contiguity describes how municipalities in a voting district are geographically connected to each other. Contiguous districts are a requirement for all legislative districts in New Hampshire. This definition is sometimes stretched -- quite literally -- with the towns of Meredith and Gilford only connected in the middle of Lake Winnepesaukee, the towns of Strafford and New Durham connected in an inaccessible point in the woods, and the 2010 floterial district, Grafton 9, for which the elected rep has to travel out of the district to get to constituents on the other side of the district.

**Dave's Redistricting Application (DRA)** Dave's Redistricting Application, hosted at <https://davesredistricting.org> is a free online tool for creating, viewing, sharing, and analyzing redistricting maps. The mission of Dave's Redistricting is to, "empower civic organizations and citizen activists to advocate for fair congressional and legislative districts and increased transparency in the redistricting process." Map-a-Thon's maps and most supporting data are located there for public inspection.

**Deviation** Deviation refers to the degree to which districts have equal population. Ideally, every representative or other elected official in proportional representation will represent the same number of people, but a small amount of flexibility --deviation-- is permissible to account for unequal population distributions and compliance with other laws, such as the 1965 Voting Rights Act or the New Hampshire Constitution's mandate to keep town boundaries intact, and NH Supreme Court Rulings

**Floterial District** A legislative district that includes several separate Non-Floterial districts. This district "Floats" over the other districts. This method is only used by two states, New Hampshire and Wyoming, and has never been tested in the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Gerrymandering** Gerrymandering is the practice of drawing district boundaries for partisan advantage. This leads to uncompetitive general elections and districts oriented toward party agendas rather than local interests. Gerrymandered districts often connect regions with little in common, leading to the splitting of cities, counties, and other communities of interest. The leading example of this in New Hampshire is 2010's Executive Council 2 and certain NH Senate districts

**Splitting** Because our maps are drawn with the goal of avoiding gerrymandering while keeping communities of interest intact, many parts of our analysis examine the number of communities of interest divided, or "splits," contained within a district. The ideal map minimizes the number of districts which cross other administrative boundaries to hold communities of interest intact. Our analyses examine the number of geographical splits necessary. For example, a state senator representing the towns of Dublin and Peterborough would split county lines while keeping a school district intact. Another way of examining splitting is to weight splits by population, the approach taken in the DRA county-splitting metric.

**Partisan Lean** Number of seats using past election data that are likely to be either Democrat seats, Republican seats, or Competitive seats.

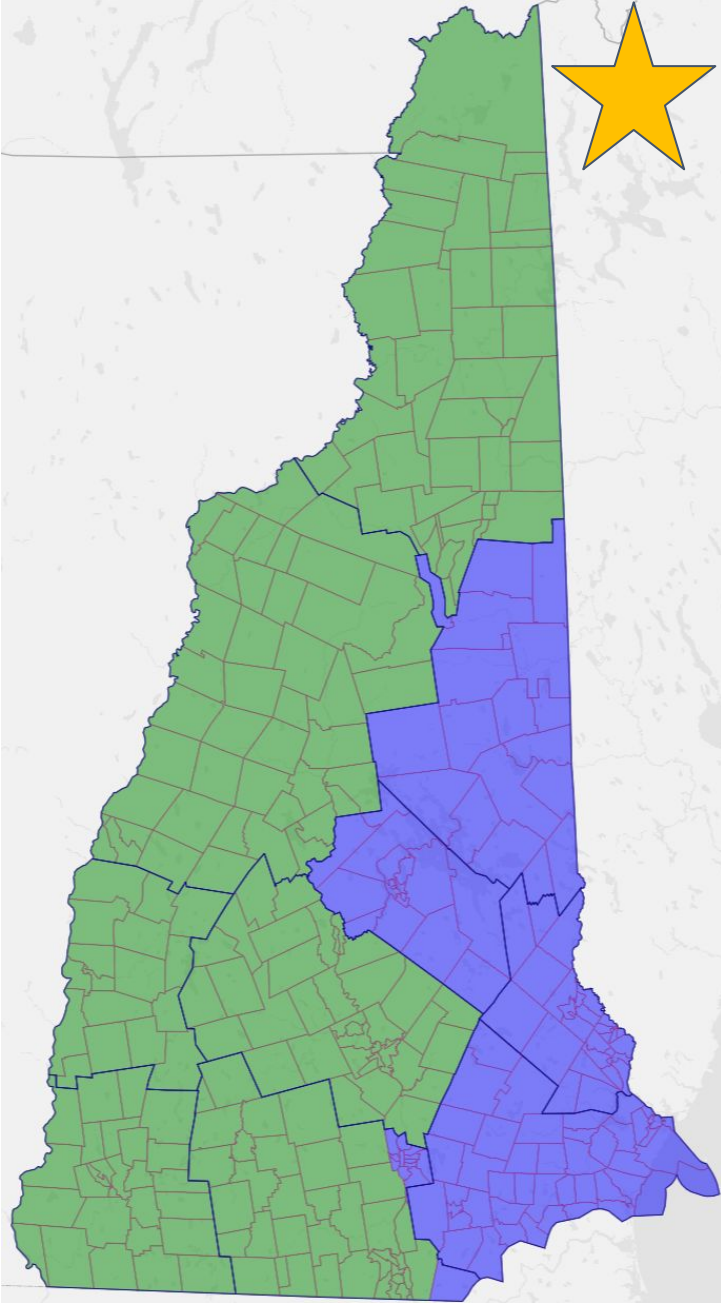
**Violation** A town that has a population over 3,444 and is eligible for its own district that does not have its own district in the corresponding map. We count one violation per town/city and not by individual wards.

## NH Congressional Map Analysis

- The Map-a-Thon Mapping & Technical team analyzed the Congressional map proposed in HB52 based on numerous factors, and compared the proposal to a new Map-a-Thon submission.
- We conclude that the proposed Republican map has been gerrymandered, with Congressional District 2 “packed” with Democrats, District 1 has been similarly “packed” with Republicans, making both Districts uncompetitive.
- Historically, this is the biggest map shift of the Congressional districts in over 140 years.
- The Map-a-Thon Citizen Mapping Project’s Mapping and Technical Team analyzed the Congressional map in detail, and also recommends its own redistricting proposal. This document summarizes our analyses with transparency and fairness.
- The Map-a-Thon team produced similar analyses for NH’s Senate, House, and Executive Council redistricting.

## Map-a-Thon Proposed Congressional Map

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/c7496d04-7b0c-4467-8185-f128877c6154>



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### Map-a-Thon Proposal

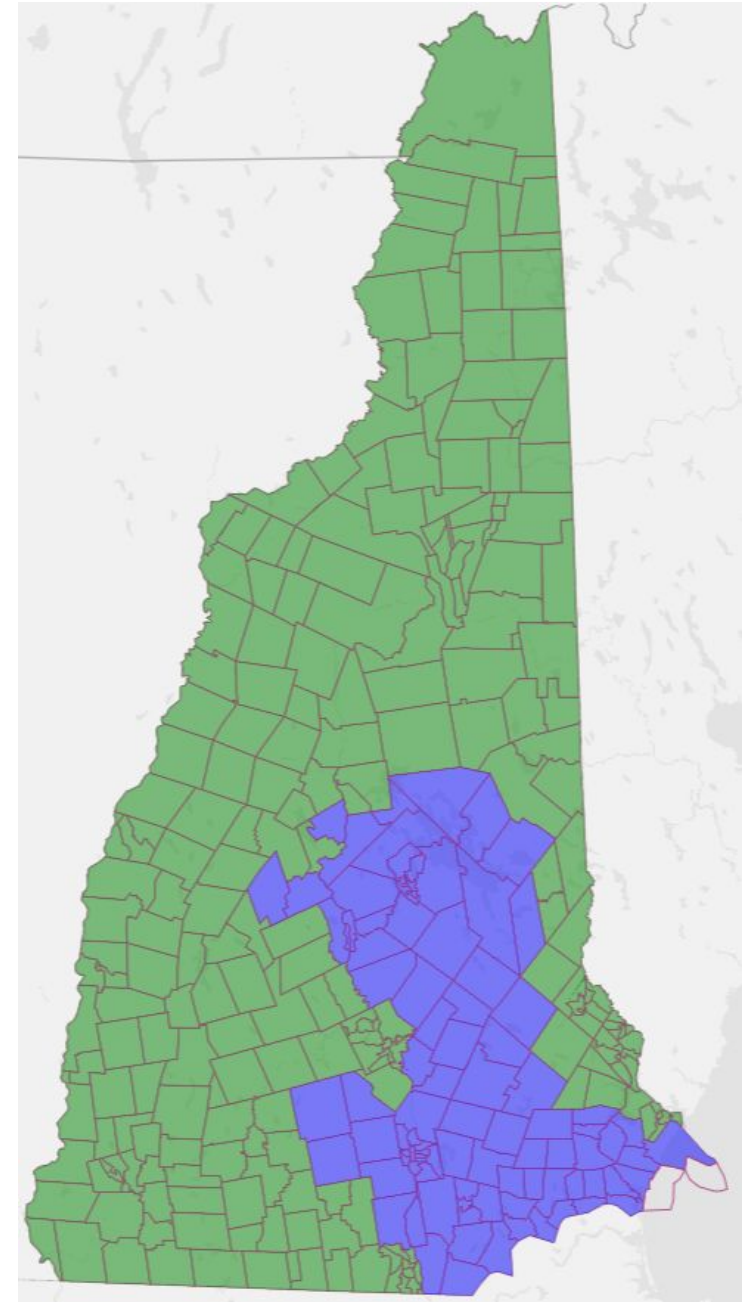
- Visually compact
- Deviation of **43**
- Keeps **9 out of 10** county boundaries intact with only Manchester and Pelham as exceptions
- Violates **only 5 SAU boundaries** (94% intact)
- Moves only **12 towns/wards**
- Very **competitive** districts
- No packing of districts
- **Follows** 140 years of precedent

### Committee Proposal

- Not visually compact
- Deviation of **177**
- Breaks up **6 of 10** counties
- Violates **10 SAU boundaries**
- Moves **75 towns/wards**
- Moves **365,703** people to a new district
- **Uncompetitive** districts
- District 1 packed with Republicans and District 2 packed with Democrats
- **Breaks** 140 years of precedent

## Committee Proposed Congressional Map

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/8b9ccd94-7bf5-4cb6-9cf2-e3cdf2548544>





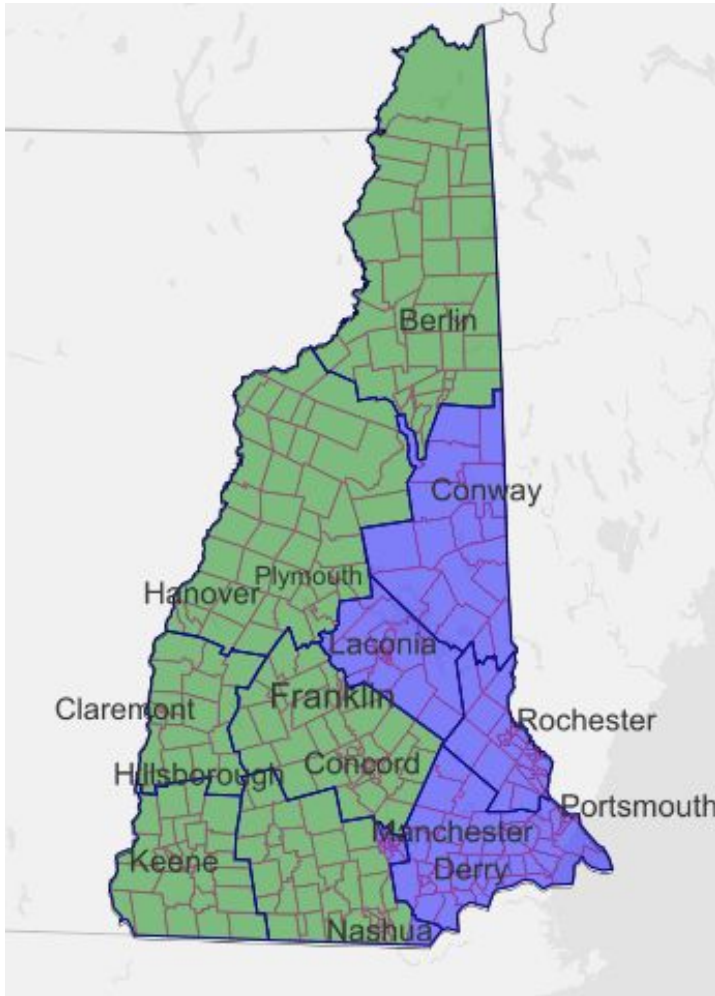
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## Community of Interest Analysis

### Map-a-Thon's Jan. 13, 2022 Congressional District Compromise Map



Included in chart			
Metric Description (percentages)	Result	Metric Description (counts)	Result
Population deviation unused	99.9%		
HS SAUs preserved	94.0%	HS SAUs split	5
Shared water/sewer preserved	90.0%	Shared water/sewer service areas split	2
Shared police and/or fire preserved	100.0%	Shared police and/or fire split	0
Cities SVI>=5 preserved	100.0%	Cities SVI>=5 split	0
Public health regions preserved	69.2%	Public health regions split	4
Regional planning preserved	44.4%	Regional planning split	5
Counties preserved	90.0%	Counties split	1
Towns/wards retained in prior districts	96.3%	Towns/wards NOT retained in prior districts	12
Population retained in prior districts	88.1%	Population NOT retained in prior districts	164496

Additional Information			
Metric Description (percentages)	Result	Metric Description (counts)	Result
		District contiguity (true/false)	TRUE
Towns/wards preserved	100.0%	Towns/wards split	0
Cities preserved	100.0%	Cities split	0
Competitive districts (2020 election)	50.0%	Districts NOT competitive (2020 election)	1

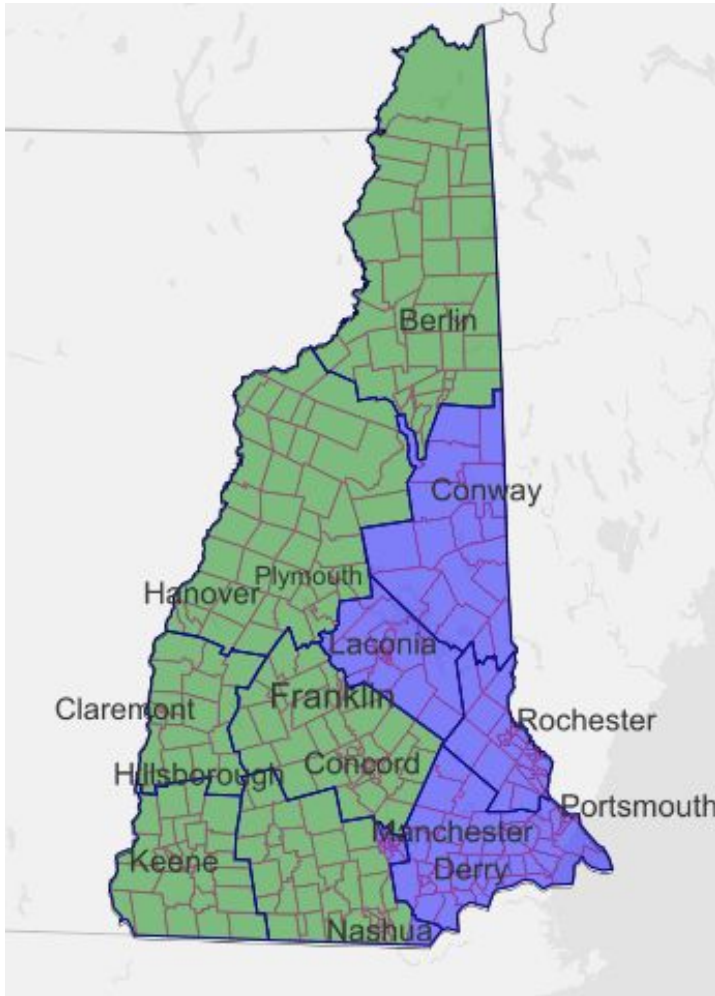
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## Partisan Analysis

### Map-a-Thon's Jan. 13, 2022 Congressional District Compromise Map



	2020 NH Senate Votes		
District	Democrat	Republican	Competitiveness
1	48.2%	51.8%	Competitive
2	51.4%	48.6%	Competitive
<b>Total Vote Share</b>	<b>49.8%</b>	<b>50.2%</b>	
<b>Seats Won</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

	2020 NH Executive Council Votes		
District	Democrat	Republican	Competitiveness
1	46.9%	53.1%	Competitive
2	50.5%	49.5%	Competitive
<b>Total Vote Share</b>	<b>48.7%</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	
<b>Seats Won</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

	2020 U.S. House Votes			
District	Democrat	Republican	Libertarian	Competitiveness
1	50.7%	46.9%	2.4%	Competitive
2	54.6%	43.1%	2.4%	Leans Democrat
<b>Total Vote Share</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	
<b>Seats Won</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

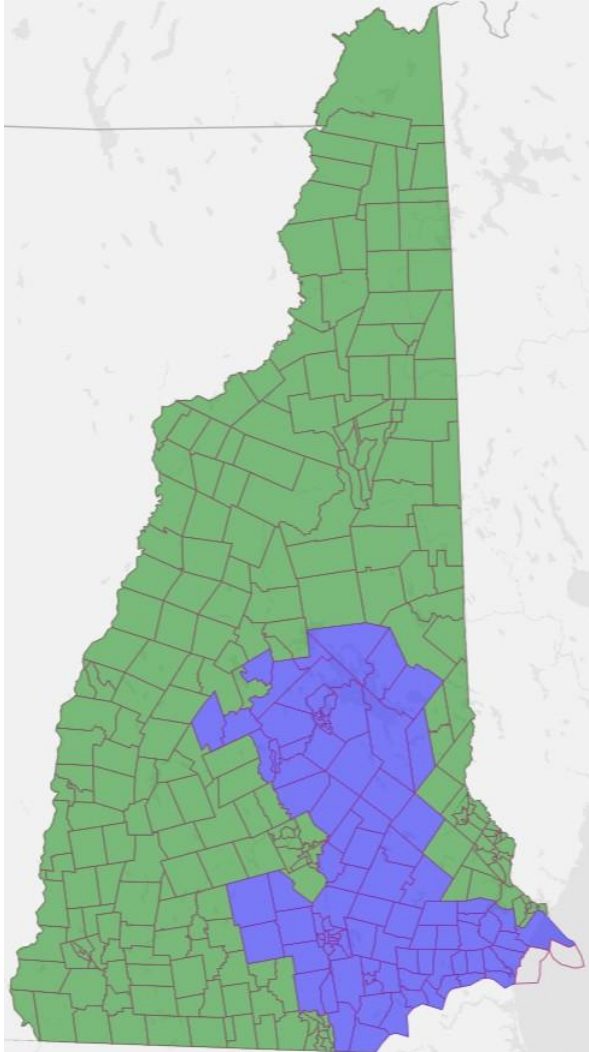


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## Communities of Interest & Partisan Analysis NH House-Approved Congressional District Map



Included in chart			
Metric Description (percentages)	Result	Metric Description (counts)	Result
Population deviation unused	100.0%		
HS SAUs preserved	88.0%	HS SAUs split	10
Shared water/sewer preserved	90.0%	Shared water/sewer service areas split	2
Shared police and/or fire preserved	100.0%	Shared police and/or fire split	0
Cities SVI>=5 preserved	100.0%	Cities SVI>=5 split	0
Public health regions preserved	53.8%	Public health regions split	6
Regional planning preserved	33.3%	Regional planning split	6
Counties preserved	40.0%	Counties split	6
Towns/wards retained in prior districts	75.9%	Towns/wards NOT retained in prior districts	75
Population retained in prior districts	73.5%	Population NOT retained in prior districts	365703

Additional Information			
Metric Description (percentages)	Result	Metric Description (counts)	Result
		District contiguity (true/false)	TRUE
Towns/wards preserved	100.0%	Towns/wards split	0
Cities preserved	100.0%	Cities split	0
Competitive districts (2020 election)	50.0%	Districts NOT competitive (2020 election)	1

District	2020 U.S. House Votes			Competitiveness
	Democrat	Republican	Other	
1	47.9%	49.7%	2.3%	Competitive
2	57.4%	40.1%	2.5%	Leans Democrat
<b>Total Vote Share</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	
<b>Seats Won</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	

## NH Congressional Map Takeaways

- The Committee proposed map is a drastic shift from the current map offering few benefits outside of low population deviation. The boundaries of the districts are not visually compact, in large part due to the long neck that splits Carroll County and connects Portsmouth and Dover to the rest of District 2 (historically, a district that represents the western part of New Hampshire).
- These and other major changes suggest that the map was **drawn with a goal of securing a partisan advantage.**
- The Map-a-thon proposed map satisfies statutory criteria while prioritizing communities of interest and achieving very low deviation (0.01%), a good balance of rural and urban areas, and districts with levels of competitiveness that are similar to the current map.
- It is the responsibility of the legislature to define districts based on principles of equality rather than partisan advantage.
- Several aspects of the proposed districts appear to be **designed for partisan advantage.**



## **NH House Map Analysis, updated with 1/31/22 Amendment [2022-0339s](#)**

- The New Hampshire House Redistricting Committee developed redistricting proposals for the 400-member NH House of Representatives.
- On 16 November 2021, the Committee voted “Ought to Pass” on its proposal, known as HB50.
- The full House voted to pass HB50 on January 5th. To become law, the NH Senate will vote on it soon, and the Governor will then either approve or veto.
- The Map-a-Thon Citizen Mapping Project’s Mapping and Technical Team analyzed the HB50 maps in detail, and also recommends its own redistricting proposals. This document summarizes our analyses with transparency and fairness.
- The Map-a-Thon team produced similar analyses for NH’s Congressional, Senate, and Executive Council redistricting. [[See all the Map-a-Thon Reports](#)]

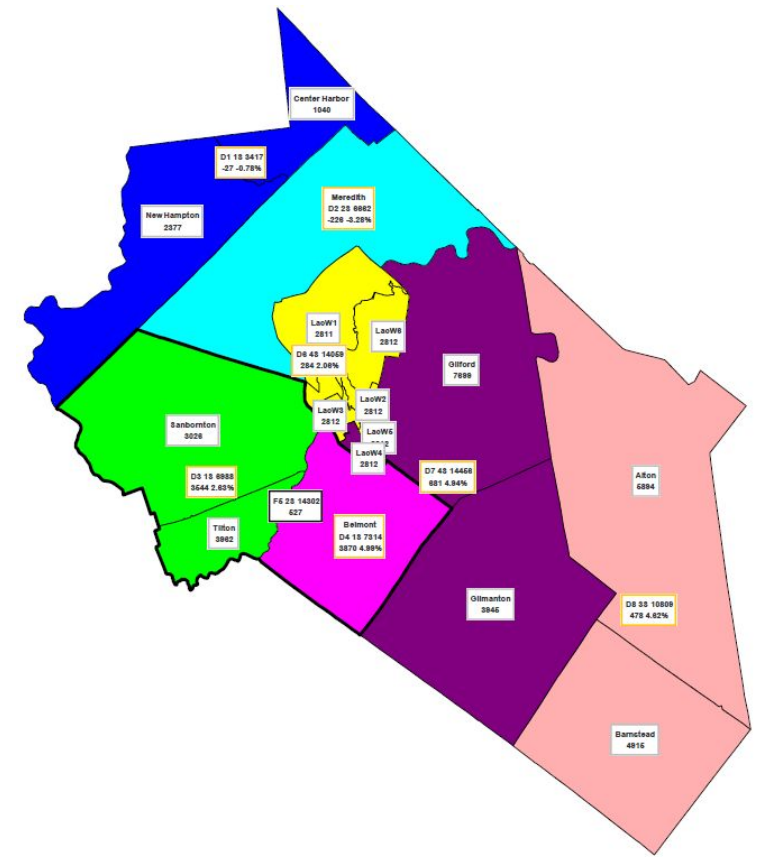
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## Belknap County

Both maps are the same except for one Laconia ward is combined with Gilford and Gilmanton. In our recommendation this leads to 4 competitive seats in Laconia and with the Committee's proposal there are zero competitive seats. This may change when Laconia redraws it's wards.



Belknap County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map
Deviation	-3.28% to 4.99% (8.27%)	-3.28% to 4.99% (8.27%)
# Violations	6	6
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Floterial District	5	5
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	4	4
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	3	3
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	2	2
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	0/14/4	0/18/0

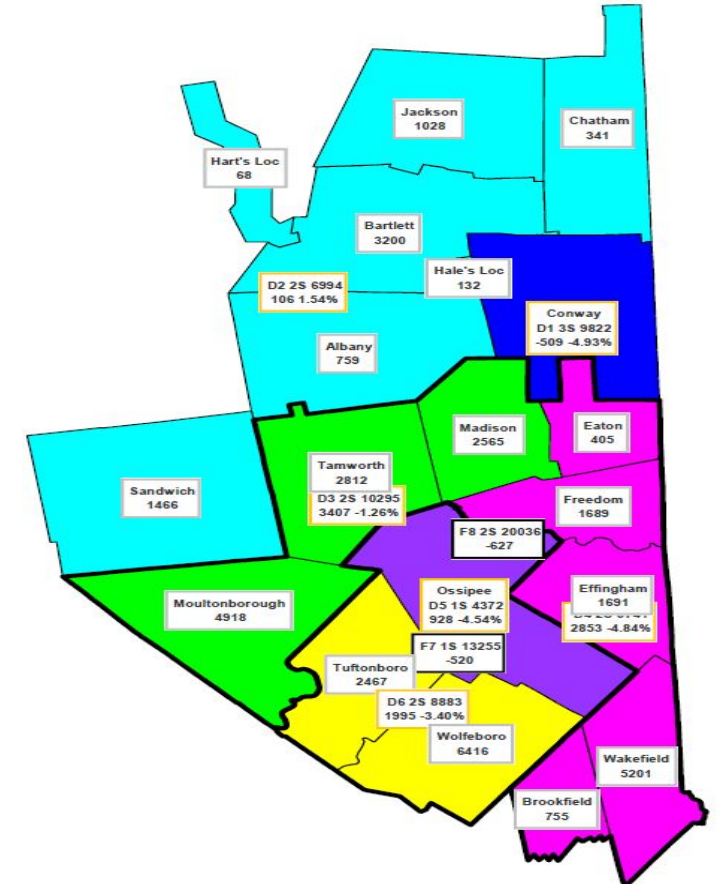
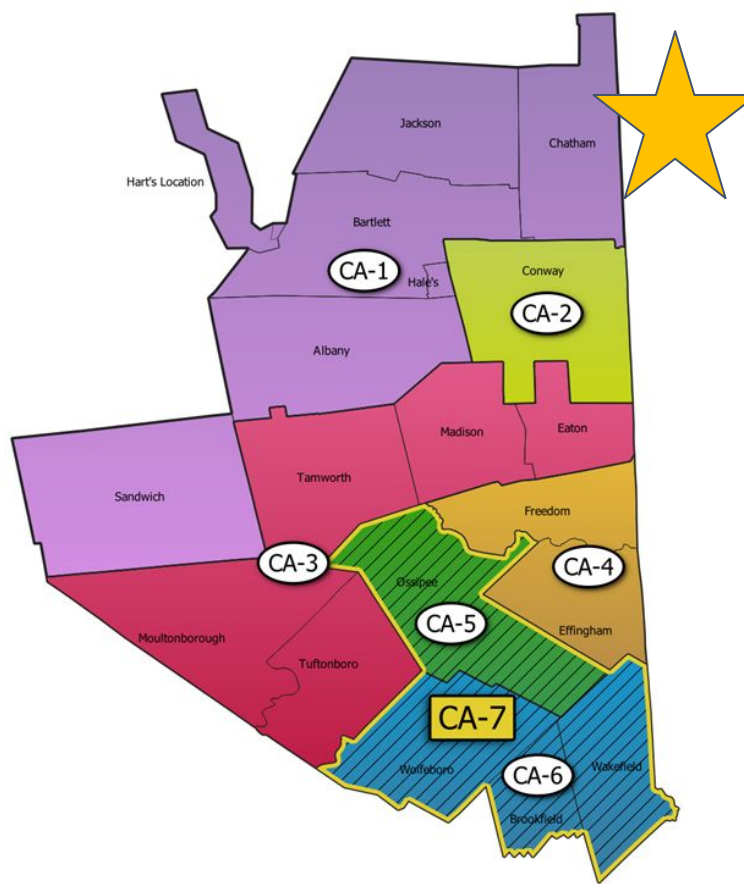
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## Carroll County

Both maps are similar, with Conway and Ossipee getting their own districts, and the district from Sandwich to Chatham being the same. The main difference is that the Committee's map creates a very large floterial district spanning from Moultonborough to Brookfield totalling 8 towns. Map-a-Thon's proposal has a smaller floterial and gives Freedom and Effingham a small district together.



Carroll County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map
Deviation	-4.93% to 1.54% (6.47%)	-4.93% to 1.54% (6.48%)
# Violations	3	3
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Float District	7	7
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	4	3
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	4	8
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	1	2
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	0/10/5	0/10/5



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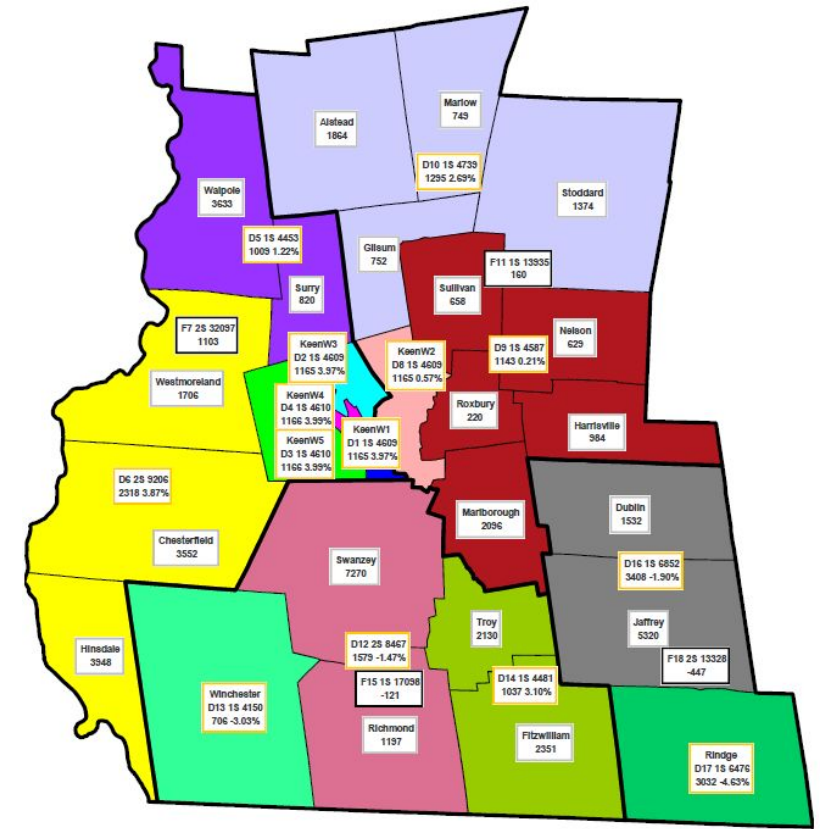
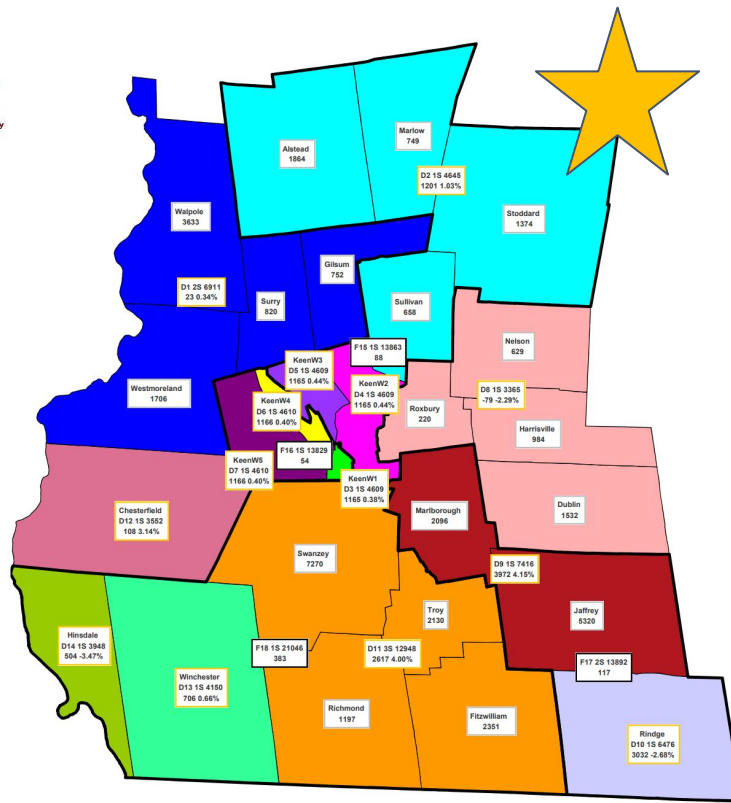
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## Cheshire County

The Committee's map is an improvement on the majority's initial proposal, but does not go as far as Map-a-Thon's recommended map in terms of towns getting their own district if eligible. The committee's map does give Rindge and Winchester their own district, a positive.

Map-a-Thon also separates Hinsdale and Chesterfield to give them their own district.



Cheshire County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map
Deviation	-3.47% to 4.15% (7.62%)	-4.63% to 3.99% (8.62%)
# Violations	3	5
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Floterial District	4	5
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	3	2
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	6	10
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	2	2
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	11/1/10	12/3/7

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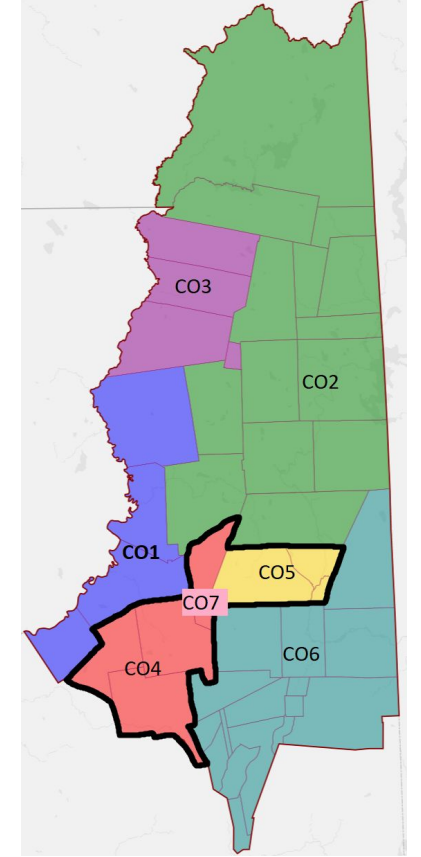
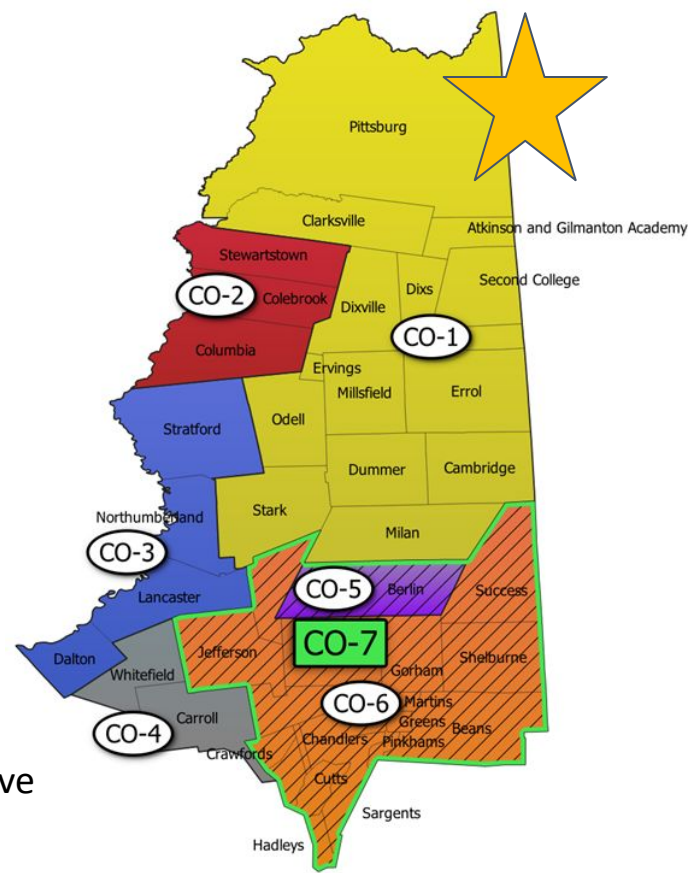


## Coos County

The Senate's Amendment to Coos County is an improvement over the House's final map which did not give Berlin its own district. It does pair Jefferson with Carroll and Whitefield which allows Republicans a better chance to win the floterial seat in Coos.

Map-a-Thon's proposal pairs Jefferson with Randolph, Gorham and Shelburne so that these towns can be paired with Berlin in a floterial which they have more in common with. Whitefield and Carroll are then paired in a small district.

Note: Map-a-Thon's proposal has a floterial with 18 towns but only 5 have populations of over 5 people with most being land grants in the White Mountains.



Coos County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map w/ Senate Amendment
Deviation	-3.89% to 4.80% (8.68%)	-3.95% to 4.80% (8.75%)
# Violations	0	0
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Floterial District	17	17
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	2	2
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	18 (see note above)	5
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	1	1
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	0/5/4	0/5/4



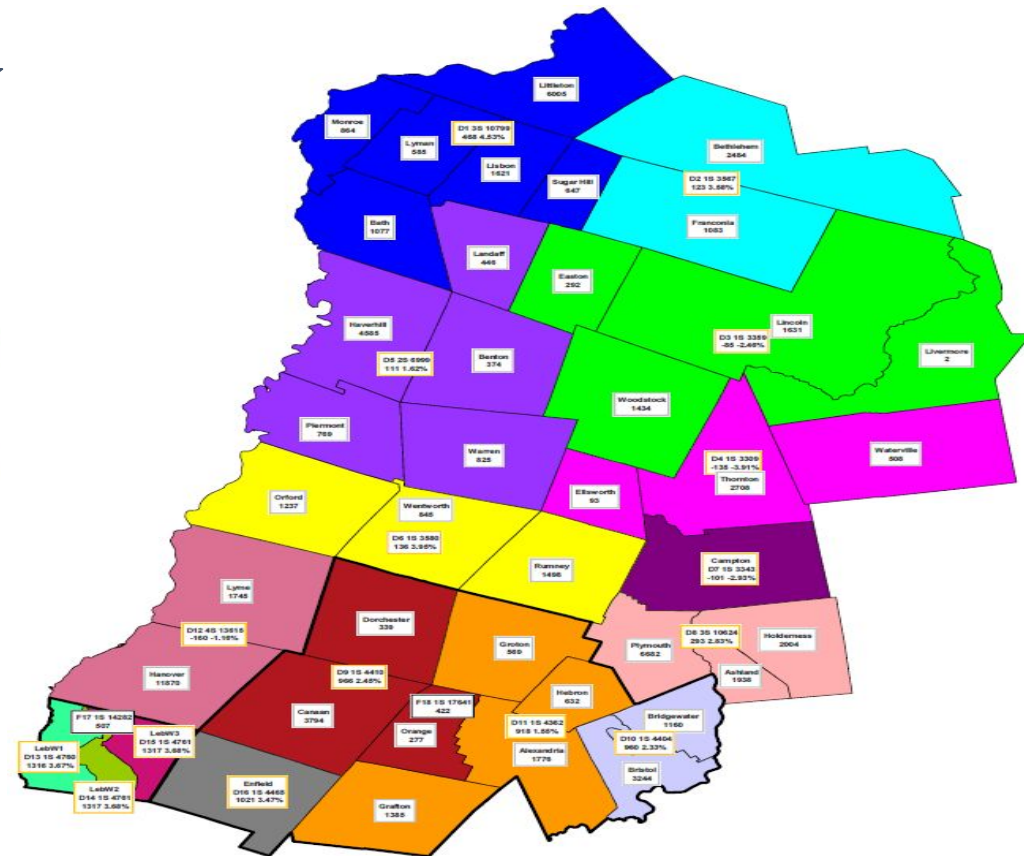
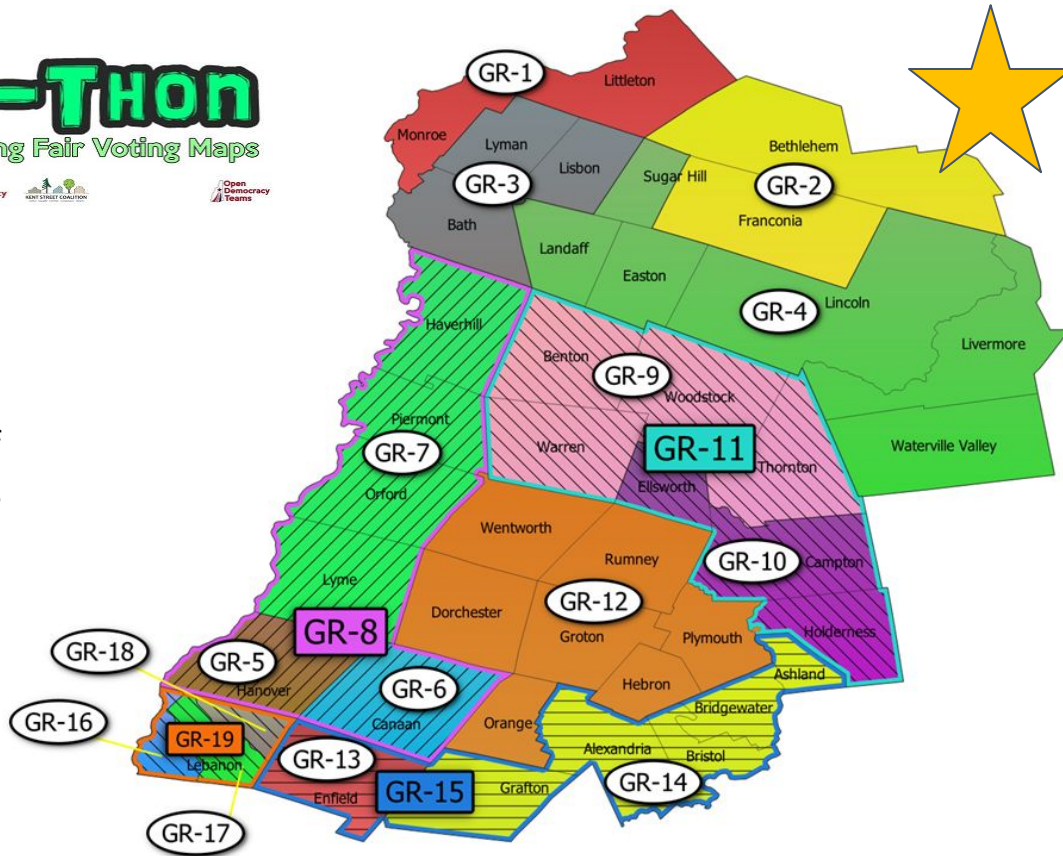
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## Grafton County

The northern section of the Committee's map is reasonable with small compact districts. The southern section is where the committee's map has issues. It does not give Hanover or Canaan their own districts and creates a very large 10-town flotalial district. The committee's map does have a lower deviation, but the Map-a-Thon map is a superior plan.



Grafton County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map
Deviation	-4.87% to 4.99% (9.86% overall)	-3.91% to 4.53% (8.44% overall)
# Violations	3	5
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Flotalial District	6	6
Largest # Reps in a Non-Flotalial District	3	4
# Towns/Wards in Largest Flotalial District	7	10
Largest # Reps in a Flotalial District	7	1
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	12/5/9	13/7/6



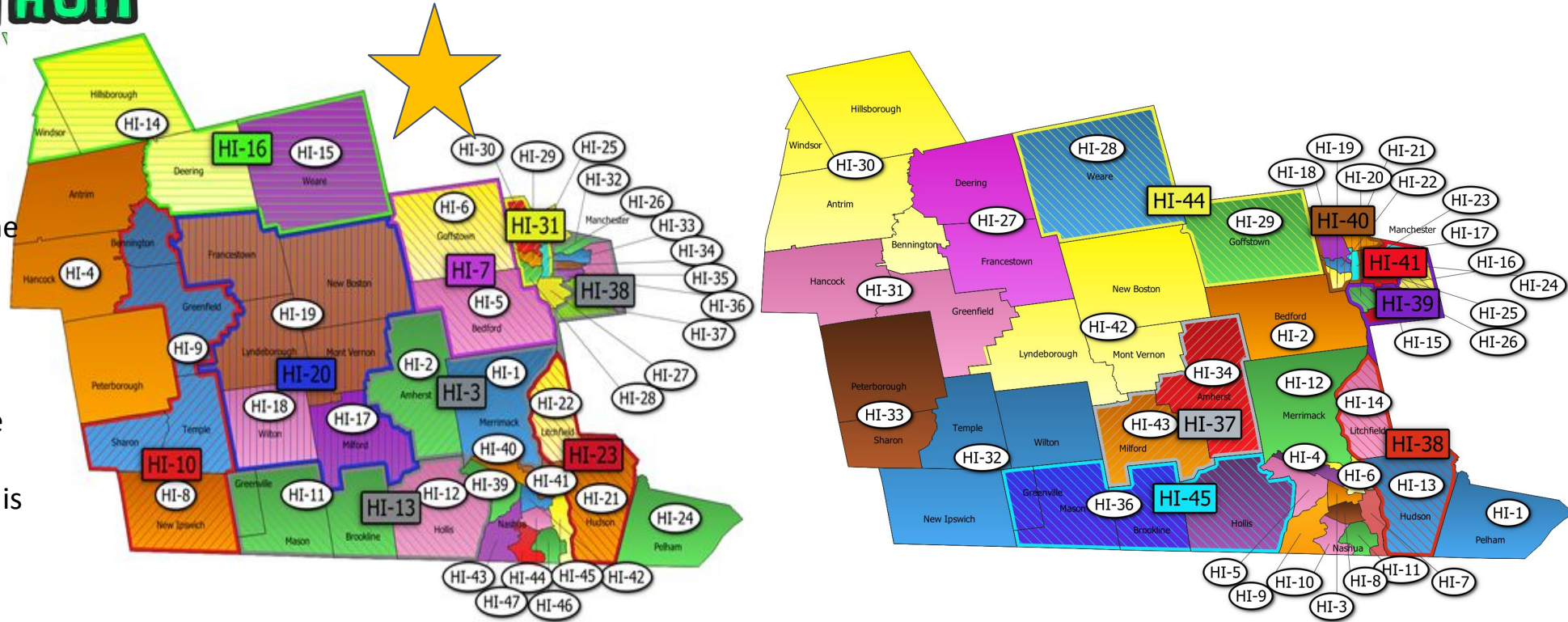
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## Hillsborough County

After Manchester changed their wards, the Senate had to change the proposed map in order to give Manchester one more seat. This realigned some of the rest of the county. Manchester is now aligned to give Republicans a better chance to win 6 seats rather than 4. Weare is now given its own district, which is an improvement, and the Senate amendment does have a lower deviation and smaller floterials.



The Map-a-Thon proposal however has 2 fewer violations, with New Ipswich and Wilton being given their own districts. It also creates 8 more competitive seats than the Committee's Amendment.

Hillsborough County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map w/ Senate Amendment
Deviation	-4.77% to 4.54% (9.31%)	-3.33% to 4.80% (8.13%)
# Violations	4	6
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Floterial District	4	4
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	10	8
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	6	5
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	5	4
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	34/28/61	38/32/53

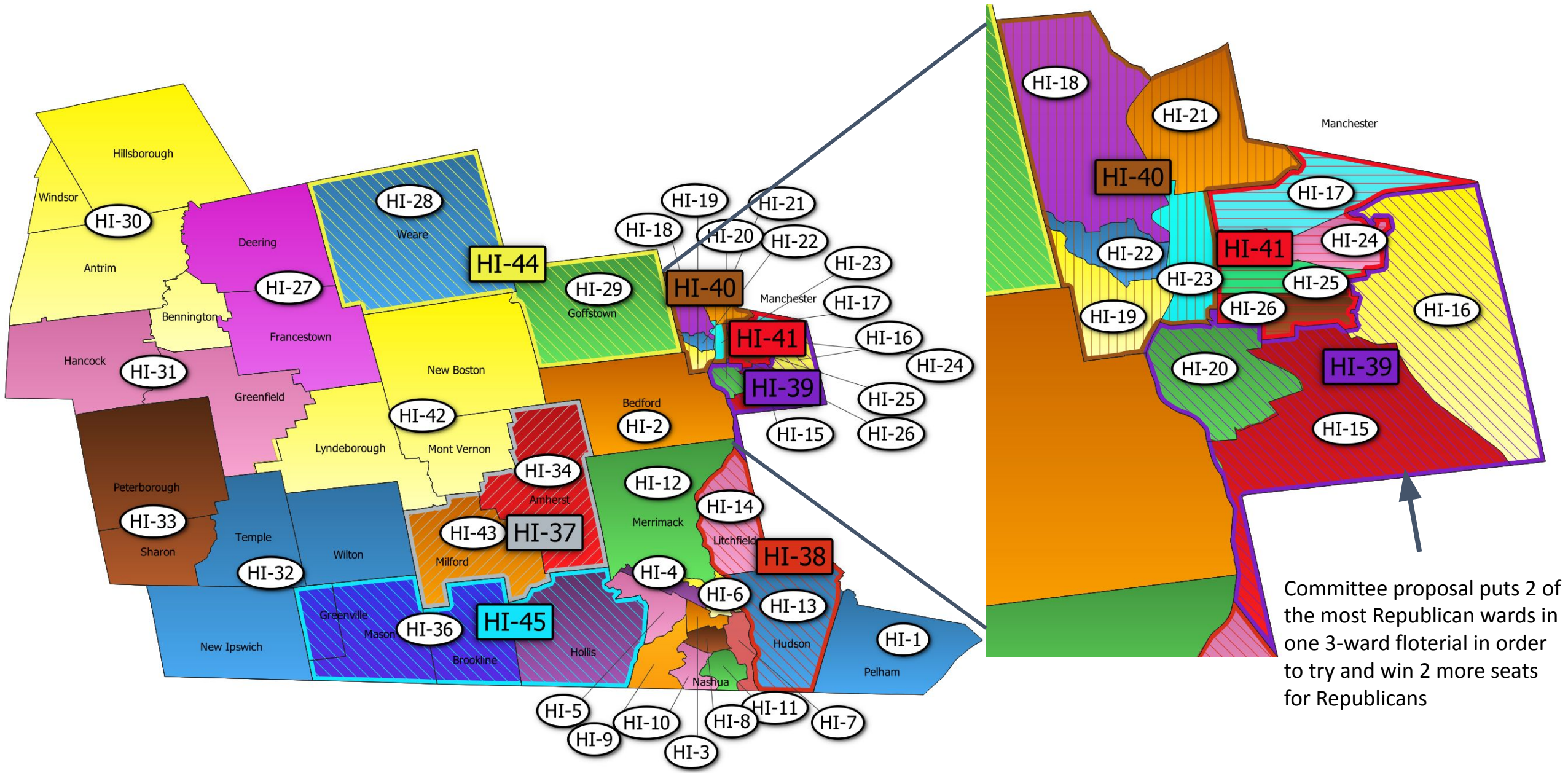


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## Closer Look at the Senate Amendment for Hillsborough



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## Merrimack County

The committee's map has 2 more violations than the Map-a-Thon recommendation. Hooksett and Bow get their own districts under the Map-a-Thon recommendation. The committee's map does have smaller more compact districts in the northwestern part of the county. But, the committee's map combines the Democrat-leaning town of Dunbarton with the Republican-leaning town of Hooksett, thus diluting the Democrat vote in Dunbarton and giving the Republicans an additional Republican leaning seat.

\*These maps do not reflect the amendment's swap of 2 Concord Wards in District 2, but it does not meaningfully affect the deviation.



Merrimack County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map w/ Senate Amendment
Deviation	-4.24% to 4.64% (8.88%)	-4.58% to 4.64% (9.22%)
# Violations	5	7
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Floterial District	4	5
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	3	4
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	7	8
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	2	2
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	13/17/15	17/20/8



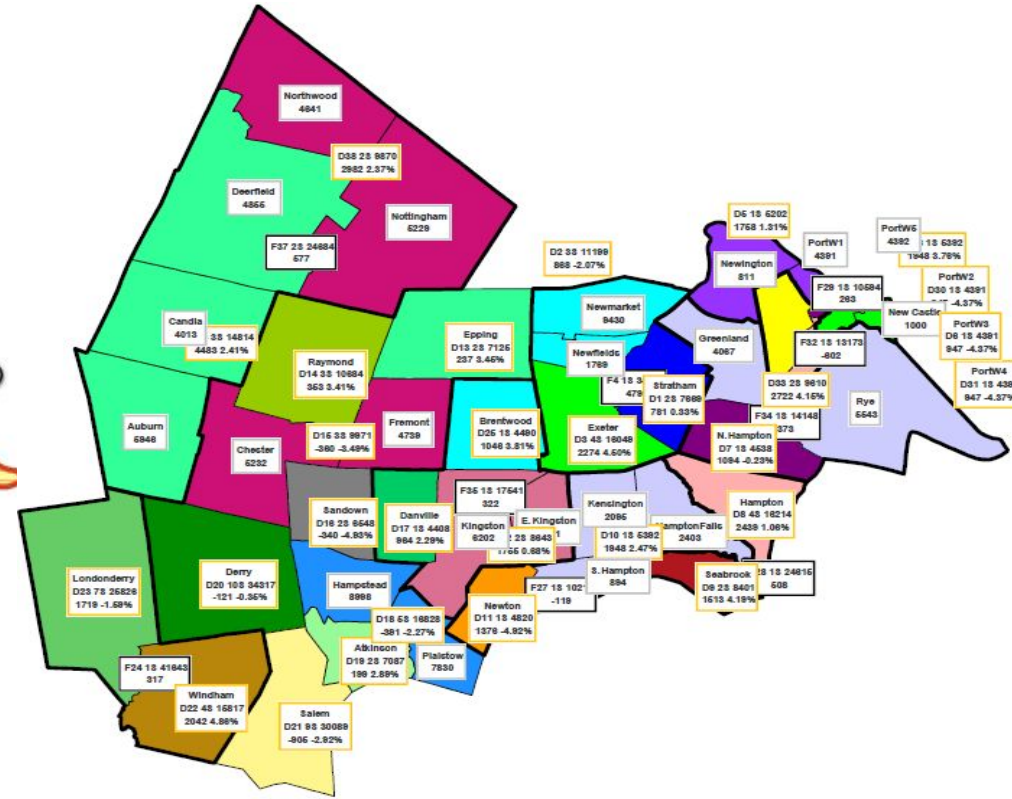
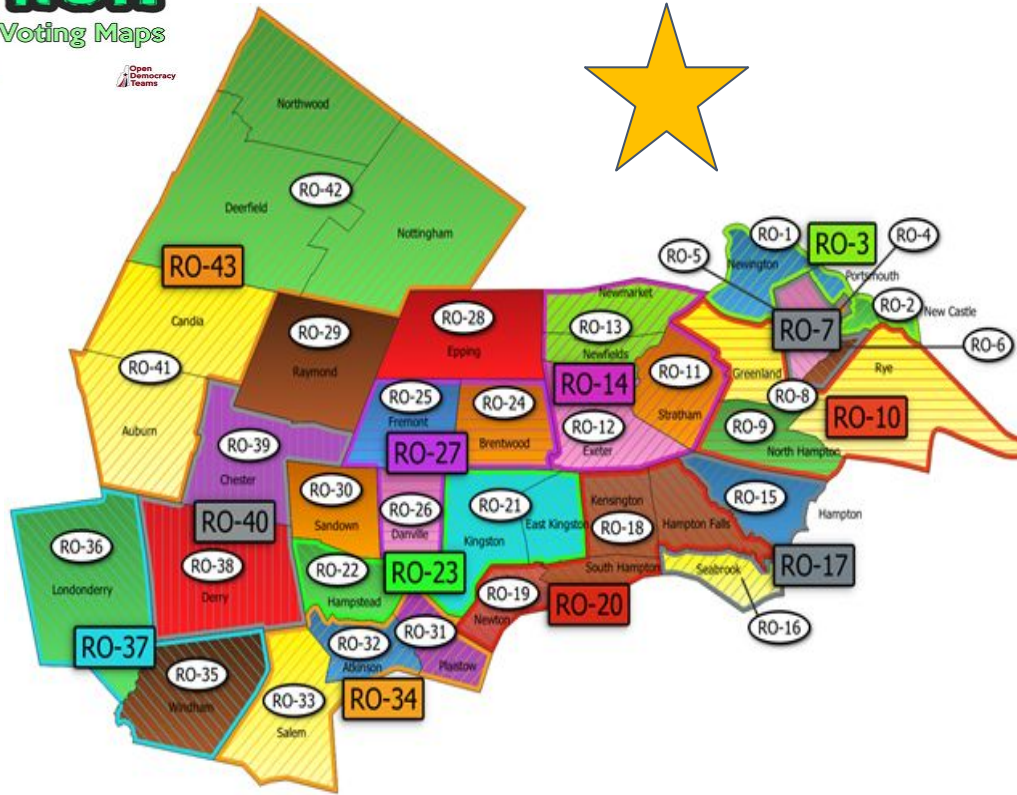
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## Rockingham County

The committee's map has 4 more violations than the Map-a-Thon's recommendation. The eastern part of the map is the same in both but the western section is very different. Chester, Fremont, Hampstead, and Plaistow all get their own districts under the Map-a-Thon recommendation. Deerfield also is put with Northwood and Nottingham, which aligns with testimony from residents of Deerfield at the public hearing.



Rockingham County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map
Deviation	-4.92% to 4.86% (9.78%)	-4.93% to 4.86% (9.80%)
# Violations	10	14
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Floterial District	3	3
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	8	10
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	5	5
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	4	2
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	20/63/8	20/63/8

# Map-a-Thon

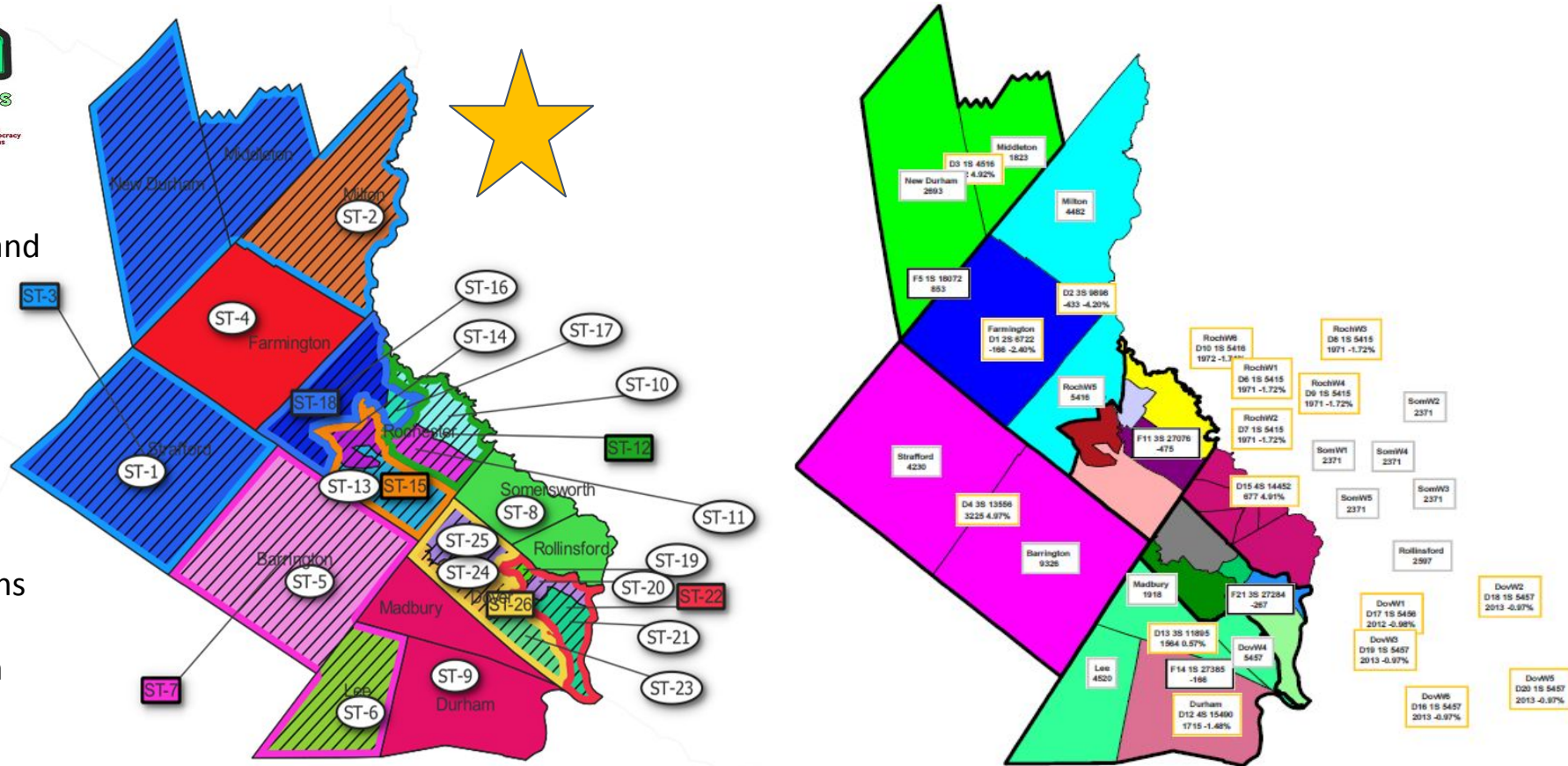
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## Strafford County

The committee's map breaks up both Dover and Rochester while also not giving Milton, Barrington, and Lee their own districts; although it does give Durham its own district. It's likely the district was constructed to help the incumbent win reelection in Barrington. Barrington is a swing town, and thus by combining it with the more Republican Strafford, it trades a fairer map for other towns with giving the Republican rep there a better chance of winning. the committee map has a slightly lower deviation.

Map-a-Thon's recommendation has 4 fewer violations! There is also a way to combine a ward in Rochester with a ward in Dover to decrease the deviations and allow for more wiggle room with new ward lines.



Strafford County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation	HB50 Map
Deviation	-4.94% to 4.91% (9.85%)	-4.20% to 4.97% (9.16%)
# Violations	3	7
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Float District	6	6
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	5	4
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	4	5
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	2	3
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	20/7/11	20/8/10



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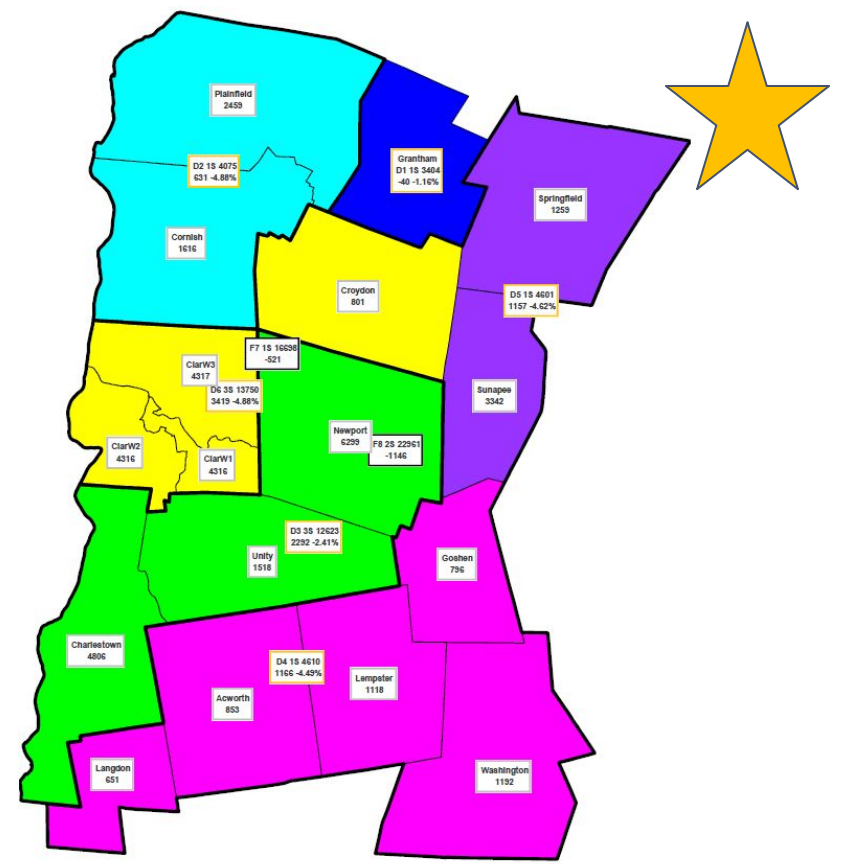
## Sullivan County

Map-a-Thon is recommending the same map as the Committee. Sullivan County is very difficult to map with the current population numbers and although this map has issues, it is the best map available with +/- 5% deviation.

While we concur with the committee on this map, its construction raises best practice concerns. The Claremont & Croydon district (yellow) is *technically*, although not *practically*, contiguous.

Even more questionable is the floterial district encompassing Grantham & Plainfield (light blue) and the towns of Charlestown, Unity and Newport (green), crisscrossing between Claremont and Croydon.

Widening of the allowed deviation would likely prevent the need for these radical solutions.



Sullivan County	Map-a-Thon Recommendation / HB50 Map
Deviation	-4.88% to -1.16% (3.73%)
# Violations	3
# Towns/Wards in Largest Non-Float District	5
Largest # Reps in a Non-Floterial District	3
# Towns/Wards in Largest Floterial District	11
Largest # Reps in a Floterial District	2
Partisan Lean of Seats (Lean Dem/Lean Rep/Competitive)	2/6/5



## Predicted Partisan Lean for Proposed NH House Maps

Comparison of **predicted** two-party vote share by county and seats, *using the average of the 2020 NH Executive Council and NH Senate elections' two-party vote share*, which totaled **49.3% Democrat** and **50.7% Republican** for the state.

The averaged two-party vote share is calculated for each district based on its constituent town(s)/ward(s). All seats in the district are assigned '**Lean Dem**', '**Lean Rep**', or 'Competitive' depending on whether the predicted Democrat vote share is >55%, the predicted Republican vote share is >55%, or neither party is predicted >55% vote share.

**Map-a-Thon Proposed Maps**

County	Total Number of Seats	Averaged 2020 EC & NH Senate Elections		Partisan Lean Proposed NH House Seats					
		Dem (% of votes)	Rep (% of votes)	Lean Dem (# seats)	Lean Dem (% seats)	Lean Rep (# seats)	Lean Rep (% seats)	Competitive (# seats)	Competitive (% seats)
		Belknap	18	39.6%	60.4%	0	0.0%	14	77.8%
Carroll	15	39.6%	60.4%	0	0.0%	10	66.7%	5	33.3%
Cheshire	22	56.2%	43.8%	11	50.0%	1	4.5%	10	45.5%
Coos	9	41.5%	58.5%	0	0.0%	5	55.6%	4	44.4%
Grafton	26	57.7%	42.3%	12	46.2%	5	19.2%	9	34.6%
Hillsborough	123	49.7%	50.3%	34	27.6%	28	22.8%	61	49.6%
Merrimack	45	50.4%	49.6%	13	28.9%	17	37.8%	15	33.3%
Rockingham	91	46.5%	53.5%	20	22.0%	63	69.2%	8	8.8%
Strafford	38	53.8%	46.2%	20	52.6%	7	18.4%	11	28.9%
Sullivan	13	47.2%	52.8%	2	15.4%	6	46.2%	5	38.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>			<b>112</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>39.0%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>33.0%</b>

That's 25% more competitive seats than the Committee's maps!

**House Committee Maps (HB50) with Senate Amendment**

County	Total Number of Seats	Averaged 2020 EC & NH Senate Elections		Partisan Lean Proposed NH House Seats					
		Dem (% of votes)	Rep (% of votes)	Lean Dem (# seats)	Lean Dem (% seats)	Lean Rep (# seats)	Lean Rep (% seats)	Competitive (# seats)	Competitive (% seats)
		Belknap	18	39.3%	60.7%	0	0.0%	18	100.0%
Carroll	15	39.5%	60.5%	0	0.0%	10	66.7%	5	33.3%
Cheshire	22	56.2%	43.8%	12	54.5%	3	13.6%	7	31.8%
Coos	9	43.0%	57.0%	0	0.0%	5	55.6%	4	44.4%
Grafton	26	57.9%	42.1%	13	50.0%	7	26.9%	6	23.1%
Hillsborough	123	49.6%	50.4%	38	30.9%	32	26.0%	53	43.1%
Merrimack	45	50.2%	49.8%	17	37.8%	20	44.4%	8	17.8%
Rockingham	91	47.9%	52.1%	20	22.0%	63	69.2%	8	8.8%
Strafford	38	55.5%	44.5%	20	52.6%	8	21.1%	10	26.3%
Sullivan	13	46.3%	53.7%	2	15.4%	6	46.2%	5	38.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>			<b>122</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>43.0%</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>26.5%</b>

Committee's maps yield a **lower number of predicted competitive seats** than the Map-a-Thon proposed maps

# Map-a-Thon

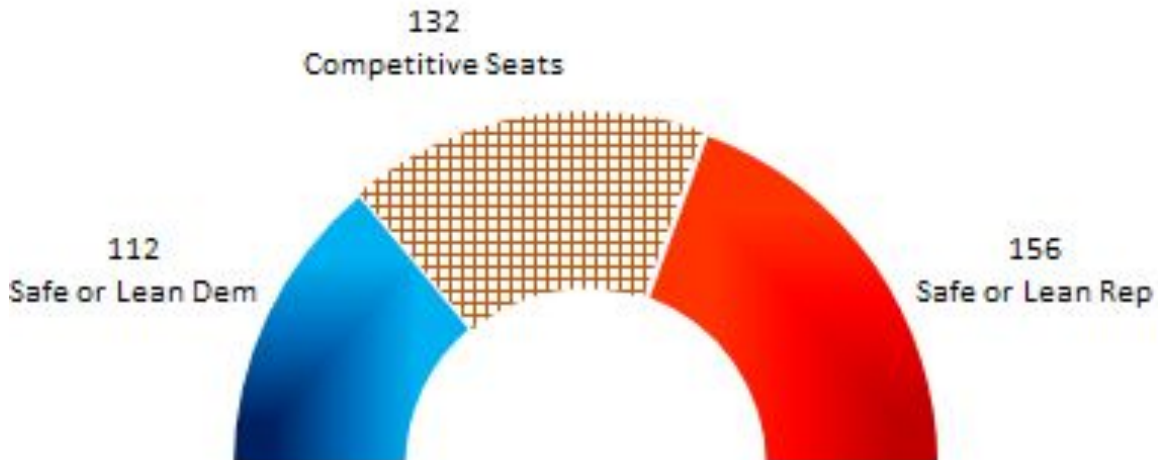
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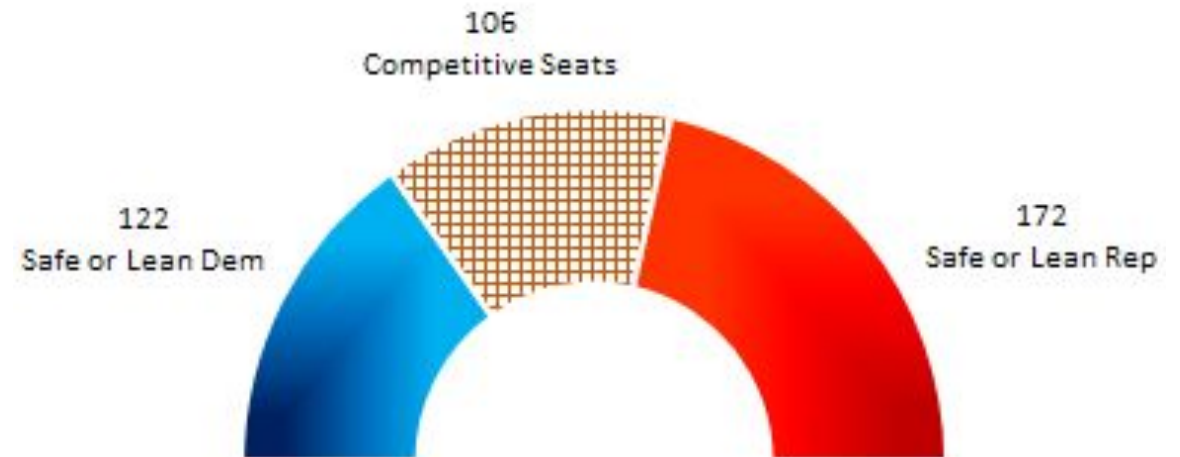
We estimate that **106** of the 400 NH House seats are competitive in the committee proposal, while **132** are competitive in Map-a-Thon's recommendation.

Generally, more competitiveness is better, as it leads to more accountability between representatives and their constituents via competitive general elections. While the nature of local population patterns can lead to districts with an innate partisan lean, the Committee proposal renders *more seats uncompetitive* compared to the Map-a-Thon proposal, while also having more cases where constitutionally-eligible towns and wards have been *denied dedicated representation*.

## House Seat Competitiveness - Map-a-Thon



## House Seat Competitiveness - HB50 with Senate amendment



# Map-a-Thon

Granite Staters Drawing Fair Voting Maps



## Number of Violations Summary, HB 50, with Amendment 2022-0339s

County	# of Violations	
	Map-a-Thon Recommended Maps	HB50 Maps
Belknap	6	6
Carroll	3	3
Cheshire	3	5
Coos	0	0
Grafton	3	5
Hillsborough	4	6
Merrimack	5	7
Rockingham	10	14
Strafford	3	7
Sullivan	3	3
Total	40	56
		16 more violations in HB50 Maps

That's 40% more violations than necessary!

**Violation** A town that has a population over 3,444 and is eligible for its own district that does not have its own district in the corresponding map. We count one violation per town/city and not by individual wards.



## General NH House Map Takeaways

- Defining NH House district boundaries is a complex process due to Constitutional and court rules, as well as the legislature's self-imposed constraints.
- The NH State Constitution requires that "When the population of any town or ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population for one or more representative seats, the town or ward shall have its own district of one or more representative seats." However, this requirement can conflict with another constitutional requirement to distribute representation equally across the population.
- Constraints aside, the House & Senate committees chose not to maximize the number of eligible towns receiving dedicated House seats. Often choosing partisan advantage over the NH Constitution's guarantee, 56 towns were denied dedicated seats, vs. M-A-T demonstrated 40.
- The *accepted* deviation of -5% to +5% of the 3,444 "ideal population" per NH House seat could be widened with permission, allowing more eligible towns to receive dedicated districts as intended by the NH Constitution.
- It is the responsibility of the legislature to define districts based on principles of equality rather than partisan advantage. **Several aspects of the current proposed districts appear to be designed for partisan advantage.**

# Map-a-Thon

Granite Staters Drawing Fair Voting Maps



## Summary of NH House District Findings by County

**Belknap:** Did not change with the amendment. Several towns are large enough for dedicated House districts, but didn't get them. The committee maps one ward with Laconia which is \*barely\* contiguous with Guilford - certainly not best practice. The Map-a-Thon's map offer four more competitive districts than the proposed maps.

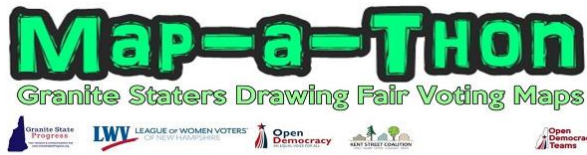
**Carroll:** Did not change with the amendment; Both maps are similar, with Conway and Ossipee getting their own districts, and the district from Sandwich to Chatham being the same. The main difference is that the Committee's map creates a very large floterial district spanning from Moultonborough to Brookfield totalling 8 towns. Map-a-Thon's proposal has a smaller floterial and gives Freedom and Effingham a small district together.

**Cheshire:** Did not change with the amendment. The Committee's map is an improvement on the majority's initial proposal, but does not go as far as Map-a-Thon's recommended map in terms of towns getting their own district if eligible. The committee's map does give Rindge and Winchester their own district, a positive.

**Coos:** The amendment restored Berlin's dedicated House seat, and attached Kilkenny to another distinct. Both maps are similar, except the Map-a-Thon's recommended map give Carroll and Whitefield a single district while putting towns with more in common with Berlin in a floterial with Berlin.

**Grafton:** Did not change with the amendment The northern section of the Committee's map is reasonable with small compact districts. The southern section is where the committee's map has issues. It does not give Hanover or Canaan their own districts and creates a very large 10-town floterial district. The committee's map does have a lower deviation, but the Map-a-Thon map is a superior plan

**Hillsborough-** The amendment gives Manchester one additional representative to increase it from 32 to 33. However, Manchester's deviation would allow for as many as 36. Because Manchester updated its wards, the Senate had to realigned some of the rest of the county. Manchester is now aligned to give Republicans a better chance to win 6 seats rather than 4. Weare is now given its own district, which is an improvement, and the Senate amendment does have a lower deviation and smaller floterials.



# Summary of NH House District Findings by County

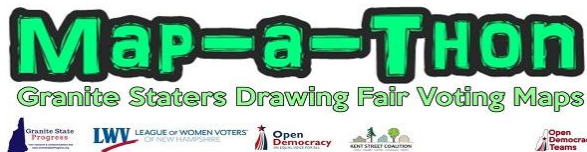
**Merrimack** - One minor change in amendment, swapping Ward 4 to ME-29, Ward 8 to ME-30 in Concord. The committee's map has 2 more violations than the Map-a-Thon recommendation. Hooksett and Bow get their own districts under the Map-a-Thon recommendation. The committee's map does have smaller more compact districts in the northwestern part of the county. But, the committee's map combines the Democrat-leaning town of Dunbarton with the Republican-leaning town of Hooksett, thus diluting the Democrat vote in Dunbarton and giving the Republicans an additional Republican leaning seat

**Rockingham** - Did not change with the amendment. The committee's map has 4 more violations than the Map-a-Thon's recommendation. The eastern part of the map is the same in both but the western section is very different. Chester, Fremont, Hampstead, and Plaistow all get their own districts under the Map-a-Thon recommendation. Deerfield also is put with Northwood and Nottingham, which aligns with testimony from residents of Deerfield at the public hearing.

**Strafford** - Did not change with the amendment. The committee's map breaks up both Dover and Rochester while also not giving Milton, Barrington, and Lee their own districts; although it does give Durham its own district. It's likely the district was constructed to help the incumbent win reelection in Barrington. Barrington is a swing town, and thus by combining it with the more Republican Strafford, it trades a fairer map for other towns with giving the Republican rep there a better chance of winning. The committee map has a slightly lower deviation.

**Sullivan** - Did not change with the amendment. Map-a-Thon is recommending the same map as the Committee. Sullivan County is very difficult to map with the current population numbers and although this map has issues, it is the best map available with +/- 5% deviation. While we reluctantly concur with the committee on this map, its construction raises best practice concerns. The Claremont & Croydon district is *technically*, although not *practically*, contiguous. Even more questionable is the floterial district encompassing Grantham & Plainfield (light blue) and the towns of Charlestown, Unity and Newport (green), crisscrossing between Claremont and Croydon.





## Map-a-Thon Proposed Maps

Links to all maps in Dave's Redistricting (DRA) nationally-recognized, freely accessible mapping platform

County	Non-floterial Map	Floterial Map
Belknap	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/c55b8d28-9002-435f-8ea9-40ceaf18c04b">https://davesredistricting.org/join/c55b8d28-9002-435f-8ea9-40ceaf18c04b</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/c87b727e-dbdb-44e7-8f58-c08822c1d1b2">https://davesredistricting.org/join/c87b727e-dbdb-44e7-8f58-c08822c1d1b2</a>
Carroll	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/15f6618d-f8c7-41d9-85a6-56cf08d482d2">https://davesredistricting.org/join/15f6618d-f8c7-41d9-85a6-56cf08d482d2</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/d1dc49d7-7f4e-4be5-adfa-d765c730ee64">https://davesredistricting.org/join/d1dc49d7-7f4e-4be5-adfa-d765c730ee64</a>
Cheshire	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/e66e58d6-3ab2-4e19-82ef-1a4dd9eea72a">https://davesredistricting.org/join/e66e58d6-3ab2-4e19-82ef-1a4dd9eea72a</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/eb960d67-e81a-46f8-a031-e9e809beb71c">https://davesredistricting.org/join/eb960d67-e81a-46f8-a031-e9e809beb71c</a>
Coos	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/9bdc010c-9211-4da8-8c31-a4f47695f528">https://davesredistricting.org/join/9bdc010c-9211-4da8-8c31-a4f47695f528</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/9667b894-021a-46bd-bebf-2e34ffd0404a">https://davesredistricting.org/join/9667b894-021a-46bd-bebf-2e34ffd0404a</a>
Grafton	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/fc01e1ed-4bcd-4664-8eff-02c39045a57c">https://davesredistricting.org/join/fc01e1ed-4bcd-4664-8eff-02c39045a57c</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/cb2db4a0-5dd1-45c5-93c5-25849acbd4b">https://davesredistricting.org/join/cb2db4a0-5dd1-45c5-93c5-25849acbd4b</a>
Hillsborough	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/ce84e3be-8bd5-45e9-b5c2-f0471c09af58">https://davesredistricting.org/join/ce84e3be-8bd5-45e9-b5c2-f0471c09af58</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/67d8aa40-07f1-4e09-b316-1dd11b9e9e90">https://davesredistricting.org/join/67d8aa40-07f1-4e09-b316-1dd11b9e9e90</a>
Merrimack	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/da1f3af3-05dc-446d-bdf4-0faf0d333be7">https://davesredistricting.org/join/da1f3af3-05dc-446d-bdf4-0faf0d333be7</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/fb79e594-e214-4b84-a06f-3cfb76cb22eb">https://davesredistricting.org/join/fb79e594-e214-4b84-a06f-3cfb76cb22eb</a>
Rockingham	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/91db89cc-872f-449d-bb52-b0bc45476fc9">https://davesredistricting.org/join/91db89cc-872f-449d-bb52-b0bc45476fc9</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/2bec5a67-2c8a-4a2a-a170-242c27e646ba">https://davesredistricting.org/join/2bec5a67-2c8a-4a2a-a170-242c27e646ba</a>
Strafford	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/b39e6f9e-fe24-4ebf-99cc-408cd8a8f02a">https://davesredistricting.org/join/b39e6f9e-fe24-4ebf-99cc-408cd8a8f02a</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/5536f565-ef3e-40f6-8dce-0d540daab858">https://davesredistricting.org/join/5536f565-ef3e-40f6-8dce-0d540daab858</a>
Sullivan	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/52b1aec9-25b6-452c-9cd8-95c7b80f7cad">https://davesredistricting.org/join/52b1aec9-25b6-452c-9cd8-95c7b80f7cad</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/225f0ed9-333f-4f1a-9664-5e497b2b63a1">https://davesredistricting.org/join/225f0ed9-333f-4f1a-9664-5e497b2b63a1</a>

# Map-a-Thon

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## NH House HB50 Maps with Senate Amendments (Coos and Hillsborough)

Links to all maps in Dave's Redistricting (DRA) nationally-recognized, freely accessible mapping platform

County	Non-floterial Map	Floterial Map
Belknap	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/ff7318f9-efe7-480f-b993-f73bab93bea6">https://davesredistricting.org/join/ff7318f9-efe7-480f-b993-f73bab93bea6</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/fd72905c-d85f-4c1e-86d8-5bd9ce6b2d62">https://davesredistricting.org/join/fd72905c-d85f-4c1e-86d8-5bd9ce6b2d62</a>
Carroll	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/dac0766e-a0ac-46ef-af23-9ab79a7cf475">https://davesredistricting.org/join/dac0766e-a0ac-46ef-af23-9ab79a7cf475</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/b663b1c9-8ecd-457b-b181-2316804c1105">https://davesredistricting.org/join/b663b1c9-8ecd-457b-b181-2316804c1105</a>
Cheshire	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/f5880396-309a-4f1b-85eb-420e88c0c0af">https://davesredistricting.org/join/f5880396-309a-4f1b-85eb-420e88c0c0af</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/18e07c1e-8b71-4557-bb1e-2f6ee2a6d39a">https://davesredistricting.org/join/18e07c1e-8b71-4557-bb1e-2f6ee2a6d39a</a>
Coos	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/be184cce-4a25-4e88-96b1-a1eda44e0ad7">https://davesredistricting.org/join/be184cce-4a25-4e88-96b1-a1eda44e0ad7</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/9c1e6cf2-f9a0-4393-9f25-7fb8c5991fb9">https://davesredistricting.org/join/9c1e6cf2-f9a0-4393-9f25-7fb8c5991fb9</a>
Grafton	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/a5da803e-0b0b-449f-89b1-53637b19ed24">https://davesredistricting.org/join/a5da803e-0b0b-449f-89b1-53637b19ed24</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/321e94bc-445d-4b5b-a8ed-d836b6c15ea8">https://davesredistricting.org/join/321e94bc-445d-4b5b-a8ed-d836b6c15ea8</a>
Hillsborough	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/77791b49-b484-48b5-9aa2-634b0912e037">https://davesredistricting.org/join/77791b49-b484-48b5-9aa2-634b0912e037</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/660640c5-3ff4-4575-9df2-308a660bc6e7">https://davesredistricting.org/join/660640c5-3ff4-4575-9df2-308a660bc6e7</a>
Merrimack	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/a6981844-ae5d-4d9a-a15b-856d992eeb36">https://davesredistricting.org/join/a6981844-ae5d-4d9a-a15b-856d992eeb36</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/24e3442c-bf07-4951-ad10-73d4de2ba24a">https://davesredistricting.org/join/24e3442c-bf07-4951-ad10-73d4de2ba24a</a>
Rockingham	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/1ad29e58-722b-46d5-bbe8-c3a2de8fe5fd">https://davesredistricting.org/join/1ad29e58-722b-46d5-bbe8-c3a2de8fe5fd</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/ad26f10-7d77-431c-90fe-9c740605caed">https://davesredistricting.org/join/ad26f10-7d77-431c-90fe-9c740605caed</a>
Strafford	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/9a8946d4-50ff-4a86-a7b6-3cb8b26b1bc6">https://davesredistricting.org/join/9a8946d4-50ff-4a86-a7b6-3cb8b26b1bc6</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/7593454e-3fe7-452d-9685-6cc0a61aa868">https://davesredistricting.org/join/7593454e-3fe7-452d-9685-6cc0a61aa868</a>
Sullivan	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/4c64cad4-2fdc-4a2f-8bad-ac54176d9edf">https://davesredistricting.org/join/4c64cad4-2fdc-4a2f-8bad-ac54176d9edf</a>	<a href="https://davesredistricting.org/join/05320cad-66ed-4ff8-a4e5-9aea6a750782">https://davesredistricting.org/join/05320cad-66ed-4ff8-a4e5-9aea6a750782</a>

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why can't a redistricting satisfy all of the legal and other requirements?** It's a balancing act, since the objectives are not fully compatible with each other; for example, creating districts that both respect town and ward lines, and contain an equal number of residents.
- **Why are competitive districts better than ones with a predicted partisan lean?** In a competitive district, candidates must appeal to voters of both (or all) political parties, including independents. In districts with a clear partisan lean, candidates need only appeal to voters of their own party, as determined in the party primary elections.



## Actions You Can Take

- The NH House Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee has a hearing on Monday, January 31, 1-4 pm at the NH State House. There may be additional amendments to the NH House maps. We are expecting an amendment to the Congressional map shortly, and there may be an additional hearing on the amendment.
- You may write or submit testimony to the committee using [this email link](#).
- We also suggest contacting and/or sending your testimony to your own NH Senator: [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/members/senate\\_roster.aspx](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/members/senate_roster.aspx)
- Contact your House representatives <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/> who may see these bills a second time if amended by the Senate.

# Map-a-Thon

Granite Staters Drawing Fair Voting Maps



About the Map-a-Thon:

[https://www.opendemocracynh.org/nh\\_map\\_a\\_thon](https://www.opendemocracynh.org/nh_map_a_thon)

See this Report [on the Web via Google Slides](#)

Download our previously-released analysis reports on NH House, Congressional, NH Senate, and Executive Council maps:

<https://www.opendemocracyaction.org/maps>