

Presentation to the Special Committee on Redistricting
Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
SB 240 – State Senate Redistricting Map
Representatives Hall – (COVID mitigation venue)
1:00 P.M., 1.10.22
Time: 2:15

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee:

I wish this presentation to cover SB 240, as introduced, as well as amendment 0013s. I oppose both.

Either of these new maps is an extension of an already partisan gerrymandered state senate map from 2010 that has interfered with the one-person, one-vote theory of political equality for the past ten years. As an example, using statewide vote totals from 2010 of a 50-50 Republican and Democratic split, Republicans benefited with a 14 – 10 advantage. It is anticipated that the 2020 maps will produce a 15 – 9 Republican advantage.

The Hinsdale to Bedford district sprawls 72 miles connecting towns in a manner similar to the current executive council district #2 map, that is, by a thin line of towns joined only by an east-west boundary, with only few towns connected to the north or south. Because there is no modern east-west highway connecting these towns, it can take two hours to traverse the district by automobile.

If passed into law, a cherry-red district will unnecessarily be formed containing the towns of Strafford, Farmington, Gilmanton, New Durham, and Rochester, substantially depressing, by specific design, the political worth of thousands of votes cast by Democrats in the district.

Gerrymandering for partisan Republican advantage, by necessity, sacrifices the political value of Republican votes in order to create the desired result of Republican wins overall. This dichotomy applies to SB 240, as introduced, or as amended. Why create fair and competitive maps? In a competitive district, candidates must appeal to voters of all political parties, including the non-affiliated, reducing the likelihood of extreme candidates winning in the primaries. It also increases voter turnout when voters know their votes have equal value; no

votes in either party are sacrificed; and fair, competitive districts respect the opinions of the majority of Granite Staters who oppose manipulation of their votes through gerrymandering.

A vote of ITL is consistent with Democracy. Please accommodate Democracy with an ITL. Thank you.

Bob Perry
Strafford