

Testimony Submitted to the
New Hampshire **Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee**
Jan. 7, 2022

Dear Chairman Gray and Members of the Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee:

Thank you for your committee work and for considering my testimony. My name is Leonard Witt and am a voter living in Sandwich, New Hampshire.

The most important message: we are a Democracy where the citizens pick the politicians and not the other way around. Please adhere to that principle and draw up fair maps that serve our Democracy and not individual politician. A rigged system best serves politicians with radical ideologies just when we need moderates to help center these United States of America.

I am troubled by the redistricting maps that the GOP majority is proposing for the NH Senate and for the Executive Council districts. We need fair mapping that insures each of us has a vote that counts, not one that is rigged by politicians. Therefore I ask that you reject the present majority proposed maps and make a bi-partisan effort to produce fair redistricting, where the voters, the citizens decide on their politicians and not politicians deciding who votes for them.

The Senate Redistricting: Sprawling, spread out districts favoring one party over another doesn't serve the common interests of those districts' residents. That's a shame because recently more and more everyday people have gotten involved in the political process and turned out to vote in massive numbers. Diminishing their vote is going to cause cynicism and cause voting turnout, the lynchpin of our democracy, to fall.

Also lumping college towns of Plymouth and Hanover together might look like an advantage for the GOP, but if so, it will be short lived. People like me who believe that every vote should count equally will remind these students over and over how you all diminished the power of their vote. Once they make a party decision between ages 18-22 it tends to stick. So over the long run the GOP is destined to suffer.

Executive Council: I am surprised that the GOP majority basically kept the same map as used in 2010, with a district that cuts across the center of the state like an ugly snake. Here is what Gov. Chris Sununu said about it in the past: *"That's got to be fixed. It's a weird one. It's like a snake lying across the middle of the state. Very bizarre."*

So why not fix that?

Thanks for making changes as requested.

Submitted by
Leonard Witt
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