

## Redistricting Testimony

My name is Michael Strand, from Bedford, and previously from Peterborough. I've always lived in Senate District 9. I manage an Accounting, Finance and Healthcare staffing firm in Bedford that we opened in 2014. We have supported both local businesses and hospitals both before and during the pandemic, and will continue to do so.

I took a couple hours off work today to be here because I have an 8-year-old daughter, and I believe our democracy is genuinely imperiled.

I promise to keep this short. Where do we even start with ya'll?

Probably proof. We prefer proof to politically motivated grandstanding, or redistricting right?

So here's some proof...

SD-09 has flipped 3 times since 2016,

2012—Republican, .6 % margin of victory Any Sanborn

2014—Republican, 7% margin of victory Any Sanborn

2016—Republican 7% margin of victory Andy Sanborn

2018—Democrat 4.8% margin of victory Jeanne Dietsch

2020—Republican 1.2% margin of victory Denise Ricciardi

Even in spite of the fact that this district was already badly gerrymandered when Bedford was added in the first place to cancel 50% of the democrat votes in the otherwise rural district, somehow, it still seems pretty fair.

And now you want to take Peterborough out of that district.

Peterborough as a lot more culturally, civically, and geographically in common with it's Monadnock and rural neighbors than my suburban/Manchester bordering Bedford does.

Onto the executive counsel.....

EC

District 1 has competitively alternated between Cryans and Kenney what, 2-3 times?

Average Margins of victory. 5%-3 %

District 2

2016, Andru Volinsky, Democrat, margin of victory 5%

Those margins have gotten larger, so why would you *add* Democratic towns to District 2, if competitive elections are the goal?

District 3

2018, Russell Prescott,, margin of victory 1%.

2020 Janet Stevens, margin of victory 5.4%

District 4

2016 Chris Pappas, Democrat 4%

2018, Ted Gatsas, Republican 1.5%, 1500 votes

2020 Ted Gatsas 2020 Republican, by 10%

District 5—

2016 Wheeler, Republican 9% margin of victory

2018, Deb Pignatelli, Democrat 4%

2020, Wheeler 1.6% margin of victory

Seems pretty fair to me, notwithstanding Senator Soucy's commendable efforts to fix otherwise gerrymandered District 2.

Seems like people actually vote for the candidates they want in this state, even if changes biannually.

-----Addendum-----

[I would however urge against the splitting of Hillsborough and Rockingham counties in District 4, as suggested by both the minority D amendment and Open Democracy/Map-a-thon. Both overwhelming public testimony, as well as the senators on this committees have confirmed, we should avoid splitting counties. Derry and Bedford have little in common, nor are they adjacent. Adding Hudson and Derry then render my district uncompetitive, and unwinnable for the Democrats and U's who live there.

Our individual votes won't count nearly as much as Ted Gatsas in-district residence and unlimited funding does.

I do support adding Keene to SD-5 per Senator Soucy's amendment, as there is little correlation between Concord and Keene, culturally, geographically, or politically, but much in common between Keene and the rest of D-5, from Peterborough to Milford.

Just because they both tend Democratic, does not guarantee verisimilitude in a manner conducive to district co-habitation. ]

Perhaps Nashua is the district that could be removed from D-5, added instead to a revised D-3 or D-4. Salem and Nashua, perhaps, would offset politically, but have much in common geographically and culturally, as MA border towns.

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The Republican party has claimed the prerogative is to combine politically minded towns, but you can't break up counties. You can't break up geographic and cultural continuity... proximity matters.

I don't know anybody who likes snakes or dragons.

At worst, please don't split school districts in this quest to unite the right in New Hampshire.

As a kid raised Republican, I was taught that we were the party of the free market, fair competition. The best person gets the job. I still believe those values with all my heart.

And I am now a Democrat.

And so I will close with 1 question—I would ask you senators, when did Republicans get so scared of competition?

Hope you all have a wonderful afternoon, .and good luck (dubiously)