

I recently heard over 80% of Americans feel our democracy is at risk. This is a staggering, depressing statistic. Democrats and Republicans feel this way for very different reasons, but we all want to believe our votes count and that elections are fair. Until recently we have assumed we will always live in a democracy. To think that is at risk, is astonishing. We should do nothing in New Hampshire that perpetuates that fear. We should do everything we can to restore faith in democracy.

Gerrymandering is number one on the list of things one should not do if one wants to restore faith in democracy. It depresses people and suppresses voters. We don't want politicians picking us, rather than us voting for them.

The voting maps created by Republicans are gerrymandered. The map for Executive Council member's districts is the same, widely known to be a gerrymandered, unfair map we have had since 2010. It creates sprawling districts that encompass towns that have little in common with each other and it packs democratic leaning towns into district 2, making it likely all other four districts will elect a Republican representative. Even Governor Sununu has cited this as a gerrymandered map. Why did the committee then use this map? Are you endorsing gerrymandering? This map should be rejected and a fair map should be created.

The map for the NH Senate is equally unfair. Districts are sprawling rather than compact and this is because they are designed to increase the margin for Republicans in 16 districts, making the districts less competitive and locking in incumbents. They therefore, ignore communities of interest like regional high schools. The districts are packed, meaning voters will know their votes count less and voter turnout will be suppressed. Refer back to my opening statements to refresh your memory on how dangerous this is for democracy. Therefore, I am very disappointed in these maps. I feel they are designed to satisfy politician's desires to be elected, rather than to meet the needs of New Hampshire citizens. It is my hope the GOP will listen to the people's voices and that the GOP maps will be amended to represent a fairer arrangement of our voting districts.