

January 9, 2022

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

I believe that state government is key to providing citizens access to services and governing of citizens actions for the good of our communities. State government, to be successful, must fairly represent the views of the citizens of the state, not just majority party. Fair representation is dependent on fair, inclusive elections that aren't slanted toward the count of any one party because of gerrymandered district maps.

I am writing to provide my input on the following Senate Bills which provide for redistricting of Senate and Executive Council voting district maps. My positions are as stated below:

SB 240 - I am opposed to the proposed mapping of State Senate Districts as in my opinion it is heavily gerrymandered.

SB 241 - I am opposed to the proposed mapping of the State Executive Council Districts as it is identical to the 2010 Map which in my opinion is heavily gerrymandered.

SB 253 - I am neutral to the proposed mapping of the State Senate Districts but prefer it to the map that is being brought forward in SB 240. I believe it is getting closer to a map that allows voters a fair voice in our governance.

SB254 - I am in support of the proposed redistricting map for the State Executive Council as it is more Competitive, and in my opinion, it does a better job of representing communities and taking county lines into account.

I would encourage the committee to draw district voting maps that are not heavily favorable to one political party but instead are grouped around communities and recognized geographic lines such as counties and school districts.

I am very concerned about the direction our legislature is taking around voting access and redistricting. I believe Senate district (SB 240) and State Executive Council (SB 241) maps represent political actions that will subvert the vote of the people of New Hampshire and favor one political party.

I encourage you to lead with courage toward fair and equitable elections. We need leaders at this time and not followers of partisan politics. Our democracy is at stake. For any of you who are voting to advance your parties interests through unfair election practices, I would ask you to please stop and work to advance the vote of every citizen of New Hampshire, regardless of party. Coming together at the state level and showing New Hampshire is above party politics can go a long way to healing the divisions in our communities.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my position on voting rights and the importance of fair voting laws.

Respectfully,

Mary Lilley
Albany, NH