

I am Ellis Robinson, a resident and voter in Grantham.

Welcome to Sullivan County, Chair Griffin and each committee member (with a special shout out to our county's own Representative Steve Smith). Special thanks to each of you for the extraordinary time and energy you are putting into this so-important project to set the groundwork for New Hampshire elections for the next ten years.

I'll make this quick:

1. Sullivan County's Communities of Interest follow major transportation routes:

a. I-91 and Rt. 12A along the Connecticut River make it easy for the towns on the west side of the county to connect (Plainfield through Langdon).

b. There is only one continuous east-west route in the county: St. Rt. 11 that stretches from Sunapee, through Newport, to Claremont.

c. Grantham has easy access to I-89 at Exit 13, and orients along that Interstate Highway. Sunapee and Springfield share easy access to I-89's Exit 12A. *(In consideration of this link, and the difficulty for residents to get from Grantham to Plainfield and Cornish, I endorse St. Rep. Brian Sullivan's suggestion to link Sunapee and Springfield into one House district, and divide HD SU1 into a Grantham & Croydon district and a Plainfield & Cornish district.)*

d. Any town not directly along one of those three routes – I-89, I-91, and St. Rt. 11 -- must travel through one or more of these "border towns" or outside the county to reach a major transportation route.

2. Sullivan is a purple county. Checklists on file with the Secretary of State reflecting voter registration as of the 2020 General Election show a near tie between Democrats and Republicans (9,676 Democrats vs. 9,415 Republicans) with 12,865 Undeclared. Please make sure that voting districts reflect this balance.

3. New Hampshire is also a purple state. As you amend districts for the Executive Council, US House of Representatives, and State Senate, please pay special attention to this balance and make districts as competitive as possible.

4. Finally, thank you again for holding these valuable county meetings. **Once you establish draft maps that you are comfortable with, please hold one more**

series of meetings for each county's residents to comment on your work. Governor Sununu told NHPR's Laura Kroy this spring, "If any of the redistricted maps are gerrymandered, I will veto them." Only with balanced, nonpartisan districts, established with a transparent public process, can we be assured that our state government will fairly represent all New Hampshire residents.

Thank you for your attention. I am happy to address any questions or clarifications.

Attachment: Town of Grantham Annual Town Meeting minutes; see page 12.

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