

Tricia Melillo

From: Catharine Farkas <cafarkas@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 8:56 AM
To: Tricia Melillo; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Donna Soucy; Ruth Ward; Regina Birdsell; James Gray
Subject: Opposing HB50, as it stands

Dear Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition to HB50, as it stands.

I have studied all the county maps and would like to recommend all the Map-A-Thon maps over all the Republican House passed Majority maps. (only one is identical.) While they are not ideal, they are more competitive than the Majority-passed maps. I believe that cities should stay together and their power and representation should not be diluted.

As a resident of Sanbornton, my focus of interest is Belknap County. While Meredith gained their own representatives, Barnstead lost theirs. Gilford should have had their own two reps, Belmont lost one of theirs, etc. So much is unfair about both maps because of the + or - 5% rule. All the eligible towns: Meredith, Gilford, Tilton, Belmont, Gilmanton, Alton, and Barnstead, could have had their own rep(s) with the additional population covered by a few more floterials.

I support the Map-A-Thon map for Belknap County over the current Majority map. There is a major problem with the current Majority map proposal for District 6.

PLEASE NOTE! With redistricting, Laconia Ward 4 is no longer contiguous with Gilford! Only the new Wards 5 and 6 are contiguous. I agree with Map-A-Thon, that Ward 6 is a better choice to join with Gilford and Gilmanton. Belknap County is the reddest county in the state. We need SOME competitive districts!! It is a shame that Laconia is broken up - I believe cities should be whole.

Small aside rant: I am upset that all the towns that deserve their own House Representatives, by reaching the population threshold, did not receive them. They should have, and more floterials COULD have been created to accommodate this Constitutional right. That is a matter for changing the % deviation at some point to allow better local representation. Over 70 towns voted for their own representation and only a handful received it. Some even had their local representation taken away, like Barnstead and Belmont!

Thank you for working to correct some of the shortcomings of the approved County House District maps. Please focus on representation, greater competition, and fewer violations.

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