

Tricia Melillo

From: Brian Beihl, Deputy Director <brian@opendemocracy.me>
Sent: Wednesday, February 2, 2022 11:31 AM
To: James Gray; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo; Regina Birdsell
Subject: Compromise Congressional Map Proposal | Digital Version of Monday's Map-a-Thon's analysis now on GenCourt site
Attachments: Map-a-Thon 2022-01-13 Proposed Congressional Map Amendment (2).pdf

Good Morning, Senators:

With the help of Ms. Melillo, the electronic version of the Map-a-Thon's 1/31 analysis of the amended NH House map, and the Congressional map as currently proposed, has been posted to your testimony page.

The PDF is here: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/committees/Redistricting/billsandsubmissions/Map-a-Thon%20Review%20of%20Senate%20Proposed%20Map%20Amendments-pptx.pdf>

This document includes links to the DRA 2020 maps represented in the report for your further inspection of the numbers behind our maps.

Proposed Compromise Amendment on Congressional Districts

The Governor's comments on WMUR's *Close Up* last week indicated he would be asking for changes to HB 52, the House-approved Congressional voting district proposal. In answer to those concerns, the Map-a-Thon team has created a compromise Congressional map which we have shared with the Governor's office and now with you. This map with proposed amendment text is attached as a PDF.

Unlike other proposals, this map has some distinct advantages:

- It is visually compact, clean-looking, and resembles the districts of the past
- With two exceptions, the districts are confined, or "nested," within county lines - a redistricting best practice
- The exceptions: All of Hillsborough County is in District 2, except the city of Manchester and the town of Pelham in District 1.
- It moves only 12 towns vs. 75 for the current proposal
- Because the districts follow county lines, the Map-a-Thon's compromise does a superior job of following communities of interests such as breaking up far fewer regional high school districts, the number one voter-cited connection between towns.
- District 1 still leans Republican, and District 2 Democrat, but both are far more competitive than the proposed map
- Unlike the 2010 or House-approved map, the Map-a-Thon's proposal makes District 2 competitive enough to be within striking distance of Republican candidates
- Its deviation is only 43 people

We hope that you will give this map serious consideration, as it strikes a balance between the parties, and serves the voters with truly competitive districts.

Thank you for your service to the voters and citizens of New Hampshire.

Regards,

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