

Testimony for the NH State Senate Map

I am writing today to voice my objections to the proposed NH Senate map. This map is gerrymandered in a way that makes districts less competitive. What happens when district lines are drawn to assure that only a person from one party can possibly represent that district, turning that seat into a 'safe' seat? That elected official has no need to try and work across the aisle, compromise, or listen to the needs and ideas of the minority, and thereby, our democracy suffers.

Several contortions of this map stand out for example the sprawling district from Hinsdale to Bedford, drawn to make it a safe Republican district. Gerrymandering also makes it difficult for a Senator to represent a district, when geographically they are made up of such sprawling geographies.

Many people in many towns spoke out loud and clear against gerrymandered maps, and the legislature passed a law that the maps should be drawn by an independent commission, where both parties could cooperate in drawing fair maps, but at the last minute the Governor vetoed the bill, despite many towns passing resolutions supporting it.

As our country seems to be getting more polarized, drawing fair maps that allow the voter to choose her representatives, rather than the politicians choosing the voters, would go a long way toward healing and cooperation. Please reject these gerrymandered maps.

Sincerely,
Linda Rhodes, VMD, Phd
Durham, NH