

Legislative Apportionment Board

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Remote Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 9:00a.m.

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM

Members present: Tom Little, Mary Houghton, Rob Roper, Jeanne Albert, Jeremy Hansen, Ed Adrian, Tom Koch

Others present: Chris Winters, Michael Chernick, BetsyAnn Wrask, John Adams, Mia Kro, Jon Welch, Kendal Smith and one unidentified caller.

Chair Tom Little pointed out ACT 92 as authorization to meet remotely to satisfy the Open Meeting Law and asked that this Zoom meeting be recorded.

2. Introduction of New Member - Jeanne Albert. Board member Susan Borden had discovered that she may not meet the residency requirement to be a member of the LAB, so she stepped aside. The Vermont Democratic State Committee appointed Jeanne Albert of Lincoln to fill the position. She gave a brief introduction of her interest and background.

3. Approval of Minutes of September 24, 2020 Meeting. Motion by Jeremy Hansen to approve, second by Rob Roper. Motion carried unanimously; minutes approved.

4. Public Comment (per 1 V.S.A. sec. 312(h)). No public comment was offered.

5. Updates on Topics Discussed at September 24, 2020 Meeting

- **Mapping Software Availability** – Maptitude trainings are available with online courses coming up on 10/28 and 11/18. These are 7 hour trainings. Tom Little gave a brief overview of how the Maptitude software works. This is a program that was chosen by Legislative Council and is used both by the LAB and the General Assembly. John Adams presented some of the changes made to the VCGI maps found at lab.mapvt.com.

- **Website Content** – Members briefly discussed with the Secretary of State's office their suggestions for website content. Members are encouraged to peruse the website at sos.vermont.gov under the "Apportionment" tab and make suggested changes. Tom Little suggested we should have a dedicated place for public comments and members discussed doing proactive outreach to engage the public.

6. What Work Can the Board Start on Now?

- **Using Census Estimates to Identify Districts with Large Population Deviations**

Tom Little suggested the LAB could try an initial mapping with what data we have, knowing the final census data will change. Ed Adrian suggested starting with counties / Senate districts first. Some discussion ensued about the existing Chittenden Senate district and the challenges there. It was

suggested that a team work on House districts and a separate team work on Senate districts. The members discussed whether the software can generate simulations of districts the LAB can react to? The answer is likely no, but programs could be written to connect to Maptitude and run thousands of scenarios if the LAB sets the parameters. Jeremy Hansen will explore this. The Board Chair will have individual conversations with members to better assess where the LAB should start, for discussion at the next meeting, including creation of subcommittees, one of which will be dedicated to public education and outreach.

7. Discussion of Frequency of Board Meetings. There was a consensus to stick with single meetings in November and December and to focus on learning the mapping software.

8. Other Business. There was a brief discussion of attempting an “all single member districts” map with each district being roughly 4,000 members and with five House Districts making up a single 20,000 (roughly) member Senate District. This may be difficult to achieve and would seem unlikely to be adopted by the Legislature.

9. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM by motion made by Jeremy Hansen and seconded by Rob Roper. The next meeting is November 12 at 9:00AM. The December meeting is on December 17 at 9:00AM. Agendas will be posted on the LAB website: <https://sos.vermont.gov/apportionment-board/>