

Legislative Apportionment Board

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting

Monday, August 30, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Members Present:

Meeting at Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier - Tom Little, Chair, Board Members Tom Koch and Jeremy Hansen, Chris Winters, Deputy Secretary of State

Meeting via Zoom – Board Members Rob Roper, Ed Adrian, Jeanne Albert, Mary Houghton. Mia Kro and John Adams.

(Telephone Conference Call Participation Available)

1. Call to Order at 9:05 AM.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes of August 5, 2021 Meeting (5 Minutes)(all times approx.)

Approved with one correction – capital “L” in Little. (Albert/Roper)

3. Public Comment (per 1 V.S.A. sec. 312(h))

No members of the public present.

4. Update on Recent Mapping Efforts and Resources

- Senate Map Draft from Tom Little

Tom Little presented and the Board discussed a map drafted by Tom in District Builder with Mia Kro's assistance, based on the 2011 LAB's Senate Map.

The Board discussed the pros and cons of using District Builder and Maptitude and being able to create their own maps. Shortcomings with District Builder include not being able to see the population numbers on the map and no town boundary layer. District Builder is going to add town lines in mid-September. Maptitude shortcomings include the steep learning curve.

Ed Adrian suggested the Board hire its own cartographer and was surprised the SoS Office had not budgeted for one.

The Board discussed building their own maps either in District Builder or in Maptitude, depending on comfort level, with the assistance of SOS IT. Consensus was around learning how to build their own maps in District Builder and then having final products translated into Maptitude by Mia. Mia will offer the Board an in-person District Builder training in the near future.

Ed Adrian asked how he gets a map built if he does not want to do it himself. Those very specific requests should go to Mia through Chair Little at this time. SoS is open to hiring additional help if this process does not work for the Board.

Jeremy Hansen presented and the Board discussed his Senate map, striving to keep populations correct and not to split towns, conforming to county lines, and keeping single member districts (which could not be done in Chittenden).

Tom Koch inquired about an easy-to-use population document, which John Adams provided later in the meeting.

Further discussion of Board member maps included desire to create 150 single member house districts (Koch, Adrian, Roper). The Board agreed to dedicate a meeting to discussing the pros and cons of single member districts.

Tom Little discussed some specific problems, to be addressed, including Hinesburg/Charlotte and increased population in Stowe.

5. Updates, Comments on Prior Agenda Items

- Timing of Access to Software Uploaded with Final Census Data

- Public Hearings Statewide?

Given the timeframe and logistical challenge, the Board may not be able to do regional in-person meetings.

- Association of Town and Municipal Clerks;

Tom Little has been communicating with the VLCT and VMCTA

- Vermont League of Cities and Towns

- Board Member Reports on Their Public Interactions

6. Workplan and Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed deadlines and worked backwards. Below is a revised timeline of board work (courtesy Jeanne Albert):

By August 16 The LAB will be able to use the Census data released in August to begin analyzing draft district plans

September 13: LAB meeting discussion: single vs multi-member districts

Distribute research or other relevant discussion materials to LAB members by Friday, September 10.

By September 27

DRAFT House and Senate Redistricting proposals by Board members shared with the whole Board

By October 18: Deadline for the LAB to make its tentative House plan available to certain towns [17 V.S.A. § 1905.]:

(1) If the plan would divide the town into two or more districts

(2) If the plan would add all or part of a town to another town to form a district

By November 15: Deadline for towns (as above) to respond to the LAB's tentative proposal. [*Note: according to H.338, which extended the LAB's deadlines, town BCAs must have at least 21 days to respond.*]

By November 29: Deadline for the LAB to submit its final House and Senate plans.

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From the Census Bureau Upcoming Releases

By August 16, 2021

States will receive the data they need to begin redistricting in August. The Census Bureau will also share this information with the public. However, the data will be in a format that requires additional handling and software to extract familiar tables. COVID-19-related delays and prioritizing the delivery of the apportionment results delayed our original redistricting data delivery plan.

By September 30, 2021

The Census Bureau will deliver the final redistricting data toolkit to all states and the public. This will include digital tools which provides access to an integrated software browsing tool for official recipients, as well access to the online Data Explorer tool for both official recipients and the public.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-main.html>

H338: Vermont legislation extending the deadline for the LAB to complete its work.

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2022/Docs/ACTS/ACT011/ACT011%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

7. Updates from Legislative Counsel, Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Secretary of State's Office

No updates.

8. Set Next Meeting Date; Other Business

The Board will meet every two weeks, next on Monday 9/13/21 at 9:00 AM

9. Adjourn

Adjourned at 10:45 AM