

## **Legislative Apportionment Board**

Unapproved Meeting Minutes

\*Hybrid Meeting\*

Monday, November 8, 2021 at 9:00 AM

Members Present:

**Meeting at Secretary of State's Office, 128 State Street, Montpelier** - Tom Little, Chair, Board Member Rob Roper, Chris Winters, Deputy Secretary of State

**Meeting via Zoom** – Board Members Jeremy Hansen, Tom Koch, Jeanne Albert, Mary Houghton. Also Mia Kro, Robert Bristow Johnson, Ed Cafferty, Michael Chernick, Amerin Aborjaily.

(Telephone Conference Call Participation Available)

**Absent:** Ed Adrian

### **1. Call to Order at 9:03 AM.**

### **2. Review and Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2021 and November 1, 2021 meetings.**

10/25 Approved (Roper/Albert; Hansen abstention)

11/1 Approved (Roper/Koch; Albert abstention)

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

Robert Bristow Johnson commented that the Burlington City Council and BCA are meeting tonight. Mr. Bristow Johnson also commented on the effect of single member districts on diversity and how it may have a material effect generally only where concentrations of minority populations are significantly higher than in Vermont communities. He also commented on the “administrative fright” that Burlington might have with 10 single-member House districts and that the LAB should expect significant blowback.

### **4. Review of BCA Responses to Proposed House Map**

Tom Little posed questions to the board regarding how they might begin to address the incoming feedback from Boards of Civil Authority. Parcel them out by county? In the past, the Board met together for a series of daylong meetings and went through each response together and made map adjustments on by consensus. This took three or more eight hour days to get through them all.

The Secretary of State's Office (Chris Winters and Mia Kro) expressed concern with the time commitment as well and the efficiency of trying to make adjustments in Maptitude in real time, suggesting that board members familiar with their own maps doing the changes might make more sense. Chris Winters expressed a preference for changes to be in writing and done by Mia in between board meetings, but indicated the Office would do whatever the board preferred.

Board members expressed concern that they did not have the time (personally) to dedicate to that in the next two to three weeks. They also expressed concern about the overall timeline they had to meet as a Board with 11/29 being the deadline to have a report to the Legislature.

Tom Little expressed the need to get to consensus on one map to work on, depending on whether the Board would entertain the multi-member districts favored by some towns.

Rob Roper noted that Maptitude is hard to work with and thought that a “neutral” should be in charge of the map changes going forward.

Jeanne Albert agreed the Board would have to consider each town’s feedback and suggested subcommittees might work once the Board has determined which ones are clearly easy or totally undoable requests and then for each board member to think through the closer calls in advance.

Board members agreed that the work needs to be done in advance and individually as much as possible as the feedback comes in.

Jeremy Hansen proposed they do the pre-work as much as possible, try to agree on where changes are needed, and then work on the map changes. Rob Roper and Jeremy Hansen will work on possible map changes together. Jeremy further suggested that not too much work can be done until all responses are in because a change for one district will inevitably affect another. A complete picture is needed

Tom Koch opined that we are only hearing from the unhappy towns and that those are going to be difficult problems to solve no matter what. The Board should address the “you can’t get there from here” types of problems.

Members got into some specific examples of feedback they have received from towns not wanting to be broken up.

Tom Little then asked Mia Kro about timeline for map production once there is a final consensus on House and Senate maps. What is the deadline for that decision? What comes next? How much time do we need for final treatment to that map? Does the Board think it should be in color, printable, how much detail? We need to start that preparing for that work now.

Rob Roper reminded the Board that Thanksgiving is 11/25 so the Board should have the final maps by 11/23.

Jeremy Hansen suggested that the product for the Legislature is different than what we needed to do for the BCAs for their informed feedback. A Maptitude map may be enough and that the Legislature is more than capable of dealing with Maptitude as they see fit.

May be ok to have the report there by 11/30 and follow up it up with great map detail as soon as possible after that.

Tom Little asked if the Board wanted to go through any individual comments or feedback.

Jeanne Albert noted that Winooski expressed some equity concerns and a number of towns misunderstand the role of 10% deviations.

Tom Little has produced a memo that can go back to towns in response to this question. He also noted that the Senate maps are now in color, the House maps soon to follow.

The Secretary of State’s Office will continue to update BCA feedback and send out to the Board each day and post to the website.

## **5. Review of Senate Mapping Efforts**

Tom Little asked for updates on the Senate mapping effort.

Board member Jeanne Albert has been looking at statistics and attempting compactness reports.

Tom Koch commented on Senate issues and suggested three member districts could be 1s and 2s – Washington, Rutland, Windsor – and discussed some specifics with Jeanne Albert.

Ed Cafferty noted his submission of Chittenden county maps. Commented on how “very unhappy” Charlotte is.

Jeanne Albert pointed out that one of the districts on Jeremy Hansen’s map may only be touching at a point. He will go back and look into it.

The board will meet next Monday at the same time.

**Adjourned at 10:17.**