

Status of City Ward Line Revision Process; Proposed New Ward Populations

Updated 11/14/2011

All of the ward revisions that were included on the Nov. 8 ballot were adopted (Concord, Dover, Keene and Manchester).

This report reflects changes from the population information originally reported for Dover and Keene. Minor discrepancies have also been identified on the ward populations reported by Laconia and Nashua. A resolution on these questions is pending.

Berlin

- ward lines are part of city charter
- The Berlin City Council has voted to eliminate the wards in the city and to elect officials at-large. A public hearing on the issue was held on October 24. The question proposing this change will be on the Presidential Primary ballot on January 10.

2010 Population: 10,051

4 wards; ideal population for each ward: 2,512.75

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 3.054

Currently, 4 representatives run at-large from Berlin, Milan and Success.

Current ward lines:

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	2,238	-10.9%
2	2,335	-7.1%
3	3,193	27.1%
4	2,285	-9.1%

Overall range deviation using current wards: 38%

Claremont

2010 Population: 13,355

3 wards; ideal population for each ward: 4,451.6

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 4.058

Currently, 5 representatives run at-large from Claremont, Lempster and Unity.

- Claremont is not revising its current ward lines.

Current ward lines:

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	4,598	+3.3%
2	4,490	+0.85%
3	4,267	-4.2%

Overall range deviation using current wards: 7.5%

Concord

- charter revision question was adopted on the November 8, 2011 ballot

2010 Population: 42,695

10 wards; ideal population for each ward: 4,269.5

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 12.973

Currently, 13 representatives run from 3 multi-ward districts in Concord.

Proposed ward lines with 2010 populations, on November 8, 2011 ballot

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	4465	+4.6%
2	4381	+2.6%
3	4328	+1.37%
4	4137	-3.1%
5	4077	-4.5%
6	4165	-2.4%
7	4251	-0.43%
8	4141	-3.0%
9	4342	+1.7%
10	4408	+3.2%

Overall range deviation using proposed wards: 9.1%

Dover

- charter revision question was adopted on the November 8, 2011 ballot

2010 Population: 29,987

6 wards; ideal population for each ward: 4,997.8

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 9.11

Currently, a total of 9 representatives run from 3 2-ward districts in Dover.

Proposed ward lines with 2010 populations, reported by city staff

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	4991	-0.1%
2	5074	+1.5%
3	5028	+0.6%
4*	5134	+2.7%
5*	4773	-4.5%
6	4987	-0.2%

Overall range deviation using proposed wards: 7.2%

*review of the block data submitted by the city showed that there was a shift of 127 people from Ward 5 to Ward 4 from previously reported numbers; this change led to a change in deviation figures for Dover.

Franklin

- no plans to revise ward lines
- the legislative board met and discussed need for revisions. They determined that the differences in population between the wards was not significant enough to go through the revision process and therefore the cost was not justified.

2010 Population: 8,477

3 wards; ideal population for each ward: 2,825.6

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 2.576

Currently, 3 representatives run at-large from Franklin and Hill.

Current ward lines:

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	2,935	+3.9%
2	2,611	-7.6%
3	2,931	+3.7%

Overall range deviation using current wards: 11.5%.

Keene

- charter revision question was adopted on the November 8, 2011 ballot
- changes to take effect June 1, 2012

2010 Population: 23,409

5 wards; ideal population for each ward: 4,681.8

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 7.113

Currently, 7 representatives run at-large from Keene.

Proposed ward lines with 2010 populations, on November 8, 2011 ballot

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	4791	+2.3%
2	4699	+0.4%
3	4681	-0.02%
4*	4616	-1.4%
5*	4622	-1.3%

Overall range deviation using proposed wards: 3.7%

*these totals reflect a slight revision to the previous report; 8 people were shifted from Ward 4 to Ward 5.

Laconia

- city identified problems with Census data, hired consultant to straighten out data
- the full council unanimously adopted the proposal on Oct. 11
- although the only wards affected by the proposed change are Ward 1 and Ward 3, the Census report and the report from the city contain different populations for all 6 wards. This could be due to the initial problems with the Census data.
- The city is planning on putting the question relative to ward line revisions on the Presidential Primary ballot; they have received permission from the Secretary of State for this.

2010 Population: 15,951

6 wards; ideal population for each ward: 2,658.5

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 4.847

Currently, 5 representatives run at-large from Laconia.

Current ward populations , as reported in 2010 Census*

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	2,956	+11.2%
2	2,726	+2.5%
3	2,304	-13.3%
4	2,657	-0.04%
5	2,628	-1.11%

6 2,680 +0.83%

*Ward populations for the 2001-2011 ward lines reported by city officials are not identical to the populations reported by the Census Bureau.

Overall range deviation using current wards: 24.5%

Proposed new ward populations,
City Council voted unanimously to adopt plan on Oct. 11.

Ward	Population	Deviation
1*	2,672	+0.51%
2	2,738	+3.0%
3	2,587	-2.7%
4	2,621	-1.41%
5	2,652	-0.24%
6	2,681	+0.85%

Overall range deviation using proposed wards: 5.7%

*According to block data submitted this total could be off by one person.

Lebanon

- city charter requires redistricting every 10 years, last revision took place in 2004
- proposal for new ward lines completed Oct. 5, metes and bounds descriptions expected to be finished Oct. 7.
- proposed revisions will be before the City Council on Nov. 2, public hearing planned for Nov. 16, proposal to be on the ballot of March 13 municipal election

2010 Population: 13,151

3 wards; ideal population for each ward: 4,383.66

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 3.996

Currently, 4 representatives run at-large from Lebanon.

Current ward lines with 2010 populations:

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	4,794	+9.4%
2	4,549	+3.8%
3	3,808	-13.1%

Overall range deviation using current wards: 22.5%.

Proposed ward lines with 2010 populations, on March 13, 2012 ballot

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	4,427	+0.98%
2	4,340	-1.0%
3	4,384	0%

Overall range deviation using proposed wards: 1.98%

Manchester

- charter revision question was adopted on the November 8, 2011 ballot

2010 Population: 109,565

12 wards; ideal population for each ward: 9,130.4

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 33.291

Currently, 27 representatives run from 9 individual wards and 8 representatives run from a 3 –ward district, for a total of 35 representatives.

Proposed ward lines with 2010 populations, on November 8, 2011 ballot

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	9121	-0.1%
2	9219	+1.0%
3	9113	-0.2%
4	9115	-0.2%
5	9250	+1.3%
6	9260	+1.4%
7	9178	+0.5%
8	9135	+0.05%
9	9169	+0.4%
10	9012	-1.3%
11	8991	-1.5%
12	9002	-1.4%

Overall range deviation using proposed wards: 2.9%

Nashua

- City Council revised wards by ordinance adopted in July, process complete, new wards in effect now.

2010 Population: 86,494

9 wards; ideal population for each ward: 9,610.4

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 26.28

Currently, 18 representatives run from 6 individual wards and 10 representatives run from a 3 –ward district, for a total of 28 representatives.

Ward lines adopted July, 2011

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	9,773	+1.7%
2	9,477	-1.38%
3*	9,448	-1.7%
4*	9,718	+1.12%
5	9,605	-0.05%
6	9,614	+0.04%
7	9,637	+0.28%
8	9,661	+0.53%
9	9,561	-0.51%

*A slight discrepancy has been noted between reported populations and block data calculations; resolution pending; population of 4 could shift from ward 3 to ward 4.

Overall range deviation using new wards: 3.4%

Portsmouth

- Ward lines not included in city charter
- City has proposed ward line revisions to be adopted in session law
- Revised ward lines included in House Redistricting Committee amendment to HB 656, scheduled for House vote Oct. 12

2010 Population: 21,233

5 wards; ideal population for each ward: 4,246.6

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 6.451

Currently, 7 representatives run at-large from Portsmouth.

Proposed new ward lines in committee amendment to HB 656:

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	4,257	+0.24%
2	4,321	+1.74%
3	4,296	+1.15%
4	4,214	-0.77%
5	4,145	-2.40%

Overall range deviation using proposed wards: 4.14%.

Rochester

- City Council has authority to change ward lines, no popular vote required
- City Council voted Sept. 6, 2011 to adopt ward revisions
- Effective date for revisions Nov. 8, 2011

2010 Population: 29,752

6 wards; ideal population for each ward: 4,958.66

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 9.040

Currently, 9 representatives run at-large from Rochester.

New ward populations, adopted Sept. 6

Ward	2010 Population	Deviation
1	4995	+0.73%
2	5030	+1.43%
3	4911	-0.97%
4	4905	-1.1%
5	4897	-1.3%
6	5014	+1.11%

Overall range deviation using new wards: 2.73%

Somersworth

- adopted a new process for revising ward lines in November 2009
- the process is part of the city charter and requires a Ward Boundaries Review Committee to review ward boundaries, propose adjustments, and submit recommendations to the City Council for approval. Once approved, the final proposal is submitted to the voters for approval at next election.
- the election of the members of the Ward Boundaries Review Committee will be held in November 2011.
- the City Clerk anticipates that the revised ward lines would be on the Nov. 2013 ballot.

2010 Population: 11,766

5 wards; ideal population for each ward: 2,353.2

Total number of representative seats supported by population: 3.575

Currently, 5 representatives run at-large from Somersworth and Rollinsford.

Current wards with 2010 population

Ward	Population	Deviation
1	2496	+6.1%
2	2315	-1.6%
3	2527	+7.4%
4	2353	0.0%
5	2075	-11.8%

Overall range deviation using current wards: 19.2%