

House Special Committee on Redistricting

Sullivan County Public Hearing
Probate Court, 3rd Floor
Sullivan County Administrative Building
Newport, NH
October 27, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Rep. Paul Mirski, Chairman; Rep. Steve Vaillancourt, Clerk, Rep. Spec Bowers and Rep. David Pierce

There were 30-35 people in the audience.

Materials made available to the public:

1. Map of Sullivan County with 2010 populations
2. State and federal constitutional provisions and state laws addressing redistricting
3. The algebraic formulas for calculating deviation with the aggregate method and the component method
4. Instructions for finding the House Special Committee on Redistricting website
5. The schedule for all of the county public hearings.

Chairman Paul Mirski called the hearing to order at 7:08 pm and read the standard statement.

Testimony

Rep. Beverly Rodeschin, Newport (Sullivan/Dist. 2) – Looked at maps and numbers, so close to having another Rep. I had the whole eastern section, circling Sunapee. Increase of 3284 in Sullivan County. Great if we could have another Rep. in Sullivan County. Don't want to have the same district as the one adopted 10 years ago – too large. "It doesn't hurt to make a pitch," for an extra Rep in the county. Don't want to be with Claremont.

Springfield – Croydon – Newport – Unity – would rather have Springfield – Grantham – Plainfield together.

Rep. Vaillancourt noted that would be 6600.

Chairman Mirski – commented that there is a mountain between Plainfield and Grantham

Rep. Spec Bowers – asked about Croydon, Newport, Unity, Lempster

Rep. Rodeschin – Don't let the court do our redistricting. "It's our job."
Keep small communities together. Unity and Croydon go with Newport.

Bernard Folta, Claremont – Three wards. School district is separate from city. November of odd numbered years municipal election. School election in March -SB2. 6300 registered voters. One ward has higher registration – ward 2. One Rep. per ward plus one at-large.

Chairman Mirski – Treat wards as towns. In the interest of every city to equalize wards.

Rep. Vaillancourt – Population matters not registered voters.

1- 4589	2- 4417	3- 4145	Average – 4452
			+3.1% - 6.9%

You're within 10%.

Mary Epreman, Sunapee, representing NH League of Women Voters --
(typewritten testimony attached)

Position to support redistricting

- "Fair and effective representation."
- Independent commission preferred.
- Include – time limits for process.
- Automatic court action if plan not completed on time.
- Maximum opportunity for public scrutiny.
- Three meetings in each C.D. Disseminate information via all media and disseminate final plan.
- Should be appeals process.
- Limit to every 10 years.

Chairman Mirski – 10 hearings and website. "We'll do what we can" to get whatever we accomplish out.

House and Senate determine their own members - No judicial role from separation of power point of view. Chaos 10 years ago. Veto, court case, late filing "The whole thing went crazy."

We work backward from June filings. Plan must go to Department of Justice for Federal review – 60 day process. Need plan in March. We need plan in December. Process is similar to 10 years ago. Can satisfy most of these.

Rep. John Cloutier, (Claremont – Lempster – Unity)

“One person one vote.” Heard that there was discussion of crossing county lines in a new House redistricting plan. Shocked – apparently it is allowed. Should stick with county lines - Reps. are legislative branch of county government – 13 of us, could end up with much smaller delegation. “We take our county government responsibility seriously.”

Claremont – Newport – Charlestown – Sunapee largest districts in county. Ought to have their own districts. Prefer Claremont has its own.

Commonalities:

- Claremont and Unity a good fit or Newport and Unity.
- Charlestown and Langdon
- Sunapee and Springfield
- Newport and Croydon

Rep. districts should have something in common.

Chairman Mirski – Looked informally as crossing county lines. Will not do.

Marie Lozito, Claremont – Came to speak for smaller towns. Lempster people said they never had a Rep. come to their town. Keep compactness in mind for citizen representation.

Hon. Peter Franklin, former state representative from Newport – Consider 5 towns in north.

Rep. Bowers – Objective of small districts, but have to make it come out right. North – 9064 (this represents 2.75 Reps.).

Chairman Mirski – May not be able to achieve what everybody wants for another decade.

Rep. Bowers – Plan for 5 northern towns and one Claremont ward. Gigantic district is a tradeoff for several small districts.

Chairman Mirski – No room to be partisan.

The hearing was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Steve Vaillancourt, Clerk



There were no handwritten comments.

OK my
conclusion.
[Signature]