

Submission of Don Snoke, Sullivan

Received: 9/24/21

Jan and Don Snoke <dsnoke@roadrunner.com>

Hello,

I am writing to object to the proposed alignment of House districts 12 and 18. Franklin and Sullivan are approximately the same size (1,450 and 1,250 respectively), and they should be swapped. Sullivan is a coastal community with extensive shorefront, fishing, lobstering, and shorefront seasonal housing, much like the other towns in the proposed district 12 (Hancock, Winter Harbor, Sorrento, Gouldsboro, Steuben and Cherryfield). Franklin is an inland community like the other towns in the proposed district 18 (Otis, Osborn, Mariaville, etc.). Franklin has more in common with the inland towns and Sullivan has much more in common with the coastal towns. It makes more sense to move Sullivan into district 12 and Franklin into district 18.

Thanks,
Don Snoke
50 Bridgham Hill Road
Sullivan, ME 04664

Submission of Robert Eaton, Sullivan

Received: 9/24/21

[Robeaton <robeaton_2000@yahoo.com>](mailto:robeaton_2000@yahoo.com)

Dear distinguished members of the Apportionment Committee and staff,

As a resident of Sullivan, I am concerned about removing us from our coastal connectedness with other communities of similar shared concerns and challenges. Making numbers work should not be the only concern of your committee. I strongly support the proposal presented by State Representative Nicole Grohoski. It accomplishes the number challenge without detaching us from similar neighbors.

Thank you for your work to date. Please give strong consideration to Representative Grohoski's proposal for Sullivan. It makes sense.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Eaton
147 Taunton Drive
Sullivan, ME 04664

Submission of Jon Emerson, North Haven

Received: 9/24/21

Jon Emerson <jon.andrew.emerson@gmail.com>

To the Legislative Apportionment Commission:

Thank you for reading this late-in-the-game comment on apportionment for North Haven. I didn't hear about this change in our district until this morning, too late to comment yesterday by 4 pm and too late to participate in today's meeting except by Youtube. While I have seen the written description of the new apportionment for North Haven and Vinalhaven, as yet I haven't been able to access a map of this change.

I appreciate the commission delaying their vote until tomorrow on this important issue and call for you to appeal for even more time to gather comments from the affected communities before taking a final vote.

North Haven and Vinalhaven are two adjacent islands in the middle of Penobscot Bay, separated only by a half mile wide channel, the Fox Islands Thorofare. The Fox Islands are indeed solely comprised of North Haven and Vinalhaven, and for a variety of reasons should be represented, as they are now, by the same person in the Legislature. In spite of long standing sports rivalries and a certain competitiveness over fishing grounds, these two islands work together on many, many issues and increasingly so in recent years.

First and foremost as a very common, very important interest, especially right now, is the Maine State Ferry Service (MSFS). Both communities are served by the MSFS, using the same mainland terminal, sharing each other's boats when one or the other breaks down, and striving to present a unified front when dealing with Coast Guard issues, how best to transport medical samples, parking, line-up procedures, and a myriad of other complications inherent with the ferry service, including legislative issues. Unless you ride the ferries, it's hard to appreciate those complications and I am doubtful that North Haven being put in with Rockland will be a good fit, especially when it comes to understanding the ferry service...*from an islander's point of view*. The MSFS is crucial to our existence, and having our two communities represented together only makes sense when dealing with what is essentially our lifeline, day in and day out.

The last thing these two islands need is to be separated.

Please reconsider. We may be small communities, but we will be impacted in a big way by this change.

Thank you,

Jon Emerson
North Haven Island
Maine

Submission of Phil Crossman, Vinalhaven

Received: 9/24/21

Phil Crossman <philcrossman.vh@gmail.com>

Dear Members:

I urge you to re-consider separating Vinalhaven from North Haven as it relates to re-districting. The two island communities share common and particularly legislative concerns to a much greater degree than adjacent mainland communities and would be demonstrably better and more sensibly served by a single representative.

If there is an opportunity to offer testimony in person before a final decision is made, I would certainly take advantage of it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Phil Crossman

--

PO Box 546

Vinalhaven, Maine 04863

Submission of Michelle Kinsella , Penobscot

Received: 9/24/21

Michelle Kinsella <ammasmk@gmail.com>

I support legislation to switch Penobscot to district 16 with Blue Hill and Castine to district 17 with Bucksport.

Castine has shared with Bucksport common economic, historic, and travel routes back into the 18th century. No road connects Castine to Blue Hill except through Penobscot. The direct route to Castine is from Route 1 in Orland down Route 175 (formerly 166). Castine churches draw congregants from Orland and Bucksport. Castine is non-contiguous with Blue Hill and does not share significant communities of interest but does with Bucksport.

Penobscot has been associated with Blue Hill for 260 years. The founding families settled in Penobscot and Blue Hill and other peninsula towns and their descendants continue to live in both towns. Many Penobscot people shop, bank, and get medical care in Blue Hill. A new medical facility is being built in Blue Hill to service the peninsula. A regional broadband expansion project has been in the works for 3 years including Penobscot, Blue Hill and two other peninsula towns. Throughout their history the economies of both towns have often been intertwined. Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill and many roads connect the two towns. Penobscot and Blue Hill are contiguous, share a community of interest and a district including the two would be compact.

These are the reasons I support this change.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kinsella , Penobscot , Maine

Submission of Martha Higgins, Trenton

Received: 9/24/21

Martha Higgins <atlmainiac@comcast.net>

The current redistricting map placing Trenton with Surry, Brooksville, Blue Hill, Castine, and Sedgwick makes little sense to me and many others. We are more tied to Mount Desert Island communities or with Ellsworth than any of the above five towns. Many of our residents own businesses or work for businesses on MDI or Ellsworth, all of the traffic for MDI and Acadia passes through Trenton and Ellsworth, and we share the concerns about the relentless increase in traffic. Our elementary school is part of the AOS which includes MDI and our high school students attend MDI. We have very little affiliation culturally or commercially with any of the five towns to which this plan affixes us!

Please reconsider this ill-thought-out plan and return Trenton to its neighbors!

Martha B. Higgins

58 Heron Rock Road

Trenton, Maine 04605 (the same zip code as Ellsworth, by the way!)

Submission of Deborah Welch, Sullivan

Received: 9/24/21

Debbie Ambro <catsofmaine@gmail.com>

I strongly oppose the current plan! Sullivan would be joined with towns in Penobscot & Washington Counties, no longer in the same legislative district as we are currently with Winter Harbor, Gouldsboro, Sorrento, Hancock etc. Our future legislator will have no experience working with RSU24 or our local High School. It makes no sense.

Thanks for acknowledging my comments.

Deborah Welch
Sullivan, ME

Submission of Eric Boothroyd, Dover-Foxcroft

Received: 9/24/21

Eric Boothroyd <ejboothroyd@gmail.com>

To the Committee,

The District Description for State Legislature District 30 is in error in that Wellington is in Piscataquis County, not Somerset.

Eric Boothroyd
Dover-Foxcroft

Submission of Michael Fisher, Sullivan

Received: 9/24/21

michael fisher <mgf2020@gmail.com>

Dear Apportionment Commission:

I live in Sullivan. Due to my own inattention I only learned this evening about the live session today and the deadline for public comments.

So even though this comment probably arrives too late I would like go on record with an objection to your proposed redistricting of Sullivan.

I understand the logic of putting Sullivan in a House district with inland towns, rather than keep it in its current district alongside the coastal towns of Sorrento, Winter Harbor, Gouldsboro, and Steuben. I get it that most of the population of Sullivan lives on the inland side of Route 1, unlike the population of those neighboring towns, who live on the shoreland side.

But I still think you are making a mistake in separating Sullivan from its coastal neighbors.

For one thing, Sumner High School-- the high school that students from those neighboring towns now attend or will attend, and that next year will be in a brand new building that will be a jewel among educational institutions in Downeast Maine-- is in Sullivan. The new high school alone will draw these coastal communities into closer ties than ever before.

And there already is another building in Sullivan that draws these communities together. It's the building on Route 1 that is the office of RSU24, which as you know provides the regional school administration for schools in Gouldsboro and Steuben.

Add to this the fact that all the residents of those neighboring towns have to drive through Sullivan in order to reach Ellsworth and anywhere else down the coast and in southern Maine. Many of these residents are customers of businesses located along Route 1 in Sullivan, for example Dunbar's Store, the Dollar Store, Tracy's Seafood, Schoodic Animal Hospital, and others.

To my mind it makes no sense to isolate Sullivan from its neighboring towns, and I bet that residents of those neighboring towns would agree. Sullivan may not look to you like a coastal community. But Sullivan thinks of itself now and has always thought of itself as a coastal community. If you want proof, take a look at the website of [The Sullivan-Sorrento Historical Society](#).

I wish you would reconsider your plan that will make Sullivan an "orphan" on the coast and will put us in the position of being an outlier, an alien presence, an afterthought in our new district. What did Sullivan ever do to deserve such callous treatment?

Thank your for your attention.

--Michael Fisher
Proud resident of Sullivan

Submission of Wendy Wright, Orland

Received: 9/24/21

Wendy Wright <wkjwright55@gmail.com>

Sep. 23, 2021

Please distribute this comment to the Maine Apportionment Commission Chair and Members to read prior to the 9/24 meeting -

Ref: Please consider a brief summary of the many requests and reasons to switch Penobscot to House District 16 (Blue Hill area) and Castine to House District 17 (Orland, Verona Island, and Bucksport area) before your vote on the House District maps on 9/24

Dear Chair and Commission Members,

If you have considered and made a negotiated decision to switch Penobscot to HD 16 and Castine to HD 17 to provide better representation since yesterday's 9/23 public hearing, thank you!

If you have not made this switch, please consider the brief summary below that could help clarify any hesitancy or questions for a reasonable move to switch the two towns in the two districts **before** your review and vote on the overall House District maps at your 9/24 meeting.

1st - The communities of interest (economic, social, religious, historical, and maritime tradition) are far stronger for Penobscot to be with HD 16 Blue Hill district and Castine to be with HD 17 Orland, Verona Island, and Bucksport district as noted and documented in the written comments and testimony.

2nd - The populations of Penobscot - 1,136 and Castine - 1,320 are close in count and keep within the population variance allowed if switched, and in fact, when Penobscot is put with HD 16 and Castine with HD 17 the total populations for EACH HD improves toward the median population goal of 9,022.

3rd – Please note on any contiguity basis being used to connect the towns within either district:

A. Penobscot is contiguous by land and roads to Blue Hill, Sedgwick, Orland, and Castine

B. Castine is only contiguous by land and roads to Penobscot

1. if Castine is placed with HD 17, there is only a 4-mile section of road that separates Castine from Orland in HD 17 along the Castine Rd.

2. if Castine is placed with HD 16, there is a 15-mile section of road that separates, Castine from Blue Hill in HD 16

C. **Castine is contiguous by water to BOTH HD 16 and HD 17**

While Castine is somewhat closer by water at the closest land points in HD 16 (Castine to Brooksville), Castine is also contiguous by water to Orland, the closest land point by just under 4 miles in HD 17.

4th- The switch of Penobscot to HD 16 and Castine to HD 17 appears to meet all constitutional requirements, agreements, and desired goals of better representation, AND **the switch will not affect any other towns or districts in the overall proposed House District maps.**

Based on all the factors above, it appears prudent and reasonably possible, to make a move at your Friday, 9/24, 11am, Apportionment Commission meeting to switch these two towns, if you have not already done so, before voting on the overall House District proposed maps. Looking to an understanding at your 9/24 meeting.

Thank you for all your work and taking the time for actual consideration of public comments before voting,

Wendy Kay Wright
Orland, ME 04472

Submission of Mike Turcotte, Bangor

Received: 9/24/21

Mike Turcotte <michaelpturcotte@gmail.com>

To the Redistricting Apportionment Commission:

Please consider the Maine Senate (link below) in your deliberations to achieve a bipartisan plan..

A competitiveness metric is used to evaluate the plan based on the average partisan lean of each district, calculated using the Partisan Voting Index (PVI). A partisan lean of the district plan which deviates from the overall lean of the state can be indicative of gerrymandering. This map uses both 2016 and 2020 PVIs.

This map is very competitive; 13 Republican leaning districts, 13 Democratic, and 9 Even or Toss-up districts.

<https://app.districtbuilder.org/projects/3339ed91-20b7-4275-802d-41866e253590>

Click on "evaluate" at the upper right corner to get more information

Then "competitiveness" to get more information.

Thank you,

Mike Turcotte

Submission of Katrina Smith, Waldo County Republicans

Received: 9/24/21

Katrina Smith <katrinaformaine@gmail.com>

Good morning,

This email is in regards to the district maps that were drawn for the House of Representatives. My name is Katrina Smith and I am currently the chair of the Waldo County Republicans. I would like to address what the commission has proposed for the redistricting of Waldo County.

Waldo County is a very close knit community similar in both history, industry and outlook. Balancing the differing views within the county is imperative so that we achieve what is best for all. The map that you have drawn which carves out the towns of Palermo, Freedom, Troy and Burnham creates a significant fragment to our county and the concerns that are specific to our future. Your maps have taken 3 of our most conservative towns and placed them into districts that already lean conservative and thus have created a vacuum in Waldo County that does not allow for much needed balance. This imbalance leaves the county subject to representation which will lean far from what residents who share schools, businesses and county services desire.

Please reconsider splitting Waldo County and restore our community.

Regards,

Katrina Smith

--

Katrina Smith
Chair, Waldo County Republican Committee
Katrinaformaine@gmail.com

Submission of Jon Albrecht, Penobscot

Received: 9/24/21

Jonathan Albrecht <albrechtjona@gmail.com>

Commissioners, thank you for your patience with our request that you keep the communities on the Blue Hill peninsula within the same house districts. Given the time restraints, I think you've done a great job overall. Our plea is much the same as Bethel's. Local representatives work best when they represent a community and worst when they have many incompatible interests. The Blue Hill peninsula is and has been a community for many years. You have the opportunity to correct the mistake of the last apportionment which ripped Penobscot from our neighboring peninsula towns. If you assign Penobscot to a district which will be dominated by Bucksport which has very different interests, we will hopefully find a way to make it work. Our work would be much easier if we were together with our neighbors in Sedgwick, Brooksville, and Blue Hill.

I hope our plea has not inconvenienced you.

--

Jon Albrecht
141 Southern Bay Rd
Penobscot, Me 04476

While I still think my proposal to switch Penobscot and Castine is workable and improves the proposed districts without disrupting the overall unified house districts map, Rep. Grohoski's broader proposal improves on my suggestion. Rep. Grohoski's proposal also groups Penobscot with its neighbors as well as groups other coastal communities with their neighbors. In the rush (which has been forced on the state) to complete the Commission's work I hope the benefits of community based representation will not be lost.

--

Jon Albrecht
141 Southern Bay Rd
Penobscot, Me 04476

Submission of Will Hayward, League of Women Voters

Received: 9/24/21

Will Hayward <willrhayward92@gmail.com>

To the Apportionment Commission:

Thank you again for all of the hard work and consideration you have undertaken in this short timeframe to create these maps. My name is Will Hayward, and I am a resident of Portland. I am submitting this final comment today on my own behalf. I am submitting this comment shortly before the deadline for public comment, to ensure that two potential areas of concern are in the public record before maps are finalized:

- District 44, containing correctional facilities located in Warren, contains slightly less than the median House district population. This does not align with the practice recommended by the League of Women Voters of Maine and others of drawing districts with correctional facilities in them above the median district population, which would reduce the impact of prison malapportionment.

- In testimony submitted by Saige Purser on 9/13, she included a community of interest map for the Houlton Band of Maliseets. It appears the community as defined in that submission is split between House District 6 and House District 7.

I am not sure if there is sufficient time to investigate these issues, but I wish to have them noted in the public record. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Will Hayward

Submission of Rep. Lynne Williams, Bar Harbor

Received: 9/24/21

To the Members of the Apportionment Commission:

Please excuse my late, by a few minutes, submission. I just became aware of some of the comments submitted in today's thread.

My note here is in response to the comments submitted to the Commission yesterday by my colleague and friend, Rep. Grohoski, as well as Trenton Selectboard Member, Rachel Nobel. I understand their argument that Trenton should be part of the proposed District 14, in place of Lamoine. While I appreciate that Trenton does have an educational connection with MDI High School, so does Southwest Harbor and Tremont, and they are not being placed in District 14 either. They are placed (and have been since the last redistricting in 2013) in a District with Deer Isle and Stonington, also geographically distant. Lamoine has an even greater connection with Bar Harbor than does Trenton, in that it shares a coastline with Bar Harbor on Frenchman Bay, along with a very large aquaculture community. Just as Mr. Graham Platner argued earlier in this series of comments, this community depends heavily on its relationships with other aquaculturists. While there is aquaculture in Trenton, it is centered more on the Goose Cove area and Union Bay. And Blue Hill is on the other side of that Bay.

These comments are not based on political considerations but rather on keeping communities of interest together. As the two Towns on the westside of Frenchman bay, Lamoine and Bar Harbor should be kept together, just as the Towns on the eastside of the Bay should be kept together.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Rep. Lynne Williams

Submission of Rep. Sarah Pebworth, Blue Hill

Received: 9/24/21

Good morning, Susan,

I am submitting comments on behalf of Representative Sarah Pebworth ahead of today's Apportionment Commission meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Warmly,
Victoria

Victoria Rodriguez (she/her/hers)
Legislative Aide
Maine House Majority Office
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1488

Please note that legislative correspondence is considered a public record and may be subject to a request under the Maine Freedom of Access Act. Information that you wish to keep confidential should not be included in email correspondence.



Sarah Pebworth

PO Box 347
Blue Hill, ME 04614
Cell Phone: (207) 479-4741
Sarah.Pebworth@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Dear Commission:

Thank you for your hard work on redistricting the state of Maine.

I understand the many factors you have had to consider in remaking 151 House districts.

If there are any changes to be made, I would ask that you consider two points.

1. The residents of newly created District 16 might be better served by continuing to include Brooklin, rather than Trenton. As a selectman from Brooklin pointed out, most children in Brooklin attend high school in Blue Hill (very few, if any, from Trenton do). Brooklin is already allied with other towns in the newly created District 16 with their broadband coalition and other community efforts. Geography would suggest that Brooklin is a more appropriate choice for District 16 than Trenton. Trenton residents do not shop, bank, use the library, or visit the hospital in Blue Hill.
2. The residents of newly created District 16 might be better served by including Penobscot, rather than Castine. Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill. Many of the children there go to schools in Blue Hill and many shop, bank, use the library, and visit the hospital in Blue Hill. As one Penobscot resident and historian noted, Penobscot and Blue Hill share a common history peopled with the same families for the past 260 years. Castine broke off from Penobscot in 1796 and has aligned itself with other Penobscot Bay towns, primarily Bucksport, over those centuries.

Thank you again for your work and consideration.

All the best,
Sarah