

Submission of Sylvia Tapley, Penobscot

Received: 9/20/21

Sylvia Tapley <sylviatapley@gmail.com>

Greetings to the Apportionment Committee. I am writing to you to express my concerns over my hometown of Penobscot being split from the Blue Hill Peninsula which we were previously a part of for many decades. Republicans want to split us with their gerrymandering ideas which I totally disagree with. I must contest it as it violates the "community of interest" standard that I believe your commission tries to uphold.. We don't belong in district 30, we belong in district 8 for many reasons. All of the towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula share a common history, economy, geography, government, and culture. Tearing us from Blue Hill, Sedgwick, Brooksville, etc is a very divisive political plan. Our coastal towns are hugely different from towns like Milford, Dedham, Otis etc and although they are nice communities there exists very very few commonalities. Please reexamine the Democratic plan which I believe would create more fairness, harmony, and unity. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Tapley

Penobscot, Maine

Submission of Jonathan Albrecht, Penobscot

Received: 9/20/21

Jonathan Albrecht <albrechtjona@gmail.com>

Maine Apportionment Commission Members,
I agree with the Democratic caucus proposal for **Penobscot** to be in the new State Senate District 8, keeping our town with most of western and southern Hancock County towns which share Communities of Interest.

The other proposal to assign **Penobscot** to a new State Senate District 30 violates the principle of Communities of interest and is not compact; rather it is a long, skinny district of towns extending far north into Penobscot County and away from towns on the Bill Hill Peninsula that share a common history, economics, and culture.

Thank you for your consideration of placing **Penobscot** with our fellow Hancock County Communities on the Blue Hill Peninsula in the State Senate District 8,

September 19, 2021

--

Jon Albrecht
141 Southern Bay Rd
Penobscot, Me 04476
518-930-1625 cell

Submission of Kate Carpenter, Bath

Received: 9/20/21

Dear Apportionment Commission Members -

I would like to address the commission about Maine's US Congressional redistricting proposals at the public hearing this morning at 930am, and present a proposal of my own. In case I don't get a chance to speak, I submit the below as statement, including the attached PDF list and map, as equivalent to any verbal presentation:

Title 21-A, Chapter 15, on Elections and Apportionment says that "In making such a reapportionment, the commission shall ensure that each congressional district is formed of compact and contiguous territory and crosses political subdivisions the least number of times necessary to establish districts as equally populated as possible." ... I noted that the first concern here was the focus on "compact" and "contiguous" and "crosses political subdivisions the least number of times". Meanwhile, the constriction that they be "equally populated" is present, yet secondary, and "as possible."

I am concerned the existing party-sourced proposals move more toward gerrymandering than we have been before. So I am putting forth a more compact proposal -- in the PDF attached -- which, I believe, leans more closely to the spirit of this legislation.

This alternative proposal for the US Congressional Districts 1 and 2, in terms of the partitioning of Kennebec County, has these 3 goals:

1) Keep neighboring communities within the same Congressional District, so neighbors can better discuss and collaborate with each other across nearby communities on how to get their local representative to best address their needs. All towns in this proposal share at least 40% or more of their linear borders with other towns in the same Congressional District.

2) Keep aligned with existing known political divisions.

2A) Aligned better with Senate Districts (in current/outgoing location). This proposal only allows 2 current Kennebec-County-area State Senate districts -- albeit in their current location -- to be divided across both CD1 and CD2. Although I understand that State Senate district borders will also change, both the Democratic and Republican Party proposals for the CDs and State Senate districts have 4 State Senate Districts in Kennebec County that are being split across both CD1 and CD2. This increases ballot dissimilarities from town to town, and communities have less opportunities for communal leverage and efficiencies when coordinating with multiple elected officials.

2B) Aligned with School District / Feeder Patterns. Also, in this proposal, most School Districts are kept together (except China, which is in CD1 while its district is on the other side of Vassalboro and the Kennebec River in CD2. However, China has school choice for high school, and most of China's high school students feed into schools located in CD1, in this proposal). I believe I correctly reviewed all current school districts in this regard, but I may have missed something.

3) This map is visibly more geographically-coherent for easy identification by the ordinary voter, and re-establishes geography as the primary goal of the shape of reapportionment. Anyone can look and understand that these lines are reasonably formed on a geographic basis -- like the rest of the division of the CDs across all the remaining counties in Maine. The more we create gerrymandered-appearing district lines in Kennebec County at each redistricting cycle, the more gerrymandering in the future is harder to contest in Kennebec and elsewhere, and the less understandable these divisions become to ordinary voters. And again, all towns would, under this proposed design, share at least 40% or more of their linear borders with other towns in the same district.

This proposed map does not perform the mathematical gymnastics of the party-provided proposals -- in order to achieve compact, cohesive, and community-minded geographic efficiency, the result has about an 1,100 person difference total between all of CD1 and all of CD2. Yet, with much of my family being from the region, I know that many are not fond of the sudden 'Swiss-cheesing' to which they are subject. It is destabilizing for these small communities in the southern or northern ends of Kennebec County to worry about waking up one decade in the opposite US Congressional district -- that was once several towns away -- just because of their misfortune of being in the one county charged with the inflexible evening-out of the statewide voting districts.

I believe that the geographically-simpler proposal here, with a modest compromise on the math, will provide a precedent for long-term stability of the district lines, clarity for everyday voters, and is well worth the small and fleeting difference in division of populations between districts.

In short, my proposal for Kennebec County (as per the PDF):

CD1: Vassalboro, China, Augusta, Windsor, Hallowell, Chelsea, Farmingdale, Randolph, West Gardiner, Gardiner, Pittston

CD2: Clinton, Unity Twp, Benton, Rome, Oakland, Waterville, Winslow, Albion, Vienna, Mount Vernon, Belgrade, Sidney, Fayette, Readfield, Manchester, Wayne, Winthrop, Monmouth, Litchfield

This map would result in CD1 with 680,636 people, and CD2 with 681,723 people, resulting in 1,087 more people in CD2. With population trends in the last decade showing CD1 grew by an average of 4,600 people each year, it is reasonable to expect that over the course of

the next decade, or even the next few years, the population difference in this proposal will recede.

I don't bring to this effort any particular expertise, and welcome review of my work for improvements. Rather I bring just my belief that geographical districts should make sense to a typical voter, and that setting the precedent of geographic clarity over exact division of voters will stymie corruptive gerrymandering efforts, and better serve both the law and the voter.

Thank you very much for your attention,

Katherine Carpenter
57 Green Street, Bath, Maine

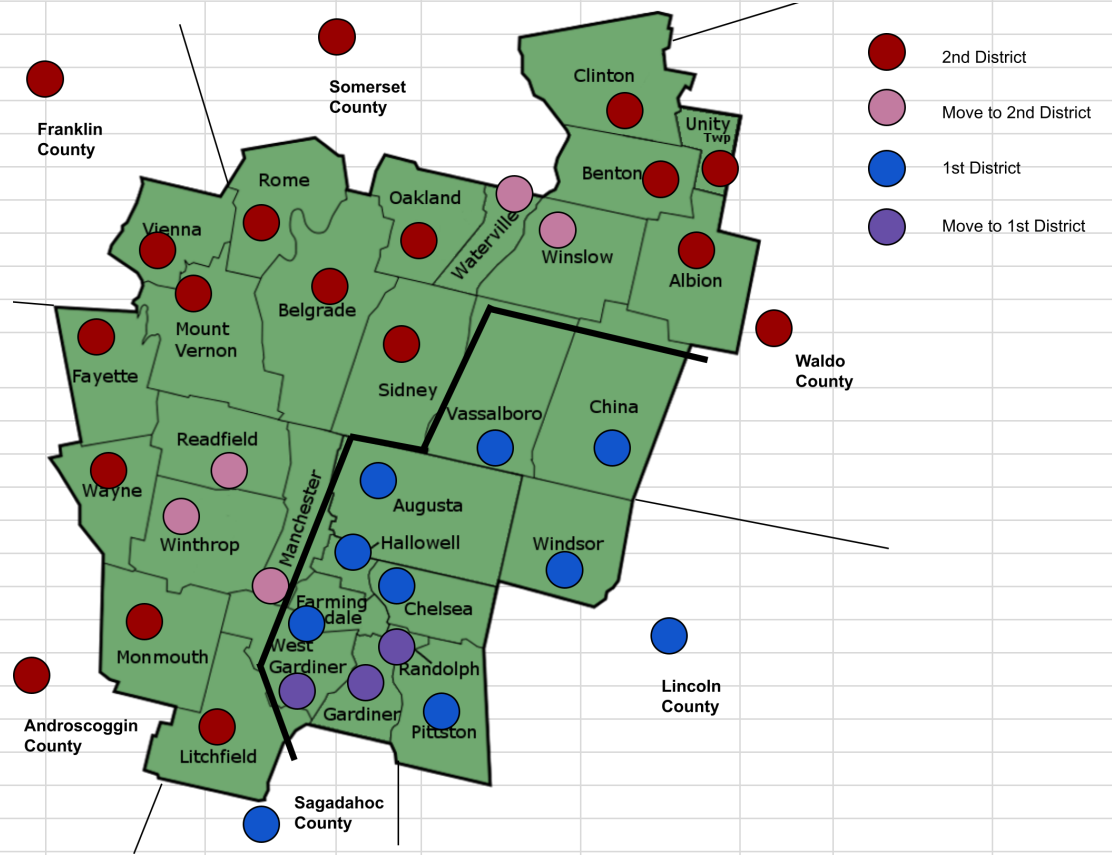
Proposal for 2021 Maine U.S. Congressional District Reapportionment -- KENNEBEC COUNTY division

Submitted by Katherine Carpenter of Bath, Maine

To Create a Statewide Even Split - Numerical Goal for Kennebec County:

	Total	1st Dist Goal	2nd Dist Goal
Kennebec ONLY	123,642	53,596	70,046
	All Kennebec	Kennebec, CD1	Kennebec CD2
TOTALS:	123,642	53,052	70,590
Difference from Goal		-544	544

District:	Population	PROPOSED 1st District	PRPOSED 2nd District
Albion	2,006		y
Augusta	18,899	y	
Belgrade	3,250		y
Benton	2,715		y
Chelsea	2,778	y	
China	4,408	y	
Clinton	3,370		y
Farmingdale	2,995	y	
Fayette	1,160		y
Gardiner	5,961	y	
Hallowell	2,570	y	
Litchfield	3,586		y
Manchester	2,456		y
Monmouth	4,066		y
Mount Vernon	1,721		y
Oakland	6,230		y
Pittston	2,875	y	
Randolph	1,743	y	
Readfield	2,597		y
Rome	1,148		y
Sidney	4,645		y
Unity Twp.	36		y
Vassalboro	4,520	y	
Vienna	578		y
Waterville	15,828		y
Wayne	1,129		y
West Gardiner	3,671	y	
Windsor	2,632	y	
Winslow	7,948		y
Winthrop	6,121		y



CD 1 -- Total Population, All Counties		CD 2 - Total Population, All Counties	
CD 1 - TOTAL:	680,636	CD2 - TOTAL:	681,723
Kennebec, part	53,052	Kennebec, part	70,590
Knox	40,607	Androscoggin	111,139
Lincoln	35,237	Aroostook	67,105
Cumberland	303,069	Franklin	29,456
Sagadahoc	36,699	Hancock	55,478
York	211,972	Oxford	57,777
		Penobscot	152,199
		Piscataquis	16,800
		Somerset	50,477
		Waldo	39,607
		Washington	31,095

Difference in the CD's in this proposal:
1087 more in CD2
(Of note: the last decade saw CD1 gain 46,000 more people than CD2; the above difference may disappear in a few years.)

Submission of Penelope Hamblin, League of Women Voters of Maine
Received: 9/20/21

Penelope Hamblin <penelope.hamblin@gmail.com>

Dear Apportionment Commission,

Please sign me up to testify during today's public hearing. I am attaching a written copy of my testimony.

Thank you.

Penelope Hamblin

Penelope Hamblin
League of Women Voters of Maine
Pronouns: she/her/hers



TO: Maine Apportionment Commission

DATE: September 20, 2021

RE: Comment on maps released on September 16, 2021

FROM: League of Women Voters of Maine

Justice Alexander and members of the Commission: My name is Penelope Hamblin. I live in South Portland and I am a volunteer representing the League of Women Voters of Maine. This morning, the commission is hearing public comment on three sets of maps that were made available to the public just four days ago. We are disappointed that the County Commissioner and especially the State Senate district maps did not provide enough detail for residents of redrawn districts to determine where they were being assigned. We believe that a fair and transparent redistricting process must include informed input from the public, yet that is barely possible given the inscrutable maps that we have to work with. We appreciate that shapefiles for the Democratic State Senate proposal have been made available on request, and hope to see them made available for the other proposals too.

We ask that you make every effort to release the State House of Representative district maps, which we expect early this week, in ESRI shapefile format so that communities and members of the public can use mapping tools to evaluate their fairness and, if need be, suggest corrections. We know that you are working on an almost impossible timeline, but please try to find the time for this.

Thank you.

Submission of Kevin Lamoreau, Augusta
Received: 9/20/21

Hello,

I'm getting off work at 11:30 this morning for a physical at 2:40. I could be home at my computer by noon. If it's possible today's meeting will run past noon I'd like to be put on the list to speak. I don't have prepared testimony but have prepared an "East-West" plan, with the 1st district consisting of York, Cumberland and Androscoggin counties and Oxford County except for Dixfield, Roxbury, Lincoln, Magalloway, Upton and part of North Oxford. The North Oxford split would be Grafton and Andover West Surplus and everything south in District 1, and C surplus and Andover North Surplus and everything north in District 2. 1 person difference by my calculations.

Gotta go.

Kevin Lamoreau
600 Riverside Drive, Unit 22
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 446-2132
Lamoreau8047@gmail.com



Submission of Andy Torbett, Piscataquis County Commissioner
Received: 9/20/21

To the members of the Commission,

First let me thank you all for your hard work on this issue, a thankless job to be sure.

Earlier, the Piscataquis County Commissioners sent a letter to the Commission in which we advised that we were content with the District apportionment as it stood. As I look at the proposed new apportionment as presented thus far, I am comfortable with those changes. Respectfully, I hope that they stay as proposed and not be moved anymore than they have.

Regards,
Commissioner Andy Torbett
Piscataquis County Commissioner District Two

Submission of Carolyn Hanke, Penobscot
Received: 9/20/21

[Carolyn Hanke <carolyn_hanke@yahoo.com>](mailto:carolyn_hanke@yahoo.com)

September 20, 2021

Good Morning to Approtationment Commission

Please accept my testimony in writing for today's meeting.

The current Maps need to be redrawn to associate town of Penobscot with other towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Penobscot is not only physically aligned with Blue Hill Peninsula towns but the history and common interests are similar especially with Blue Hill and Brooksville.

This includes schools and businesses.

Thank you.

Carolyn Hanke - registered voter
226 Southern Bay Road
Penobscot, ME 04476