

**City of Concord**

**Redistricting Committee**  
Minutes of October 26, 2021

The Redistricting Committee met at 5:30 P.M., on October 26, 2021.

Members Present: Mayor Jim Bouley, Chair  
Councilor Byron Champlin  
Councilor Nathan Fennessy  
Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton  
Drew Biemer  
Jim Richards  
Stephen Shurtleff, state Representative in the N.H. House of Representatives  
Jae Whitelaw  
Michael Vlacich

Members Absent: Councilor Fred Keach  
Kathy Rogers

City Staff Members: Sam Durfee, Senior Planner  
Jim Kennedy, City Solicitor  
Janice Bonenfant, City Clerk  
Ashley Hamilton, Deputy City Clerk

Public Guest: Roy Schweiker  
Tony Schinella

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Bouley called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

**2. Introduction**

Mayor Bouley welcomed members and thanked them for doing their homework. He asked everyone to hold on making their suggestions until after Senior Planner Durfee presented his census block changes and Ward line adjustments.

City Solicitor Kennedy stated that he had reviewed Mr. Durfee's proposed changes, prior to the meeting, and confirmed they met statutory, boundary, and all other constitutional requirements.

Councilor Champlin also stated that he had shadowed Mr. Durfee while the presentation was being drafted, and noted that Mr. Durfee's changes mirrored his thoughts and suggestions.

Senior Planner Durfee presented a Ward map showing his proposed Citywide changes, to accommodate the population shifts, per the census data, that met all statutory requirements. He noted that Wards One, Two, and Three had an increase in population, resulting in the need to shift the Ward lines and census blocks south. He noted that significant challenges were identified and included natural boundaries, sub-divisions in

census blocks, and keeping polling locations accessible and within each Ward. He reminded everyone that census blocks couldn't be split up, which limited certain considerations. He showed proposed shifts within Ward Two and Three. He noted that Ward Five would gain more ground due to the southern shift, which would in turn increase Ward Seven. He noted that Ward Three changed significantly, giving half its population to Ward Four. He proposed cleaning up the lines between Ward Four and Five, making no changes in Ward Six. He initially proposed changes between Ward Eight and Nine that would split the Havenwood and Heritage Heights communities, which the group vetoed, as the consensus was to keep neighborhoods and like communities together. Mr. Durfee was able to adjust the Ward lines, in live time, to reflect the group suggestions and changes, to show how their suggestions and changes would adjust the numbers and Ward lines.

Mayor Bouley asked what how the group edits effected the overall population number and Ward changes per Ward. Mr. Durfee stated the following:

- Ward One – changed to 4,522, resulting in a difference of 122 people
- Ward Two – changed to 4,578 resulting in a difference of 178 people
- Ward Three – changed to 4,594 resulting in a difference of 194 people
- Ward Four – changed to 4,354 resulting in a difference of negative 46 people
- Ward Five – changed to 4,243 resulting in a difference of negative 157 people
- Ward Six – changed to 4,231 resulting in a difference of negative 169 people
- Ward Seven – changed to 4,310 resulting in a difference of negative 90 people
- Ward Eight – changed to 4,204 resulting in a difference of negative 196 people
- Ward Nine – changed to 4,543 resulting in a difference of 143 people
- Ward Ten – changed to 4,421 resulting in a difference of 21 people

The Committee members unanimously thanked Mr. Durfee for his map proposal and clarifications. Many commented on the existing complexities to meet requirements, the limited amount of moved that could be made with the least amount of impacts, and the desire to keep cohesive neighborhoods and like communities together.

Councilor Fennesy noted his agreement on most of the edits, but noted his concerns about Ward Three being held by a bridge. The Committee proceeded to discuss potential Ward shift scenarios, until a drafted map was proposed. Mr. Durfee agreed to send his original map presentation and revised map using Committee input, for further review and consideration.

Jim Richards, the Concord School Board's Chair, stated that all Concord Schools were scheduled to be closed on Election days, to accommodate the use of the school buildings as polling locations, as needed. Mayor Bouley and City Clerk Bonenfant thanked Mr. Richards for this significant offer and partnership.

Mayor Bouley opened the meeting for public comments.

Tony Schinella, a Concord Patch reporter, suggested moving the prison population into Ward Five, building on Ward Six first to get 4,400 people, as it would result in less Ward shifts, instead of starting in Ward One. He also proposed the idea of using Bishop Brady as a potential polling location, to reconfigure Wards Four, Five, and Six.

Roy Schweiker, a Concord resident, advocated for splitting the Prison's census blocks, of the Men's Prison of 2,246 people and the Women's Prison of 406, into different Wards. He showed satellite photos showing

roads between the Men's and Women's prisons showing that they were separate facilities that could potentially be considered as boundaries. He also commented that changing Wards one, two, three were preferred in order to make it less extreme for Ward Five voters to vote at the tail end of the Ward line. He noted his concerns over the Department of Justice not liking some of the proposed changes that would not make accessible polling locations.

Mayor Bouley thanked everyone for their input and proposed changes, noting his appreciation for the sentiments of Councilor Fennessy. He asked everyone to review the proposed Ward map changes for the next meeting so informed decisions could be made at the next meeting.

**3. Other Discussion Items** – The next meeting date was set for Thursday November 04, 2021, at 5:30 P.M. in the City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.

**4. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 6:45 P.M.