

Public Submission to the West Virginia Legislature Joint Committee on Redistricting

Date Document Received: October 7, 2021

Description: 1 Page

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From: Cal Shamberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 8:34 PM
To: Joint Redistricting
Subject: Regarding the Proposed Congressional, State Senate, and House Redistricting Maps

Members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees,

The views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in this email are written as my being a private citizen and do not represent those of my employer, organization, or any other group or individual. My background is in Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis, and redistricting has always been a topic of interest in my field.

When choosing a new Congressional district boundary, a north/south divide is the most ideal, with both panhandles being in the northern district. Trump Map 1, Trump Map 12, and Jeffries Map 1 are all ideal for this district line, especially as the population of West Virginia will inevitably continue to move north to the more populous areas during the next decade.

Regarding the State Senatorial Districts, Trump Map 1 and Trump Map 6 show promise as potential district lines. Monongalia County should have its own Senate district due to its population (105,822) being close to the ideal size of a district (105,513). All districts shall be as compact and contiguous as possible to better reflect the needs of the people.

As for the House Districts, looking specifically at Monongalia County, which will be moving from 1-5 delegate district and 2-single member districts to potentially 6-single member districts, requires a further examination of the proposed lines. In reviewing the proposed boundaries from the .kmz file in conjunction with existing county precinct and municipal boundaries in ArcGIS Pro, there are some lines needing revisited to ensure certain municipal boundaries are not cut too haphazardly. Some municipal boundaries for Morgantown are now cut at the extremities and these small segments are grouped in a district with areas outside the city limits, which will cause confusion and difficulty redrawing precincts. For example, District 87, which encompasses Westover, Granville, Star City, and the Evansdale/Suncrest portion of Morgantown should be revisited. District 86 should encompass more of the Westover/Granville areas rather than dipping south towards the Taylor County border. District 89 causes the southern portion of Morgantown's city limits to be included with the southeastern portion of Monongalia County. These House Districts should succinctly compliment the current municipal boundaries and existing county precincts to ensure minimal confusion for voters adjusting to the single member districts.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the redistricting process.

Cal Shamberger