

BOARD OF CIVIL AUTHORITY  
SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE  
November 15, 2021

The Board of Civil Authority ("BCA") for the Town of Bristol ("Town") believes that splitting up the ADD-4 two-member House District into the proposed one member districts of ADD-6 and ADD-7 is a mistake. The Town realizes that the population has changed in the past 10 years but splitting the town is not the right move. First, the Town is close enough to the population number (approximately 4,200) that was proposed for a one-member House district. Second, the Town has its own downtown commerce center which serves the surrounding towns in the current ADD-4 district. Third, the Town has been growing over the last year and continues to grow. Currently construction has begun on a residential 20-unit complex and a business park located on West Street. Several landowners have also subdivided their properties over the last year bringing in new residents.

According to Vermont State statute, in addition to the deviation percentages there are three statutory directives that the Apportionment Board and the Legislature are to be guided by. They are "(1) preservation of existing political subdivision lines; (2) recognition and maintenance of patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties and common interests; and (3) use of compact and contiguous territory." (17 V.S.A. § 1906b(c)).

The BCA does not agree with adding the Town of Middlebury to the proposed Add-7 district as it's an entirely different school district and will not have the same goals or concerns. The BCA believes that by splitting up the Town and moving into a different school district the State is not preserving the existing political subdivision lines for the school and/or for the community.

The BCA also does not agree with splitting North Street leaving one side of the road in the ADD-6 district and the other side of the road in ADD-7 district with each having its own House member. This is not keeping the Town in a compact and contiguous territory nor is it in keeping the political ties or community ties together.

The BCA suggests that the Town of Bristol be its own one-member district (ADD-4) especially with the growth that continues in the Town. If the Town is not able to be its own one-member district (ADD-4), then it should stay with one or more of the surrounding towns in the same school district (Monkton, New Haven, Starksboro and/or Lincoln if they stay in school district) and remain a two-member House district (ADD-4).