



STATE OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

January X, 2022

[TOWN] Board of Civil Authority

[INSERT ADDRESS]

RE: Initial Districts

Dear BCA Members and Town Clerks:

The General Assembly has passed H.589, which proposes to reapportion (also known as “redistrict”) the House of Representatives into single- and multi-member districts based on the 2020 decennial U.S. Census population data and a proposed reapportionment plan from the Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB), known as the LAB Alternate Map or LAB Minority Map. House district maps based on H.589’s proposed plan may be viewed here: [WEBSITE]. At this webpage you will be able to view and download single district maps, regional district maps, the statewide map, and the bill language of H.589. In addition, you will also be able to view the LAB’s statewide map for all single-member districts (known as the LAB Adopted Map or LAB Majority Map), which may look familiar to you as the LAB sent a prior version of this map to BCAs in October 2021 for feedback.

The House Committee on Government Operations is seeking:

- (1) BCA proposals to subdivide H.589’s proposed two-member districts into two single-member districts (if desired);
- (2) BCA proposals on how to subdivide any initial district that is listed in H.589 as having three or more representatives into one- or two-member districts; and
- (3) any additional feedback on the proposed district lines contained in these maps, which also may include feedback on the LAB’s Adopted/Majority statewide map.

If your district is listed as having two representatives in H.589:

17 V.S.A. § 1906b(b) lays out the process for a BCA to consider subdividing an initial two-member House district. A copy of 17 V.S.A. § 1906b may be viewed here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/17/034A/01906b>

Also, subsection (d) of section 1906b requires that any such subdivision not extend the limits of the overall deviation of the initial districts in H.589. The overall deviation in H.589 is [INSERT%], which comes from a highest high deviation of [INSERT%], and a lowest low deviation of [INSERT%]. Therefore, if the decision is made to subdivide your initial two-member district, the resulting two single-member districts may not go above an [INSERT%] deviation or below a [INSERT%] deviation.

Moreover, please take note that although 17 V.S.A. § 1906b(e) states that BCAs must submit proposed divisions by April 1, Sec. 3 of H.589 instead requires that these proposed divisions be submitted by February 15. This earlier submission date is due to ballot requirements that need to be met for the State's August primary date.

If the decision is made to *not* propose to subdivide your initial two-member district, we respectfully request that you notify us of this decision by February 15 so that we can confirm the district's desire to be a finalized, two-member representative district.

If your district is listed as having 3 or more representatives in H.589:

17 V.S.A. § 1906c(c) lays out the process for a BCA to consider subdividing an initial three or more member House district. A copy of 17 V.S.A. § 1906c may be viewed here:

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/17/034A/01906c>

Also, subsection (d) of section 1906c requires that any such subdivision not extend the limits of the overall deviation of the initial districts in H.589. The overall deviation in H.589 is [INSERT%], which comes from a highest high deviation of [INSERT%], and a lowest low deviation of [INSERT%]. Therefore, for any proposals on how to subdivide the district into one- and two-member districts, the resulting one- or two-member districts may not go above an [INSERT%] deviation or below a [INSERT%] deviation.

Moreover, please take note that although 17 V.S.A. § 1906c(e) states that BCAs must submit proposed divisions by April 1, Sec. 3 of H.589 instead requires that these proposed divisions be submitted by February 15. This earlier submission date is due to ballot requirements that need to be met for the State's August primary date.

If your BCAs are unable to obtain a majority vote on a proposed division, please notify the House Committee on Government Operations of the failure to agree on a proposal by February 15 and the General Assembly shall divide the multi-member initial district into one- or two-member representative districts.

Contact information; submitting feedback and proposals

Please direct all feedback, proposals, and any questions or concerns regarding any of the above information, to [EMAIL ADDRESS] or by mail to:

Vermont General Assembly
Office of Legislative Counsel
Attn: Reapportionment
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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