

Submission of Jim Fox
Received: 9/9/21

Jim Fox <coachjimfox@cox.net>

Thank you for the critical public service you are providing through your work on redistricting.

Please consider including a *test for gerrymandering* during your important deliberations. See the updated Guide to Fair Redistricting. <https://preprints.apsanet.org/engage/api-gateway/apsa/assets/orp/resource/item/6138e4f565db1ec5eab053ec/original/fair-and-square-redistricting.pdf> (More than 1650 views and 950 downloads on the American Political Science Association Preprints Page)

Respectfully and Gratefully,

Jim Fox

Submission of Katherine Jones, City of Portland

Received: 9/9/21

Katherine Jones <klj@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

Please find attached a memo regarding District Lines for the City of Portland Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely;

Katherine Jones

Katherine Jones, City Clerk, CCM, CMC, Registrar

City of Portland

389 Congress Street

Portland, ME 04101

(207) 874-8614

(207) 874-8612 Fax

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.



**CITY OF PORTLAND City
Clerk
Katherine Jones**

TO: Honorable Donald Alexander, Chair of the Apportionment Commission

DATE: September 9, 2021

FROM: Katherine L. Jones, City Clerk, Portland Maine

RE: County Commissioner Districts and State Senate Districts for Portland

Dear Honorable Alexander;

I am writing today to ask the Commission to look at the County Commissioner District 4 and the State Senate District 28 lines for Portland.

The majority of Portland is in County Commission District 5, (56,420). District 4 (6,324) encompasses the northern part of Portland. I am asking, if at all possible, to move District 4 County Commissioners line back toward Falmouth and out of Portland.

We have two polling places that are affected by County Commission District 4 and this adds an additional 4 extra ballot styles for these two polling places. As best as I can, we set up plastic containers that are separated by file folders for each Senate and House and County Districts, to assist the election clerks in giving out the proper ballot. County Districts are an added ballot style for the election workers and is very confusing since the majority are in District 5. When there is a Primary Election, these clerks now have 18 different ballot (D,R,G) styles to worry about. By moving County Commission District 4 out of Portland this would eliminate 6 different ballot styles.

Finally, one last request would be to move Senate District 28 from its current position in Portland and have the Senate Line follow the entire length of Stevens Avenue this would help with ballot styles at many polling places in particular one polling place because of its location has 21 different ballot styles in Primary Elections. I will also be working on this within our own District lines.

Thank you so much for allowing me to give written testimony

Sincerely

Katherine Jones, City Clerk

Submission of Jonathan Albrecht

Received: 9/9/21

Jonathan Albrecht <albrechtjona@gmail.com>

I listened to the August 18, 2021 Commission meeting and heard Judge Alexander lament the lack of public comment. I would suggest that I and I assume others have directed our comments to Commission members. Lacking a consensus map of House, Senate and County Commissioners districts, comment seemed pointless other than to offer general comments. So I will repeat here the comments I have made to members of the Commission and others recognizing that when preliminary maps are available and public hearings or procedures for public comment are provided additional comments may be appropriate.

I live in the rural Town of Penobscot, Maine on the Blue Hill Peninsula having moved here 4 years ago. My understanding is that historically Penobscot has been part of house districts that include peninsula towns, but in the last apportionment Penobscot was assigned to a district mainly composed of towns remote to the peninsula. I am a member of Penobscot's Comprehensive Planning Committee so I am aware that in the 20 some years since the last Comprehensive Plan was developed the demographics of the town and surrounding communities has changed. The Commission should not only take into consideration the Constitutional requirements of apportionment, but also the purpose, which I hope is to represent in the House the full range of interests, views and values of the constituents in each district. Unfortunately, moving Penobscot from a district of shared interests and values within the peninsula to one in which Penobscot does not share any significant interest with the other towns in the district has discouraged people from taking an interest in the political process. Good Representatives should be able to represent all the interests in their district. Some do not. The demographic changes over the last 20 years in Penobscot have only made the situation worse and expected population changes are likely to exacerbate the situation. Therefore, I request that you consider forming two house districts composed of the towns of the Blue Hill Peninsula consistent with Constitutional requirements.

Thank you.

While I usually can't watch the meetings live, I will be replaying them. Thanks for making this facility available.

--

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

Submission of Kevin Lamoreau

Received: 9/8/21

Kevin Lamoreau <lamoreau8047@gmail.com>

Hello,

I would like to speak at the Apportionment Commission meeting on Friday, September 10. I'm kind of torn between in-person or Zoom but I guess I'll go with in-person, in case I'm able to whip up some maps to pass around between now and then. I haven't prepared written remarks (I may comment on some proposals suggested or points made previously in the meeting), but I'll be at least touching on State House redistricting as it pertains to Augusta, and the following two attachments (which I've sent previously, although I've made revisions to both since I first sent them) are most on point regarding that.

Sincerely,

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

Maine State House Redistricting in Augusta
Potential House district boundary lines

The (entire) Kennebec River (within Augusta):

Description: The centerline of the Kennebec River (or to be precise the set of census tract boundary lines that follow roughly the centerline of the Kennebec River in Augusta (and pass entirely through water)) from the Vassalboro and Sidney lines to the Hallowell line (the Hallowell line hits the river slightly north of the Chelsea line).

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) on either side in 2020: 9,216 (1.0215) (48.76%) to the east; 9,683 (1.0732) (51.24%) to the west.

Possible application: as the western boundary of an "Augusta East" House district in a scenario where Augusta has two whole House districts and one partial House district (as at present), but where (unlike at present) the remainder comes out of the west side.

Relationship with ward boundaries: Follows the current 3-4 and 1-4 boundaries throughout their length (from the Vassalboro and Sidney lines to Calumet Bridge at Old Fort Western) and the current 1-2 boundary from Calumet Bridge to Memorial Bridge where that boundary takes off to the southeast. So this line would divide the current Ward 2 along the Kennebec River into "Ward 2 East" (in an "Augusta East" House district) and "Ward 2 West" (either in the other all-Augusta House district or in a district with Hallowell, etc.; presumably that small area wouldn't be further divided, or any portion of "Ward 2 West" drawn into a different House district from the rest of it could be moved into Ward 1).

Kevline Sewall:

Description: The "centerline" of the Kennebec River (as defined above) from the Vassalboro and Sidney lines south to Memorial Bridge; then southeast and east along Memorial Bridge and Memorial Drive to Memorial Circle (or "to State Street"); then south on State Street to Capitol Street; then west on Capital Street to Sewall Street; then south on Sewall Street to the Hallowell line. Not that it matters, but I place all traffic islands along Memorial Circle to the northwest side of this line (you'd have to enter Memorial Circle from Sewall Street and exit on Memorial Bridge Drive to legally drive along this part of the line; of course you wouldn't be able to drive along the Kennebec River in any case).

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) on either side in 2020: 9,873 (1.0943) (52.24%) to the east; 9,026 (1.0004) (47.76%) to the west.

Possible application: as the eastern boundary of an all-Augusta House district in a scenario where Augusta has two whole House districts and one partial House district (as at present), with the remainder coming out of the east side of this line (also as at present), but not necessarily east of the Kennebec River (see special note below).

Relationship with ward boundaries: Follows the current 3-4, 1-4 and 1-2 boundaries throughout their length (from the Vassalboro and Sidney lines to the Hallowell line).

Special note regarding the above two lines:

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) between Kevline Sewall and the Kennebec River in 2020: 657 (0.0728) (3.48%)

This area (the portion of the current Ward 2 west of the Kennebec River) could possibly be placed in a House district with Hallowell, etc.

Kennebec-Sewall Steps:

Description: The "centerline" of the Kennebec River (as defined above) from the Vassalboro and Sidney lines south to Memorial Bridge; then southeast along Memorial Bridge to Gage Street, then south on Gage Street to its end on Capitol and Union Streets, then south and west on Union Street to State Street, then south on State Street to Gray Street, then west on Gray Street to South Grove Street, then south on South Grove Street to Maine Street, then west on Maine Street to Sewall Street, then south on Sewall Street to the Hallowell line.

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) on either side in 2020: 9,450 (1.0474) (50.003%) to the east; 9,449 (1.0473) (49.997%) to the west. Talk about close!

Possible application: as the boundary between two all-Augusta House districts in a scenario where Augusta has two whole House districts, no more, no less. I searched for a line like this after a line I had thought up several years ago failed to have both hypothetical districts within acceptable range, but it was still possible for Augusta to two whole House districts with no remainder. That line, Kevline State, was the same as Kevline Sewall except for that it continued south on State Street from Memorial Circle to the Hallowell line instead of turning west on Capitol Street to continue its southern journey along Sewall Street. The population of Augusta west of that line is within range (3.67% above the ideal), but the population of the city east of that line is outside what I consider a 5% rule of thumb for population deviations (it's 5.81% above the ideal).

Relationship with ward boundaries: Follows the current 3-4 and 1-4 boundaries throughout their length (from the Vassalboro and Sidney lines to Calumet Bridge at Old Fort Western) and follows the current 1-2 boundary from where the Kennebec River crosses under Calumet Bridge to the intersection of Memorial Drive and Gage Street at the western end of Memorial Bridge, and again from the western end of Maine Street along Sewall Street to the Hallowell line. Only divides Ward 2, and the portion of Ward 2 to the northwest of this line could be moved into Ward 1, and while this would make the southeastern Ward 2 a bit too small (although technically not too small if the other three wards all had the same population as each other), the northeastern Ward 4 is already too big (with the same caveat) by that same amount, and the most logical ward to take in territory from Ward 4 is Ward 2 on (mostly) the same side of the river.

Northeast Corner Line:

Description: Cross Hill Road and Bolton Hill Road (the name changes when you cross North Belfast Avenue) from the Vassalboro line south to South Belfast Avenue, then east on South Belfast Avenue to the Windsor line.

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) on either side in 2020: 904 (0.1002) (4.78%) to the north and east; 17,995 (1.9945) (95.22%) to the south and west.

Possible application: as the boundary between a conglomerate of 2 House districts entirely in Augusta and a district mostly outside Augusta including (but not limited to) Vassalboro and/or Windsor (like the current House District 80). I originally had Church Hill Road as the part of this line from the Vassalboro line to South Belfast Avenue, and that could still work, but the math is a lot tighter, with two House districts in Augusta to the south and east of that line averaging 3.09% on the small side.

Relationship with ward boundaries: South Belfast Avenue is the current 2-4 boundary in this area, so this line would divide the current Ward 4 along Cross Hill and Bolton Hill roads (arguably different sections of the same road) into "Ward 4 East" (in a House district with Vassalboro and/or Windsor, etc.) and "Ward 4 West" (in a House district entirely in Augusta, assuming it's not further divided between the two all-Augusta House districts). The current boundary line in Augusta between House Districts 80 and 85, by contrast, runs entirely through Ward 4 and consists of three or four streets (Riverside Drive, Route 3 (the Alford Connector and North Belfast Avenue) and Weeks Mills Road) plus a brief jog along a set of power lines that doesn't seem to affect any residents.

Northwest Corner Line:

Description: Bog Road from the Sidney line (it's Middle Road in Sidney) south to Civic Center Drive (including the one-way portion south of Old Belgrade Road, where you could only legally drive the other way), then Civic Center Drive south to Leighton Road, then Leighton Road south to Bond Brook, then west (upstream) on Bond Brook following the tributary that flows in from Manchester to the Manchester line. A census tract boundary follows this tributary and Bond Brook itself from the Manchester line to the Kennebec River, and the City of Augusta seems to treat that tributary as part of Bond Brook in describing its ward boundaries, although some maps show Bond Brook itself as never leaving Augusta (beginning at the pond just north of Commerce Drive between the Maine Revenue Services office and the MaineGeneral Express Care building, flowing southeast and going near the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery (the one by Mount Vernon Road) before turning east) and call the tributary flowing in from Manchester Tanning Brook.

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) on either side in 2020: 734 (0.0814) (3.88%) to the north and west; 18,165 (2.0134) (96.12%) to the south and east.

Possible application: as the boundary between a conglomerate of 2 House districts entirely in Augusta and a district mostly outside Augusta including (but not limited to) Manchester and/or Sidney. I originally had I-95 as the part of this line from the Sidney line to Bond Brook, and that could still work

(the two House districts in Augusta to the south and east of that line would average just 1.50% on the small side), but it wouldn't work with the Kennebec River being the boundary between those two all-Augusta House districts that would seem desirable if you're going to have the surplus population of Augusta come out of the west side. The area between such a line and the Kennebec River would be 5.15% below the ideal, just outside the common 5% deviation range. The area between the Northwest Corner Line as I now have it and the Kennebec River, however, would be just 0.83% below the ideal.

Relationship with ward boundaries: Bond Brook (including the tributary flowing in from Manchester) is the current 1-3 boundary until you get to an extension of North Street well east of Leighton Road (it's clear from ward maps I've looked at that the boundary follows that tributary, which again is a census tract boundary), so this line divides Ward 3 (along three roads all running roughly from north to south where they coincide with this line) into "Ward 3 East" (in a House district entirely in Augusta, assuming it's not further divided between the two all-Augusta House districts) and "Ward 3 West" (in a House district with Manchester and/or Sidney, etc.).

Southeast Corner Line:

Description: Cony Road from the Chelsea line north to South Belfast Avenue, then east on South Belfast Avenue to the Windsor line.

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) on either side in 2020: 973 (0.1078) (5.15%) to the south and east; 17,926 (1.9869) (94.85%) to the north and west.

Possible application: as the boundary between a conglomerate of 2 House districts entirely in Augusta and a district mostly outside Augusta including (but not limited to) Chelsea and/or Windsor.

Relationship with ward boundaries: South Belfast Ave. is the current 2-4 boundary in this area, so this line would divide the current Ward 2 along Cony Road into "Ward 2 East" (in a House district with Chelsea and/or Windsor, etc.) and "Ward 2 West" (in a House district entirely in Augusta, assuming it's not further divided between the two all-Augusta House districts).

Southwest Corner Line:

Description: I-95 (either carriageway) from the Hallowell line north to Bond Brook, then west (upstream) on Bond Brook following the tributary that flows in from Manchester to the Manchester line.

Population (and 1/151sts of Maine's population) (and % of Augusta's population) on either side in 2020: 448 (0.0497) (2.37%) to the south and west; 18,451 (2.0451) (97.63%) to the north and east.

Possible application: as the boundary between a conglomerate of 2 House districts entirely in Augusta and a district mostly outside Augusta including (but not limited to) Hallowell and/or Manchester.

Relationship with ward boundaries: Bond Brook (including the tributary flowing in from Manchester) is the current 1-3 boundary until you get to an extension of North Street well east of I-95, so this line

divides Ward 1 along I-95 into “Ward 1 East” (in a House district entirely in Augusta, assuming it’s not further divided between the two all-Augusta House districts) and “Ward 1 West” (in a House district with Hallowell and/or Manchester, etc.).

If a portion of Augusta is to be drawn in a district with Hallowell, I would consider the portion of Ward 2 west of the Kennebec River (the area between Kevline Sewall and the Kennebec River) to be preferable, even if Manchester was also in that district, as that would avoid a split of Ward 1 (Ward 2 would be presumably split along the Kennebec River in this scenario, and could be the only split ward in Augusta). On the other hand, Granite Hill Estates crosses the Augusta-Hallowell line in this area, which would argue in its favor over the western part of Ward 2. And this area is far better connected to Manchester than the area north and west of the Northwest Corner Line, so if Augusta was to be in a 3-district conglomerate with Manchester but neither Hallowell nor Sidney, then the territory south and east of this line might be the best option if the numbers fit.

Okay, that’s all the lines I have. I hope this has been as enjoyable to review as it was to compose.

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

Maine State House Redistricting in Augusta
My ranking of some potential “minimal conglomerates” of
whole towns and whole House districts including Augusta

1. Augusta as its own 2-House district conglomerate, with no “partial” House districts.
Would allow for a single line between the two districts.
Line would preferably coincide with the Kennebec River north of the Memorial Bridge.
The Kennebec-Sewall Steps might be the best dividing line in this scenario.
Drawback: pretty high population deviation (+4.73% and +4.74% for the two districts).

2. Augusta at the “end” of a conglomerate with Hallowell, etc.
Would probably (could depend on the precise conglomerate) allow for the portion of Augusta east of the Kennebec River and the portion of Augusta west of Kevline Sewall (current Wards 1 & 3) to each be one House district.
The area in between those lines would be in a House district with Hallowell, etc.

- Note: The “etc.s” could include other towns bordering Augusta, including those mentioned further down.

3. Augusta at the “end” of a conglomerate with Sidney, etc.
Would probably (could depend on the precise conglomerate) allow for the portion of Augusta east of the Kennebec River to be one House district.
The Northwest Corner Line could probably be the other boundary line used within Augusta (with the “corner area” being in a district with Sidney, etc.).

4. Augusta at the “end” of a conglomerate with Manchester, etc.
Would probably (could depend on the precise conglomerate) allow for the portion of Augusta east of the Kennebec River to be one House district.
The Southwest Corner Line or Northwest Corner Line could probably be the other boundary line used within Augusta (with the “corner area” being in a district with Manchester, etc.).

5. Augusta at the “end” of a conglomerate with Vassalboro and/or Windsor, etc.
Would probably (could depend on the precise conglomerate) allow for the portion of Augusta west of Kevline Sewall (current Wards 1 & 3) to be one House District.
The Northeast Corner Line could be the other boundary line used within Augusta (with the “corner area” being in a district with Vassalboro and/or Windsor, etc.).
The “middle district” in Augusta would have kind of an upside-down T-shape.

6. Augusta at the “end” of a conglomerate with Chelsea and/or Windsor, etc.
Would probably (could depend on the precise conglomerate) allow for the portion of Augusta west of Kevline Sewall (current Wards 1 & 3) to be one House District.
The Southeast Corner Line could probably be the other boundary line used within Augusta (with the “corner area” being in a district with Chelsea and/or Windsor, etc.).

The “middle district” in Augusta would have kind of a “Tetris S” shape, so the Northwest Corner Line would be preferred if Windsor but not Chelsea was in the conglomerate.

7. Augusta at the “end” of a conglomerate with Whitefield, etc. (but nothing above)

Potentially worse than #8 below.

Augusta has only a tiny boundary with Whitefield.

Would probably (could depend on the precise conglomerate) allow for the portion of Augusta west of Kevline Sewall (current Wards 1 & 3) to be one House District.

The Southeast Corner Line could probably be the other boundary line used within Augusta (with the “corner area” being in a district with Whitefield, etc.).

In addition to the very odd-shaped district including Whitefield, the “middle district” in Augusta would have kind of a “Tetris S” shape.

8. Augusta “in the middle” of a conglomerate (other than “between” Chelsea and Windsor)

Potentially not as bad as #7 above (definitely not in the Chelsea + Windsor case, although that’s not great itself).

The Maine Constitution seems to require that for a municipality like Augusta, there are as many “whole” districts as it’s entitled, and any remainder can’t be split. So such a plan would result in a snaky remainder connecting towns not bordering each other.

The “least bad” possibility here might be Chelsea and Vassalboro, but not Windsor (you would still have to divide two current wards to connect those two towns).

Kevin M. Lamoreau

600 Riverside Drive, Unit 22

Augusta, ME 04330

(207) 446-2132

Lamoreau8047@gmail.com