

Submission of Deborah Averill, Orono

Received: 9/22/21

Debe Averill <mainemarketchef@gmail.com>

Good morning

I am a resident of Orono and have just seen the proposed redistricting plans for this area. The Democratic proposal seems reasonable to me. The Republican proposal is a clear attempt at gerrymandering and should be rejected. Thank you.

Deborah Averill

265 Main St

Orono

Sent from my iPhone

Submission of Antonio Blasi, Hancock

Received: 9/22/21

[Ant Blasi <antonioblasi1234@gmail.com>](mailto:antonioblasi1234@gmail.com)

I am noticing with dismay your disregard of the geography on the shores of Frenchman Bay, an area that is under assault from the American Aquafarms proposal for a 120 acre semi-closed pen Salmon Farm adjacent to Acadia National Park. These towns need to remain together politically, not loose Sullivan in exchange for Franklin. Please swap Sullivan and Franklin so that Sullivan remains in the Frenchman Bay house district.

Sincerely,

Antonio Blasi, Hancock

Submission of Kevin Lamoreau, Augusta

Received: 9/22/21

[Kevin Lamoreau <lamoreau8047@gmail.com>](mailto:lamoreau8047@gmail.com)

Greetings,

It's me again. Kevin Lamoreau of Augusta Maine. It's late and I have a lot of thoughts I want to get relayed and not much time or mental energy I feel able to spend doing it so I'm going to be rather choppy here, and I may come across as curt at times, for which I will apologize in advance.

The following are ways that I believe the various documents released regarding the Maine House of Representatives Unified proposal can be made clearer, or in one case accurate where it's currently inaccurate.

Avoid having neighboring districts (or districts that come close to each other) have the same or very similar colors. Prime examples where that is currently an issue are with the Lincoln district and the one in southern Aroostook, northern Washington and eastern Penobscot counties. And with two pairs of neighboring districts in Lewiston and Auburn. And the Litchfield-Monmouth-Wales district and the northern Sagadahoc district. And the Mexico to Hartford district and the Carthage to New Portland district. And the Sidney-Vassalboro district and the West Augusta district. Okay, I'll stop. You get the idea.

Speaking of northern Washington County, there's what appears to be some copy and paste type error in the description of what part of North Washington UT (which is in four different House districts) is in State Representative District 8. That district doesn't come particularly close to Northfield, let alone Columbia Falls. The portion of North Washington UT in State Representative District 8 is the portion on the Aroostook County side (or north, but I'm not sure you can say north as the district's portion of North Washington extends south of this line along the New Brunswick border) of a line from the southeast corner of Whitney UT in Penobscot County to the southwest corner of Talmadge.

While I haven't noticed any errors of the sort referenced above yet, a proofreading by say someone in the Secretary of State's Office (they've made district descriptions of past plans, although now that I think about it they may have been the ones to prepare the district description document) but some review to check for potential other such errors might be worthwhile.

A minor consistency issue in the description of the boundary lines with Saco. The fact that Buxton Road becomes North Street and then Beach Street is mentioned in the description of State Representative District 129, but not in the description of State Representative District 130. While District 129 starts using that road as a boundary (going southeast)

before District 130 does, for each district's boundary, the events once you start traveling on that road appear to be the same (and it's already been established that the District 129 portion is southwest of that line while the District 130 portion is east of it (and not being exact opposites makes sense since the lines start in different places along the border with the District 126 border of Saco), so the same language beginning with "then southeast along the centerline of Buxton Road" in those two district descriptions might be appropriate, with the District 129 text being more descriptive. With something like this, I think the "didn't I read this earlier" can actually be a good thing, as you can see when the borders of earlier described districts are coming into play and it can give one confidence that nothing has been missed. Of course my mind may not work like the average mind. Something to consider, anyway.

The way the town split maps are done doesn't seem optimal to me. I think the maps should either (a) just include the municipality in question, with shading a certain amount wide over the border for territory in other towns in one of those same districts (imagine a fairly thin teal strip on the Orono side of the Bangor-Orono border and the Veazie side of the Bangor-Veazie border, and for Bradford you'd have a thin pink strip on the Charleston side of the Bradford-Charleston border, with the brown for District 27 stretching slightly into Lagrange and Hudson and the northeast corner of Corinth (the district keeps going, but we're now outside of the municipality being "showcased")).

Or (b) (I figured I'd start a new paragraph here) do things exactly the way you've done them in the maps where only one town is split, but in cases like the minimal conglomerate of whole towns and whole districts stretching from Pownal to Richmond, include all the towns and all the districts in the conglomerate in the map or maps. Maps like the one covering the split in Bowdoin showing all of Districts 52 and 98 but not District 97 covering the rest of Lisbon and District 51 covering the rest of Topsham (both of which would fit on that map) just seems wrong to me.

Option (b) wouldn't work for the county maps (you'd end up having maps covering most of the state), but option (a) could work well in like Aroostook County, where you have that district going down to Bradley just because Aroostook County's portion of the Penobscot Indian Island Reservation (which has a 2020 census population of 0 and would be rather difficult to establish residency in, being a water block) is in Representative District 26.

Thinking about what I just wrote, going off the display front into talking about the plan itself, but in an aspect less likely to affect any voters, let alone election results, it kind of bugs me that the Penobscot Indian Island Reservation, with its long northern extension where hardly anyone lives (it had somewhere between 7 and 14 according to the 2020 census (one block straddles what I would see as the dividing line there), but who knows how the the statistical "noise" inserted into the data as part of the differential privacy program

has affected that; the population of the northern extension was 0 in 2010) apparently has to be in one State House district. It clearly hasn't stopped districts from crossing the Penobscot River between Old Town and Medway, but people just pretend the districts are contiguous. It kind of looks bad. In the 2003 redraw the Penobscot Reservation was divided between several House districts, perhaps there was some court case preventing that. I can understand not wanting to have anyone living in the reservation in a different House district, but if the entire population resides in the southern part then why not use the northern part to connect towns in the same House districts on opposite sides of the river (and thus the reservation)? Perhaps there was some court case or other legal action that prompted the change from what was done in 2003 and what has been done sense. The whole dual sovereignty thing is one I don't understand as well as I should, and I'm aware of the privilege that I've had that I'm sure contributes to this lack of understanding, but this was just a "redistricting pet peeve" of mine that I wanted to share. I can't be the only one who's noticed this.

Well, I ended up writing a lot more than I intended to. Of course that's often the case for me. I may submit some comments on more of the "meat" of the plan tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Kevin Lamoreau

600 Riverside Drive, Unit 22

Augusta, ME 04330

(207) 446-2132

Lamoreau8047@gmail.com

Submission of Gaye Marie Rogers, Penobscot
Received: 9/22/21

rogersgayemarie@gmail.com

Commission Members,

As a long time resident of Penobscot, I was disappointed and surprised several years back when Penobscot was moved into a district which includes Bucksport and other towns north of us. My children attended GSA high school in Blue Hill. We shop, bank, volunteer and have close connections with Blue Hill. My son is currently a teacher in Blue Hill and also taught in Surry. Our local schools, Penobscot, Brooksville, and Surry are in the same school Union. We are a part of a community with strong bonds here on the peninsula.

Please switch Penobscot back into District 16 where it belongs.

Thank you,

Gaye Marie Rogers

Submission of Joel Katz, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

Joel Katz <katzvolenik@gmail.com>

To all

This is wrong. Trenton is way too way East and belongs with Ellsworth. Penobscot belongs with Blue Hill. Castine has shared with Bucksport common economic, historic, and travel routes back into the 18th century. No road connects Castine to Blue Hill except through Penobscot. The direct route to Castine is from Route 1 in Orland down Route 175 (formerly 166). Castine churches draw congregants from Orland and Bucksport. Castine is non-contiguous with Blue Hill and does not share significant communities of interest but does with Bucksport.

Penobscot has been associated with Blue Hill for 260 years. The founding families settled in Penobscot and Blue Hill and other peninsula towns and their descendants continue to live in both towns. Many Penobscot people shop, bank, and get medical care in Blue Hill. A new medical facility is being built in Blue Hill to service the peninsula. A regional broadband expansion project has been in the works for 3 years including Penobscot, Blue Hill and two other peninsula towns. Throughout their history the economies of both towns have often been intertwined. Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill and many roads connect the two towns. Penobscot and Blue Hill are contiguous, share a community of interest and a district including the two would be compact.

Please place Penobscot with Blue Hill, Brooksville, and other peninsula towns.

Thanks you.

Joel Katz

Penobscot

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Joel Katz PO Box 19 Penobscot, Maine

Submission of Janet Baumann, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

Daksha Baumann <janetlynn821@gmail.com>

Hello

I write again to let you know that while the draft unified proposal is a bit better it still needs to be improved by putting Penobscot into HD 16 and Castine into HD 17. That would enable those towns once again to align with their communities of interest and honor their b centuries long association.

Thank you for your consideration, Janet Baumann ,Penobscot

Submission of Kimberly Matson, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

Kimberly Matson <matson.kimberly@me.com>

Penobscot has been associated with Blue Hill for 260 years. The founding families settled in Penobscot and Blue Hill and other peninsula towns and their descendants continue to live in both towns. Many Penobscot people shop, bank, and get medical care in Blue Hill. A new medical facility is being built in Blue Hill to service the peninsula. A regional broadband expansion project has been in the works for 3 years including Penobscot, Blue Hill and two other peninsula towns. Throughout their history the economies of both towns have often been intertwined. Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill and many roads connect the two towns. Penobscot and Blue Hill are contiguous, share a community of interest and a district including the two would be compact.

Submission of Joanna Rysnik, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

Dear members of Maine Apportionment Commission,

My name is Joanna Rysnik and I am year-round resident of Penobscot, Maine.

It has just come to my attention that a unified proposal for Maine House of Representative Districts

puts our town, Penobscot, with Bucksport, Orland and Verona Island in district 17, while our closest neighbors in Blue Hill, Brooksville and Surry are grouped together with Castine (and Sedgwick and Trenton) in district 16.

Please, why? The only way from Castine to Blue Hill is through Penobscot, yet we are plucked out and placed in another district.

At least 60% of students attending Maine Maritime Academy located in Castine live in Bucksport and Orland.

Castine churches share not only congregants with Bucksport and Orland, they share priests as well.

None of the above applies to Penobscot.

Castine is non-contiguous with Blue Hill and does not share significant communities of interest with them.

We, in Penobscot however, do.

Penobscot has been associated with Blue Hill for 260 years. The founding families settled in Penobscot and Blue Hill and other peninsula towns and their descendants continue to live in both towns.

Many Penobscot people shop, bank, and get medical care in Blue Hill.

A new medical facility is being built in Blue Hill to service the peninsula, which means Penobscot too.

There's a newly built YMCA facility in Blue Hill that's being used by Penobscot residents.

After what seems like eternity of non reliable at best (and non existent at worst) internet, a regional broadband expansion project has been in the works for 3 years. It includes Penobscot, Blue Hill and two other peninsula towns.

Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill and many roads connect the two towns.

We have planned a Penobscot-wide cleanup of those roads in very close cooperation with Blue Hill and with Blue Hill activists' invaluable guidance and help. Alas, COVID put us all on hold but only temporarily. This cleanup will happen yearly, simultaneously, in lasting cooperation between both towns.

Penobscot and Blue Hill are contiguous, share a community of interest and a district including the two would be compact.

I implore you, ladies and gentlemen, to consider our needs and best interest and simply switch Penobscot with Castine placing us in district 16 and Castine in district 17.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joanna Rysnik
336 Bayview Road
Penobscot, ME 04476

Jrysnik@mac.com

Submission of Jonathan Albrecht, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

Jonathan Albrecht <albrechtjona@gmail.com>

HD 16: Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick, Surry, and Trenton

HD 17: Bucksport, Orland, Penobscot, and Verona Island

Castine and other Penobscot Bay harbor communities have shared with Bucksport common economic, historic, and travel routes back into the 18th century. The Penobscot Bay has been the center of these towns' lives going back to before the Revolutionary War. Castine is separated from all the other towns in HD 16 as proposed by the Bagaduce River. No road connects Castine to Blue Hill except through the town of Penobscot. The direct route to Castine is from Route 1 in Orland down Route 166. Castine churches draw congregants from Orland and Bucksport. Castine is non-contiguous with Blue Hill and does not share significant interests with the other towns in the proposed HD 16 but does with Bucksport and Orland. Castine should be moved to HD 17.

Penobscot has been associated with Blue Hill and the neighboring peninsula towns in proposed HD 16 for 260 years. The founding families settled in Penobscot and in the proposed HD 16 towns and their descendants continue to live in these towns. Many Penobscot people shop, bank, and get medical care in Blue Hill. A new medical facility is being built in Blue Hill to service the peninsula. A regional broadband expansion project has been in the works for 3 years for the proposed HD 16 towns minus Castine and including Penobscot. Other regional projects have and could be developed for this proposed district were Penobscot included and Castine removed. Throughout their history the economies of Penobscot and the other towns in proposed HD 16 have often been intertwined. Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill and many roads connect the towns if Penobscot is included and Castine removed. Penobscot and the proposed HD 16 minus Castine are contiguous, share communities of interests and a district including Penobscot in HD 16 minus the town of Castine would be more compact and would get the two districts closer to the ideal 9022 population.

Thank you.

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Jon Albrecht
141 Southern Bay Rd
Penobscot, Me 04476

Submission of Margie Lutz, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

marlutz <marlutz@prexar.com>

To the Apportionment Commission

It is of the utmost importance to consider joining our town of Penobscot with its historically significant neighbors on the Peninsula, namely Blue Hill, Brooksville, Sedgwick, Surry, and Trenton, in HD 16, instead of Penobscot remaining in HD 17.

Penobscot has been associated with Blue Hill for 260 years. The founding families settled in Penobscot and Blue Hill and other peninsula towns and their descendants continue to live in both towns. Many Penobscot people shop, bank, and get medical care in Blue Hill. A new medical facility is being built in Blue Hill to service the peninsula. A regional broadband expansion project has been in the works for 3 years including Penobscot, Blue Hill and two other peninsula towns. Throughout their history the economies of both towns have often been intertwined. Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill and many roads connect the two towns. Penobscot and Blue Hill are contiguous, share a community of interest and a district including the two would be compact.

Our town would certainly benefit from this move into HD 16. And our presence in HD16 will also strengthen the community relationships across the whole Blue Hill Peninsula, a good move all around!

Thank for your consideration for this proposal.

Respectfully,
Margie Lutz
Penobscot

Sent from my iPhone

Submission of Jean McKillop, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

Jean McKillop <morgana1@gmail.com>

Good morning!

The unified proposal for Maine House of Representative Districts has created:

HD 16: Blue Hill, Brooksville, **Castine**, Sedgwick, Surry, and Trenton

HD 17: Bucksport, Orland, **Penobscot**, and Verona Island

Castine has shared with Bucksport common economic, historic, and travel routes back into the 18th century. No road connects Castine to Blue Hill except through Penobscot. The direct route to Castine is from Route 1 in Orland down Route 175 (formerly 166). Castine churches draw congregants from Orland and Bucksport. Castine is non-contiguous with Blue Hill and does not share significant communities of interest but does with Bucksport.

Penobscot has been associated with Blue Hill for 260 years. The founding families settled in Penobscot and Blue Hill and other peninsula towns and their descendants continue to live in both towns. Many Penobscot people shop, bank, and get medical care in Blue Hill. A new medical facility is being built in Blue Hill to service the peninsula. A regional broadband expansion project has been in the works for 3 years including Penobscot, Blue Hill and two other peninsula towns. Throughout their history the economies of both towns have often been intertwined. Penobscot shares a significant border with Blue Hill and many roads connect the two towns. Penobscot and Blue Hill are contiguous, share a community of interest and a district including the two would be compact.

I am a year-round Penobscot resident and have been for 25 years.

Thank you for your consideration on this.

Kindly,
Jean McKillop

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Jean McKillop | morgana1@gmail.com

Submission of Carolyn Yoder, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

[Carolyn Yoder <streamerette@gmail.com>](mailto:streamerette@gmail.com)

As a resident of the Town of Penobscot since 1971, I have many more connections and affinity for the towns in District 16. Blue Hill is where I shop for groceries, hardware, and gardening products. I also use and support the Blue Hill Public Library, and belong to the Blue Hill Food Coop and Heritage Trust. I rarely go to Castine, and am not a member of any organizations there.

PLEASE place PENOBSHOT in DISTRICT 16.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Yoder

97 Littlefield Lane

Penobscot, ME 04476

Submission of Pamela Person, Orland

Received: 9/22/21

phppwp@aol.com

September 22, 2021 11:20AM

Dear Members of the Maine Apportionment Commission

Thank you for your work. I understand your impediments this 2020 Census-Apportiomment cycle: with the Census data delivered to you and your staff so late you have had to work in such an abbreviated time frame. Plus, with the COVID protocols and conditions you were not allowed to hold in person meetings and discussion. I am grateful that I have been able to observe your work via You Tube.

I have lived in Orland since September 30, 1989 - 32 years in one week. On the same road and in the same home - Back Ridge Road which is about 2/3rds in Orland and 1/3rd in Penobscot in the eastern area of Orland between US Route 1 and ME Route 15. ME Route 15 (titled "Blue Hill Road" in Maine Atlas) goes from US Route 1 through part of Orland then through part of Penobscot to Blue Hill and then onto Deer Isle and Stonington.

I used The Maine Atlas and Gazetteer that has roads and bodies of water on each map page as it gives a better truer picture of the area to explain why there are needed changes in Districts 16 and 17.

#16 Blue Hill district has two towns that that need to be taken out of District and need to add Penobscot in

(1) Castine does NOT belong with Blue Hill - Castine does not even have a road that connects to Blue Hill unless you go through Penobscot *first* on #199. Castine does not connect with Brooksville either - the Bagaduce River is in between and there are no roads directly connecting Brooksville and Castine.

(2) Trenton does not belong with Blue Hill either - **There is NO** geographic physical connection between any of the Blue Hill proposed district towns and Trenton. There is ZERO "community of interest" between Blue Hill and Trenton. Ellsworth is Trenton's "community of interest" Trenton is on the other side of the Union River and Union River Bay from Surry with no bridge or road.

((3) Penobscot is much more logical part of Blue Hill - roads, schools, community of interest, boundaries, shopping

Many of my neighbors on Back Ridge Road that live in Penobscot mostly shop, go to church, and have their community of interest with Blue Hill more than Bucksport or Orland. Penobscot is on the direct route (Route 15) from US Route 1 in Orland to Blue Hill.

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#17 Bucksport Orland Verona Island district - needs to have one town taken out and one added in

(1) take out Penobscot - very little "community of interest", little shared school or shopping or community of interest

(2) add in Castine - Route 166 is the direct route going from Route 1 in Orland through Orland to Castine - all road signs to Castine from US Route 1 take people on Route 166. There is a high degree of "community of interest" among Castine and Orland and Bucksport- shopping, travel, churches in Castine have congregants from Orland and Bucksport. Route 166 is called "the Castine Road" by local Orland and Bucksport people (and by the Maine Atlas). I go to church in Castine, for example, even though I live in Orland.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Pamela W. Person
479 Back Ridge Road
Orland, ME 04472
469-6770

Submission of John Epstein, Brooksville

Received: 9/22/21

John Epstein <johnepstein219@gmail.com>

Please place Castine in District 17 and Penobscot in District 16. Thank you.

John Epstein, Esq.

146 Jones Point Rd.

Brooksville, ME 04617

Submission of Sylvia Tapley

Received: 9/22/21

[Sylvia Tapley <sylviatapley@gmail.com>](mailto:sylviatapley@gmail.com)

Good day, I write to the Apportionment Commission asking you to switch Penobscot and Castine placing Castine in House district 17 and Penobscot in House district 16. I am wondering what members of this committee have truly studied a map of these two districts and/or tried to respect their individual as well as mutual histories, geographies, economies etc. Because if you have then you are acutely aware it makes absolutely no sense to put Castine in HD 16 and Penobscot in HD17. None. Castine has no border and little connection to Blue Hill like Penobscot has. I know many folks in Penobscot have contacted you with the same concerns and argument. The only reason I can find for this asinine districting proposal is the influence of our local Representative and not the people. I implore you to hear us and reconsider. Act for the people. Please.

Sylvia Tapley

Submission of Par Kettis, Castine

Received: 9/22/21

Par Kettis <kettispar@gmail.com>

I just read Pam Person's email where she discusses Castine and our connections to Blue Hill. I live in 21 School Street in Castine 04421.

I want to say that we in the area have frequent contacts with Blue Hill and Bucksport but definitely at least this family have many more contacts with BH. That is true for business contacts incl. restaurants but also for cultural events often in the church.

Par Kettis

Sent from my iPhone

Submission of Arthur Washburn, Penobscot

Received: 9/22/21

Arthur Washburn <washburn.arthur3@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

I, as a resident of Penobscot, Maine, have this town included with other "Communities of Interest" on the Blue Hill peninsula. We, the citizens of Penobscot, have a great deal more in common with the peninsula towns than we do with towns like Dedham and Otis for example. I would like to please consider my request for inclusion with these other adjacent communities.

Thank you for your time,

Arthur W. Washburn, III

Submission of Paula Kee, Bucksport

Received: 9/22/21

paula kee <perkiepaula@gmail.com>

To the Maine Apportionment Commission Members,

I live in Bucksport and have for 40 years, and have learned that your proposed neighboring House Districts have Bucksport included with Verona Island, Orland and Penobscot for HD 17, and that Castine is included in HD 16.

Because Castine and Bucksport have socio and economic ties going back for generations, and because of Maine Maritime Academy's new and significant investment in the Bucksport waterfront for their training school, I believe Bucksport and Castine share so many inter-relations, they should be together in HD 17, and Penobscot, closer to Blue Hill and sharing social and economic community interests, would be a better fit for HD16.

For many years Bucksport and Castine organizations have collaborated on events, educational programs and more, not to mention our shared maritime histories and traditions. Please consider including Castine in House District 17 with Bucksport, and including Penobscot in House District 16 with Blue Hill.

Thank you very much for taking the time to give this matter your full attention.

Cordially,

Paula Kee
79 Main Street, #3
Bucksport, Maine 04416

Submission of Dorothy Caldwell, Penobscot
Received: 9/22/21

Dorothy Caldwell (Dotty) <dcaldwell.maine@gmail.com>

I urge the Appropriations Commission to switch its inclusion of my town, Penobscot, from that listed in its proposal for HD 17 - to inclusion in HD 16, instead. Penobscot's direct association with Blue Hill for 260 years demonstrates the reality of their economic and cultural similarity of interests. I shop in Blue Hill. I get much of my health care in Blue Hill. Our kids went to high school in Blue Hill. I am a member of the Blue Hill Library. My town has a significant common boundary with Blue Hill. The Blue Hill Peninsula is what I consider to be my home turf.

Alternately, it would seem that Castine's more direct association with Bucksport and Orland (via roads, proximity, history, and current MMA development) suggests its greater shared interests with and natural connection to those towns.

Again, please include Penobscot with Blue Hill in the Maine House of Representatives District, HD 16, to accurately reflect their significant connection in interests and economy.

Sincerely,

Dotty Caldwell
Penobscot, Maine

Submission of Carolyn Hanke, Penobscot
Received: 9/22/21

[Carolyn Hanke <carolyn_hanke@yahoo.com>](mailto:carolyn_hanke@yahoo.com)

September 21, 2021

To: Apportionment Commission
RE: **Penobscot should be in HD16** (Not HD17) for Redistricting

Dear Commissioners,

I understand the earlier meeting to discuss Penobscot and districting placed the town in HD 17 along with Bucksport, Orland and Verona Island - not in HD16 where it belongs and is associated with other towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula like Blue Hill, Brooksville Sedgwick and Surry. Oddly, Castine which has no contiguous border except through Penobscot was placed in HD16.

Please review again taking a look at the map of Blue Hill. Penobscot is contiguous with Blue Hill.

Other aspects of community overlap Penobscot and Blue Hill towns very closely in history, relationships and distances.

I believe it will ill-serve Penobscot town interests. Personally, I have already experienced that when trying to secure a simple DSL line and telephone. Negotiations to better serve Blue Hill towns and technology services will be key for our towns to figure out efficient better contracts. Additionally, as a senior citizen all of my shopping is done in Blue Hill taking only 7 minutes by car. If I need medical help it would be there too. I use the library in Blue Hill and attend activities there. It is our "hub" for socialization.

Please reconsider and place Penobscot in HD16 where it most certainly belongs. Thank you for reconsidering this important 10 year effect and affect it will have on our lives in Penobscot as voters and citizens.

Carolyn Hanke - registered voter
226 Southern Bay Rd
Penobscot, ME 04476

Submission of Brook Minner, Castine

Received: 9/22/21

Brook Minner <brook.ewing.minner@gmail.com>

Proposed State House District for Castine, ME
September 22, 2021

Ref: Proposed State House District for Castine, ME
HD 16 Blue Hill, **Castine**, Brooksville, Sedgewick, Surry, and Trenton
HD 17 Bucksport, Orland, **Penobscot**, and Verona Island

Maine Apportionment Commission Members,

In the proposed Maine State House Districts please take note that Penobscot (1,136) has more areas of interest with Blue Hill (including being contiguous) and that Castine (1,320) has more areas of interest with Bucksport.

Many Castine residents share social, educational, religious, and economic ties with Bucksport. Additionally, Maine Maritime Academy has further strengthened its shared economic, educational, and maritime tradition with Bucksport with the new MMA Center for Professional Mariner Development.

I hope that you will consider the reasons mentioned above to include Castine in the proposed House District 17 with Bucksport and include Penobscot in the proposed House District 16 with Blue Hill.

Thank you,
Brook Minner
Castine, Maine

Submission of Jim Bonnes
Received: 9/22/21

Jim <jimbonnes@gmail.com>

Please put Penobscot in district 16.

--

Jim Bonnes

Submission of Ann Luther, Trenton

Received: 9/22/21

Ann Luther <ann.m.luther@gmail.com>

TO: Apportionment Commission

FROM: Ann Luther, Trenton

RE: House District 16

DATE: September 22, 2021

I'm writing to express my concern over the inclusion of the Town of Trenton in House District 16 with Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick, and Surry -- towns that generally comprise the Blue Hill Peninsula. Trenton is not on the Blue Hill Peninsula. Surry is the town nearest to Trenton geographically, but we do not even share a land border with Surry. You have to drive through Ellsworth to get to Surry.

We in Trenton do not share school districts with any of these towns. We are in AOS #91, with Mount Desert Island. Graduates of our elementary school generally attend either Ellsworth or MDI High Schools.

Trenton is in the League of Towns with Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Ellsworth, Lamoine, Mount Desert, Southwest Harbor, Swans Island, Tremont, and Acadia National Park. This organization of collaborative government serves as a forum for resolving regional issues together. These are the towns with which we share regional interests.

We do not share commercial interests with the rest of the proposed District 16. Most of our commercial activity is tied to either Ellsworth or Acadia National Park.

I, for just one voter in Trenton, am going to feel orphaned in this new district. I realize that it would be constructive if I were to offer an alternative map proposal, but my initial attempts to find a quick solution were not successful. I would need more time than this short 24 hours to be able to offer a realistic alternative.

I recognize that the Commission has been operating under unusual and demanding circumstances, but I urge you to postpone your vote on this map. People like me who might have an interest in objecting or commenting have not had time to adequately prepare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann Luther
Trenton

Submission of Anne Prince, Orland

Received: 9/22/21

Anne Price <anneprice38@gmail.com>

September 22, 2021

RE: Considerations for the State House District proposal with Bucksport, ME

To the Maine Apportionment Commission Members,

As a resident of Orland, I am referring to the neighboring House Districts proposed and just released from the Commission:

HD 16 - Blue Hill, Brooksville, Sedgewick, Surry, Trenton, and Castine

HD 17 - Bucksport, Verona Island, Orland, and Penobscot

Castine would be a better represented area within the House District that Orland and Bucksport are proposed to be in because of social, economic, and educational ties, and maritime traditions, particularly as Castine's Maine Maritime Academy has purchased land and buildings in Bucksport for their MMA Center for Professional Mariner Development.

While I live in Orland, I go to church in Castine, where I have been a member of the Governing Board, and shop in Bucksport. Bucksport, Orland, and Castine share many interests, economic, and social activities together.

Penobscot shares more social and economic communities of interest with Blue Hill.

Please consider including Castine in House District 17 with Bucksport and including Penobscot in House District 16 with Blue Hill.

Thank you,

Anne J. Price
Orland

Submission of Karen Cote, Orland

Received: 9/22/21

K&M Cote <km985cote@yahoo.com>

09/22/2021

To: 2021 Maine Apportionment Commission

RE: Additional comment on newly proposed House Districts (HDs) -
16 Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgewick, Surry, & Trenton - 9,465
17 Bucksport, Orland, Penobscot & Verona Island - 8,808

Commissioners,

Please consider and note that the total population counts for the proposed HD 16 and HD 17, both within the allowed variance, can **both** be improved and come closer to the median population of 9,022 by placing Penobscot in the HD 16 with the Blue Hill district (9,281) and placing Castine in HD 17 with the Bucksport district (8,992).

These population goal improvements in both districts along with

1. Penobscot's stronger affiliations with Blue Hill in social, economic, and educational areas and
- 2 .Castine's stronger economic, social, and educational ties with Bucksport which include a new Maine Maritime Academy Center for Professional Mariner Development located in Bucksport

make a strong case of representation for placing Penobscot in HD 16 with the Blue Hill district and placing Castine in HD 17 with the Bucksport district.

Thank for your all your time, effort, consideration,

Karen Cote
Orland

Submission of Mike Turcotte, Bangor

Received: 9/22/21

Mike Turcotte <michaelpturcotte@gmail.com>

To the Redistricting Apportionment Commission:

Commissioners,

My name is Mike Turcotte and I live in Bangor. In 2011, I went to court to have this Commission dissolved and non-partisan Citizens Commission be put instead. I was acting as a pro se' and I learned a great deal about the redistricting process and the Supreme Court cases that determine the political and governing fate each state's citizenry.

I first like to point out that according to the Secretary of State's website 53.4% of the Maine's population is not represented on this Commission. These are the Un-enrolled and Green party voters plus the children of this great state. The total number of Un-enrolled and Green Party voters is 408,207, which combined make up the largest voting bloc, and greater than the two individual major political parties.

That said, here we are in 2021.

I offer the following maps for consideration for congressional redistricting. I used the website, districtbuilder.org, to draw these maps. This website allows individual citizens to draw maps at both the federal and state level. Features include: the 2020 census data, county, and census blockgroups and blocks. With the ability to set a deviation percentage, the website is simple to use, just point and click on counties or census blocks to draw maps.

Even though I am a registered Democrat, I did not concern myself with political outcomes. Congressional districts are hard enough to get to parity. For Maine, our census, as you know, came out to an odd number of citizens thus "+1" to one of the two. It is my understanding that Commission did not want to break up municipalities. It is also my understanding that counties are made up of municipalities, therefore, I split three counties to create the first map and four the second.

I look at redistricting as a clean slate project. In other words, whatever the outcomes are achieved while still following the Supreme Court's "compact districts with contiguous territory", so be the results.

The first map I call the Monhegan Island map (see first link below). The island's population was the last piece of the map to achieve parity. It is also the most compact congressional map I was able to create.

<https://app.districtbuilder.org/projects/0ae5f5a1-3f13-4aca-a80f-83ab2ef7e8ca>

The second map is the most compact I could achieve while maintaining the representative's current residences.

<https://app.districtbuilder.org/projects/e49ad8e6-6cc1-4a7a-adab-743012d22b63>

I will expand my comments during the meeting and happy to answer any questions.

Mike Turcotte

Submission of Lucas Siebert, Portland

Received: 9/22/21

Luke Siebert <lsiebert@gmail.com>

Commissioners,

I am writing today as a voter in Portland, ME in regards to various apportionment proposals put forward by the commission. I have concerns and comments about the proposals for the Congressional, State Senate, and State Legislative districts, as well as on procedural issues that I believe need to be urgently addressed.

By profession, I am a data analyst specializing in political and voter data. In the interest of full disclosure, I worked as the Data Director for the Maine Democratic Party from 2019 until July of this year. In that capacity, I frequently worked with and analyzed datasets from governmental sources including the US Census Bureau, Maine Secretary of State Election Results, and Maine Secretary of State Voter Files. From my experience, I know that these are the types of datasets relied on by the Commissioners and Consultants as they work to draw new district lines every 10 years.

Although I was previously employed by the Maine Democratic Party, during my period of employment I was not privy to any apportionment-related communications between the Commissioners and the Maine Democratic Party, or between Commissioners. All data presented, and all analysis, is derived from public data sources and was conducted on my own time.

This testimony will be broken down into four sections:

- Comment on the proposed Congressional maps, as well as on the public testimony heard by the Committee on 9/20/2021
- Comment on the partisan State Senate proposals
- Comment on the Unified State House proposal
- Potential improvements to the redistricting process, and a request that the Legislature work with the Secretary of State to improve the collection, formatting, and publication of relevant data

1) **Congressional District Proposals:**

Much ink has been spilled about proposed Congressional redistricting efforts, in Maine and elsewhere. Several members of the public provided detailed alternative proposals to the Commission during the public meeting on 9/20/2021. My brief additional comments are:

- I tend to agree with the citizens who argued that Waterville is better suited culturally and geographically to the 2nd District
- I don't believe (although I am not a lawyer) that the existing case law requires that districts be as close as possible in population **regardless of continuity or communities of interest**
 - In this light, I find the Republican proposal to stretch the definition of continuity given the difficulties of navigating between towns that they place in the same district.

- I feel strongly that the legislature should work towards a map that creates the most geographically sensible split within Kennebec County, potentially at the expense of a <0.1% difference in population between the Congressional Districts.

2) State Senate Proposals

Lack of data standardization makes these competing proposals nearly impossible to evaluate for the average citizen. Furthermore, the incredibly tight timeline between the release of maps and the public comment deadline raised giant challenges for citizens wishing to independently analyze and comment on these proposals. On 9/20/21, the commission heard testimony from several citizens regarding this lack of transparency (discussed further in Section 4). Several issues were discussed, including the uncertainty around municipalities in Southern Maine which were split between State Senate District.

I would like to enter into the record the following Google Spreadsheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tr8g6WHDk6He2nT0bF9hwwBhAwBDq6E7MWOeYILzD4k/edit?usp=sharing>

This document is available to the public at this link. In it, I have attempted to calculate both the 2020 Presidential election results, as well as the 2020 State Senate results for each district. More details on the methodology used can be found in the document. This commentary is not value-based; I do not intend to argue that one proposal is superior. I simply wish to inform the public and legislators of the decisions they face. It also must be noted that due to the absence of detailed geodata such as ESRI shapefiles, these calculations are approximate.

Under the Democratic proposal, 22/35 districts were won by President Biden in 2020, while 13 were won by former President Trump. In the State Senate elections, 22 were won by Democrats, compared to 13 for Republicans. Under the Republican proposal, 20 districts were won by Biden, and 15 by Trump. The exact same proportion were won by Democratic candidates. Under the old districts, President Biden won 20 districts, while Democrats earned 22/35 seats in the State Senate. Both of these proposals include relatively proportional outcomes - however, they are quite different.

Several nonpartisan measures of district quality exist. Four criteria are relevant to Maine; Competitiveness, Proportionality, Compactness, and Splitting. Daves Redistricting App provides a useful estimate of these criteria to compare districts. The following scores (out of 100) were given to the competing proposals:

Criteria	Dem Proposal Score	GOP Proposal Score
Competitiveness	47	41
Proportionality	76	66
Compactness	69	57
Splitting	67	73

Clearly, the Democratic proposal dramatically outperforms the GOP proposal on every measure except for splitting.

While both proposals have serious issues, and lack the detail required to precisely evaluate them, on balance, the Democratic proposal reflects a serious attempt to draw districts that reflect the state, while the GOP proposal is an obvious attempt to create partisan advantage.

3) State Legislative Unified Proposal

It is extremely concerning that the Commission has chosen to issue a unified state legislative proposal while only giving the public 22 hours to analyze and comment on said proposal. Furthermore, the detailed nature of the unified proposal makes it clear that all parties represented on the Commission could have provided better information around the Congressional and State Senate proposals.

With the caveat that I have not had the time and ability to fully analyze the proposed districts, there are several issues with the proposal that stand out.

- Vinalhaven is separated from North Haven, and lacks any direct connection to the rest of the district. There is no ferry service from Vinalhaven to Isle au Haut or Stonington, the two “adjacent” municipalities.
- The communities of Jackman, The Forks, and West Forks are combined into a district which stretches deep into Oxford County - all the way to Newry. The shortest route between these two points involves leaving the state.
- Municipal splits do not seem to take into account municipal subdivisions such as precincts or wards. The ME Constitution, statute, and federal and state case law all support the idea that political subdivisions should be split as infrequently as possible in the apportionment process. Not factoring municipal subdivisions into these calculations makes it more difficult for citizens and voters to understand how they are represented in various branches of the government.

4) Improvements to the process and data

I recognize that the Commission has been working under extremely unusual circumstances caused by external factors such as delays in Census data, as well as tight timelines imposed by the court. I commend the Commissioners, Consultants, Legislators, and Commission staff on their hard work and dedicated service.

However, this process has raised several obvious areas for improvement, mostly regarding the standardization of data structures and Commission submissions. In this section, I will outline some of the issues, and some potential solutions.

1) Citizens do not have access to detailed enough data to evaluate proposed maps independently

- I would recommend that the legislature adopt guidelines or requirements for future commissions that all proposals be accompanied by detailed geospatial data. The most common computer file format for this data is ESRI Shapefiles. However, alternate file formats like GEOJSON could provide similar benefits to the public. Such data files should also include attribute information such as Total Population, Voting Age Population, and Registered Voter counts sourced from the US Census Bureau and Maine Secretary of State.

2) The work of the Commission is not well publicized, and informed public comment is difficult

- Related to the above, members of the public did not have ample opportunity to be notified of upcoming hearings, the release of new maps, or the time to analyze and comment on them

- It is unacceptable to have less than 22 hours between the release of proposed maps (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS!) and the close of the public comment period. I recommend the commission mandate at least a 72 hour timeframe between releasing materials and requiring comments.

2) Relevant data is not provided in a standardized format

- In evaluating the proposals from each Caucus, I noticed that they used different nomenclatures for municipalities, and in some cases, did not use the same list of municipalities.
- Furthermore, the list of municipalities used by the parties in the drafting of their proposed maps does not match the list of municipalities provided publicly by the ME Secretary of State in the Voter Statistics Summary documents.
- Adding insult to injury, neither of these sets of municipalities match with those used by the Maine Secretary of State to publish the results of past Elections.
- I would recommend that the Commission and Legislature work with the Department of State to develop standardized data structures that accurately convey political and electoral data to the public, and facilitate analysis of these types of proposals.

Thank you again for your consideration. I appreciate the hard work of all the Commissioners, Consultants, and Staff who have worked on these proposals. I understand the challenges and deadlines you face. Under the deadlines imposed by the Commission, I may have overlooked or missed relevant facts or data. I place all responsibility for those errors squarely on the shoulders of the Commission - as you have obstructed public input at every step of the process.

I close with a humble request of my public servants: Do Better.

Thank you,

Lucas Siebert

Submission of Edward Dufresne, Penobscot
Received: 9/22/21

[Edward Dufresne <erdufresne@me.com>](mailto:erdufresne@me.com)

Dear Friends,

For many reasons, historic, economic, social and political, the Town of Penobscot belongs in HD 16, not HD17. This is obviously the 'Natural fit' to anyone lining in this town.

Please make this change. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Edward Dufresne and Elizabeth LaStaiti
210 Johnson Point Road
Penobscot, Maine, 04476