

On November 9 & 10, the House Special Committee on Redistricting heard public testimony on its NH House, County Commission, and U.S. Congress Districts proposals from the committee's Democrats and Republicans. It was the Republican Congressional districts which garnered most of the attention, introduced by Rep. Ross Berry on November 4. While the minority submitted a map with few changes from the competitive 2010 map, the majority's map was definitively gerrymandered, packing Democratic-leaning areas into a Congressional District 2 which would include from Keene and the Connecticut River Valley, up to Concord, part of the Lakes Region, all of the North Country, then snakes down to Rochester, Dover, Durham & Portsmouth. The result is an uncompetitive map where no Republican candidate can win, and where Republican voters now have had the power of their vote diminished.

Alternately, the majority's Congressional District 1 is also uncompetitive, with a commanding margin of Republican voters, and where no Democratic candidate can compete, similar to this [2018 538.com](http://2018.538.com) theoretical gerrymander. The gerrymandering shifted 75 towns from one district to the other, the largest change in 140 years. Since 1873, the Congressional maps have looked largely the same, with only 25 towns having shifted in that time. Testimony in the Nov. 9 & 10 hearings almost universally condemned the maps as unfair and gerrymandered, despite the 74 NH cities and towns representing 561,000 Granite Staters which passed the NH Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting. A report comparing the Democrat & Republican map proposals can be found here:

<https://www.opendemocracynh.com/redistricting/USCongressionalMapAnalysis.pdf>

Governor Sununu, despite having said he would veto a gerrymandered map that "didn't pass the smell test," signalled on Thursday in a radio interview that because it didn't violate the constitution, he may sign it.

NH House districts were also proposed, and while less controversial, still raised the ire of many citizens around the state. The NH Constitution guarantees towns with 3,444 population their own NH House Districts, but the legislature failed to make the changes to allow this section of th Part 2, Article 11 to be followed. Testimony in the earlier county hearings, and again after maps were proposed demanded these changes for dozens of towns across the state.

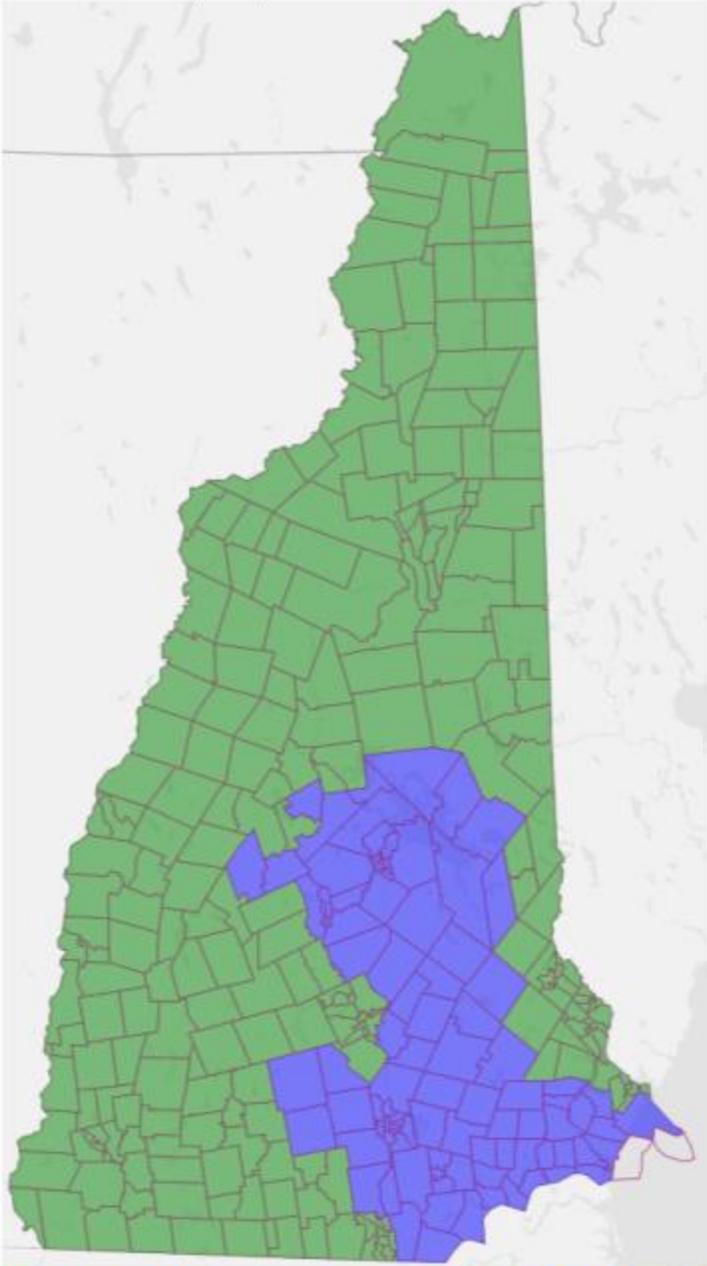
The Map-a-Thon Project, a citizen-drawn mapping project, has drawn its own alternative maps and has created better maps for most counties, reducing the "violations" of towns not getting their own districts, as well as a superior Congressional map which keeps regional high school districts together and other communities of interest. These maps were submitted to the committee, but the parties did not adopt the nonpartisan maps. The Map-a-Thon also did an extensive analysis of the proposed Democratic and Republican maps, and was able to identify the positives and negatives of each and

make recommendations. The PDF reports of the NH House & Congressional maps can be found here: <https://www.opendemocracyaction.org/maps> along with its proposals of the NH Senate & Executive Council maps to the Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs.

The House Special Committee on Redistricting will vote on the proposals on Nov. 16 & 17, and they will go to the full House in January. If you have an opinion on the maps, contact information for the members of the Special Committee on Redistricting can be found here: <https://www.opendemocracyaction.org/redistrictingcommittee> After Nov. 17, contact your local state rep and NH senator.

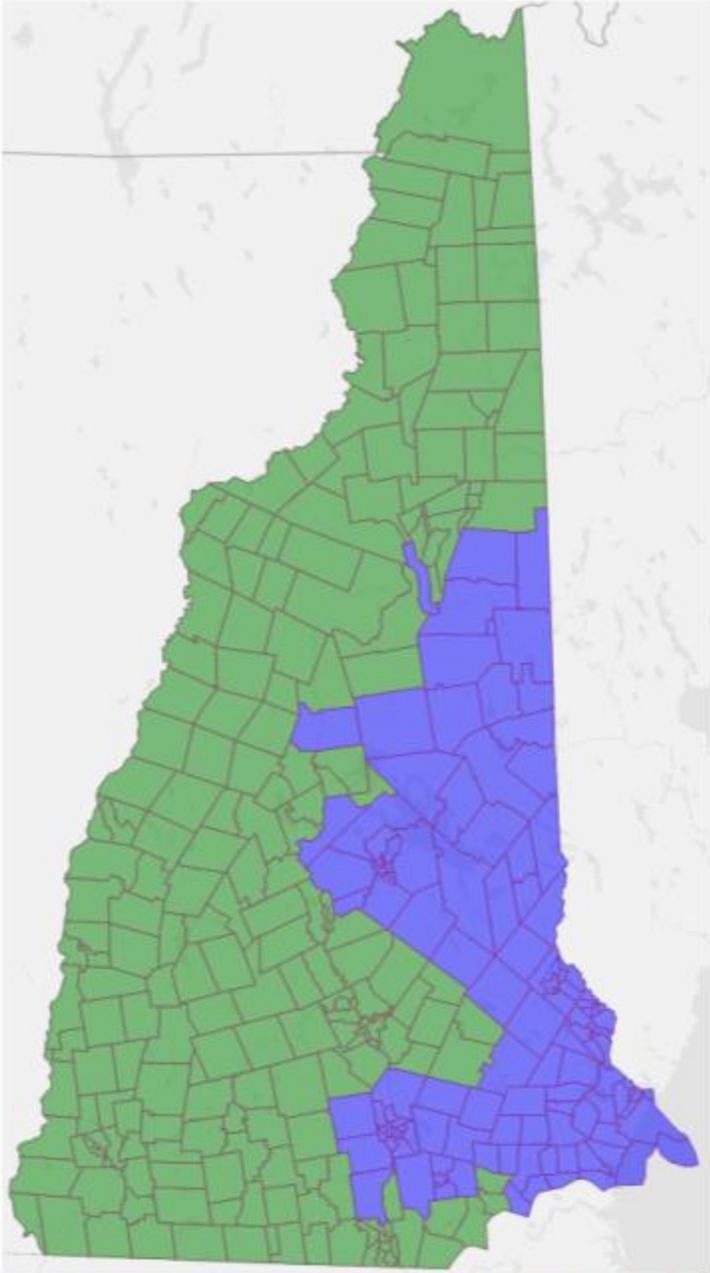
SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW:

NH Congressional Map Republican Proposal



Link- <https://davesredistricting.org/join/8b9ccd94-7bf5-4cb6-9cf2-e3cdf2548544>

NH Congressional Map Democrat Proposal



Link- <https://davesredistricting.org/join/5dd6f466-1a04-4197-a81d-9df6d5af8cb4>