

EXCERPTS OF WRITTEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY

BALTIMORE CITY AND COUNTY

Numerous letters: "Leave the communities of Dundalk, Edgemere, Essex, Ft. Howard, Middle River and Rosedale together."

Several residents of Loch Hill (Towson vicinity) request that it be placed in 16C rather than 19, proposing Loch Raven Boulevard a divider.

[from Meeting 2 written testimony]

Testimony of Edward L R Johnson, Maryland Legislative Coalition, 10/6/2021

The old Senate and District maps for the north side of Baltimore City and County were correctly drawn, taking in consideration the communities that lived in each except for Cockeysville.

District 11 was drawn to keep the Jewish community whole in Baltimore County that stretches from Falls Road to all of Pikesville and up to Owings Mills. They currently have a Jewish Senator and until recently 2 Jewish Delegates. It was made a 3 Delegate District so as to not split up the Jewish Community.

District 42A was made a single Delegate district because the communities inside the Beltway are very similar close, mostly close knit since the houses are close to each other unlike the areas north of the Beltway except Cockeysville.

Cockeysville is an area that is hard to decide what to do with. It is 39% non Caucasian with close to equal parts mix of African American, Latin and Asian. The Latin population in the area is growing. This is why the Padonia International Elementary School was located there. The area is composed of a large number of apartment complexes unlike their neighbors to the North that are mostly ½ to one acre homes and farms. The demographics of Cockeysville carries over in to some parts of Timonium. In 2010 Cockeysville was put into District 11 because they thought Cockeysville had more in common with that District. But it resulted in it not getting proper representation since it was hard to get Delegates across 83. Cockeysville does have a least some common interests with Lutherville.

District 42B was made a two Delegate district which has resulted it in being one of the most competitive Districts in the area, as is the Senate race in 42.

District 8 is fairly configured and should remain a 3 Delegate District.

District 41 in Baltimore City is a 3 Delegate district and probably should have one single Delegate District. The Jewish community that is Baltimore County also stretches into Baltimore City. From the County Line it goes down to Northern Parkway. From Reisterstown Road it goes to the East a little past Greenspring Ave. That area should be consider for a single delegate district.

In redistricting, the roads in the Baltimore area play a major importance in defining communities As mentioned previously about the Beltway, many communities on one side of the Beltway are very different from those on the other. District 44 is another example of that split in Catonsville. The part of 83 that is located in Baltimore city has different communities on each side of it all way down to North Ave. As previously mentioned about Northern Parkway, on some parts of it there are different communities on each side of it. The same with York Road. That is probably true in other areas I am

not quite as familiar with. **So your maps of Districts need to include the roads within the Districts before full comment can be made on them.**

Also changing all these Districts that have worked in the past just so the fit into the new configuration of maps is unfair to the communities where they have been working. --

Edward Johnson

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CALVERT COUNTY AND SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Many persons writing from Calvert County made one or both of these points:

Senate map – Calvert should have its own. (Which we have done, to the extent possible.)

Congressional map – do not want Calvert to be combined with Prince George’s.

In addition, one person wrote asking why a small portion of Calvert County was combined with Anne Arundel in the Congressional map.

EASTERN SHORE:

Del. Steven Arentz (mid-Shore): asks to leave Queen Anne’s County intact.

FREDERICK AND CARROLL COUNTIES

Mount Airy Acting Mayor Jason Poirier: please do not split the Town of Mount Airy.

Senator Justin Ready of Carroll County (excerpt):

I am encouraged in how this draft addresses the three single member districts inside Senate District 5. It's an improvement over the original House draft - it largely keeps communities and towns of interest together in a very sensible way. There is just one exception to this that I would like the commission to take note of and consider adjusting. The North-Central region of Carroll County is an area known as "Silver Run", it's features a small non-municipal town and a surrounding area that includes the Union Mills Homestead and other rural resources running up the Route 97 corridor to the Pennsylvania line. The Route 97 corridor runs directly into Northern Westminster which is where the town and county are locating more industrial and commercial growth around our local airport. In this latest draft of 5 A, B & C, this Silver Run/Union Mills area is split basically three ways between them, which divides the community unnecessarily.

Recommendation/Request: I would ask you to extend District 5B further North to encompass that entire Union Mills/Silver Run area in the Westminster-focused district. If you're looking at precincts, it's currently Carroll County Election Precinct 3-001. This would ensure that Silver Run is represented by one Delegate not three and tying it into a Westminster-focused district makes the most sense, in my view, for three reasons - 1. Economically it's very much tied to Westminster, 2. The Route 97 corridor runs through it and all the way down into Westminster and 3. The large majority of this area's students go to Westminster area public schools.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

Stephen Shapiro of Bethesda:

I'm writing to raise concerns with the modifications to the Commission's Final Proposed Senate Plan that Professor Persily suggested at a recent Commission meeting on Delegate districts:

<https://redistricting.maryland.gov/Documents/Library/mcrc-drafts-2021-1004/2021-1004-delegate-map-by-region.pdf>

This change would appear to move the southwestern boundary between new Districts 10 and 12 further to the southwest, roughly following Little Falls. Such a change would move my precinct (7-07) from new District 10 (currently District 16) to new District 12.

I would object to such a change. This change would place the first half mile of the Massachusetts Ave. corridor from Western Ave. (D.C. line) to Little Falls in District 12, with the remainder of Mass. Ave. between Little Falls and Goldsboro Rd. (Glen Echo) in District 10. All of the Massachusetts Avenue corridor, including the portion of Precinct 7-7 west of River Road (i.e., off of Massachusetts Avenue), should be in District 10. The neighborhoods along the Mass. Avenue corridor are served by the Glen Echo Fire Department and the Glen Echo route Ride-On Bus. I travel the length of Mass. Avenue nearly every day to access the Beltway via the Clara Barton Parkway exit at Glen Echo.

We share the same telephone exchange with Glen Echo (and Brookmont and Cabin John). It would not make sense to split the bottom segment of the corridor into another Senate district. Also, the corridor should be in the same Delegate district as Glen Echo.

It could make sense to move the small portion of Precinct 7-07 that is east of River Road into District 12. That area is not in the Massachusetts Avenue corridor and is adjacent to Friendship Heights. I have proposed this change in Senate Plan 1077 (on which I will send the Commission a separate letter)

[second letter:]

I'm writing to discuss my proposed Senate Plan 1077. This plan changes Districts 6, 7, 10, 12, and 13 from those in the Commission's Final Proposed Draft Senate Plan.

I initiated this plan in order to support the Commission's Plan as to District 10, on which I have written separately. Plan 1077 retains the portion of Precinct 7-07 that is west of River Road in District 10, but does move the portion east of River Road into District 12. The plan makes other minor changes to the boundaries of Districts 6, 7, and 10 to even out populations.

The greatest change in Plan 1077 from the Commission's Plan is to Districts 12 and 13. I am not certain whether the most appropriate alignment of District 13 is as the Commission has proposed or as in Plan 1077, but having both may help the discussion.

Clearly, the alignment of District 13 in the Commission's Plan is intended to pack Hispanic residents along the University Boulevard corridor and in Twinbrook and Aspen Hill (Veirs Mill Rd. and Georgia Avenue corridors). Particularly in the east, the resulting district is a relatively narrow ribbon. It does succeed in aggregating these significantly Hispanic neighborhoods together, resulting in a district that is 43% Hispanic.

However, it is not clear that this result affords the best representation to the neighborhoods within the narrow ribbon and the surrounding areas of District 12, particularly in the east along and south of University Blvd. These areas have much in common, and District 13 as in Plan 1077 may well afford better representation to these residents than the narrow ribbon of the Commission's District 13. The area between Wheaton and Langley Park (University Blvd.) is distinct from the areas north and west

of Wheaton (Twinbrook and Aspen Hill), even though each has a significant Hispanic population.

The dilemma, of course, is that while Twinbrook and Aspen Hill would be a good fit with District 13 as in Plan 1077, such a district would be well overpopulated. The only way to combine these neighborhoods with high Hispanic populations within a single Senate district is as the Commission has proposed. It has been a few years since I last studied the Voting Rights Act several years ago, but my recollection is that it more prohibits 2 cracking than it requires this type of packing. And aside from the VRA, I'm not sure that such packing is the right thing to do if it negatively impacts overall representation.

My sense is that the better course for District 13 here is as in Plan 1077, though I readily admit it is a close call. The residents of District 12 would be well served in either the Commission's Plan or in Plan 1077. In any event, it would be appropriate to place Twinbrook and Aspen Hill in a single-member Delegate subdistrict—whether in District 12 or 13.

Further to the topic of single member Delegate districts, I have supported them since I worked with the late Delegate Mike Weir on this issue in the 1990's—for the reasons already stated by Commissioner Olson. Many of my neighbors disagree. They favor the current multimember districts, and our relatively compact and homogenous district typically elects three Delegates in line with the entire district.

My sense is that single member districts are most important where a district is not homogenous—i.e., where there are differences among segments of a district in terms of geography, ethnicity, political preference, or socioeconomic factors that could well make such a community of interest a minority within a multimember district, but perhaps a substantial percentage or a majority within a single-member district. Population density—suggesting greater or lesser geographic diversity—is an example of this. As the Commissioners have discussed, it is not clear whether the Commissioners can properly make such calls on a case-by-case basis as a matter of discretion—or even based on criteria that are not as automatic as a population density number. If the Commission determines that a decision method with sufficiently broad criteria might not be sustainable, that could be a reason to apply single-member districts statewide.