

Redistricting will Impact Voters in Both Districts 1 and 2

Judith Ackerson, Franklin

I attended the hearing of the Special Committee on Redistricting on November 9 and testified very briefly. First, I expressed my gratitude to the Franklin City Council for having the integrity to sign on to a resolution in support of fair redistricted maps. They joined 73 other communities, representing approximately 560,848 residents of New Hampshire.

The main thrust of my testimony was that even though representatives run as Republicans or Democrats, once elected they are tasked with representing their whole community, not just the people who voted for them. They should be doing what is best for “the community,” not individuals. Drawing gerrymandered maps not only hurts those in the opposing party, as well as independent voters, but also disenfranchises members of their own party who are now in other districts where the im-

part of their votes will not matter. Over 70 towns previously in District 1 are proposed through the recently proposed map to be put into District 2, which will affect several thousand voters.

If you are a Republican who will be

forced from District 1 into District 2 of the congressional map, if it is adopted, are you willing to be thrown under the bus and have your vote neutralized?

The districts as previously drawn have been serving both parties well in recent years, giving both parties’ electorates a reasonable chance of having their candidate win. If you are not happy with the proposed changes, the time is now to reach out to HouseSpecialCommitteeOnRedistricting@leg.state.nh.us.

Parents Have a Voice in Their Children’s Education

Judith Ackerson, Franklin

This letter is specifically to the parents who feel they do not have a voice in their kids’ education. You do have a voice, through your local school board representative. Do you get to know who

drama, Robotics Club, and others) and exploring other activities in the wider community: Outing Club, churches, outdoor recreational activities galore. While parents certainly have a right to have their children attend schools outside of the community for whatever reason, it should not be at the expense of our public schools. We must maintain and nourish our public schools, recognizing that without them our communities will wither.

We must be vigilant and be sure the people who are elected locally or appointed and paid to oversee our public school system are working to support those schools, not to dismantle them, like Commissioner Edelblut and some local representatives. We need to pay attention to what is happening and participate by attending meetings, talking to our elected officials, voting, and making sure they are representing us and our children’s interests.

LETTERS

the candidates are and what their views on public education are? Do you vote for your school board representative? Have you called your school board representative to voice any thoughts or concerns, or do you just react to rumors?

Our public schools are the backbone of our community. This is a place where young parents and families can get to know each other, working side by side in such activities as the PTA, supporting extracurricular activities (sports,

Infrastructure Projects Promise to Benefit Local Economies

Mary Anne Broshek, Andover

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The law was approved by 50 Democrats and 19 Republicans in the Senate and 228 Democrats and 13 Republicans in the House of Representatives. New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen, who was one of the 10 negotiators, published the following in a recent newsletter to let New Hampshire residents know the impact on our state:

“I’m proud that our late night, early morning bipartisan talks resulted in this moment: a bipartisan group of lawmakers standing together with the administration, showing the American people what is possible when we leave politics at the door and get things done. These infrastructure projects will create good-paying jobs, stimulate local economies, and prepare our workforce for the 21st century economy – all with an eye towards sustainability to combat the climate crisis.

“At least \$1.1 billion to update our roads and \$225 million to repair bridges across the state. New Hampshire has over 698 miles of roadway and 215 bridges in poor condition

“At least \$100 million to expand broadband coverage to at least 42,800 people across New Hampshire.

“At least \$418 million to expand access to clean drinking water and improve water infrastructure.

“At least \$5.6 million to protect our communities from wildfires and \$12.4 million to protect us from cyberattacks. This funding will strengthen our infrastructure’s resilience against the impacts of climate change, cyberattacks and extreme weather – all of which are becoming more frequent and dangerous threats to our security.

“At least \$125 million to improve public transportation across the state.

“At least \$45.7 million to support updates to New Hampshire’s airports.

“At least \$17 million to expand charging stations for electric vehicles in our state.

“Key action to combat the climate crisis. The major provisions of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act are now law. These bills will improve energy efficiency and climate resilience of buildings and industrial facilities, as well as invest in clean jobs.”



A group of enthusiastic Andover Democrats gathered on both sides of Main Street on Saturday, November 20, to express their opinions to passing motorists on some of the critically important political issues of the day. Signs held included comments relating to the importance of preserving American democracy; a call for fair New Hampshire legislative redistricting; opposition to vouchers that use public taxpayer money to send New Hampshire children to private schools; to the importance of women’s health issues; to preserving voting rights and fair elections; and to the crucial need for action by the New Hampshire legislature in response to global warming. The sign-holders were gratified at the number of honks and waves of support given in response.

Caption: Susan Chase. Photo: Gail Beaufays

Yard Work and Odd Jobs

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Caden Heath
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