

Summary of Minutes

LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICT REVISION COMMISSION COMMITTEE

October 14, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Chairman Carbone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Joe Carbone (President of the Legislature) (Chairman), Joshua Bauroth (Assistant Minority Leader), Lisa Polito Nicolay (Board of Elections), Jackie Ortiz (Board of Elections)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Brew (Majority Leader)

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Grant (Legislature Clerk), Bridget Harvey (Chief of Staff - Majority Office), Alex Palmer (Legislative Staff Aide - Black & Asian Democratic Caucus), Saul Maneiro (Staff Director - Democratic Minority Office)

Chairman Carbone welcomed all of those in attendance and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. He stated that this was the second public hearing of the Redistricting Commission.

He further stated that the purpose was to receive public input on the process of redistricting. He also stated that the public forum format would be very similar to how the public forum is conducted during Monroe County Legislature meetings. He explained that the Commission is gathering information from data census and public input, and that a determination would then be made once this information is collected in regards to the lines and boundaries for the districts.

He then stated that the redistricting plan would be adopted as a local law, and that public would have the opportunity to comment on the proposed plan as part of the official public hearing before its adoption. Chairman Carbone explained that the Commission's responsibility was to make a recommendation after the three official public hearings were held to the Full Legislature.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Dave Garretson spoke in regards to the purpose of the Commission and indicated that it was imperative for the Commission to listen to the people. He also noted that there was another member of the Commission absent. He also addressed Majority Leader Brew's comments from the previous evenings meeting. He also asked if there was going to be a Republican drawn map and a Democrat drawn Map. He also asked who is drawing the maps that will eventually be voted on.

Tim Pryor, a Mendon resident, spoke in regards to the process of the Commission, asking what exactly is the process. He also demanded it be an open process

Marcia Reagan spoke in regards to the South Wedge of Rochester. She mentioned the 1993 Neighbors Building Neighborhoods program during her comments.

Joan Roby-Davison spoke in regards to comparing city neighborhoods vs towns in the suburbs. She also mentioned the New York State Senate and Assembly redistricting process. She also said the main focus of the redistricting process and Commission should be protecting neighborhoods.

Lisa Reagan, a South Wedge resident, spoke on the importance of neighborhoods and keeping the neighborhoods in tact. Splitting neighborhoods is the most the main issue for the Commission. She also mentioned Neighbors Building Neighborhoods.

DRAFT

Michael Slade spoke in regards to his 6<sup>th</sup> legislative redistricting process. He also said that through the years, the process has made it less about the people and more about the parties involved. He said that the current process makes it more remote than ever.

There were two other speakers as well, Gloria Forgione and John Godwin.

Chairman Carbone referenced the public comment emails received by the Clerk of the Legislature to the redistricting@monroecounty.gov address and asked the Clerk to read each email submission to the Commission members.

A total of 8 speakers address the Commission and the public hearing ended at 7:42 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Carbone thanked the Commission and adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m. The next Legislative Redistrict Commission Committee meeting is scheduled for **Friday, October 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Hamlin Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,  
David Grant  
Clerk of the Legislature

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Ken Mac <kenmac497@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:35 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

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I'm writing this because I believe it is vital that we use this opportunity to put an end to partisan gerrymandering. Today many of our elections are decided in the primary. The general public never gets the opportunity to choose their representatives. They won't even be in the ballot in November because nobody is going to waste their efforts challenging an unbeatable opponent.

That's not democracy.

For every district that is drawn so that will always be firmly controlled by one party or the other, you put another district at risk. We don't have district maps today. We have battle lines. That's how we create division in our society and stifle accountability.

Thank You  
Ken MacDonald  
Irondequoit

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Marilyn Parchus <mparchus@frontiernet.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:05 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting Comments  
**Attachments:** NWW2.jpg

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I am Treasurer of North Winton Village Neighborhood Assoc.

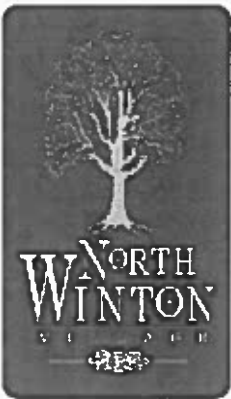
Our North Winton Neighborhood needs to stay as it is pertaining to Redistricting.

We, at North Winton Village Assoc. have worked for 40 years maintaining a safe and beautiful walkable urban North Winton Village Neighborhood.

I am shocked that the Monroe County Legislature Map wants to change our North Winton Village Neighborhood's Character!! This Redistricting will destroy other Neighborhoods as well, that have maintained their identity for years!!!!

Marilyn Parchus

North Winton Village Neighborhood Assoc.



**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Joanne Nania <joanne.nania@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 11:14 AM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Citizen input

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~~~~~  
Members of the Legislature,  
This note is to demand your efforts to ensure accurate representation in our area and no gerrymandering. Communities have been disrupted and there is no valid reason for districts to be so cut up, other than to manipulate vote outcomes. Districts should be drawn evenly and fairly. We are watching your efforts and hold you accountable for all results  
Thank you,  
Joanne Nania

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Michael <mjsydow@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Transparency???

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This is scam - the way there is little or no public notification, having meetings in obscure, far-flung locations/times, and apparent inability to be truthful.

If you're not hiding some shady back room process, why the big secret? Why not be open and truthful with ALL your constituents not just your Republican base?

I do not anticipate a response - anymore than I would "expect" you to do the right thing.

Michael Sydow  
Webster, NY

Sent from Michael's iPhone

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Jeanne Proctor <jeannehproctor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:45 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting

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~~~~~  
Please conduct an additional hearing where citizens can easily attend- park, etc. Perhaps a city school? It is so difficult to attend meetings at the County Leg.

Jeanne Proctor  
Brighton resident

Sent from my iPhone

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** president@umhn.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Cc:** vicepresident@umhn.org; 'Secretary UMHN'; 'Treasurer UMHN'  
**Subject:** Upper Mt Hope within NBN6 City neighborhoods

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~~~~~  
Commission Members,

To clarify Upper Mt Hope Neighborhood Association's (UMHNA's) county redistricting desires: UMHN has many challenges/problems in common with the historic sector 6 neighborhoods (NBN6); we do talk & work together. It is UMHNA's desire that [even small pieces of] these East-of-river neighborhoods NOT be split [off] into separate LDs, nor effectively lose their voice, nor lose the feeling of continuity/commonality of neighborhoods. Unrelated to LD lines drawn, UMHNA will continue to work directly, as needed, with all neighborhoods within the City, on common issues of concern.

Respectfully...

....Bruce Mellen

Bruce Mellen, President of Upper Mt Hope Neighborhood Association

*The look and feel of UMHN are important neighborhood assets*

UMHNA is also a member of ROC-MNBN (Rochester Many Neighbors Building Neighborhoods)

President @ UMHN.ORG (note we are changing from .COM to .ORG)

(585)261-3303 (Cell/Vmail/Text)



114 Edgemont Rd, Rochester NY 14620



**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Bess Watts <besswhat@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 2:38 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Comments on Redistricting

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Dear Redistricting Committee Members,

In the interest of fairness, freedom and transparency it is critical that the public see the redistricting maps before they are approved. The public has a right to know who the 'Republican operatives' are who are currently reviewing the maps. Rushing this process through is unfair to the taxpayers who have to live with the consequences for the next 10 years. There is no good reason why this process can't be extended until after the elections. This threatens the basic premise of fair and equal voting.

Thank you,

Bess Watts  
3 Rossmore St,  
Rochester, NY 14606

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** John Jerabeck <jfj3ster@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 3:09 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting Procedure

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I insist that the upcoming redistricting process in Monroe County be done in a fair and equitable manner. Do not just force through a partisan map that gerrymanders districts and splits up neighborhoods, towns, and cities, in ways that disenfranchise voters.

Voters from all Parties should have a voice in the redistricting process.

John Jerabeck  
Fairport, NY

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Elizabeth Jerabeck <eajerabeck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 3:28 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting Procedure

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~~~~~  
I insist that the upcoming redistricting process in Monroe County be done in a fair and equitable manner. Do not just force through a partisan map that gerrymanders districts and splits up neighborhoods, towns, and cities, in ways that disenfranchise voters.

Voters from all Parties should have a voice in the redistricting process.

Betty Jerabeck  
Fairport, NY

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Victoria Jacobs <nolalady@rochester.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:08 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Republicans plan to Redistrict

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This has to stop. If gerrymandering is the only way they can be in power, then shame on them. Rather than working to support their communities, their time is spent in trying to ensure their opponent's votes are suppressed. Skewing the way voters are represented is disgusting. Doing it without input from the public is a travesty. We, all the voters, have a right to be heard.

If they can't win by a majority of votes they do not need to be elected.

Regards,  
Victoria Jacobs  
Perinton, Monroe County

Sent from my iPad

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Melissa Johnson <mjohnso2@naz.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:08 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Monroe County redistricting concerns

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Members of the Legislature,

This note is to implore you to ensure accurate representation in our area and no gerrymandering. Communities have been disrupted and there is no valid reason for districts to be so cut up. Districts should be drawn evenly and fairly.

Thank you,

Melissa Johnson, Webster resident

--  
Melissa A. Johnson, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
Pronouns: she/her  
Associate Professor  
Nazareth College  
Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
4245 East Ave.  
Rochester, NY 14618  
(585) 389-4412



Enhancing the communicative lives of  
people affected by neurologic disorders.  
ANCDS.org

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Rebecca Hazard <rjhazard@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:16 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** redistricting

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~~~~~  
I insist that the upcoming redistricting process in Monroe County be done in a fair and equitable manner. Do not just force through a partisan map that gerrymanders districts and splits up neighborhoods, towns, and cities, in ways that disenfranchise voters. Voters from all Parties should have a voice in the redistricting process.

Monroe County voter, Rebecca Hazard

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Cynthia Woolbright <cynthia@woolbrightgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:18 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting/Transparency & Fairness

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~~~~~  
To our County Legislature,

As a member of our county, I am demanding your efforts to ensure accurate representation in our area without any gerrymandering. The idea of anything less than these efforts is not what you were elected to do. Communities have been disrupted and there is no valid reason for districts to be so cut up, other than to manipulate vote outcomes. Districts should be drawn evenly and fairly. We are watching your efforts and will hold you accountable for all results.

The idea of anything less than such efforts is a disgrace to our county, people and country.

I also urge you to be far more transparent about your sessions so that our county communities can participate in the democratic process---something I learned in my high school civics class. Among others, I also want to be a fully informed voter and keeping important issues from us is less than any elected official should adhere. Transparency, openness and truth are bedrocks of our country. I urge you to remember that members of the county legislature work for the public.

Thank you,

*Cynthia Woolbright*

The Woolbright Group, LLC  
667 Midship Circle  
Webster, New York 14580  
Telephone: 585.727.1143  
[www.woolbrightgroup.com](http://www.woolbrightgroup.com)

**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Denise Donato <revdenised@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:28 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting Debacle

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**I insist that the upcoming redistricting process in Monroe County be done in a fair and equitable manner. Do not just force through a partisan map that gerrymanders districts and splits up neighborhoods, towns, and cities, in ways that disenfranchise voters. Voters from all Parties should have a voice in the redistricting process.**

Sent from my iPhone



**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Marcia Reaver <mreaver@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:43 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** LD 24 & 25 Redistricting Request  
**Attachments:** Reaver comments 10-14 Redistricting Hearing.pdf

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~~~~~  
Attached are my comments and a partial map of the two districts in question. The area highlighted in yellow encompasses our request to redistrict from LD 25 to LD 24. Thank you for considering our request when redrawing the map.

Marcia Reaver  
64 Hickory St  
Rochester, NY 14620  
(585) 615-6696

My name is Marcia Reaver. I live at 64 Hickory St, in the South Wedge neighborhood of the City. For at least 40 years, much of the South Wedge has lacked adequate representation at the County level. I am here tonight to ask you to fix this problem for us.

First, a little history, in 1993, the City of Rochester divided neighborhoods into sectors under their Neighbors Building Neighborhoods initiative. These sectors were compact and contiguous neighborhoods of common interest. Sector Six, commonly known as NBN6, includes five established neighborhood associations and two block clubs. NBN6 boundaries are the Genesee River, I 490, and the southern border of the City. NBN6 actively engages with government leaders at all levels who represent most but not all of the neighbors within the catchment area. The other sector relevant to my comments is the Southwest Common Council, a similar area west of the Genesee River.

Monroe County separates NBN6 between two Legislative Districts (LD).

- LD 24 represents most of NBN6 and a portion of Brighton, a suburb that is not an area of common interest with NBN6. The LD 24 Legislator attends NBN6 meetings whenever there is a need for County representation.
- LD 25 represents the Southwest Common Council plus a portion of the South Wedge. We on the east side of the river have not met our representative at the County level during our NBN6 meetings. Essentially the LD 24 representative is already our de facto representative.

Two guiding principles of redistricting are:

- Moving areas of common interest into the same LD; and,
- Creating districts that are compact and contiguous.

Allowing a part of the South Wedge to remain in LD 25 does not follow these guiding principles.

My request tonight is simple. Redraw LD 24 and 25 to move the entirety of the South Wedge into LD 24. Reunite us with our neighbors in the South Wedge and the remainder of NBN6.

I've submitted my comments through your email to allow for entry into the official record. Thank you for your time.



**Grant, David K**

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**From:** Jeremy Sher <jmsher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 4:53 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** Comment for Redistricting Commission

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On behalf of Indivisible Rochester, I thank the Commission for its attention to this statement and ask for it to be read into the record at tonight's meeting.

Redistricting allows politicians to choose their voters. If abused, redistricting silences voters, supports minority rule, and undermines democracy. As a result, it is critical to impose redistricting in a non-partisan and transparent fashion that promotes the core constitutional principle of one person, one vote.

To achieve transparency, the Commission must answer at least the following questions:

1. Who, specifically, is drawing each district map that the Commission is considering?
2. What methodologies and practices are the map drawers using?
3. How many maps is the Commission considering?
4. When will the public see proposed maps?
5. What is the Commission doing to ensure bipartisanship in the drawing of maps?
6. What is the Commission doing to ensure that the maps incorporate meaningful public comment?
7. What is the Commission doing to ensure that the maps do not privilege some voters at the expense of others based on political affiliation or race?
8. What is the Commission doing to ensure that the maps accurately reflect Monroe County's voter registration demographics?
9. What records will the Commission keep of its votes and deliberations, and how will it make those records available to the public?

A new map will affect the representation of approximately 485,000 registered voters out of 741,000 residents. The legislators elected under a new map will manage more than \$1 billion in county funds each year. A Commission facing the vital work of drawing this map cannot operate in secrecy. Indivisible Rochester demands that the Commission premise its vital work on the goal of supporting free and fair elections, not rigging the map to support one party over another. It must show good faith by disclosing its process to the public. Answering the questions in this statement is a start.

Thank you for your time.  
Virginia Hall, Cara Lynch, Dawn Pruszyński, and Jeremy Sher  
Indivisible Rochester

## Grant, David K

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**From:** RoseMary Shaw <rms577@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:09 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Subject:** LD 26

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Respected friends,

It is time again to cut this county up into 29 districts to provide the best representation possible in the county legislature, and I realize your mandate is difficult with the restrictions you must use.

In my 30 years of involvement I have seen some pretty strange things in this districting process. Being originally from the far west side I have seen whole towns split down the middle.

This time lets try for a bit of continuity, a town, a region, a specific population to represent, only to one legislator.

I moved to Charlotte in 2016, and when working for candidates from 2017 on I was struck by the split in coverage in this neighborhood. LD 26 represents most of Charlotte, basically Stutson Street moving south and Maplewood, but it also encompasses parts of Greece and Gates. In the meantime LD 7 which resides mainly in Greece takes in the part of Charlotte north of Stutson, that is mostly Beach Ave. and its surrounding streets. If there is any neighborhood in this city that resounds of coalition it is Charlotte. We have proven more than once that we will stand together. And incidentally the legislator for LD 7 has provided very little to the Charlotte community in his representation, understanding his focus is the Greece constituency.

I have no idea of the numbers you need to meet, but my idea might be to take the Greece districts from LD 26 and swap them with the Charlotte districts currently in LD 7, hopefully an even swap.

And let me say this, I am not immune to the political pressure you will encounter with this. Been there done that so to speak. Please do what you can to provide equitable representation for every person in this county.

With my best regards  
RoseMary Shaw  
143 Clayton St.  
Rochester, NY 14612