

From: MBR <mbr@arlsoft.com>
To: SDeCourcy@town.arlington.ma.us, dianemahon@verizon.net, eric@erichelmuth.com, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, ldiggins@town.arlington.ma.us, amaher@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 11/08/2021 05:46 AM
Subject: Please choose the "Limited Change Map" reprecincting map

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Dear Selectboard members,

First, allow me to thank you for listening to the feedback of the citizens of Arlington and choosing to keep the number of Town Meeting precincts at 21 rather than reducing it to 16 precincts.

My primary purpose in writing this email is to strongly urge you to select the "Limited Change Map" and not the so-called "Recommended Map".

I've only just learned of these two new proposed 21-precinct maps that recently appeared on the "Reprecincting in Arlington" webpage. I find it particularly distressing that they appeared on the website just a couple of days ago without any other public announcement to alert concerned town citizens, and with very limited time before the town has to submit its proposed new precinct map to the state. Important matters like this should never be done in stealth!

Sincerely,

Mark Rosenthal
Precinct 14

**27 JASON STREET
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476**

TELEPHONE (781) 646-8303

FWORDEN@POST.HAVARD.EDU

November 7, 2021

Dear Chairman DeCoursey and members of the Select Board,

We request that of the two maps for reprincincting which are to be presented to the Board on tomorrow evening (November 8) that you will kindly select the "Limited Change" map.

On careful consideration the "Limited Change" map is much superior to the "Recommended" map. It respects your conviction (and ours) that there should be minimal disruption and the fewest possible changes in the election of our Town Meeting members. (We want to point out that we will both have to run for re-election anyway regardless of your choice and so our request is for the good of the Town and not personally for us.)

We caution that there has been no public feedback although these RWG maps are totally different from previous versions. They suddenly appeared on the website late this past week. Few people know of their existence. This lack of transparency is troubling. The production of the "Recommended" map may have involved RWG members' opinions (exceeding their proper authority with respect to renter/ownership status, income levels and other questionable criteria of their choice).

The four-membered Reprecincting Working Group (RWG) is not qualified to make judgments that are inherently matters of great concern to the community. Some RWG members may not even live in Arlington or may have experienced it only recently. They should not be usurping the responsibilities of established community leaders and the values of those they represent. Their proper charge is to redraw precinct lines to conform to the equal representation requirements of the state ensuring no dilution of minority voting and keeping the precincts compact and contiguous. That is what has been achieved in the Limited Change map. We urge you to choose that option and submit that choice to the state.

Respectfully,

John L. Worden III and Patricia Barron Worden
Town Meeting members, Precinct 8

Please include this letter with materials for the Select Board meeting of November, 2021

From: Don Seltzer <timoneer@gmail.com>
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To: <LDiggins@town.arlington.ma.us>, JHurd@town.arlington.ma.us, Eric Helmuth
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Brazile <jbrazile@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 11/04/2021 09:14 AM
Subject: Correspondence - Reprecincting Options

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To: Arlington Select Board

The reprecincting process has been particularly challenging this year. Rather than the usual sequence with towns drawing their internal boundaries first, the State legislature has flipped the normal order with the determination of House districts occurring first, and then requiring towns to conform to those boundaries. Unfortunately, the legislature was very late in finalizing those district lines, only releasing them in mid October. Predictably, this has resulted in many conflicts with preliminary local efforts and generated what would be split precincts.

The Least Disruptive precinct map that I previously submitted to this Board contains one such split precinct, #8. I have accordingly revised the map to provide a new option for this Board's consideration, with no precincts that conflict with House district boundaries.

- It meets the State requirement for an equal number of residents in each precinct (+/- 5%).
- It does not dilute minority voting strength.
- It does not create any split precincts.
- It keeps precincts compact and contiguous, according to state law.
- It improves poll location access for several hundred residents.

It continues to satisfy its intended objective of causing minimal disruption.

98% of residents will be unaffected, remaining in their current districts.

11 Precincts will remain unchanged.

9 Precincts will have very minor changes, and be at least 90% comprised of residents from within

the previous precinct boundary.

1 Precinct will be 87% comprised of residents from within the previous precinct boundary.

I would be pleased to present this revised map to the Select Board and answer your questions at your next meeting on November 8 when you plan to discuss reprecincting options. I would also welcome any direct discussions before then with individual Board members, the RWG, and any other interested parties.

I do not presume that the plan I offer is the optimal. But it offers many possibilities for variations. I do believe that it can provide a useful basis for determining the best solution for the town.

Thank you for your consideration,

Don Seltzer
Irving St