

From: ellen leigh <ellen.leigh3@gmail.com>
To: sdecourcey@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: Ashley Maher <AMaher@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 11/17/2021 11:41 AM
Subject: Support Limited Change Plan

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Dear Chair DeCoursey,

Please vote for the Limited Change Plan. It will keep our neighborhoods together in the same precinct and our common goals can be represented at town meeting. As a resident of an AHA building in Precinct 9, I feel I am a member of this community and don't want it changed. Please support the Limited Change plan and keep our community together.

Thank you,
Ellen Leigh
Precinct 9

From: JO ANNE PRESTON <ja-preston@comcast.net>
To: "sdecourcey@town.arlington.ma.us" <sdecourcey@town.arlington.ma.us>, "Amaher@town.arlington.ma.us" <Amaher@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 11/17/2021 11:08 AM
Subject: Support for the Limited Choice Plan

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Dear Mr. DeCoursey,

I would like to urge you to vote for the Limited Change Map to guide reprecincting. My support of this plan over the other emanates from my concern that the efforts of the RWG have had too short a time to achieve their goals. The lack of time to work on such an ambitious project was due, in part, to the Federal Census not being available until August.

The delay in the Census results, however, was not the only obstacle to the work of the RWG. Their decision to create a precinct plan that would "improve the diversity of voices in town meeting by allowing more people in lower income or more dense areas to be elected" is admirable. However, this goal is very difficult to achieve under the best of circumstances.

Increasing representation of lower income people in government has consumed many progressive groups nation-wide. After years of hard work, some voter rights groups have made some progress but none, in my reading of the professional literature, have done so by only changing precinct boundaries. Most have focused on voter registration and education, public meetings, offering transportation and childcare, leafleting, demanding more polling places and longer hours for voting, and other such activities.

Without extensive sociological knowledge of what creates a cohesive neighborhood nor time to determine what brought residents together as an interest group, the RWG was forced to use crude demographic data from 2018.

This data was used to reconfigure precincts based the false assumption that those who live in apartments and condos do not share common concerns with their neighbors who lived just up the street from them in single family homes. It is a false assumption because, over all, demographic data does not identify neighborhoods; common interests do.

With all these the limitations, the RWG have produced two precinct plans, the Limited Change Map and the Recommended Map, neither of which achieve their goals.

As a resident of the Webcowet neighborhood I can tell you that housing types does not separate those who live in our neighborhood. We have common concerns about pedestrian safety and preservation of the tree canopy which we also share with other neighborhoods in precinct 9.

These issues have brought together residents who live in "townhouse" duplexes, two-families, single-family homes, and AHA housing. Still, the RWC decided to remove our neighborhood from precinct 9 to precinct 5 across Medford Street in the Recommended Map, unaware of how we share important neighborhood issues with the rest of precinct 9.

The moving of the Webcowet neighborhood out of precinct 9 is just one example of how the "Recommended Map" contradicts the state mandate to preserve contiguous neighborhoods. High traffic roads like Medford Street and Mass Ave divide neighborhoods, not bring neighborhoods together. This is a core principle taught in many social science courses.

The Limited Change Map carries out what is necessary according to state guidelines and keeps most neighborhoods intact. Since the precinct plans can be changed any year with the Select Board's approval it would be still possible to adopt some parts of the more ambitious plan later if it is based on the appropriate social science methodology.

For this year, I highly recommend that the Select Board approve the Limited Change Map.

Sincerely,
Jo Anne Preston, PhD.
Town Meeting member, Precinct 9
Commissioner, Arlington Housing Authority

From: "Stephen DeCoursey" <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>
To: "Ashley Maher" <AMaher@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 11/15/2021 12:49 PM
Subject: Fwd: Please Support the Limited Change Map

From: Claire Odom <artfulgram@gmail.com>
To: Stephen DeCoursey <sdecoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: Mon, 8 Nov 2021 14:31:25 -0500
Subject: Please Support the Limited Change Map

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Dear Mr. DeCoursey:

Thank you very much for seriously considering feedback from Arlington residents regarding keeping precincts to 21.

I now urge you to support the Limited Change Map, one possibility proposed by the hard working RWG. This option would offer fewer possible changes and minimize disruption to the election of Town Meeting members. Other scenarios could be considered later, with more public input.

Thank you again for your service to Arlington.

Sincerely,
(Claire)
Mary Claire Malek-Odom
River Street
Town Meeting Member
Precinct 7

From: molly11451@yahoo.com
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: amaher@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 11/16/2021 05:53 PM
Subject: RE-PRECINCTING

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Dear Chair DeCoursey,

I ask you to vote for the Limited Change Plan for re-precincting. It will allow our Webcowet neighborhood to remain in Precinct 9. We have many common interests with the rest of Precinct 9 including supporting trees and pedestrian safety.

Thank you.

Maureen Kelly
51 Mystic Lake Dr
Arlington, MA

From: PAUL KELLY <pauljkelly@verizon.net>
To: SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us
Cc: amaher@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 11/16/2021 06:02 PM
Subject: RE-PRECINCTING

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Dear Chair DeCoursey,

I ask you to vote for the Limited Change Plan for re-precincting. It will allow our Webcowet neighborhood to remain in Precinct 9. We have many common interests with the rest of Precinct 9 including supporting trees and pedestrian safety.

Thank you,
Paul Kelly
51 Mystic Lake Dr
Arlington MA

Sent from my iPad

CHARLES T. FOSKETT

November 16, 2021

Arlington Select Board
Town Hall
Arlington, MA 02476

Re: The Reprecincting Process

Dear Honorable Members of the Select Board:

Yesterday I attended a virtual meeting of the Envision Arlington Citizen Participation Working Group. I must commend this working group for their fine efforts and in managing a reasonable meeting even though most of the guest speakers wanted to make long speeches.

Except for one speaker, all of the speakers, for various reasons, opposed the "Recommended Plan". I heard nothing that changed my dismay at lack of public participation in setting the criteria for the Town Clerk's recommended path as I expressed at length in my previous letter to you of November 10th. I believe the session was recorded; Board members might find the various comments informative.

To the contrary my concerns increased. In her opening remarks Ms. Brazile commented at length as to how her proposal would benefit the Town by "opening space for new people to run for Town Meeting" (I think I have quoted her correctly). When recognized by the moderator I asked her where the value was in disrupting the entire Town to "create space" for unnamed, hypothetical candidates who no one could predict would run. (Mr. Worden later offered interesting statistics on the subject.) She twice either could not or would not answer me, and only said her presentation would explain this. Her presentation for the most part was a re-hash of her earlier comments which did not answer my question as I and other attendees noted. I assume she didn't answer because the recommended plan is built on hypothetical conjecture, and she could not articulate specific value.

I should comment that the Town Clerk made a reasonable argument that the two plans were equally disruptive to the Finance Committee, although I am still studying her recent maps before I can actually agree.

It was sad to see that the Town staff supporting Ms. Brazile was very frustrated with the questions and the direction of public comment. I empathized with them because I know that they have been working hard and providing a professional contribution to the analysis.

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PHONE: +1-781-646-5882 MOBILE: +1-781-492-0800 • FAX: +1-781-641-4769
EMAIL: CHARLIE.FOSKETT@FOSKETTCO.COM

What the staff does not understand is that the criteria that MS. Brazile as employed are faulty on a prima facie basis, and worse, there has been no public input informing the criteria. Jo Ann Preston, who is a credentialed social scientist, put it very clearly: "data and statistics do not make neighborhoods or community", rather people make neighborhoods and community and Ms. Brazile is hell-bent on disrupting Arlington's neighborhoods and fracturing its sense of community. It is this dichotomy that has the staff so frustrated.

Last night's meeting reinforced my position to strongly recommend that the Select Board reject the "Recommended Plan" and adopt the "Least Disruptive Plan" for Reprecincting.

Respectfully,



Charles T. Foskett
TMM Precinct 8

From: Claire Odom <artfulgram@gmail.com>
To: Ashley Maher <amaher@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 11/16/2021 08:27 PM
Subject: Vote for Limited Change Plan

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Please vote for the Limited Change Plan. This plan would be much less disruptive to Town Meeting and to the Finance Committee as well. Greater changes could be considered in the future when we have opportunities for more public participation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Mary Claire Malek-Odom
(Claire Odom)
Town Meeting Member
Precinct 7

From: John Burt <johndburt@gmail.com>
To: sdecoursey@town.arlington.ma.us, amaher@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 11/16/2021 09:20 PM
Subject: Redistricting proposal

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Dear Chair DeCoursey,

Please vote for the Limited Change Map plan for redistricting. That map fulfills the state requirements and disrupts the Town Meeting the least. My Webcowet Road neighborhood has a community of interest with Precinct 9 concerning safety at the Chestnut St. pedestrian crossing, and we have a habit of working with other neighborhoods in the precinct on common issues. Moving our neighborhood into another precinct will disrupt those relationships.

Sincerely yours,
John Burt
Precinct 9

From: Marcia Lagerwey <bestreadnow@gmail.com>
To: Amaher@town.arlington.ma.us
Date: 11/16/2021 09:27 PM
Subject: Limited change map

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Dear Chair DeCoursey,

I urge you to vote for the Limited Change Map for re-precincting. It is the least disruptive to Town Meeting and to the Finance Committee.

Thank you,

Marcia Lagerwey
60 Brattle st.
Arlington, MA 02474

Sent from my iPhone

From: Beth Melofchik <tankmadel@yahoo.com>
To: Stephen DeCoursey <sdecoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: Ashley Maher <amaher@town.arlington.ma.us>
Date: 11/17/2021 07:14 AM
Subject: Precincts

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Stephen DeCoursey, Chair Select Board, Arlington

Dear Mr. DeCoursey and Select Board,

I respectfully ask you to vote for the Limited Change Map as this would be the least disruptive to the membership of the Finance Committee and to the existing precincts.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Beth Melofchik, Precinct 9, Town Meeting Member

Subject: Reprecincting
To: "SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us" <SDeCoursey@town.arlington.ma.us>
From: Loren Hoekzema <lhoekzema@hotmail.com>
Date: 11/16/2021 09:43 PM
CC: "Amaher@town.Arlington.ma.us" <Amaher@town.Arlington.ma.us>

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Dear Chair DeCoursey,
I urge you to vote for the Limited Change Map for re-precincting. It is the least disruptive to Town Meeting and to the Finance Committee.

Thank you,
Loren Hoekzema
Precinct 17