

**AD HOC REAPPORTIONMENT/REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 20, 2021**

Present: Rob Schwarting, Robert Brechko, Dick Harper, Tim Cutler, Doug Paddock, Bonnie Percy, Dan Banach, Jeffery Ayers, Colby Peterson, Emilee Miller

BACKGROUND

Information on a NYSAC webinar presentation and recording (PowerPoint: https://www.nysac.org/files/Presentation_Redistricting%20and%20Weighted%20Voting%20Systems.pdf and recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-7iEKb9T8u8> were provided prior to the meeting and reviewed by attendees.

INTRODUCTION

- Doug reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that outlined county population by town, legislative district populations and representation based on 2010 and 2020 census, considerations and potential approaches to achieve parity. Presentation is included as Attachment A.
- A recent law (S5160B, 2021 session) requires multi-member districts to “. . . provide substantially equal weight for the population of that local government in the allocation of representation in the local legislative body . . .”

GOAL

To modify districts so that the total difference between the mean number of residents per legislator is <5%.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- There must be fair and effective representation for the people of local government.
- The districts must be convenient, contiguous (share boundaries) and be in as compact form as possible.

POSSIBLE METHODS

- Move legislative district boundaries while keeping the same number of legislators.
- Rearrange the districts and increase the number of legislators.
- Rearrange the districts and decrease the number of legislators.
- Weighted voting.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

The last time this was modified was in 2012. Since then, the populations for Benton increased ~7% and Torrey increased ~1% and the rest of the towns' populations have decreased. Benton and Torrey are in District II.

Between 2010 and 2020 the population decreased by 508 residents (2%) for Yates County. The population count is based on the number of residents not the number of voters.

The obvious option is to pull out some residents from District II, but this will make portions of the towns be in different districts rather than how it is set up now with each entire town in its assigned district.

The legislative district boundaries can be moved while keeping the same legislators. Changing the population/boundaries of the legislative districts will create the need for additional voting districts. Political parties will have to restructure based on towns. This approach also causes more potential for confusion, but ballots can be printed on demand. Adding districts increases costs and work for Elections.

With 14 legislators every town can elect a representative and changing the number of legislators would make it more complex.

Reducing the number of legislators to 11 would make the representation closer to what is needed.

The Census shows 14 people in Benton actually reside in Milo. Benton should be decreased by 14 with a population of 2971 and Milo's population should increase by 14 with a population of 6817. (The revised populations are reflected in Attachment A.)

Adding 1 legislator to make it 15, does not resolve the issue of too many residents to one legislator.

All the districts will have to be adjusted to get closer to that <5%.

People seem to be fairly represented as it is now with the 14 legislators.

Weighted voting may affect the number of legislators that constitute a quorum. It would not increase election expenses.

The major issues that these modifications may create are confusion and stability.

Everything needs to be put in a plan and substantiated.

Weighted voting may apply for the committee meetings as well. It may be beneficial to go back and review the previous votes to see how it would have been different with weighted voting.

This plan has to be completed and in place by February 1st, 2023.

ASSIGNED TASKS

Colby & Jeff will provide 2-3 scenarios on how they might adjust the boundaries to get to the needed numbers.

Emilee will look at last year's votes by roll call and record who voted and how in 2021 and email other counties that have weighted voting asking if the weighted voting applies to committee meetings as well.

Tim will review the Banzhaf Index.

Doug will send out other Legislature's plans and check with the County Attorney on the committee meeting voting.

Next meeting scheduled for January 13, 2022 at 1 p.m. in the Public Health Training Room.

Meeting adjourned around 4:15 p.m.

Attachment A – PowerPoint Slides

AD HOC
REAPPORTIONMENT/
REDISTRICTING
COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 20, 2021

REVISION 1

YATES COUNTY POPULATION BY TOWN – 2010 vs. 2020

Town	Population		Change from 2010 to 2020	
	2020	2010	People	Percent
Barrington	1,541	1,672	(131)	(7.83)
Benton	2,971	2,784	187	6.72
Italy	1,099	1,141	(42)	(3.68)
Jerusalem	4,405	4,473	(68)	(1.52)
Middlesex	1,377	1,495	(118)	(7.89)
Milo	6,817	7,040	(223)	(3.17)
Potter	1,858	1,865	(7)	(0.38)
Starkey	3,407	3,530	(123)	(3.48)
Torrey	1,299	1,282	17	1.33
Total County	24,774	25,282	(508)	(2.01)

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS – 2010

MEAN NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER LEGISLATOR WAS $25,282/14 = 1806$

TOTAL DIFFERENCE = 13.5% (-4.0% → +9.5%)

Town	Population	District
Barrington	1,672	IV
Benton	2,784	II
Italy	1,141	I
Jerusalem	4,473	I
Middlesex	1,495	I
Milo	7,040	III
Potter	1,865	II
Starkey	3,530	IV
Torrey	1,282	II
Total	25,282	

District	Population	Legislators	Per Legislator	% of Mean	Δ % from Mean
I	7,109	4	1,777	98.4	(1.6)
II	5,931	3	1,977	109.5	9.5
III	7,040	4	1,760	97.5	(2.5)
IV	5,202	3	1,734	96.0	(4.0)

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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS – 2020

MEAN NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER LEGISLATOR IS $24,774/14 = 1770$

TOTAL DIFFERENCE = 22.2% (-6.8% → +15.4%)

Town	Population	District
Barrington	1,541	IV
Benton	2,971	II
Italy	1,099	I
Jerusalem	4,405	I
Middlesex	1,377	I
Milo	6,817	III
Potter	1,858	II
Starkey	3,407	IV
Torrey	1,299	II
Total	24,774	

District	Population	Legislators	Per Legislator	% of Mean	Δ % from Mean
I	6,881	4	1,720	97.2	-2.8
II	6,128	3	2,043	115.4	15.4
III	6,817	4	1,704	96.3	-3.7
IV	4,948	3	1,649	93.2	-6.8

Reapportionment/Redistricting – R.1

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LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS – 2020

MEAN NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER LEGISLATOR IS $24,774/14 = 1770$

IDEAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER DISTRICT:

District	Legislators	Target	Actual	Difference
I	4	7080	6,881	199
II	3	5310	6,128	-818
III	4	7080	6,817	263
IV	3	5310	4,948	362

ADJUSTMENTS NEEDED TO DISTRICTS TO ACHIEVE PARITY:

- MOVE 197 RESIDENTS FROM DISTRICT II INTO DISTRICT I (TOTAL 7078)
- MOVE 622 RESIDENTS FROM DISTRICT II (TOTAL AFTER BOTH 5309) INTO DISTRICT III (TOTAL 7079)
- MOVE 360 RESIDENTS FROM DISTRICT III INTO DISTRICT IV (TOTAL 5308)

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GOAL: MODIFY SO THAT TOTAL DIFFERENCE IS <5%

CONSIDERATIONS:

- FAIR AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS ORGANIZED IN POLITICAL PARTIES
- MUST BE CONVENIENT AND CONTIGUOUS TERRITORY IN AS COMPACT FORM AS PRACTICABLE

POTENTIAL APPROACHES:

- MOVE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND KEEP SAME NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS
- REARRANGE DISTRICTS AND REDUCE NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS
- REARRANGE DISTRICTS AND INCREASE NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS
- WEIGHTED VOTING
- OTHERS??

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