

Vermont Public Interest Group (VPIRG) Responses to Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board (LAB) Questions

515 Survey Monkey responses collected
July 22 – August 6, 2021



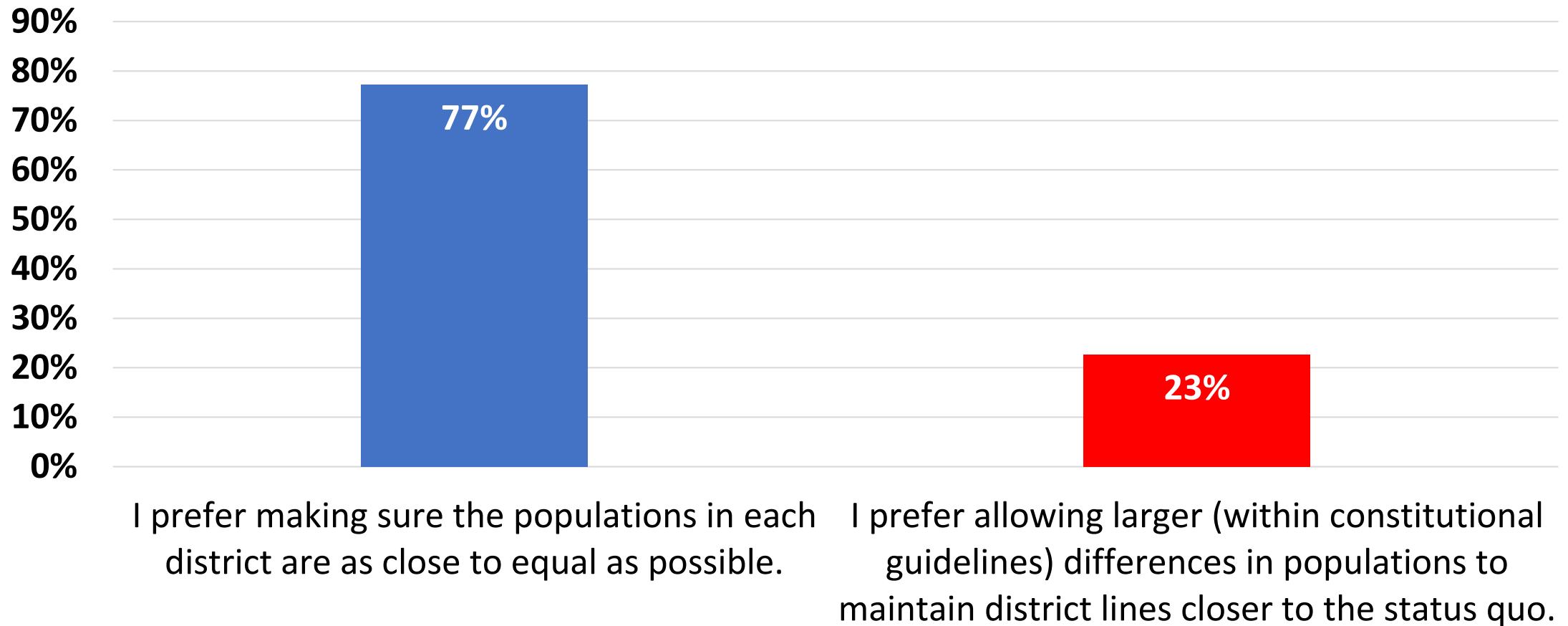
Findings from the LAB quantitative questions:

- By a margin of more than 3-to-1, respondents prefer making sure the populations in each district are as close to equal as possible over larger districts that preserve the status quo.
- Respondents feel that legislative districts should conform to town boundaries more so than to county boundaries.
- Respondents had a small preference (52%-48%) for 2-member House districts over single-member House districts.
- Respondents had a slightly larger preference (54%-46%) for single-member Senate districts over multi-member districts.

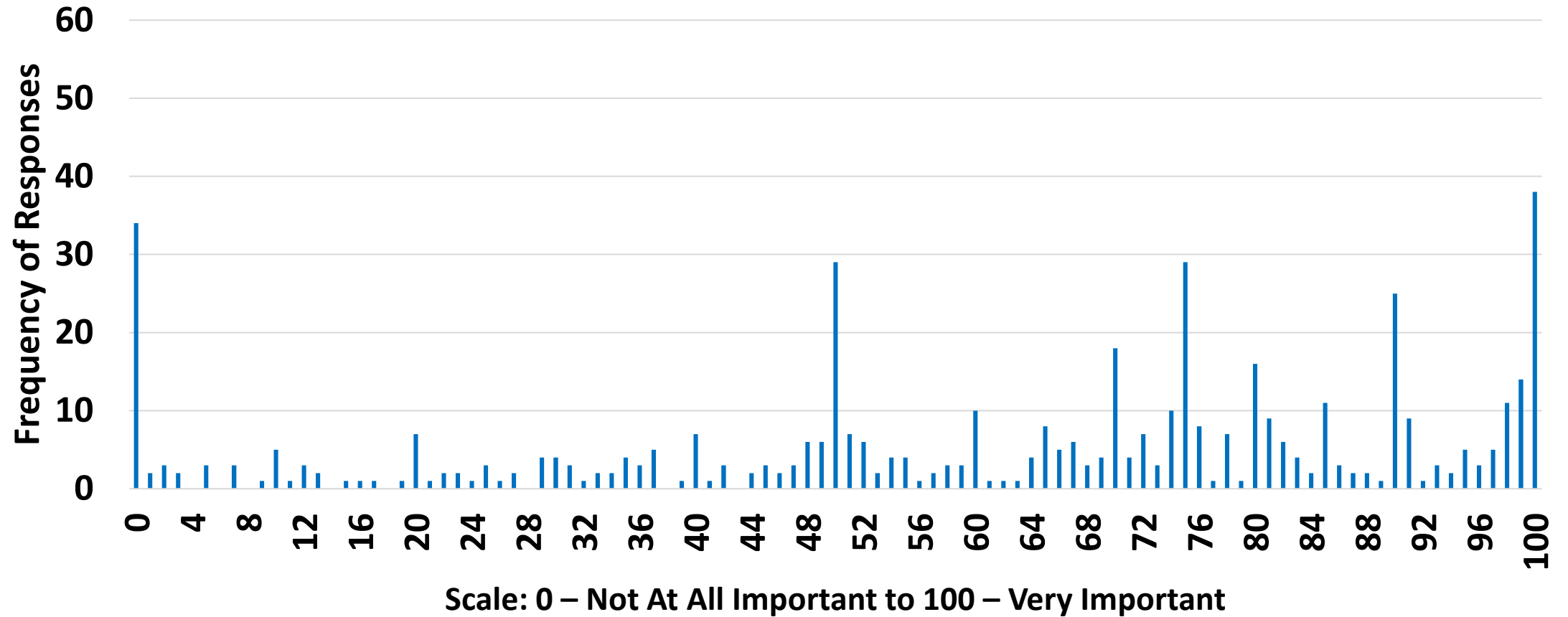
Some findings from the open-ended question:

- There is no appetite for gerrymandering of any sort. For the most part, respondents want compact districts.
- Many respondents highlighted a desire that school district boundaries be taken into consideration when drawing legislative boundaries.
- Several commenters mentioned a desire to increase racial and economic diversity within the General Assembly.
- Many respondents feel that the apportionment process itself should be reformed so that politician and party officials do not play a role.

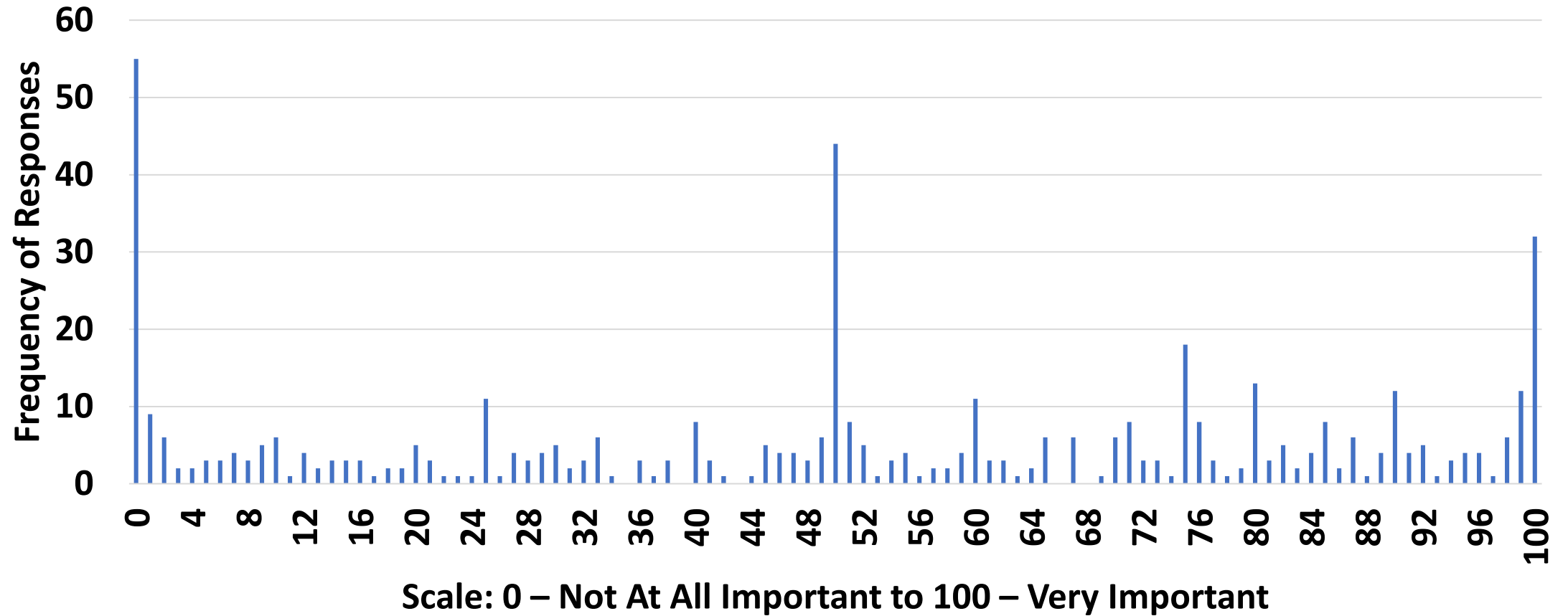
What is more important to you: making sure the populations in each district are as close to equal as possible, or allowing larger (within constitutional guidelines) differences in populations to maintain district lines closer to the status quo?



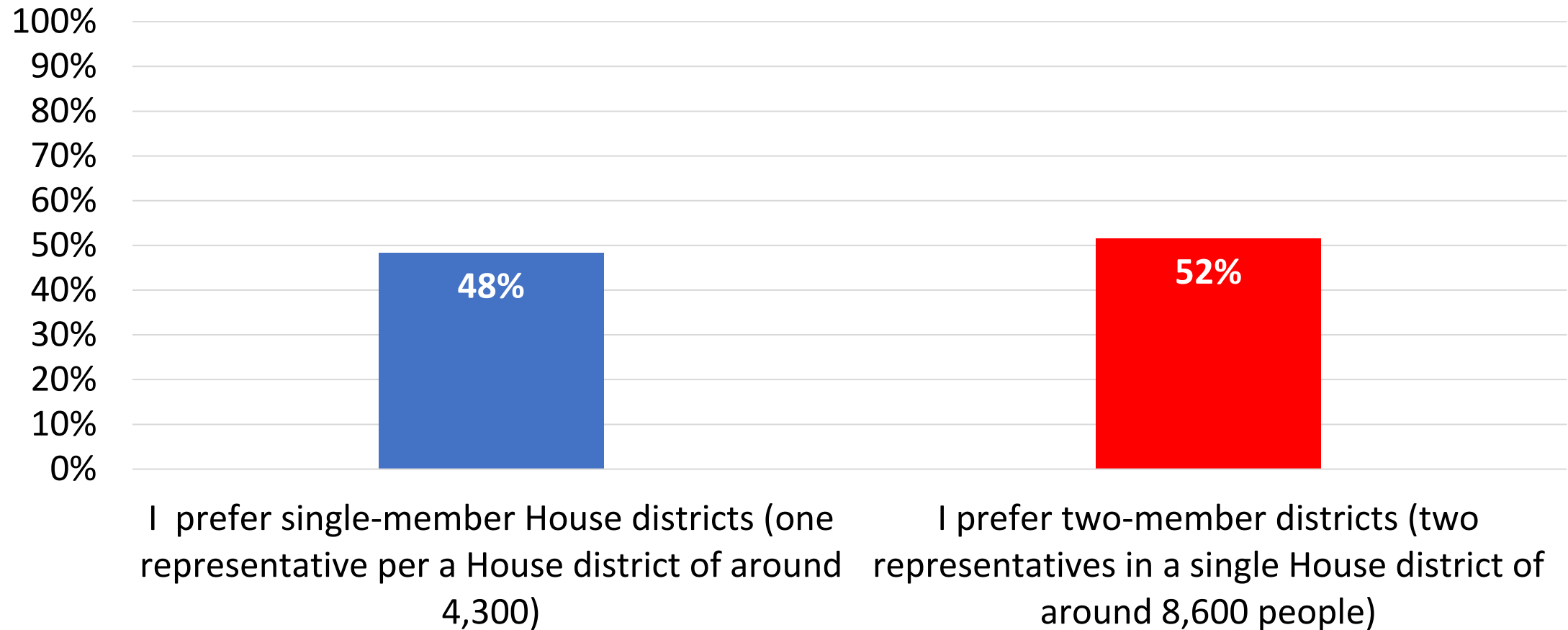
How important is it to you that legislative district lines conform to town boundary lines? (Average Number = 62)



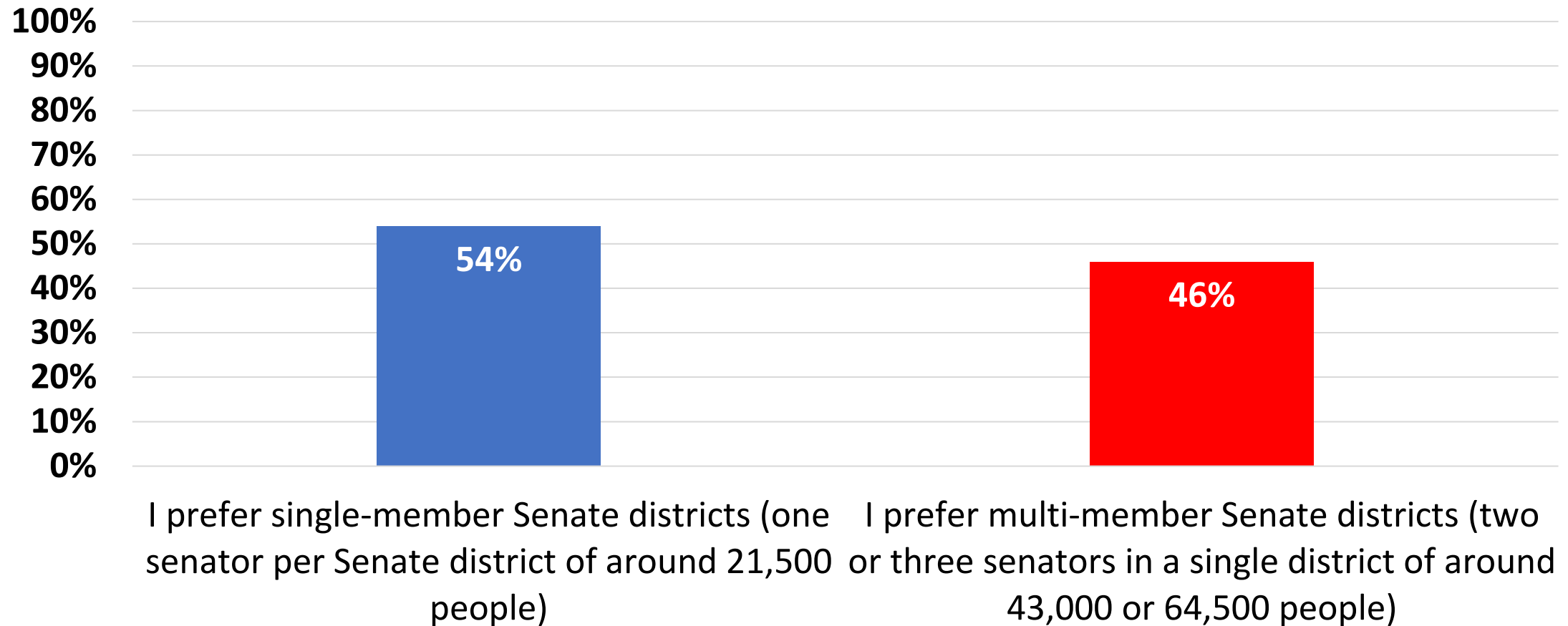
How important is it to you that legislative district lines conform to county boundary lines? (Average Number = 51)



Do you prefer single-member House districts (one representative per House district of around 4,300) or two-member districts (two representatives in a single House district of around 8,600 people)?



Do you prefer single-member Senate districts (one senator per Senate district of around 21,500 people), or multi-member Senate districts (two or three senators in a single district of around 43,000 or 64,500 people)?



What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 1/24

Not sure

Burlington area has too much power

In general, I like to see the boundaries of House districts match town boundaries. However, when a town's territory is effectively split by a barrier to transportation such as a mountain ridge, I believe that letting that line become a legislative district boundary will actually *improve* voter representation.

Mainly make sure of "one person, one vote".

n/a

It would be great for the Board (or allies) to help make some sense of the pros and cons of each of these decisions

Tax Implications

No gerrymandering.

Most important is fair representation of the voters

The number of reps or senators should be considered simultaneous with town/county boundaries. If going to a two member district allows the borders to line up better it should be considered. Senators should never be based on a single town (increase # of senators in that case to make it a multiple town district)

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 2/24

No gerrymandering please! Thank you

NO Gerrymandering.

As much as possible work to ensure bipartisan legislative boundaries.

There should be geographic consideration for the ease of voting and for candidate campaigning and representative connection with the people they represent. We need to be an example for other states that we reject gerrymandering and that ALL people are represented in our legislature.

To avoid the practice of Gerrymandering.

Instead of making decisions based on ones color/race/sex etc. please base your decisions on what is best for we Vermonters as a whole. Doing something otherwise just causes discrimination to the group you feel has “everything”, whatever everything is....Vermonters have never been interested in “ making the cover of The Rolling Stone/People magazine “.....

Do what is best for the people who live here, not the elected officials.

No gerrymandering allowed to create districts with a dominant majority party.

Let's get an honest representation of these districts, no party lines.

NOT worrying about issues of incumbency

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 3/24

As much as possible construct legislative districts out of similarly sized communities (This applies mostly to small towns) so that a small community is not consistently overshadowed by the much larger community it may be paired with. Thank you for your difficult task!

2 Senators would be preferred over 3.

they need to visit us more and interact with us more and get more in touch with our needs and address them

Try not to combine towns that are separated by mountain ridges, making it hard to drive from one to the other

No comment

Be blind to demographic characteristics, such as, age, race/ethnicity, gender, and so forth.

No gerrymandering.

Pay attention to the needs of the whole state, not just Chittenden County. The changes proposed in this survey would negatively affect Vermont's rural communities.

The Northeast Kingdom does not get adequate representation in Vermont politics and political decisions. Our small population should not reduce our impact in the Legislature, as our rural background and less consumer-oriented values can benefit the state.

The people who run have to have lived in Vermont for at least 3 years. I can't take these flatlanders coming in and acting like they know it all. They'll all move back when they find out they can't get their dinner delivered in 5 minutes. I love Vermont but they have made my town NUTS.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 4/24

Focus on what's best for the functioning of democracy in Vermont.

N/A

Thank you for raising these questions - honestly I have not considered them though I have heard of redistricting. I can see all of the above questions could go both ways.

From my research; comparing approaches of other states, I prefer a criteria-driven civil servant approach as in Iowa.

They should strive for fairness in making sure that all eligible residents get to vote and representation is as equitable across counties and regions as humanly possible.

You cannot leave rural areas under represented. As it is, southern Vermont is referred to as northern Massachusetts since Montpelier can't be bothered to spend time here, put resources into helping southern VT recover from the neglect we've seen for decades. I imagine northern Vermont is in a similar position. Chittenden country is not Vermont. Don't take away our right to be represented, even as watered down as it already is.

The more legislators the better to adequately represent everyone.

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I think it's important to have rural and urban representation close to equal to their respective percent of state population.

look to the future for our growth trends

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 5/24

Honor the input of residents as much or more than local officials. Local officials should not be able to solely dictate any changes. Like economic demographics are really important for equity and fairness.

Ensuring a non-partisan redistricting process

No more than 2 or 3 Senators per District

I just want as many representatives per 1000 people as possible.

One person, one vote, regardless of party affiliation or lack there of.

THE POINT WILL BE TO GET EQUAL REPRESENTATION so don't try and bias things towards a certain party. Each vote in a d district should count.

N/A

Logical, geographic boundaries taking into consideration mountains, rivers, etc.

Common roads

Take minority and low income populations into account - don't draw them out of power

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 6/24

Make the districts as compact and logical as possible. No "gerrymander"-looking districts!

Can't think of anything

Try to ensure that underrepresented groups have more fair representation.

In rural areas, try to get the lines dividing districts to run between population centers rather than through them.

The Governor needs to care more about state employees.

Keeping town boundaries intact makes the town clerks job much easier and keeps townspeople's identification coherent. (Wells River, part of Newbury, has been in a different school district since 1970. School board elections are tricky, but even more important, the dual system has set up an unhealthy rivalry among townspeople.)

Thanks for all you do to make our state a better place to live.

I feel the smaller the districts are, the more likely each person and community is likely to get fair representation. Larger districts seem to favor the more affluent perspective, as those communities are more likely to have more time and money to devote to publicity and campaigning, which can then overshadow communities and candidates with fewer resources.

If a district has to take in more than a town or a county, consideration should be given to combining communities that are tied together in some way (e.g. share a school district; use the same hospital, supermarket, etc.) and it should be easy to get around to the various parts of the district - avoiding districts that pose geographical barriers from one part to another, unless they are in the same town and people are used to having them.

I do not want the residents of the Burlington, Montpelier, Rutland and Brattleboro areas to have a larger say over Vermont policy than its more rural areas.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 7/24

Wilmington should be represented by a Windham County Senator, not by Bennington County Senators, who are unresponsive to Wilmington's needs

I would like no partisan politics in redistricting planning. Party affiliation and voting patterns should not be considered when creating representative districts.

consitutionality and properlyapportioned power

That there be absolutely no jerrymandering.

Districts should be shaped by population and done fairly randomly- not weird shapes to accommodate party affiliations.

Voting Places and mail-in ballots should be easily available within each district.

Splitting our electoral votes so that they can vote independently instead of having to vote together .

Try to keep the Senate districts close to County lines. Try to keep the House districts close to Town lines. Over hanging districts don't get as much attention from their legislators. Thanks, Linda Gravell, Washington County Chair

None

Figure out how Huntington can be better represented. This is seriously weird how we are sorted. I feel like we are some bit of leftovers that gets plopped wherever seems convenient.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 8/24

Use of the term 'status quo' in the first question concerns me. If that refers to what has been, now is the time to redistrict without partisan gerrymandering. Where town and county boundaries have been respected, continuing along those lines seem appropriate.

Scan for unintended consequences prior to casting districts in concrete.

We should be able to make changes if population numbers grow or get smaller. Smaller districts should not have as much power as districts with larger populations.

None

Accept the reality "one person, one vote" will mean stronger legislative representation for urban areas. Create legislation to assist challenging rural issues rather than "minority" government. (Applies especially to Senate)

Districts absolutely SHOULD NOT EVER cross county lines. As a resident of West Milton, there next to no commonality with the needs of our community and the needs of Grand Isle County. We share virtually nothing, except a border (and one in the middle of a lake at that.) Our focus in West Milton is the core of Milton, not Grand Isle. This should never be allowed to happen again.

Districts should not be drawn using political parties.

Locations and ease of access to polling places - redrawing legislative boundaries shouldn't make it more difficult for some voters to get to a polling place

I value compactness in districting, with boundaries representing natural communities (ideally towns, but also counties when that makes more sense) to the extent possible, while limiting risk of gerrymandering.

I'd really need to hear others discuss the choices and implications of each choice before deciding. Right now, in Bristol, I think it works pretty well, but there may be aspects i'm missing.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 9/24

I know Chittenden County will be a challenge. I hope school districts will be considered. For example, I think the MMU district and CVU district, and the towns they include have a lot in common and might make a logical Senate district.

I prefer more representation, i.e. smaller constituencies, so that communities can be better represented. And, as a non-citizen, the notion of non-citizen voting is flawed and will lead to added administrative costs and further discrimination down the line. Ridiculous idea, "populist" in the worst sense of the word..

N/a

Although very important questions, I don't feel that I know enough about all the implications of this. But I'm glad you're asking for input.

Any attempts to create partisan districting should be made illegal!

Do not split educational district boundaries. Keep a whole school district in the same legislative district.

Seats in the Senate should be appropriated according to a common number of citizens (meaning equal representation of citizens).

create and maintain accurate census stats to assure 1 person 1 vote success

When towns need to be split, boundaries should follow logical geographic features like roads, rivers, mountains, etc. There should be no consideration of who lives within those areas with regard to party, race, etc, nor consideration of incumbency. Districts should be as compact as possible--i.e., no gerrymandering with long, skinny arms reaching out to "desired" neighborhoods.

Average household income. Attempting to balance boundaries.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 10/24

Non related... but stop sewing around with single stream recycling and expand the bottle bill

Ensuring that communities (whether they fall across town/county lines) are not broken up so that their voices can be heard at the state level

I prefer a mathematical method to ensure every vote is equal.

To avoid majority political parties at to change the redistricting rules to benefit them in the present or in the future. Redistricting should only be changed due to population shifts/changes and thereby ensuring each new district has equal representation.

None come to mind.

I am very disturbed by the pooling of Grand Isle and parts of Milton and think the last House election showed this had a gerrymandering type impact that effectively disenfranchised many voters in GI County.

Keep boundaries of district in cohesive lines, no carve-outs.

Proportional representation with multi-member districts in the House and Senate is critical for ensuring everyone is fairly represented.

...to be careful that marginalized and underrepresented groups are not whitewashed by being distributed into a group where their voices are silenced by a dominant group - either because of money - ability to politic more - or because of their perceived superiority, which causes them to see others in their group as less human and less deserving than they are.

Let's keep taxes down and keep the police in full force

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 11/24

Please make sure that the lines are not drawn by committee with partisan leanings.

Local control, please!!

These don't seem to be asking the right questions. I'd rather see districts based on shared resources, like watersheds than something arbitrary like county lines. We've seen what a disaster to a party gerrymandered districts create, it may help win elections, but it also forces it to move inexorably away from the center. So whatever helps keep VT on an even keel seems the greater concern. The choices above don't come with enough context to understand the effects of the choices. I think we all have opinions on those effects, but are unclear on which way we are "voting" with the above selections.

Need to insure that rural areas are well represented and that Chittenden County does not dominate the state.

Keep Essex County together instead of diving north to Newport and south to St. Johnsbury.

Honestly I don't feel well enough informed about these issues to have a good opinion so my answers are fairly arbitrary.

Grouping towns in House districts where the towns already have something in common. Our district now for example has Waterbury with Huntington - there's a mountain in between and the 2 towns share nothing in common.

Please avoid gerrymandering based on party. Pay attention to mathematicians' and statisticians' analyses, and make sure that, in terms of party, the predicted allocation of seats is one that would be reasonably likely to occur if party had not been taken into account. This is a low bar, but it should definitely pass this bar.

Try to match the geographic communities, don't allow them to be separated by mountains or other physical features.

Fairness to all!

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 12/24

I have nothing to add.

Please, no gerrymandering.....ever.

Schools within the districts

I am opposed to gerrymandering - political districts should reflect lived communities - it's better to deviate a little from exact percentages and have districts that represent actual communities with common interests and situations.

Vermont should separate districting from politics as much as possible. It would be terrible to see anything close to the gerrymandering other states have here in vt.

This should be done by a non-partisan group that is not trying to retain or gain power.

Vermont is much more than the population center of Chittenden County. Each county should have equal senate representation while house can be population oriented

If there is town groupings the towns need to be similar in population. Halifax and whitingham should not have a rep from Wilmington. These towns have vastly different structures and needs. No representative can fairly represent both kinds of towns.

I don't know how this works exactly (I'm new to the state) but whatever can be done to minimize cronyism and ensure that the simplest path to meeting people's needs is found

do the best they can to make representation fair for everyone.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 13/24

The make up of neighborhoods, to avoid gerrymandering at all costs and events.

Try to account for the very sparse population in rural areas.

1- All senate districts should be represented by the same number of senators; so there should not be some 1-member senate districts and some 4-member districts; it would be better for all to be 2-member districts. That way there's less concentrated power in some regions of the state. Furthermore that will make it easier to run for office and increase competition for seats. 2 - incumbency should not be a criteria for drawing district lines.

Do what's necessary to create boundaries that don't favor one party or group.

Make any changes—even if experimental—that research suggests might make the House more agile and responsive to the needs of Vermonters of all stripes.

When grouping together small towns to create legislative districts, keep in mind the local topography. For example, Sheffield and Wheelock are currently lumped together with Barton, Craftsbury and Glover; however, due to mountains, these towns are oriented more towards Lyndon, Burke and Sutton.

I really just want our redistricting should be fair and nonpartisan.

The use of districts with varying numbers of elected reps/sens violates the US constitution's guarantee of equal representation in our state government. It's the same legal rationale that was used to change the way Vermont apportions Senators.

Make sure that less populated counties aren't under-represented compared to Chittenden county!

School district boundaries

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 14/24

It is very important that rural districts are well represented so that there is a balance between ways of making a lively hood.

I think it's very important to consider BIPOC communities in this process. I also think it is important to support a process that could increase the number of BIPOC reps and senators.

Try to keep communities together, even when they technically cross town or county lines.

BIPOC populations be fairly represented.

Districts should be as physically compact as possible, without weird, drawn-out shapes. Basically rectangles.

Fairness based on population and not by race, income levels (class), or across party voting lines.

None that I can think of

Never split a town

I'm not sure if this is an appropriate comment but having some equity when it comes to school districts with our legislatures having a pulse on what issues there are with some towns tax rates and number of students. I'd love to elaborate.

Equal power. Chittenden city surrounding areas have too much power and control

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 15/24

Physical features - valleys, mountains, etc.

Balance and representation are key.

The districting process itself should be revised, along the lines of states like Michigan. The final authority over districting in Vermont should reside with an independent districting body--not elected legislative leaders nor the governor.

No artificial gerrymandering favoring one political party or ethnic group over another. Consider consulting with UVM Mathematics Department in the application of "fair voting" metrics.

The boundaries should be straightforward without a lot of twists and turns and convoluted angles designed for the purpose of obtaining a specific demographic slice

Some issues are regional. I think it makes sense that regions (town or county) have representation. I would be somewhat concerned if districts were drawn in such a way as to diminish the voice of that region to have their needs met.

I would prefer proportional representation in Vermont, where we vote for parties rather than individual representatives, without any districts.

draw lines by computer or neutral entities

Competitive districts wherever possible sensitive to all three major parties in VT.

Keep transparency as a main ingredient to allow the voting public to renew and continue their trust in the voting process.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 16/24

Make our redistricting best serve all individuals within its boundaries, rather than any political party.

None

Get rid of gerrymandering!

Question #4 - I prefer 2 member districts when it doesn't make sense to split up a geographically/politically cohesive town, ala Montpelier.

Living in Chittenden County, it's very important to me that our senators (that would make it senator!) answer to individual districts/towns and not the broad needs of a diverse county.

???

Consider appointing volunteers from other states (paying their expenses and/or an honorarium), to create districts based strictly on the facts and maps they have before them, with no political considerations.

avoid any hint of gerrymandering.

The ratio of representatives to residents of a district should be close to the same in every district. Some districts may need multiple representatives and senators. Districts should be drawn to consolidate racial, economic, and geographic similarities. I feel this gives better representation to citizens than dividing demographic groups up making some always a minority.

It would be wrong and against the constitution to give BTV 2 senate seats and then divide up the County. House Reps are more parochial and tend to follow Municipal lines. Senators should be more global representing different demographics.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 17/24

Fair representation of underpopulated areas while striking an equitable population balance within districts.

Try not to divide towns in obscure ways.. i.e, Westminster has about 5% of its population in two different regions that belong to Windham 3, the rest of Westminster is Windham 4.... could all Westminster be served by Windham 4? It would make more sense. Many people are confused who their reps are

No gerrymandering=do not manipulate the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favor one party or class.

If statistics show unfair representative history consider adding additional districts.

Stay within the guidelines to keep every district within the 10% over or under allowed size. We should have zero districts outside of these guidelines.

No gerrymandering to force representation to match current demographics. Many elections have shown that a candidate, regardless of their race, ethnicity, etc., who connects with the people will win elections on the strength of their message. Let it happen - don't try to make it happen.

Opportunity for as many representatives in a given district as there are diverse people.

That all legal person's are able too vote. Brattleboro has meeting members that are voted in and vote for what they want not what the voters want.

Treat Essex County as one area for the house district as opposed to the current practice that divides the county assigning half to St. Johnsbury and the other half to Newport. Essex County is a unique place that has no identity when lumped into the larger cities

keep the districts logical - don't jump over one town to get to another . Keep whole towns and neighboring towns together.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 18/24

(Question 1 should give a reference for the "constitutional guidelines".) My answers were motivated by keeping town identities for House districts, and large total-people for Senate. Ideally the multi-member Senate districts would be Rank Choice Voted

Ensure that voters won't be too far from their voting place.

Do not gerrymander the legislative boundaries

The voice of the low income must be heard. We are not providing a safety net for those in need

Where possible, considering as a factor that creating super-safe districts for one party or the other should be avoided - leads to extremism in primaries.

This has shown me how little I know re: this topic. Education is necessary!!

The character of some parts of Vermont makes it imperative to recognise their unique character. This would be true for Essex County, Burlington and the Champlain Islands where I live. Making a representative cover Milton and South Hero is fitting a square peg into a round hole.

Be sure that fairness is the primary concern for any redistricting!

Any indications of areas w growth potential, or areas of population decline. Drawing lines to include neighborhoods.

Coherent and logical not tortured or contorted As simple and straightforward as possible

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 19/24

To make sure that every Vermonter's vote is as equitable as possible no matter where you live.

That the boundaries are geographically coherent and not manipulated to give one or the other party a better chance of winning. The Legislature as a political body of parties should NOT be the final determinant of districts but rather a non-partisan group and it should preferably be done without information about how segments vote.

That the districts are not so large that the variation of communities is lost.

Please consider racial equity and inclusiveness, where possible.

Make sure that there is no racial discrimination.

Rural two member districts that span 5+ towns should be broken into smaller single member districts. Two member districts only makes sense in places like Middleberry and Montpelier where the population of one town, or Underhill and Jericho where the population of two towns roughly equates to a two member district.

The Board should consider neighborhoods (like city or county boundaries) but totally disregard political party affiliations.

Keep neighborhoods together.

Threats against legislators and/or legislative candidates must not be tolerated and must be prosecuted aggressively.

I'm not so concerned with town or county boundaries, but forming districts that logically fit together geographically and transportation access - which would likely not require cutting up city/towns

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 20/24

Consider a voting system that will allow proportional representation, as occurs in certain Parliamentary systems. With two or three Reps and Senators from each larger district, evenly split districts could have a rep or senator from each party.

As little dividing towns as possible, and in multi-Town Districts, avoid as much as possible combining Towns that are in different School Union Districts.

To listen to the people that elect yo and to try to do what is good for the people and not some companies bottom line!!!!

They should try to give small minority groups of voters power by not dividing them into multiple districts if possible, giving them a unitary voting block.

Don't know.

2 member house districts are fine in urban areas, less so in rural areas. I would avoid 3-member Senate districts.

No gerrymandering, please.

That we don't use wealth/race "boundaries" to determine lines

I am concerned about the lack of BIPOC voices within our legislature. I am just unsure of the best route to increasing the BIPOC representation. I like that the representatives and senators are close community members, within the county, if not the same town. But, the disparity of population numbers can have a negative impact on diversity within the House and Senate. This is an area that needs special attention as we redesign our apportionment system.

I really don't have enough knowledge of the political ramifications of these questions to make an informed choice

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 21/24

The character of communities that make up a single district - when they are too dissimilar it is more difficult for either to be represented. Boundaries should be made without regard for people demographics, political considerations or economic variations. Basically, no gerrymandering.

Be fair.

In student majority districts, consider the actual voter registration rates rather than assuming every student will vote in Vermont. The voter participation rates in student - majority districts is very low, due to the fact that most students chose to vote absentee in their home districts.

Community in common, like lake Champlain or Connecticut River as primary element to build common community around.

Not all natural community groupings conform to current town and county political boundaries, Wells River valley case in point.

Population density. Urban areas have different priorities than rural areas and it is important that both be represented

Beware of large towns like Manchester out voting small towns like Arlington.

Unknown

Single member districts give people a direct connection with their representatives - I would, however, give town/county boundaries more weight than number of members.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 22/24

Potential for future suburban growth.

no gerrymandering!!! use lay of the land and population density.

I understand that the Town of South Burlington has 3 Representatives in the House? If this is true, I believe that this is not fair representation for rural Vermonters. Wasn't it one Representative to one town not too long ago? In the 1950's? I would find this to be more equitable for rural districts and towns. One Town one vote. It appears that the House of Representatives is stacked in favor of Chittenden County and other larger cities.

Districts should be created in a fair, non-partisan manner.

Structurally ensure one person one vote and also avoid political gridlock and nullification of the people's will by special interests and unsustainable growth economics.

Break up Chittenden county

The Board should be equally represented by the 3 political parties and those on the board should not be allowed to "pick favorites" or cater to certain populations.

Connectivity (how the roads go)

Be on the lookout for any attempt at partisan Gerrymandering.

No further suggestions

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 23/24

I have no other suggestions. suggestions.

As I pondered questions #4 and 5 in the survey, I answered based on the thought that the larger a district, the more that very different types of people within these districts would have to work with each other and understand each others' problems in order to enact anything that would be beneficial to them/their groups individually. I wonder if larger districts could be an effective response to too much tribalism? It is less of an issue in VT than other places, to be sure, but I think it would still be useful here.

Giving the rural areas of Vermont an equal voice compared to the larger towns, especially Chittenden County, would be an excellent balance in the legislature.

Pay attention to what the public wants and not what their politics dictate!

multi-seat districts using ranked balloting proportional representation

N/A

Underrepresented POC

I think there is a lot of geographical differences and special borders all over the state and those should be taken into consideration. Peoples perception of where they live and the community they are connected to does not always fall neatly on village, town, city or county boundary lines.

i person one vote, this questionnaire is confusing to me

Nothing that looks like gerrymandering.

What other considerations should the Legislative Apportionment Board, the General Assembly and the governor take into account when drafting, finalizing and approving the legislative boundaries that will be in place for the next decade? 24/24

Do not attempt to have districts favorable to any one party or another.

Maximize representation and democracy! The more directly accountable our Vermont reps and senators are the better. Thank you
anticipated population growth centers so areas like Burlington and Winooski aren't underrepresented in 5 years as the population grows faster than other parts of the state

Always keep both sides of a street in the same district!

No boundaries be drawn based on population densities based on party alignment alone.