

**Public Submission to the West Virginia Legislature Joint Committee on Redistricting**

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**From:** Kevin Poe  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:12 PM  
**To:** Joint Redistricting  
**Subject:** Redistricting Comments

I am sorry I was not able to present in person. I tried to copy my ideas into the comment box on your website, but it didn't fit. Please acknowledge receipt. Thank you.

Kevin Poe

I have three main topics to discuss:

1. Congressional: Most discussions I have heard state that the current second congressional district should be absorbed into the first and third, thus splitting the state north and south into two new congressional districts. This is a bad idea. Currently, the two fastest growing areas of our state are North Central and Eastern Panhandle. Placing both of these growth areas into the same district does not make economic or political sense. Both of these areas will continue to see growth in business, population, opportunities, as well as competing for available labor and state funding to continue the growth of the areas. I am a realist when I say that the southern part of the state will not see a rise in economic opportunities. Draw a line starting in Tucker County and make an arc around Clay County and continue down toward McDowell County. The purpose is to split the southern part of the state into two parts equal in the two new congressional districts. Placing the state in a north-south dichotomy is not only wrong, but will place the southern part of the state at a distinct disadvantage.
2. State Senate: The current districts are the epitome of gerrymandering. Some of the worst examples are District 3 and 6. There is no excuse for how these lines were drawn except to help the incumbents. Please draw the next lines that keep districts in contiguous counties.
3. House of Delegates: I live in HD51 and I will keep my comments to that district. It is a travesty that I have been represented by 5 delegates for the last 10 years. Greater Monongalia County has no voice, and with the exception of Delegate Statler, I have never seen any of the current delegates in my area. The other four delegates all live in Morgantown within 4 miles of each other. None of them know what is happening in my part of the county (I live southwest of Morgantown) or seem to want to know. They are only concerned with what is happening in Morgantown. That is fine if you live in Morgantown, but I do not and so do many other people who feel disenfranchised by the current district. When the new districts are drawn, please keep metropolitan areas together. Let Morgantown have two delegates (according to census projections) and the remainder of the county have their own representation. Also, since four of our current delegates live near each other, I do not want to see four districts carved out of Morgantown to preserve these four seats. As I have stated, give Morgantown two districts and divide up Monongalia County for the remainder. No preferential treatment to the current delegates.