

Commissioner Redistricting letter of support SB 73

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5
CARROLL COUNTY

February 28, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Carroll County Senators Letter of Support**
Senate Bill 733- Carroll County – Carroll County - County Commissioner Districts -
Alterations

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Carroll County Senate Delegation would like to notify the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee of their support for Senate Bill 733 – Carroll County Carroll County - County Commissioner Districts – Alterations.

The above referenced bill was considered by the Carroll County Senate Delegation and was subjected to a bill hearing. The Carroll County Senators and Delegates voted unanimously in favor of the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Ready". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Senator Justin Ready
Chair, Carroll County Senate Delegation

SB733CommissionerRedistricting.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

MINORITY WHIP
Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 315
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3683 · 301-858-3683
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2023

Senator Justin Ready

SB 733 – Carroll County – County Commissioner Districts - Alterations

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Senate Bill 733 seeks to make small alterations to the boundaries for Carroll County Commissioner districts due to issues brought forward by the Carroll County Board of Elections. These concerns were not identified until after the full process of county, state and federal redistricting were complete in the Spring of 2022.

SB 733 is seeking to fix three main problems. First, voter privacy and secrecy of the ballot is at risk. Since our local redistricting process used census tracts to ensure communities were kept together but had to do that months before the state legislative districts were completed, some precincts in Carroll County have so few voters registered that it may be possible to identify how someone voted. For example, there are only six registered voters in 07-008. It would not be very hard for someone to identify how someone voted if only one or two of those residents vote by mail.

The second issue with the current map has to do with identifying polling places. Under Maryland law, physical polling places must be within a precinct or be in an adjacent precinct. Some of the current precincts are so small that it is impossible to find a polling place within the precinct boundaries. Additionally, the administrative office and warehouse does not have enough space to hold the voting equipment and supplies for every precinct (52) in the county. The county also does not have enough election judges to administer in-person voting at any more than 24 polling places.

The third and final issue is that having one ballot style per precinct results in more supplies for the election judges, an increase in the amount of ballot styles that must be printed, and a longer, and timelier, results reporting process.

Prior to redistricting in 2021, Carroll County had 36 precincts, but there are now 52. SB 733 seeks to merge eight precincts into neighboring precincts, reducing the amount and the operational workload for the county board of elections.

I respectfully request a **favorable** vote on Senate Bill 305.

SB733CommissionerRedistrictingVotingSheet.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

Carroll County Delegation Meeting

Zoom

Thursday January 26, 2023 9:00am

Voting on Bill

Commissioner Districts \$
Adjustments

Sen Ready	Yes	No
Sen West	Yes	No
Del Rose	Yes	No
Del Tomlinson	Yes	No
Del Bouchat	Yes	No
Del Stonko	Yes	No

SB733 Commissioner District Changes.pdf

Uploaded by: Katherine Berry

Position: FAV



Carroll County Board of Elections

300 South Center Street, Room 212 Westminster, MD 21157-5366

410-386-2080

MD RELAY: Call 711 or 800-735-2258 (TTY)

Toll Free: 1-888-302-8978

ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov

elections.carrollcountymd.gov

FAX: 410-876-3925

February 27, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

SB733 - Favorable

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry. I am the Election Director in Carroll County and here today representing my 5-member board in support of Senate Bill 733 - Carroll County - County Commissioner Districts – Alterations.

This bill addresses a concern that was identified after redistricting was completed in 2022 concerning voter privacy and secrecy of the ballot. Since Maryland adopted a law to have ballots by precinct, some of our 16 new precincts resulting from redistricting have so few voters registered that it may be possible to know how a voter voted. This is also more relevant today than previous elections since vote-by-mail is happening so widely and voters have three different ways to cast a ballot.

The table below lists eight precincts that would be impacted by the proposed change. These precincts would be merged into neighboring precincts similar to how they were structured prior to redistricting.

Precinct to Move	Registered Active Voters as of 2/22/2023	Current Commissioner District	Proposed Commissioner District
11-002	107	4	1
05-001	141	4	2
05-007	0	5	2
07-008	4	1	3
04-005	126	2	4
09-002	113	1	4
09-003	12	1	4
14-004	39	5	4

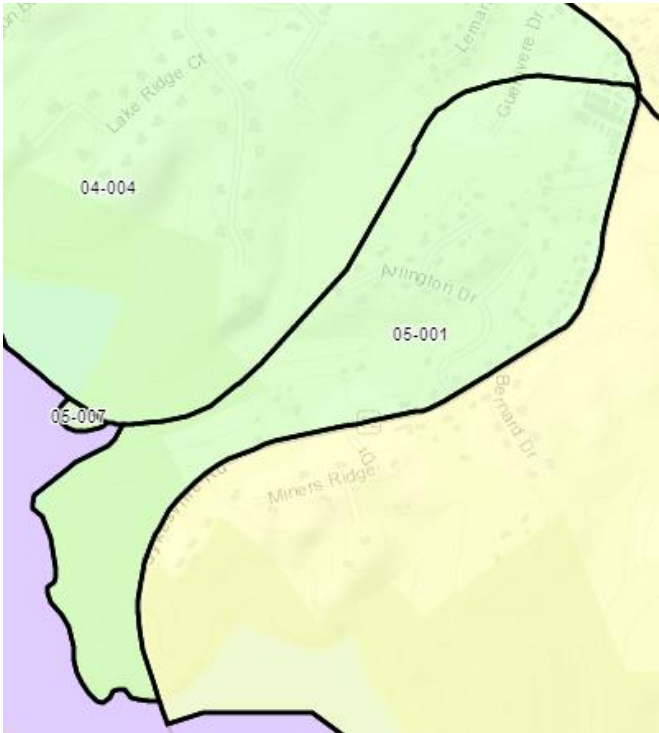
The table below lists each Commissioner District with its current population, proposed population, and how many voters (as of December 2022) each district would gain or lose if the suggested adjustments are made. This adjustment is within the standard deviation of redistricting and does not alter any election district, Congressional, or Legislative district boundaries.

District	Current Adjusted Population	Proposed Adjusted Population	Addition or Difference
1	33,730	33,731	+1
2	35,881	35,849	-32
3	35,648	35,656	+8
4	33,153	33,244	+91

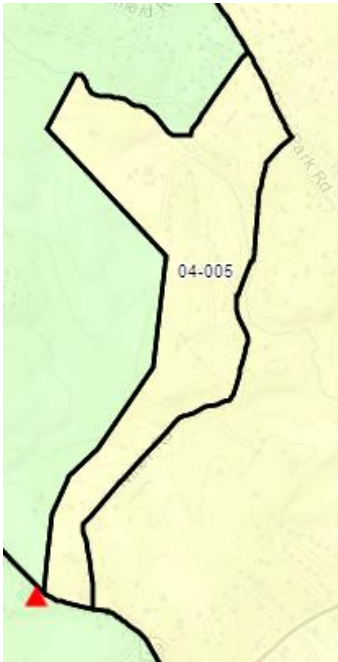
5	34,228	34,160	-68
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Below are images from the precinct map. Most are in more rural areas of the county.

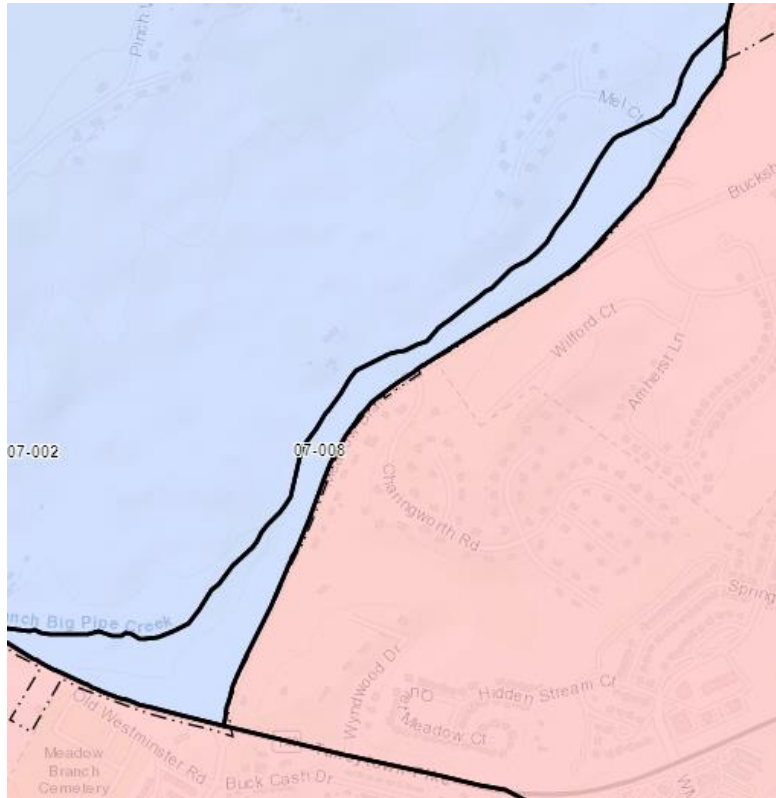
05-001 and 05-007



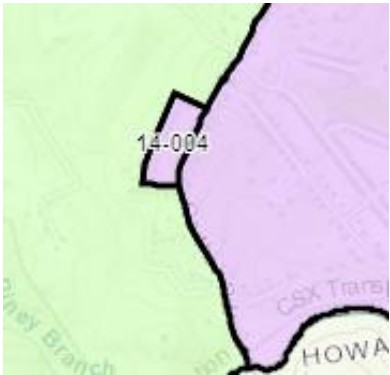
04-005



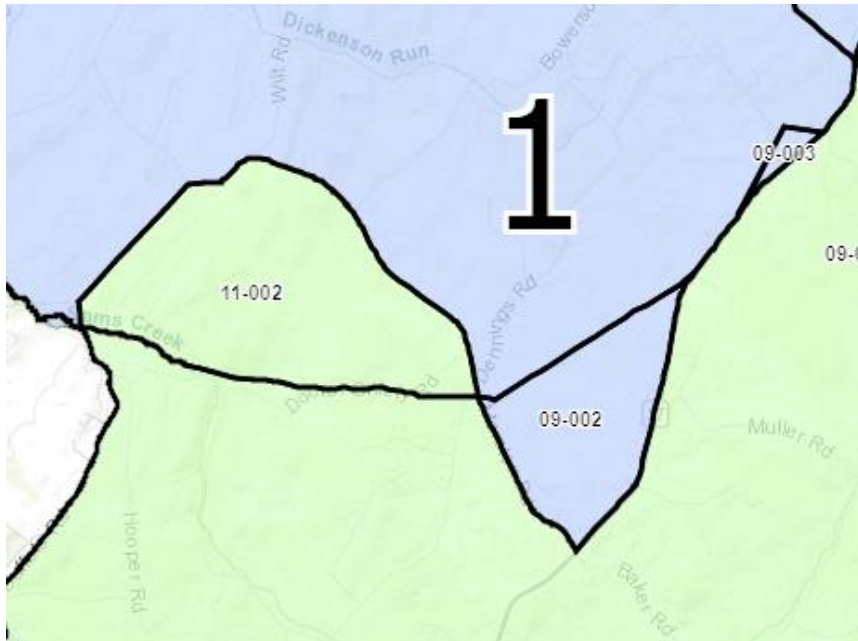
07-008



14-004



09-002, 09-003 and 11-002



I would like to thank the Senators and Delegates from Carroll County for submitting this bill on behalf of the Carroll County Board. I am appreciative to this committee for hearing testimony on this bill and look forward to a favorable report. If you have any questions, I am available at (410)386-2958 or katherine.berry@Maryland.gov.