

**Chairperson Moran:** I am going to take a gentleman out of turn here because he's an elected official and we try to accommodate them where we can because of schedules. Jesse Gordon-- he is a Randolph town council district 2-- Randolph. Jesse Gordon, are you with us?

**Councilor Gordon:** Yes. Can you hear me?

**Chairperson Moran:** There we go. Thank you, Jesse. Welcome.

**Councilor Gordon:** Thank you. I'll comment on the 8th District. But if you saw with my notes that I submitted, I actually think the more relevant aspect is the State Senate and State Rep districting that I guess follows from the federal district thing. I would say I'm certainly very happy with our representation with Representative Pressley. I think that the mix in this district, of which we're at the very southern end, is pretty good. Our dominant groups are Vietnamese, Haitian. And I guess a somewhat third is Spanish speaking. And I think that those three groups are pretty heavily represented throughout the district.

And we feel represented. In other words, we feel that Representative Pressley does come to Randolph on a regular basis. We're very happy with that. And keeping us in the district as a whole town represented in the 8th would be great with me. And I think I speak for a lot of Randolph with respect to that.

That's not quite true with the State Senate and State House districts. The State Senate district-- I understand that there's a movement to have us combined with Brockton, in other words have the State Senate district move South instead of to the North. As my fellow testifier from Brockton just spoke about now, most of the communities surrounding Randolph are predominantly white. Randolph is majority minority, as is Brockton. And I think that making a State Senate district centered on the majority minority areas around here, which mean Brockton the Randolph-- and Quincy perhaps, too-- would be a real benefit to Randolph as well as to Brockton.

My real focus is on the State House districts, where we are in three different state rep districts. And I think I speak for a lot of people in Randolph. I feel that we are not very well represented in the State House at all. We have not had a state rep from Randolph in a couple of decades now-- I think 25 years-- primarily because of what I consider cracking of Randolph into three different districts.

The first district, the one that I live in, is Representative Driscoll's district. And we are overwhelmed in population by the people of Milton. The district was split with the Boston district, the north part of Milton, which is predominantly African-American. That part of Milton goes with Boston. That's near Mattapan Square. The rest of Milton, which is predominantly white, is combined with North and Central Randolph. And that is not a majority minority district, even though the part of Milton that's not in that district in Representative Driscoll's district is majority minority and Randolph is majority minority. So that split, combining half of Milton with almost half of Randolph, makes it not majority minority.

Similarly, the district-- just to give you the numbers. I heard you ask for the numbers before. That is the 7th Norfolk is Representative Bill Driscoll. First Norfolk is the same situation where, combined with Quincy-- this is now the East side of Randolph is combined with Quincy. This district, if you look at the map of it, looks like it's contiguous. In fact, it's not contiguous because there's the Blue Hill State Park in between. There's really two very distinct areas in question.

The part of Randolph is in the district, which is several precincts, but not quite enough so that we have a dominant voice in the district. In other words, more than half the district is Quincy. And it's not the minority part of Quincy. It's the majority white part of Quincy near Marina Bay and so on. And because it's more Quincy than Randolph, we're outnumbered in that district too, and we can't get a representative elected in that district either.

The contiguity problem, which I understand is one of the major purposes of redistricting, is not really true for the First Norfolk district. Because there's a large part of the Blue Hill State Park in the middle, there's really two sections of the district which are isolated from each other by a dozen miles. To drive to Marina Bay from Randolph takes a half an hour. There's no streets in between. There's no population in between. So it's really two distinct districts that are not contiguous at all.

That is also true for the Seventh Norfolk district, the one I live in. But the separation is somewhat smaller. The Randolph section of the district and the Milton part of the district-- yes, they're contiguous. It's mostly Blue Hills in between. But for the Quincy district-- that's the First Norfolk-- it is entirely the Blue Hills in between. So it's entirely discontinuous.

The third district is Fifth Norfolk. That's Representative Mark Cusack from Braintree. That's mostly Braintree. And we're outnumbered there, too. The point is that if we had a Randolph-centric state rep district, we would be, number one, able to elect a resident of Randolph as the state rep. And number two, it would be a majority minority district, which is, I believe, one of the primary purposes of redistricting. Thank you.

**Chairperson Moran:** OK, thank you. Jesse, I would just point out a couple of things for you. To the South of Randolph is Brockton. And that's the nearest place we can go on the map from a House perspective to gain some minorities to make Randolph a majority minority district.

Randolph, as it sits itself, is 32,000 people, which would make it 11,000 short of being its own district. So if you were going to do that, you would have to go somewhere to add minorities to Randolph. And wherever you went, it would have to be a majority minority. And it's surrounded by Avon, which is no help, Stoughton and Canton and Milton, which is no help, and Braintree, which is no help.

So to find population to add to Randolph-- because again, it's only 32,000, and it would need roughly 11,000 people-- there is none to make it a majority minority district. You're right in the fact that Randolph is a majority minority city. The problem is it's only 32,000. And it's slightly a majority minority city. It's not overwhelmingly a majority minority.

So I only point that out to give you a front row seat to the complications when you're trying to do these things. I can only speak to the House map. It's not that that wasn't looked at all. It's just that when we did every opportunity we could have to draw minority majority districts 10 years ago, we could only get to 20. And the advocates were looking for 19. We found another one and got to 20.

So we will look at it again. I give you my word. We will look at Randolph again. And who knows what's happened in the last 10 years. Maybe it's spiked in population more than we expect. And if it does, we will take a serious look at it.

But I just wanted to at least give to you the methodology that we used 10 years ago the reasons why we can't make Randolph itself a majority minority district.

**Councilor Gordon:** Understood.

**Chairperson Moran:** All right?

**Councilor Gordon:** May I comment on it?

**Chairperson Moran:** Yeah. Sure. No problem, Jesse.

**Councilor Gordon:** So you're right on the fact that all of the immediately surrounding towns are majority white. However, if you look at particular precincts, that's not always true. And by the way, I expect that the Randolph population will increase to about 35,000. So we're not quite 11,000 short. It's more like 8,000 short, which means a precinct or two is really what needs to be added.

In Milton in particular, there are majority minority precincts in Milton. In other words, if Milton were split along the right lines, which means precinct one and two, with Randolph, I think those are actually majority minority precincts. Depends on the census, of course. But that's the most minority dense area of Milton. So it is possible--

**Chairperson Moran:** Let me tell you that those two majority minority precincts you're talking about are in the 12th Suffolk District, which is a majority minority district.

**Councilor Gordon:** I know. I understand.

**Chairperson Moran:** So that would be taking them away from another minority-- and you'd have to travel to a significant amount of Milton to get to those precincts, though. That's the only problem. You'd have to go through a fair amount of white precincts before you got to the majority minority districts.

**Councilor Gordon:** Yes. Understood. The other part of what you said that it wouldn't help-- yes, it's true it wouldn't increase the majority minority population of the district. But it wouldn't hurt so much that we still wouldn't be majority minority. In other words, if we added the nearest precinct of Stoughton, Avon, and maybe even Holbrook to add one or two precincts, I think-- it depends exactly on what the census numbers are-- we would end up still being majority minority.

Stoughton in particular, there is continuity reasons for that because some of Stoughton on the Randolph side of Route 24. That precinct is majority white, but it's not so majority white that it would swamp the majority minority content of Randolph. I think it's the same for Avon, that, yes, they're majority white. But they are not so overwhelmingly white that that data would overwhelm the majority minority if you added that to Randolph. So it wouldn't help, but it wouldn't hurt so much that we would lose majority minority status.

**Chairperson Moran:** Well, Jesse, I get your point. I hear where you're coming from. We are absolutely going to be looking at those things as we did 10 years ago. And I appreciate you drawing them to our attention in this testimony. And unless my committee members have a question, which I will offer right up right now-- if anybody has any questions for Jesse?

**Chairperson Brownsberger:** Hey, Jesse. I just want to say it's nice to see you.

**Councilor Gordon:** Nice to see you, Representative Brownsberger. My former rep from North Cambridge.

**Chairperson Moran:** All right. Well, hearing no questions, thank you, Jesse, for your testimony.

**Councilor Gordon:** Thank you very much.