



2021 Redistricting Committee - Board of Representatives

Anabel Figueroa, Co-Chair

Mary L. Fedeli, Co-Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT and remotely

The Redistricting Committee of the Board of Representatives met jointly with the Stamford Redistricting Commission as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Fedeli and Figueroa, and Committee Member Reps. Berns, Goldberg (attending remotely), Miller, and Tomas. Absent was Rep. Coleman. Also present were Reps. Morson and Nabel; Redistricting Commission members Andreana, Cacace, Feeny, Hoch, McManus (attending remotely), Palomba, Pollard, and Stein; and Steve Carr, TSI.

Co-Chair Fedeli called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. R31.001	REVIEW; Update on Status of Redistricting Commission. 02/04/22 – Submitted by Rep. Fedeli	Report Made

Commission Co-Chairs Andreana and Cacace explained the process of Charter Revision so far:

- Under Charter Section C1-70-4, every 10 years after the census figures are available, the 20 voting districts are reapportioned to that each district has substantially equal population numbers, and to follow geographic divisions where practical in determining voting district boundaries
- Under State statute 9-169f, the current commission was formed on October 4, 2021, and sworn in on November 1, 2021
- The census data was received on August 16, 2021, which has caused the process to occur later than usual
- The Commission selected Steve Carr of TSI as a consultant for mapping, setting benchmarks and to provide professional advice
- The Commission set benchmarks pursuant to State statute, the Stamford Charter and in accordance with prior judicial precedents as confirmed with the law department, that:
 - They would establish a target number for each district and no district would more than 5% above or below that target number;
 - They would work to ensure that minority representation was not diluted;
- After ensuring these benchmarks were met, to minimize disruption to Stamford voters, the Commission would consider the impact on voting locations, the comparison to State House and Senate districts, and the impact on the seats of elected members of the Board of Representatives and the RTC and DTC.

- The consultant made the maps and data available to the Commission
- The Commission was hit with a population increase of over 10% in the past 10 years, the bulk of which was centered in the central business district or downtown areas in the south end.
- The population the Committee is working with is 135,470 people, so the target for each district is 6773 (by comparison, the 2010 target was 6132 per district); applying the 5% allowance gives a target range of no more than 7111 people and no fewer than 6435
- The [attached map](#) shows the number by which each district as it currently exists misses the target number; the downtown and south end districts needed to get small and a number of districts needed to get larger
- The Consultant came up with a proposed map that satisfied just the numbers, so that all 20 districts were in range; Commission members then reviewed that proposal and discussed preserving a central business district and the waterside district and geographical boundaries, which led to 2 additional proposals, which the Commission then tweaked and evaluated in light of not diluting minority representation, the state districts, and displacement of members of the Board of Representatives and Republican and Democratic town committee members
- Initially there were 5 BOR members who were displaced and they were able to get 3 of them back into their districts; polling places remained fairly consistent
- After the Commission presents its final report to the Board of Representatives, the Board must conduct a public hearing within 60 days and has 60 days to accept or modify the report and enact an ordinance creating the new districts. If the Board rejects the report, the Board must enact its own redistricting plan.
- The goal of this meeting is to give the Commission feedback prior to the Commission coming up with its final plan prior to April 4, 2022; the Commission would like comments from Committee members prior to February 28, 2022 in order to review and, if possible, incorporate the comments

Committee members then reviewed the proposal with the Commission members and the consultant

- Census blocks in creating districts; a census block can't be carved up; a census block could have a population of 0 or 100s; the blocks are determined by the federal government
- Commission and Committee members discussed reworking the current proposal to retain Revona Woods within one voting district and maintaining all current Board members within their current districts
- The changes have a domino effect on other districts
- The changes will not take effect until the next quadrennial election; in the past, this was specified in the ordinance
- An interactive map will be made available to representatives which they can work with to present comments to the Commission

Co-Chair Fedeli adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fedeli, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)