



**2011 Redistricting Committee
Board of Representatives**

Randall M. Skigen, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, August 22, 2011
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Republican Caucus Room
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Redistricting Committee of the Board of Representatives met as indicated above. Present were Chair Skigen and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coppola, Heaphy, Mitchell and Uva. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Cerasoli. Also present were Redistricting Commission Members Andreana, Banks, Cacace, DaRosa, Freccia, Ryan and Martin; Reps. Fountain, McNeil, Merritt, Fedeli, Summerville, DeLuca and Giordano; and Cindy Barber, GIS.

Chair Skigen called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. R28.001	REVIEW; Interim Report of the Redistricting Commission.	REPORT MADE

President Skigen announced that he had invited the members of the Commission to attend to help answer representative's questions.

President Skigen distributed a draft map depicting an alternative plan that Frank Cerasoli prepared. Mr. Cerasoli purports that his plan moves fewer residents out of their districts. (The Cerasoli Alternative ([map](#) & [narrative](#)) was prepared without the assistance of GIS.) President Skigen added that the map prepared by Cindy Barber was quickly prepared today, has not been proofed and is for information purposes only.

Co-Chair of the Commission David Martin stated:

1. He provided an overview of the Commission's map at the last joint meeting of the Commission/Committee.
2. The Commission has developed a good working plan.
3. The Commission is open to alternatives. Representatives should come to the Commission with alternatives, not just complaints.

Co-Chair of the Commission Vincent Freccia stated that he briefly reviewed the "Cerasoli Alternative" this afternoon, adding that the Commission spent hours looking at natural borders, neighborhoods, manmade boundaries, and its proposal reflects this work.

Chair Skigen opened the meeting to comments from committee members.

Mary Uva emphasized that Mr. Cerasoli's overriding objective was to move the absolute minimal number of people. In preparing the plan, the issue of Courtland Avenue was also addressed. Joe Coppola added that Mr. Cerasoli just wanted to fine tune the Commission's plan to keep more of the status quo. Mr. Cerasoli will be happy to come before the Commission and explain the Plan more fully. Chair Skigen stated that the Committee is not going to come to any conclusion at this meeting with regard to Mr. Cerasoli's alternative proposal.

Comment No. 1: Elaine Mitchell requested the Commission look at restoring the Roosevelt Avenue block back into District 2 (as it is proposed to be moved into District 5).

Comment No. 2: Rep. Heaphy stated that she was satisfied with the Commission's work.

Comment No. 3: Rep. Fountain stated that Courtland Hill Street should be part of Glenbrook. Currently, the street is split between Districts 7 and 8, with the side that abuts Darien in District 8. He feels both sides of the street should be in District 7. Rep. Coppola concurred, adding that the district line in this area detaches part of Glenbrook from the neighborhood.

Comment No. 4: Rep. DeLuca expressed concern about the changes in District 14; the old district ended on Bridge Street. The redrawing also takes away significant areas from District 10.

Rep. Giordano discussed the methodology of redistricting, noting that not only are there areas with low numbers of registered voters, but there are also areas with many registered voters but low voter turnout. Chair Skigen confirmed that redistricting is not based on registered voters, and numbers of registered voters are not even looked at during the process. In fact, Chair Skigen stated that it would be a violation of the law to start considering the number and location of registered voters, adding that some districts have as few as 1,500 and as many as 4,000 registered voters. Redistricting is based on total population per the census.

Chair Skigen stated that the Commission will meet on September 8, 2011; the Committee will meet again next month (sometime after 9/8/11). Representatives who have issues and proposed solutions should forward them to the Board Office so that they can be compiled and given to the Commission for their September

8th meeting. The Commission hopes to adopt its plan at that meeting. Once the Plan is adopted, the Committee has six months to adopt the Commission's Plan or an alternative plan.

President Skigen also recommended that Mr. Cerasoli put his plan in writing and forward it to the Commission prior to its next meeting. President Skigen added that the Commission worked with competing goals: 1) to keep neighborhoods together or put them together and 2) to move as few people as possible. Mr. Cerasoli's plan apparently focused only on moving the fewest number of people. Mr. Ryan added that if the Commission had the single goal of moving the fewest number of people, it probably would have come up with a plan very similar to that of Mr. Cerasoli. Mr. Coppola re-emphasized that Mr. Cerasoli's plan is not a competing plan to that of the Commission but was just his point of view for consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by,

Randall M. Skigen, Chair and
President of the Board

This meeting is available on [video](#).