

CITY OF STAMFORD

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Members

MICHAEL CACACE, Co-Chair

CHRISTINA FEENY

MICHAEL POLLARD

ROBIN STEIN

Members

CRISTINA ANDREANA, Co-Chair

JONATHAN HOCH

BILL McMANUS

GARY PALOMBA

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Redistricting Commission met with the Board of Representatives Redistricting Committee on

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Democratic Caucus Room
4th Floor, Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

(This meeting was also accessible remotely)

In attendance were Redistricting Commission members Cristina Andreana, Michael Cacace, Christina Feeny, Jonathan Hoch, Bill McManus (attending remotely), Gary Palomba, Michael Pollard, and Robin Stein. Also present from the BOR Redistricting Committee were Co-Chairs Fedeli and Figueroa, and Committee Member Reps. Berns, Goldberg (attending remotely), Miller, and Tomas. Absent was Rep. Coleman. Also present were BOR Reps. Morson and Nabel; and Steve Carr, TSI.

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

- 1. Introduction/Commission & Committee Members** – Co-Chair Andreana introduced the members of the Commission.
- 2. Brief Committee members on Commission's work to date, including review of maps.**

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 a 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

Commission members then reviewed the current proposal with the Committee 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 Revonah 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

3. Approval of the 2/3/22 draft minutes – A motion to approve the 2/3/22 draft minutes was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice votes.

4. Next meeting date – The Commission will meet on March 2, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Co-Chair Andreana adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cristina Andreana, Co-Chair
Michael Cacace, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)