



Latinos in Connecticut: The 2011 Redistricting Plan FACT Sheet

What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the process of redrawing state legislative and congressional district boundaries every 10 years by state legislatures following the decennial U.S. Census.

Why You Should Participate:

- ❖ Drawing district lines can divide your community and place you in a district with an elected official that does not prioritize your needs, such as increase school funding, promoting better transportation, using local funds to make health care more accessible to you and your family, and fixing problems that affect your neighborhood. Your neighborhood can be moved to a district with a higher property tax requirement;
- ❖ You can participate in creating a district that can elect a representative that understands your needs;
- ❖ You can help keep an incumbent representative in your district that is already addressing your needs;
- ❖ You can prevent politicians from splitting your neighborhood to dilute your community’s ability to vote or select representatives that you like;
- ❖ Redistricting only happens every ten years and this year there is a very small window to participate.

Public Hearings: When, Where and at What Time?

Date	City	Location	Time
July 5	Waterbury	Veterans' Memorial Hall, City Hall, 235 Grand Street	7:00 pm
July 6	Norwich	Council Chambers, City Hall, 100 Broadway	7:00 pm
July 18	Norwalk	Common Council Chambers, Norwalk City Hall, 125 East Avenue	7:00 pm
July 19	New Haven	Fair Haven Middle School, 164 Grand Avenue	7:00 pm
July 20	Hartford	Room 2C, Legislative Office Building	2:00 pm

Where? & What to do?

You should plan to attend the public meetings and pay attention to the proposed new maps. You should ask what proportions of Latinos and Latinas live in the areas that will be affected by redistricting. You should ask how moving a boundary line will affect your child’s school district or your residence. You should ask how the new district will affect you.

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The Nuts & Bolts of the Process

Who draws the districts?

The bipartisan Reapportionment Committee, made up of eight legislators (two from each party's caucus in the Senate and House of Representatives), is charged with preparing plans. A two-thirds vote in each chamber is required for approval.

The committee members are: Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams (Co-chair), House Minority Leader Lawrence Cafero (Co-chair), Senator Majority Leader Martin Looney, Senate Minority Leader John McKinney, Senator Leonard Fasano, House Speaker Christopher Donovan, Representative Sandy Nafis, and Representative Arthur O'Neill.

How are districts drawn?

Process

- ❖ Various interest groups will be gathering to discuss and submit proposals to move district boundaries or in some cases new districts;
- ❖ Several public hearings will be held throughout the state (between July 5 and 20, 2011), during which time members of the public will be able to offer their opinions and provide input;
- ❖ State legislature attempts to adopt redistricting plan by 2/3 majority of each house, not subject to veto by Governor;
- ❖ If no plan is adopted by September 15, Backup Commission attempts to adopt plan by approval of at least 5 commissioners, not subject to veto by Governor;
- ❖ If no plan is adopted by November 30, state Supreme Court draws the lines, not subject to veto by Governor;

Criteria

- ❖ Contiguity (*source: Constitution*);
- ❖ Follow town boundaries when practicable (for House) (*source: Constitution*)

(source: Brennan Center for Justice, A 50 State Guide to Redistricting)

What can happen?

Today, there are 9 Latina and Latino State Legislators and zero State Senators in the state of Connecticut. If state seats were apportioned based on the Latino population of the state of Connecticut, there would be around 20-22 (out of 151 seats) State Legislators and possibly 3 (out of 36) State Senators.

This year's redistricting could lead result in the creation of at least 2 Senate Districts with a majority population of Latinos and Latina residents.



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Additional Resources:

Connecticut General Assembly 2011 Redistricting Project

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/red2011/events.asp>

Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC)

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac/>

LatinoJustice PRLDF: <http://latinojustice.org/>

Connecticut State Data Center

<http://ctsdc.uconn.edu/index.html>

National Conference of State Legislatures

<http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=746&tabs=1116,115,789#789>

Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/a_50_state_guide_to_redistricting/