

**BRYAN DINKELACKER**

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**Testimony before the Reapportionment Committee (Virtual Hearing)  
September 14, 2021**

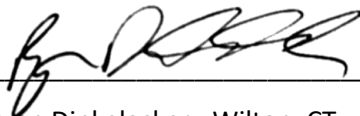
Good evening, Members of the Reapportionment Committee. My name is Bryan Dinkelacker. I have lived with my wife and two young sons in Wilton since 2015. Prior to moving to Wilton, we lived in Norwalk for 8 years after relocating from New York State.

I recently became interested/involved in the town of Wilton's governance and was shocked when I discovered that it is the only town of its size in the state without a dedicated representative. How is it that such a sizeable and notable town does not have a designated representative to make its interests their absolute top priority? I further discovered that the 143<sup>rd</sup> House District, which most of Wilton is within, is split nearly equally with Norwalk, with a small sliver of Westport thrown in. So, now a much more glaring question is how a city like Norwalk, which is clearly different from semi-rural Wilton in so many key ways, shares its representation with Wilton, a town whose needs and interests are so very different?!

Well, this, in my opinion, is both unintelligent and unfair to both Norwalk and Wilton residents. As a former resident of Norwalk and as the husband of a Norwalk ESL teacher of 12+ years, I can tell you that the two towns, in particular the schools, couldn't have more differentiated needs. From my wife's experience as an elementary school ESL teacher in Norwalk and as the mother of children in Wilton elementary schools, the two are very different and the keys to their improved success clearly lie down different paths with regards to resources needed for safety, special education, ESL students, curriculums, sports teams, etc., all things that that will be easier for each town to obtain if their house district and their voting representation was 100% focused separately on the solving the individual and specific challenges that each town faces.

Having two municipalities with such divergent needs is not only unintelligent, it is irresponsible and an utter disservice to the residents of both towns. I therefore respectfully ask you to separate Wilton and Norwalk and place Wilton in a district with another small town that has similar issues and interests, so as not to further inhibit the residents of both, and focus intently on the very specific needs of the communities of Norwalk and Wilton, individually.

Thank you all for your service on this Committee, and I hope you make the right decision for both of these great municipalities.



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Bryan Dinkelacker - Wilton, CT