

I live in the 143rd District, currently represented by Stephanie Thomas and before that Gail Lavielle. I moved here in 2014 and have lived in several CT towns since 1983. I urge the committee to redraw the district lines.

143 is a “dog’s breakfast” of a district, with only part of Wilton in it plus a significant chunk of Norwalk. It has only one straight line (and another mostly straight). The rest is a bunch of squiggles including a sort of peninsula-shaped intrusion from the 125th district, and a very narrow neck connecting it to its inexplicable part of Norwalk. Compactness is one criterion for drawing district boundaries in some states. The 143rd clearly fails in this regard.

The central issue is that the Wilton is a low-density, classically suburban, heavily forested and even still slightly agricultural town and village located on a Metro-north spur line while Norwalk is a high-density, built-up, formerly industrial city on the railroad’s main line. Our issues and Norwalk’s are vastly different. Wilton needs a State Representative who can fully represent our interests and that of like communities that need to be part of our district in order to achieve similar population size. Wilton plus part of Ridgefield or Redding would be the obvious combination.

The current district lines are unfair to Wilton’s citizens and probably not in the best interests of Norwalk’s citizens either, although of course I can’t speak for them.

This redistricting period is a wonderful opportunity to redraw the district in a way that is more fair for all concerned, more helpful in addressing problems, and more in line with districting guidelines on compactness and congruity of interests. Please make Wilton its own district, along with necessary parts of Ridgefield or Redding.

Thank you.

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