

State of Connecticut



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September 8, 2021

To: Chairs of the Reapportionment Committee

From: The Black & Puerto Rican Caucus

Re: 2021 CT Redistricting

Thank you for holding three in-person public hearings and one virtual hearing to listen to Connecticut residents on the impact of Redistricting on our communities. 2021 is a year of dramatic events in our state starting with a pandemic that has changed how our communities live and work and care for one another. In many ways these changes have impacted how our communities, especially our large, urban communities, have been struggling but also have become stronger.

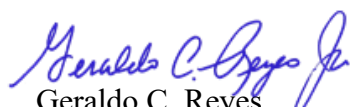
We urge the Reapportionment Committee and the soon-to-be appointed Commission to commit to a fair, transparent, and open process of drawing district lines that prioritizes communities of interest, particularly underrepresented communities and communities of color that have traditionally been left out of the process.

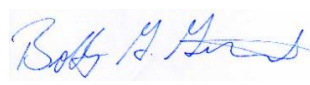
According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), “the COVID-19 pandemic has brought social and racial injustice and inequity to the forefront of public health. It has highlighted that health equity is still not a reality as COVID-19 has unequally affected many racial and ethnic minority groups, putting them [more at risk of getting sick and dying from COVID-19](#)”. This must change.

One important change that took place in the last legislative session was the end to prison gerrymandering. Now, the population of incarcerated individuals are counted by the US Census as residents of their home communities rather than the prison where they happen to lay their heads temporarily. That number statewide is, approximately, 11,149 individuals. This will have an impact on our large, urban districts as we accommodate this count in our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Reapportionment Committee. We look forward to working together for a fair, transparent redistricting in Connecticut that will benefit all of our residents.

Respectfully,


Geraldo C. Reyes
Chairman


Bobby Gibson
Vice Chairman