

## Testimony before the Reapportionment Committee

September 14, 2021

Members of the Reapportionment Committee,

My name is Matt Raimondi, and I'm a resident of Wilton. I actually grew up in Wilton and attended Wilton Public Schools. After stints in a few different cities (including Philly, Boston, and New York City), my wife and I moved back to Wilton about 18 months ago. While we greatly enjoyed our time in the city, we were drawn to Wilton's 'small town' environment and strong sense of community. For me, it was coming back home.

After we moved back here, I was surprised to learn that our 143<sup>rd</sup> district is actually joined with Norwalk and that Wilton is the only town in the state of CT without its own dedicated representative. Since the population of our district is equally split between residents of Norwalk and Wilton, there is a large burden placed on our representative to represent the interests of both areas given the vastly different environments. In short, Norwalk is a city and Wilton is a small town. This difference is fundamental and leads to different sets of challenges and demands being placed on the representative. The representative of the 143<sup>rd</sup> district is essentially pulled in two different directions: one which is drawn by the needs of a city, and the other which is drawn by the needs of a small town.

Today, Wilton is the largest town in Connecticut that is split among multiple districts, and it is the only town that doesn't make up the majority of one district. Now is the right time to make this districting change. Per the census, the population of Wilton grew 2% to 18,503 and is the largest municipality without a resident senator or state representative. Given that the average district has 22,600 residents, the municipality of Wilton is large enough to have its own dedicated representative whose priority is Wilton

Given the above, I'm a proponent of Wilton receiving a dedicated representative in the upcoming redistricting. Having our own representative who can focus on the needs of Wilton and its people would provide the residents of Wilton a more representative voice in Hartford.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Matt Raimondi  
Wilton, CT