

The Connecticut General Assembly

REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

SENATE

Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr., Co-Chair

Senator John McKinney
Senator Martin M. Looney
Senator Leonard A. Fasano

Sandra Norman-Eady, Project Coordinator



Honorable Kevin P. Johnston

HOUSE

Representative Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr., Co-Chair

Representative Christopher G. Donovan
Representative Sandy H. Nafis
Representative Arthur J. O'Neill

REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 30, 2011

4:00 PM IN HEARING ROOM 1B

Representative Cafero called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

The following commission members were present:

Senators: Donald E. Williams, Jr., 29; John McKinney, 28; Martin M. Looney, 11; Leonard A. Fasano, 34

Representatives: Lawrence F. Cafero, 142; Christopher G. Donovan, 84; Sandy H. Nafis, 27; Arthur J. O'Neill, 69

Elector of the State: Kevin P. Johnston

A motion was made by Representative O'Neill and seconded by Representative Nafis to approve the November 3, 2011 commission meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Representative Cafero welcomed the members of the 2011 Reapportionment Commission. He formally welcomed the newest member of the commission, former state legislator and state auditor Kevin P. Johnston, as the ninth member. He also welcomed legislators, staff, and members of the public who joined them for the meeting.

Representative Cafero stated the commission's duty to draft redistricting plans, certify them with the votes of at least five members, and immediately transmit it to the Secretary of the State. Reflecting on the reapportionment process, he said "It is a decidedly difficult and time consuming process to negotiate a plan to the point of agreement, but I do believe the bipartisan process that we have here in Connecticut is a good and fair one, and I believe that the business we will take up today is a reflection of that."

He asked if there was any new business before the commission.

Representative Donovan thanked the commission members for their efforts on redistricting and their many hours of hard work. He also thanked the people who testified at the public hearings and submitted comments. He stated that public input was valuable and there were significant changes to the House plan in response to ideas from the public hearings. He highlighted a few examples, including: (1) placing Kent in the new 64th House district with other northwestern corner towns of the Upper Housatonic River Valley; (2) providing Windsor with a majority of a House district; and (3) properly reflecting minority voting strength, such as in the new Windsor and Hartford districts.

Representative Donovan made a motion to adopt the House of Representatives' Redistricting Plan Geography Report with two exceptions: (1) the population count for the 41st district shall be reduced by 994 people and the population count for the 40th district shall be increased by 994 people and (2) the portion of Trumbull annexed to and incorporated by Bridgeport pursuant to Special Act 11-2 shall be considered part of the 126th district.

The motion was seconded by Representative O'Neill.

Representative Cafero thanked the members for all of their hard work and said that the process was fair, bipartisan, and completed with respect. He also thanked Kevin Johnston and nonpartisan and caucus staff for their efforts. He explained that the House plan has a self-imposed deviation of +/- 3% and that it is two points better than 10 years ago.

The commission unanimously approved the motion by a voice vote.

Representative Cafero called a 20 minute recess for staff to download and verify the Senate plan.

Representative Cafero reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and turned it over to Senator Williams.

Senator Williams thanked commission members and caucus and nonpartisan staff for their work during the process. He also thanked Kevin Johnston for his involvement. He explained that Connecticut has a bipartisan redistricting process and the commission was committed to a bipartisan resolution. He stated that the Senate map would be available online by the next day at 9:00 a.m.

Senator Williams made a motion to adopt the Senate's Redistricting Plan Geography Report which was seconded by Senator McKinney. Senator McKinney added thanks to all staff. He stated that a system that can be frustrating was always fair and the parties acted in good faith during a difficult process. He also praised Kevin Johnston for being fair and neutral.

The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Representative Cafero announced that the commission had not reached agreement on a Congressional redistricting plan and intended to seek an extension from the State Supreme

Court so that the commission could complete its work by passing a plan for Congress expeditiously.

Representative Cafero extended the commission's thanks and deep appreciation to the nonpartisan staff from the Office of Legislative Research, Information and Technology Services, and the Office of Legislative Management.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Representative O'Neill and seconded by Representative Nafis. It was approved unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Sandra Forte'