

2011 Reapportionment Committee Organizational Meeting

Opening Remarks by House Republican Leader Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr., Co-Chair

“We are here today to begin our decennial duty, as set forth in the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, which establish the requirement that Congressional, State Senate and State House Districts be reapportioned every ten years following the completion of the federal census.

Each state legislature is entrusted with the power to create a process for redistricting to take place in compliance with federal Constitutional principals and the Voting Rights Act. This process is the cornerstone of our democracy in ensuring the preservation of the fundamental principle of “one person one vote.”

The federal framework respecting the decennial census and the apportionment of congressional districts is created in Art I., Sec. 2, Clause 3, and amended by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as follows: ***“Representatives... shall be apportioned among the several States...according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State...”***

The Connecticut Constitution, in Article III, Sec. 6 (as amended), directs the establishment of this Reapportionment Committee of eight members, four from the House and four from the Senate, with equal representation from each party, to “advise the general assembly on matters of apportionment”. The Connecticut Constitution sets forth the principals, procedures and deadlines to be followed in our reapportionment duties.

We are committed to an open and transparent process. To that end, we will provide the public with access to as much of the data and technological tools as is practicable. We invite input from the public, and our city and town governments, on their views toward final redistricting plans. We will be holding public hearings throughout the State at times and places convenient to the public; we will create a website of information on the activities of the Committee; we will publicize email addresses and a dedicated phone line to receive ideas and perspectives from our constituents; and staff will be assigned to receive and process questions from the public on the reapportionment process.

As we set forth to meet our Constitutional obligations, I want to thank my fellow committee members for their willingness to serve, and pray our journey is shared in continued good faith and good fellowship.

Thank you.”