

Redistricting Themes – Public Hearings- July 20th - 2pm & 7pm- LOB

Rm
2-C

1. Briefly introduce yourself, giving your name and address.
2. Explain that the reality of creating legislative districts requires most towns to have multiple representatives. Towns that have too few residents acquire the necessary numbers from residents of other towns, and those with too many residents must give residents to other districts with too few people.
3. Towns divided into several districts with multiple representatives can benefit in the following ways:
 - (a) Residents have more legislators to appeal to when issues or concerns arise;
 - (b) Legislators representing the same town customarily collaborate and work together to get results or advocate for the town;
 - (c) Chances are that one of your legislators, either by way of committee assignments, professional background, or experience will be better at addressing your particular issue;
 - (d) Multiple legislators and the particular alliances or networks that each may have among other legislators, create far more clout and power than a single representative;
 - (e) Given limited time and many demands, a team of representatives can divide responsibilities in achieving targeted results for their common town constituents.
4. Representing multiple towns is better for the representatives too. It gives legislators a broader perspective and more diverse input/opinion. It helps create new ideas by comparing communities and their approaches to issues and challenges.
5. Representing several towns is no different than State Senators who customarily represent many towns, and Congressional legislators who represent large geographic areas with numerous towns.
6. A good representative will provide access and make a presence in each town regardless of where he or she lives. For instance in my district of (town) and (town), nobody can say they Representative (David Baran) doesn't attend all the major community and political activities in each of these towns. In today's society, it is the commitment, dedication, and involvement of a representative that is most important, not artificial definitions of one's residence.

more
is
better

BHd r
Windsor
(15th
District)

7. Try to give an example of such involvement of your particular representative (Peggy Sayers, David Baram, Elaine O'Brien).
8. Conclude by saying that the current district for towns Brid & Windsor with whatever adjustments are necessary to meet district size requirements, should be preserved. These districts have served the residents well for over 20 years and there is no need to make significant changes. ~~The best testament to the fact that the current district of towns _____ & _____ are working well, are the results of past elections where Representative _____ won overwhelmingly, and that Representative _____ has earned the respect and trust of residents of both communities.~~
9. Most issues today are not limited to one town. Issues of budget, environment, transportation, social services, public safety, are typically germane to most towns, if not the entire state. District lines have little to do with these global issues which attract the main attention of the legislature. *When local issues arise however*
10. Thank the Commission for its time and their commitment in working together for the residents of CT. *Our Representatives have been there for us. In Windsor for example, Rep David Baram:*

Examples

- Worked to create a special tax district for two Windsor to help with funding of new residential developments
- Worked to create an economic development zone for Bradley Airport which includes Windsor
- Worked to preserve local municipal & educational grants for Windsor
- Fought to keep a group home operational in Windsor
- Helped obtain redevelopment money for the Windsor train station and area surrounding it