

CHAIRMEN: Senator Williams

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATORS: Fasano, Looney, McKinney

REPRESENTATIVES: Donovan, Nafis, O'Neill

SENATOR WILLIAMS: If folks could please take their seats. We're going to get started in just a minute.

If you intend to testify at the hearing this evening but have not had a chance to do so, please come to one of the desks in front to sign up. So far we have 12 speakers who have signed in.

If you have written testimony that you have submitted, you don't have to read the testimony word for word. You can if you choose, but we always like to get more. If you brought written testimony we'd like to get even more over and above that written testimony if you want to embellish upon that in your opportunity to speak.

Also even though we only have 12 speakers we may have more. When we have public hearings at the state capitol we ask people to try and keep their comments to about three minutes. We don't have to do that here this evening because our purpose really is to get your input. However I would say that you should still try to be efficient and concise in respect of the other folks who have signed up and also want an opportunity for a full hearing as well.

We are here this evening to get your input in

the redistricting process for the State of Connecticut. Now every ten years there is a U.S. Census, as we all know. And after that census, after the data is returned to the State of Connecticut then we evaluate the population changes and shifts throughout the State.

Now overall in the state of Connecticut population went up a little over 4 percent. So we gained 4 percent. We're not looking at losing a congressional district in this redistricting process, as we did ten years ago. However some towns gained in population in percentages different obviously than other towns. A few towns actually lost population, so it varied. The distribution of that 4 percent increase varied significantly across the state in different areas.

What that means is that every ten years we have to adjust our state representative districts, our state senate districts and our congressional districts in accordance with those changes and shifts in population. You may ask yourself, why? Why do we have to do that? I like the district that we have for my state representative or state senator or congressman. Why can't we just keep it the same?

There's the principle that's been enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court and other courts that we have one man one vote. So you cannot have disparate -- districts that are so disproportionate in size that in one particular district that is much smaller than another in population, that they would nonetheless have, say, a state representative, a state senator or a congressman or woman as opposed to another district much larger and yet they get that same numeric representation.

So we have court rulings that say, no. You can't do that. That's why every ten years we go through this process so that to the greatest extent possible we can honor that representation of one man one vote and have fairness, not to a mathematical perfection, but within a few percentage points of equal representation of one district to the next.

Now the process that we go through is different in Connecticut than many other states. You probably read around some states where if you have a majority in one political party they can pretty much dictate the terms. And then you've read about, I'm sure, the hijinks that goes on in terms of designing districts favorable to one political party or another.

In the State of Connecticut for many years we have had a bipartisan tradition, so regardless of the makeup of the General Assembly or how many statewide officeholders are Democrats or Republicans, regardless of that we have an equal number of Democrats and Republicans on this redistricting committee as a check and balance against that kind of partisan approach to redistricting.

And we had a deadline of September 15th, that's our -- an initial deadline to reach an agreement and to bring a proposal back to the General Assembly for a two thirds approval vote. Again, the approval would have to take place prior to September 15th.

That didn't happen ten years ago. It didn't happen 20 years ago. What usually happens is that after the September 15th deadline a commission is appointed by the Governor, most likely the same group of individuals here

along with a tiebreaker that we agree on and then we put together a plan prior to November 30th. That's the way it worked ten years ago. That's the way worked 20 years ago.

Ten years ago the only point where there was not agreement was on the congressional districts, for obvious reasons, because we were losing a congressional district. That went to the State Supreme Court. It got bounced back to the committee at the eleventh hour. The committee nevertheless resolved those issues and was able to agree on the new congressional district lines.

So that's probably more background and history than you wanted to know about the redistricting process. The folks, our staff who are here at this meeting have two handouts that are very helpful that have a lot of the frequently asked questions. So if you want even more information than what I gave you and you have additional questions about this I would certainly ask you to seek them out and to get those handouts.

Without further ado, let me introduce myself, which I should have done at the beginning. I'm State Senator Donald Williams, President of the Senate and I'm the cochairman of our Redistricting Committee.

And now I'll ask our committee members to introduce themselves starting with Senator Len Fasano down at the end.

SENATOR FASANO: Len Fasano, 34th District, which is Wallingford, North Haven and East Haven.

SENATOR McKINNEY: John McKinney, 28th District, which is Fairfield, Easton, Weston and Newtown. And it's great to be back in New

Haven again.

SENATOR LOONEY: Hi. Martin Looney. I wanted to welcome you all to New Haven. I represent New Haven and Hamden and am the Senate Majority Leader. We have had one of these hearings in each -- or we will have by the time we finish a hearing in each of the congressional districts in the state. Obviously this is the one for the 3rd Congressional District. I want to welcome everyone here to New Haven as well as the members of the panel as well.

So we look forward to an interesting discussion. We previously had hearings in Waterbury for the 5th Congressional District, in Norwich in the 2nd Congressional District. Last night we were in Norwalk in the 4th Congressional District. And tomorrow we will have two hearings in Hartford for the 1st Congressional District.

So we have been all over the state getting input and looking forward to the discussions this evening.

REP. DONOVAN: Hi. My name is Chris Donovan. I'm Speaker of the House and I represent the city of Meriden.

REP. NAFIS: Hi. I'm Sandy Nafis. I represent the 27th District which is located in Newington.

REP. O'NEILL: I'm State Representative Arthur O'Neill and I represent the towns of Southbury, Roxbury, Bridgewater and Washington.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: So with the preliminaries out of the way let me ask the first speaker to come to the microphone, Anthony Esposito of Hamden.

Good evening, sir.

ANTHONY ESPOSITO: Good evening. Glad to be here. To my poor memory, this is the first time since I've been involved in the 40 years with the registrar's office that this is -- kind of forum has taken place. So I'm glad to be here and glad to have input from the public.

My name is Anthony Esposito. I'm presently the registrar of voters in the Town of Hamden. And I've been involved with the registrars office for over 40 years, presently serving 13th year as registrar of voters. I'm also the president of the Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut which represents some 340 registrars across the state.

As I have submitted written testimony, I'll summarize so that I don't bore you with reading through every line.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: You know, and the highlights are fine. And if folks do feel comfortable, if you want to read your entire testimony, that's fine too, if it hasn't been read before at another meeting. Please proceed.

ANTHONY ESPOSITO: It's important for registrars to be here and to tell their tales because we are the people that have to deal with the plan that you come up with and then we have to listen to the voters' complaints when they are dissatisfied with it because we are on the frontline.

I bring before the commission three concerns. First of which I'd like to call, geographic neighborhoods. When putting together district lines there's this, to me, this idea that geographic neighborhoods, those that are centered together should be kept together and

that boundary lines, when they are drawn should not neglect that.

I know that at one time there were some natural boundaries which were used and yet the decision then was made to use streets and roadways and to go down the center of streets and roadways. That sometimes is a problem when the street and roadways is very proximate to a natural boundary, such as a lake or a riverbed or a stream or a forest or whatever.

And drawing a line down the center of the road separates one half of the road into one district and the other half in the other. These are contiguous neighborhoods and these people would be voting in their regular neighborhoods, and now have to travel great distances to go to the other side of the natural boundary to vote in another district.

I know that in our town, my town of Hamden we have such a situation. The road runs very close to Lake Whitney and yet the dividing line between the two districts is down the center of the road, which puts some 200 people in apartment houses between the road and Lake Whitney in another voting district, which happens to be on the other side of the lake.

If the roadways were shifted and other roadways that encircle the lake were used there would only be four families on the other side of the lake, which would have to travel to where the polling place is on the other side, rather than 200 individuals having to travel in the opposite direction.

The second concern that I bring before you has to do with the problems that arise when there's a crossover between senatorial district lines and assembly district lines.

And you have mentioned that there is this rule, there is this byway -- by word of 10 percent plus or minus. Well, the problem that is created for a town is that once you cross over these lines you create what I call, an isolate polling place.

That polling place and the population therein determines the size of the other polling places in the town. Since they should not vary by more than 10 percent in population that creates some problems. In the town of Hamden where I live we have nine polling places in nine districts for local office. For state office we have to have 11 because of the crossover that creates this isolate which then dictates that the town must staff two additional polling places for state elections.

The third concern that I have has nothing to do with these very nice maps here, but have to do with the census tract maps. Thirty years ago when I first saw the census tract maps I was really appalled because they had no real relationship to the actual geography within the town.

And I would hope that the data which this commission uses is going to be the very best and the very latest. With the kind of GPS technology that we have today and the aerial photography that we have, I'm assuming that when decisions are made where the lines are going to be individual buildings can be seen and taken into consideration.

Part of the problem that we have, all of us, is that we wish to make sure that voters can vote, that they can exercise their right without impediments. And the problem that we have in communities that have to shift polling places from year to year is that is that that



dissuades voter participation. We have to notify some 3,000 voters every year as to the change in their polling place from last year. That, to me, diminishes the amount of people who will be involved in voting.

I've mentioned these as isolates for my town, but I don't think that they're peculiar to my town. The registrars that I've met from across the state from Groton to Granby seem to have the similar kinds of problems within their voting districts. And so I would suggest that they are not special, but that they are somewhat applicable to all over the state.

We hope -- we hope that this redistricting will be better than we've had in the last -- in the past, fewer problems. I know your work is difficult. I wish you well. It's hard work. We are awaiting to see what your plan will be. And I would be available to answer any questions that you might have.

Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you very much.

Are there questions?

Thanks for your testimony.

Next is Representative Peter Villano.

Good evening.

REP. VILLANO: Good evening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the commission. Thanks for the opportunity to speak here tonight to make some points about what our state registrar mentioned.

I noticed in your data that you handed out, Hamden's population growth was most -- one of the most significant of medium-sized towns in Connecticut, 7.1, nearly -- over 4,000 growth. That tells me that we're entitled to perhaps another house district. Maybe more.

We only have two full house districts and two, part of two districts which are anchored really in other communities, the 96th in New Haven and the 103rd in Cheshire. I think our population growth justifies another house district or two.

And we ought to look at the senate lines about having another senate district. I think, not fully, but I think we can accommodate -- we have the numbers to accommodate a senate district, our district. Mr. Crisco's district I think is mostly in the Valley and we're sort of an add-on to give him the numbers. So I would hope that you look at that as well when you proceed with the work.

And also keep in mind what Mr. Esposito said, there's a great anomaly here in the voting pattern in Whitneyville where a line is drawn down the center of Whitney Avenue and all homeowners to the east are -- can no longer walk across the street to vote half a block away. They have to be bussed -- I'm sorry. No buses. They have to be driven to another part of town.

If we talk about everybody's vote counting we have to take care of that population, because they've been inconvenienced and I'm sure it's affected the turnout in those districts in the odd numbered -- in the odd numbered year they vote without concern with that line. In the even numbered years, next year in the state elections and the national elections they

would be required, if it's not eliminated, to another part of town at great expense and affect the total turnout.

Thanks very much.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Representative.

Are there questions? Thank you very much, Peter.

Next up is Migdalia Castro who is an alderperson for the City of New Haven, also a commissioner for the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission.

And I would just note that the written testimony that's been submitted is the exact same written testimony that was submitted and heard in Waterbury and also last evening in Norwalk. So I mean, if you could perhaps just speak from the heart and embellish and add to that testimony, because we've already heard the exact same testimony word for word twice and we would love to hear what you have to say this evening.

Thank you.

MIGDALIA CASTRO: Well, good evening, Cochair Williams and honorable members of the Reapportionment Committee. As the alderwoman in New Haven where you're sitting, welcome.

I really would like to, for the record, read it here in New Haven.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: You may. Please proceed.

MIGDALIA CASTRO: Thank you.

My name is Migdalia Castro, alderperson in the

City of New Haven and a commissioner for the Latino and Puerto Rican's Affairs Commission, LPRAC.

I'm here to give you our feedback and recommendations with respect to your task of redrawing both the congressional and state district lines in the State of Connecticut as a mandate by federal and state laws. For the record, LPRAC presented this testimony in Bridgeport, Norwalk and it's our intention to have it one more time here in New Haven.

Connecticut, as you already know, has 3,574,097 people, according to the Federal Census Bureau, the latest information released earlier this year. 479,087 are of Hispanic or Latino descended, roughly 13.4 percent of the overall population, which signifies an incredible growth of 49.6 percent since this data was released ten years ago. The Latino population in our state is growing 12 times faster than the general population.

And for comparative purpose, the white population in the state of Connecticut actually decreased .3 percent during the same period and the African-American population increased 16.9 percent. The Latino population is also the fastest racial and ethnic share of eligible voters. There are 318,947 Latinos 18 years of age and older, which is 55.8 percent increase since 2000.

And equally important is the fact that the Latino eligible voters in Connecticut are more likely to be native-born citizens -- that are Latino eligible voters nationwide.

According to the fact sheet released by the Pew Hispanic Center, Latino eligible voters are less likely than white eligible voters in

Connecticut to own a home and have lower levels of education attainment, than do blacks and whites eligible voters.

This is alarming to LPRAC because it's also widely known in political circles in our state for many years that Latino students have the largest economic and racial (inaudible) achievement gap in the country and nothing significant has been done by Connecticut lawmakers to create the systematic changes in the state statutes required to alleviate such problems.

Meanwhile, the general unemployment rate in Connecticut is hovering at 9 percent, but the employment rate averaged 17.7 percent among Latinos in Connecticut. As a matter of fact, a recently released report entitled, the Hispanic Labor Force in Recovery, prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor found that Connecticut has the third highest unemployment rate in the nation for Latinos, and found that Latinos make 70 cents per every dollar earned by whites.

This data listed herewith, alongside with the fact that the share of Connecticut workforce consisting of whites, particularly those aged 45, is declining rapidly while the share made up of other racial/ethnic groups is projected to reach 29 percent by 2020 -- is the main reason why LPRAC alerted Connecticut lawmakers in 2009 to be aware of the social and economic costs resulting from these demographic shifts and disparities in education.

LPRAC is convinced that Connecticut's economic future rests in our ability to raise the levels of education of all its residents, particularly it's Latino and African-American population. The redistricting process for

LPRAC therefore is of paramount importance because the way these districts' lines are redrawn by the Reapportionment Committees can make it much easier -- more difficult to elect representatives to the Connecticut General Assembly that are responsive to these previously mentioned community needs.

I'll present the recommendation to the committee.

The Latino and Puerto Rican affairs commission, LPRAC, and the Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, PRLS and the University of Connecticut held a reapportionment summit on May 25, 2011, at the Legislative Office Building to help our agency develop recommendations to share with the committee and learn more specifically about the redistricting process via presentation and discussions from Latino recognized experts on the field.

A summary of this finding of this event were prepared for LPRAC by Dr. Charles R. Venator Santiago, PRLS and we are submitting a copy summary of this proceeding with this testimony for the record. Please see attached A.

However a preliminary scan of data suggested at the summit that reducing the number of redistricting districts -- reapportionment in the State of Connecticut will harm Latinos by diluting their ability to influence the outcome of elections.

Two, there are higher proportions of Latino citizens, potential voters residing in Central Connecticut while there are higher proportions of noncitizens voting Latino American residents in southern most towns and cities. The redistricting process could create two

senate seats with a majority of Latino population -- 15 plus.

The available data suggests that 1st Hartford and 23rd Bridgeport Districts would be redistricting in order to create new senate seats, senate districts with a proportion of more than 50 percent of Latino residents. At least four assistant districts, namely 75th Waterbury, 128th Bridgeport and for Hartford -- and 147th Stamford, will be redistricting to increase the proportion of Latinos residents (inaudible) the 50 percent of this district.

See attached B for additional LPRAC recommendation and submit it to Reapportionment Committee.

The allotment -- in conclusion, the allotment for Latino districts and the end results of the redistricting process is (inaudible) to effectuate government efficiency. At the same time address the issues affecting the state's largest growing population. To create opportunities to positive contributing members of a community to attain leadership roles can only serve to alleviate the burden from the government when addressing issues affecting said communities.

It is because of the aforementioned that I strongly urge the Redistricting Committee to create a district where appropriate for Latinos.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Ms. Castro.

Are there questions?

Thanks very much.

David Bauer of Middletown is next.

Good evening.

DAVID BAUER: Good evening. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak here. I am an elector of the City of Middletown and I'm also an elector of the 34th District. I'm also a failed candidate for State Legislature and I have served six years on Middletown's Common Council, so I've seen polling places from a lot of different ways.

I just want to tell you some facts you already know. The latest census, three and a half -- about three and a half million people in the entire state. Middletown came in at 48,000. And if I just do the simple arithmetic of dividing the 158 state legislatures -- legislators, that's about 23,000 per district and divided by the 36 Senators, and that's about 95,000.

The reason I go over this is that it would seem logical that Middletown at 48,000 would be a prime for two representative districts and half of a state senate district.

Before I get onto what Middletown actually is, let me just dispense with the congressional story. For decades and decades Middletown was, I think, just about the major city in the 2nd Congressional District. Ten years ago we were pulled out of the 2nd and we now are about 85 percent in the 3rd and about 15 percent in the 1st.

Personally, I think all the congresspeople are just about the same, so it doesn't matter. But I'd ask if you would respectfully try to put us back in one district. I think we'd appreciate that because added on top of that, although I gave you the numbers, Middletown



currently has one complete representative district and then we are split into three districts.

We share one district that has a majority that comes from East Hampton. We share another district that is a very small proportion in Middletown and it consists of Cromwell and Portland, Connecticut. And then we share another district with Durham and Middlefield. And that really kind of dilutes us in the State House. And then in the State Senate, about 60 percent to the north of Middletown is the 9th Senate District. And the bottom 40 percent of Middletown is the 13th Senate district. And except for photo ops, I think that that kind of dilution does not work to the benefit of Middletown.

The other element, though, that was brought up before; for a town or a city of 48,000, in order to take all these splits of districts we actually have 14 different polling places. And in a world of, I guess I would call it the post-Bridgeport ballot requirements, the City of Middletown actually has to print eight different ballots to satisfy those 14 polling places. And it really makes for a tremendous amount of confusion.

And I will admit that Middletown may exacerbate it themselves because we try to save money. So in the off years if we just have, like, a local referendum or something, we consolidate the districts, but what it all adds up to is we had some tremendous, tremendous confusion in where people can vote.

And I would entreat you that when -- I don't know when the line is crossed, but if you have enough voter confusion I think it actually does add up to voter suppression, because they

come to one district and they get sent someplace else and they give up and that's a vote that isn't cast.

The other element I want to talk about is if we have the concentration representation I think we deserve, then I think some very important things happen. There are a lot of the decisions that affect our community that are made up in Hartford. And we definitely need that kind of representation, the concentration of representation up there.

And I've been around long enough I could really go well over my time allotted, so I -- let me just offer you two examples. In Middletown we have three separate fire districts, and as you well know, those fire districts, you make the charters. And in the 34th District you have the South Fire District -- is in the 34th District. Downtown you have the Middletown Fire Department and the 100th District is the Westfield Fire Department.

So we have all these alliances and whereas I know that the State is telling us to regionalize and try to get these things into more manageable units, politically we seem to be going in the wrong direction. And we can even compound that by the fact that Middletown has an outside ambulance service.

So as we try to navigate through this we have a more difficult experience than the one we just went through with the Mattabassett Sewer District. And I think that's pretty fresh on your minds right now.

My final comment, though, is about the 34th District. And I do believe that the 34th District should be considered an illegal

district. One part of the district you have what we call the South Farms of Middletown and the majority of the district is on the other side of the river in East Hampton, Connecticut. If you really want to represent this district you've got to get in your car and you've got to drive -- well, if the Arrigoni Bridge is open, you've got to drive over 15 minutes to get from one portion of the district to the other and you're pretty much going through the 33rd and 32nd district to do that. And I thought that we were supposed to have contiguous districts and the 34th is definitely not.

And the final example I'll offer is Middletown is host to the last mental health institution, state-run mental health institution. And what is really kind of incredible is that the actual campus of the CVH is in the in the 34th District. And right on the border you suddenly get to the downtown where we have all the nonprofit support systems and a lot of the people that are outpatient there. It's a completely different district.

And politically this really does create problems because these districts don't always see eye to eye. We also have the same delineation between the 9th and 13th District when it comes to the CVH campus. It's right on the border of both of them. And I would ask, given I think the admirable role that Middletown plays in supporting a lot of social services in the state, I hope you would give us some compassionate consideration when you decide on drawing new borders.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you for your testimony.

Are there questions?

DAVID BAUER: I hope not.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thanks very much.

Next is Rocco Calo.

ROCCO CALO: Good evening, cochairs and members of the committee and thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Rocco Calo and I'm the secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 1150. And we are the organization that represents the men and women at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Connecticut.

I'm currently in my fourth term in that position. Those are three-year terms. Prior to that I've also served the union as a trustee and a business agent and a steward on the floor. I have about a 23-year relationship with Sikorsky Aircraft. I'm also a resident of Newtown, Connecticut.

How are you doing, Senator?

And I can tell you for my entire 23 years at Sikorsky that Rosa has always been a part of, not only Sikorsky, but the Teamsters. She shows up. She shows up in the plant. She shows up at our membership meetings, not only during the good times, but during the tough times also.

At Sikorsky we've produced 351 Blackhawk helicopters and 222 naval variants of the Blackhawk in the last five years for the U.S. government, with over a hundred Blackhawks being in the budget for this year.

And I can tell you that throughout my career

there business has not always been that good, but Rosa's advocacy has really lended itself to turning that business around. I can tell you that over my time as a secretary-treasurer, coming through probably some of the worst economic times we've ever seen, we bucked every trend out there.

We've hired over 2,000 people. Okay. Over the last five years. And again, that is in a big part to do what Rosa has done for Sikorsky and the relationship she has with UTC, which is the parent company of Sikorsky Aircraft, United Technologies.

Rosa has always, always been willing to get involved in difficult areas with Sikorsky on Sikorsky's behalf. A couple examples where we had a little bit of an issue with, not only the Bush administration but the Obama administration, where we wanted to sell some aircraft to Taiwan, sixty Blackhawk aircraft. These weren't for military purposes. They were to help out with things such as tsunamis, floods, humanitarian issues. And Rosa was instrumental in getting both secretaries of state to approve the sales of those aircraft.

In addition to that she has fought with the Pentagon against their proposed purchase of some Russian aircraft to help out in Afghanistan. These are aircraft that the Pentagon wanted to buy from Russia, as opposed to buying them from Sikorsky Aircraft where we build them right here in Stratford, Connecticut.

Rosa is as a persistent lawmaker as there is, fighting against the sale of Marine 1 to the Europeans. And for anybody that doesn't know what Marine 1 is, that is the green and white presidential helicopter that we fly around,

that our president flies around in.

We have built that aircraft flawlessly for 45 years since Dwight D. Eisenhower. And for some reason we had an administration that thought it was a good idea to give this to a European consortium to build instead of us. Well, as Rosa instructed and told everybody, that program would fail. It did. The program went way over budget. It's currently out for rebid right now.

In addition to that, Rosa maintains a great relationship with, not only Sikorsky, but with UTC. Management, always looking out for the best interests of the people here in Stratford and the ensuing -- or in the surrounding towns, making sure that we keep these good paying manufacturing jobs here in Connecticut. And to say that, good paying manufacturing jobs in the state of Connecticut means something. Okay. We don't need to lose that.

I understand what we're talking about here. We're talking about geographic lines, but when you make your decision, I urge you to take the institutional knowledge that Rosa has and give that the weight it deserves. It is in the best interests of the workers in Stratford and the ensuing towns, the surrounding towns that we keep her here in this district.

We currently, at Sikorsky, just in the Stratford plant -- we also have plants in Shelton and Bridgeport, Connecticut. But in the Stratford plant, which is our biggest facility, there's 3616 blue-collar workers and there's 3683 white-collar workers that depend on Rosa.

Not only that, do they depend on her -- and I

can tell you from time to time I have a very stressful job, but when I get a call from Rosa's office saying, hey, Roc, Rosa wants to come through the plant. She wants to see the guys. That's a walk in the park for me, because I walked down those aisles at Sikorsky aircraft with Rosa DeLauro and it's not, hey, there's politician walking down on the main aisle. Rosa gets out into the crowd. She gets hugs. She gets thank yous. She gets the recognition she deserves.

I have people walking over to their toolboxes saying, hey Rosa, here's a picture from 20 years ago out of the newspaper. Remember when you helped me out with this? We cannot afford to lose that institutional knowledge that Rosa brings to Sikorsky aircraft.

I'll be happy to answer any questions that anybody might have on my testimony or anything else that Rosa has done for us.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Calo.

We are here to talk about redistricting, so I don't think you're going to get any argument in terms of what your opinion is of Congresswoman DeLauro.

And we want to thank you for your good work at Sikorsky and contributing as you and Sikorsky have to the Connecticut economy and we will not redistrict Congressman DeLauro out of the State of Connecticut. We won't do that.

A VOICE: I need her in Stratford, though.

A VOICE: Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Are there any questions? All

right. Thank you very much.

Next, Paul Pizzo followed by Elizabeth Santangelo.

Good evening.

PAUL PIZZO: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the panel. I won't read the script. I'll try to speak little bit from the heart. My name is Paul Pizzo. I'm a resident of Middlefield, Connecticut. We are on the edge of a geographic neighborhood, and I'll say that geographic neighborhood is centered around New Haven.

A brief history, I was born in Hartford, moved to Berlin, Connecticut, where the center of our community was Hartford and for whatever reason any time anything happened in the big city, or in going to a city, we gravitated to Hartford and it seemed to make sense. So Berlin being in the district of Hartford made a lot of sense.

Leaving for school, coming back after marriage I relocated in Meriden and something happened. I wasn't going to Hartford anymore. I was going to New Haven. And I'm not sure what it was all about. I was about -- I'm hearing and I believe that what happened is it's the geographic neighborhood. So people in Meriden would basically gravitate to New Haven when they needed to go to the city whether it be to see a show or have dinner or whatever. So that seemed to make a lot of sense, so that it's almost like a dividing line between neighborhoods.

So now I moved to Middlefield, Connecticut, and for some reason I wasn't going to Hartford, which I thought I would have gone to



because of our relationship with Middletown. I was still going to New Haven. So Middlefield seemed to be along that fringe line that, again seemed to fit into New Haven more than it fit into Hartford as far as the center of a city.

And I know years ago we had counties, and you know, our regionalization was based around the eight counties, but today it seems like, at least from my position, being a member of the board of finance in Middlefield for two terms dealing with local and state politicians, again most of my efforts seem to be coming down to New Haven.

So I would urge as you go forward to keep Middlefield in the 3rd District. It seems to make sense. It seems to be the geographic neighborhood and I speak to neighbors there that look at -- are closest to Meriden, although Middletown is also on our left side. We're a town of 4,000 people. There aren't, you know, we have one polling district, so it's not as difficult as other communities as far as polling goes.

But we seem to fit better being part of the district. And you know, I know John Larson fairly well. I know Rosa very well. It's not a matter -- it's not about the people, it's just about where we tend to gravitate. And I would hope that we could keep Middlefield in the 3rd District because that seems to be the edge of our neighborhood and we'd like to stay there if we could.

And I thank you for the time.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you for your testimony.

Are there questions or comments?

Thanks very much -- I'm sorry.

Representative O'Neill has a question.

PAUL PIZZO: Yes, sir.

REP. O'NEILL: I was intrigued by your comment about when you lived in Meriden, that your natural sort of center of gravity was towards New Haven.

PAUL PIZZO: I'm not quite sure. When I came back from school, I moved to Meriden to be between Hartford and New Haven and I worked in both cities. But for some reason, when we were living in Meriden -- and I'm not sure if it was the proximity to 91 that we were living on -- again I could go north or south, but whatever I was going anyplace with friends and they said, let's go to see a show, or, let's go to a nice restaurant outside of Meriden, we ended up gravitating towards New Haven.

It was an interesting line because, again growing up in Berlin, I was -- all the way through high school, I don't think I want to New Haven once or twice. Whenever we went to a city we went to Hartford, but going, you know, living in Meriden for some reason, you know, and Wallingford was right there and you just continue on down Route 5 and you're in New Haven. I can't really explain it much more beyond feeling just that you know basically where you're downtown is and it seemed to be -- in Meriden, it seemed to be in New Haven.

REP. O'NEILL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thanks again for testimony.

PAUL PIZZO: Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Elizabeth Santangelo.

ELIZABETH SANTANGELO: Good evening.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Good evening.

ELIZABETH SANTANGELO: Thank you very much for having these public -- giving the public an option to speak. I'm Elizabeth Santangelo, the chair of the Democratic Town Committee in Middletown.

And I know -- I want to thank Registrar Esposito for discussing keeping communities and using landmarks rather than streets to define communities because I think that happens. We tend to congregate between waterways. And as Councilman Bauer mentioned, half of one of our districts is over on the east side of the Middletown River and the other half is on the west side.

Councilman Bauer gave you tremendous amount of numbers so I'm not going to repeat them. But having four state reps, two state senators, two congresspeople, 14 voting districts, eight ballots is a little daunting when you try to get voters out to the polls to vote on a regular basis.

We're blessed in Connecticut, having five great congresspeople. We have Congressman Larson and Congresswoman DeLauro, who as Councilman Bauer mentioned, represents 85 percent of Middletown. We would like to be in one congressional district and whichever one we would be happy. Rosa has represented us very well and is representing more of Middletown. So the third is always dear to us, but wherever you put us as long as we have

one that would be great.

And if we could -- we have one little section of Middletown that belongs to the 32nd District. It's like 200 voters and so you could just eliminate that so we could have, like, two or three state reps that would be wholly included in Middletown, that would be great. We would feel that we would get their ear a little bit better than being one of several children yammering for their parents attention.

Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thanks very much. Are there questions? Thanks. Next is Chuck Pyne from Woodbridge.

Good evening.

CHUCK PYNE: Good evening. Pardon my casual attire. It's 90-plus out there. A little dicey. I'm representing myself. Nothing too complicated. I'm a Woodbridge resident, as the introduction stated, and the reason I'm here is that we are part of the Amity School District. Amity School District covers Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge, and across those three towns, we are represented by -- in both the 17th and the 14th senatorial and 89th, 114th and 117th assembly district.

There are about 28,000 people represented across those three towns, and as I was listening to earlier testimony, it sounds like that might be one assembly district on its own. So I'm simply asking as you're starting to carve the lines up to consider the economic connection between the folks in those three towns because I think it would serve us better to have a single senator and a single

assemblyperson representing the Amity School District, which I am a happy-semi taxpayer.

I would also add that I know that there some thought that more representation is better than less and to have multiple representatives, five total, as opposed to two might serve us well. I would disagree. I think that having a single person in the House and the Senate chamber gives the ultimate accountability to the voters in the district and I think voters are looking for accountability and not to dilute their influence over multiple representatives.

So I think there's a stronger case to be made for a single body to represent us in each of the legislative bodies and I would ask you to consider that as you are drawing the lines.

Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thanks very much.

Are there questions?

Thanks for your testimony. Stay cool out there.

CHUCK PYNE: I'll stay in here. It's air conditioned.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: That's true.

Elona Vaisays, of North Haven, and I apologize if I got that pronunciation wrong.

ELONA VAISAYS: You did fine. I answer to everything. My name is Elona Vaisays I'm from North Haven, but I'm speaking today on behalf of the League of Women Voters with about 2,000 members in 28 local leagues in the state. The

league is very appreciative of the reapportionment committee's concern for public input and for holding these hearings. The league believes that legislative districts should have equal population, should be contiguous and compact and should reflect the diversity of the population, including -- and also include those members of that -- of the district who are temporarily living elsewhere. For example, when they are doing time. Counting prisoners in their town provides the required numbers for proper representation of their community. So we hope that prisoners will be counted in the district where they live permanently.

The league as -- would like to request an additional public hearing. When the Reapportionment Committee has finished drawing up the new districts, we would like you to hold another public hearing so that people can ask you questions about the reasons for having drawn up the districts of the way that you have. Thank you very much.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you for your testimony. Are there questions or comments?

Thanks very much.

Next, Representative Pat Dillon.

Good evening, Pat. Now, you know, at the capital, legislators handle microphones every day.

REP. DILLON: I know. It was just amazing. Thank you very much.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Representative Dillon.

REP. DILLON: Thank you, Frankie.

You have my written testimony so you really don't need to hear very much. I'm really impressed that you're doing all this work, and it's terrific and that you're coming out to see the people. The 92nd District is perfect in almost every way. It's economically, racially generationally diverse at the same time that it's cohesive. We have folks from one end of the district who go to church at the other. We have -- it's just -- it's very civically involve. It's just terrific and it's wonderful because we have people -- at one point, I had a Nobel prizewinner in economics and I also have folks in public housing.

So that you really learn an extraordinary amount and it forces you to learn to find common ground. It has one flaw, however. Most of the growth in the 5 percent in New Haven has been on the east side and the two districts on the west side of New Haven are the two smallest in the city. And I am the second smallest even though I think we have the highest voter turnout, not to brag, although I think I will. But we have the second smallest district in the city and so we do have a problem in that the district to my immediate east, Representative Walker's, is even smaller than mine. So that it seems to me that we probably have to move a little bit into the hill because we couldn't give anything up because we are ready the second smallest and there are a lot of communities of interest mostly around are religious institutions.

So that -- I did speak to Representative Candelaria about what section of his district might make sense because there's a lot of growth there. So we are suggesting a

potential remedy.

I did want to make a correction to some of the testimony -- not bragging or anything. CVH is not the only state-run institution for the mentally ill in the state. Connecticut Mental Health Center, which is a partnership between the State of Connecticut and Yale also includes a state hospital. And those are state hospital beds and the people who work there are state employees by contract. I realize it's dwarfed by the numbers of CVH.

So the details about the district are there in terms of -- we are in happier position than we were ten years ago because of the growth. It's been fabulous listening to all the issues in the other towns also.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you.

Are there questions for Representative Dillon?

SENATOR LOONEY: Mr. Chairman, yes.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY: Good evening, Pat. How are you?

I think that certainly is -- a good point is that this time for about the first time in seven decades New Haven overall had a population growth equal to the state average, which is remarkable after losing a population for so many decades, but as you point out, that growth was not uniform throughout the city in a different neighborhoods. But for the first time in many decades, all of the cities in the state, the five largest cities the each had a population growth although New Haven's was the only one to equal the average in the state's overall population growth. But



it is, I think, kind of interesting after years of decline overall we did that for the first time -- and probably in seven decades I think a growth equal to the statewide average. But as you said in the eastern half of the city, the growth was over 7 percent overall. In the Western half, it was a about -- a little under three so it wasn't uniform throughout the city.

But thanks for tonight coming here with the presentation for an option for equalizing things within the city.

REP. DILLON: Yes, and a number of constituents were going to come here, but coming here from Westville is almost -- it's a distance and there are a lot of meetings going on in terms of endorsements and block watch. But some folks may show up at one point or another or they may submit testimony. They are especially protective of Senator Harp, and were asking about myself as well.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thanks very much. Further questions or comments of Pat?

Just a second.

Senator McKinney.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: Just a quick question because I'm not familiar. Looking at your map.

REP. DILLON: It's dreadful. Isn't it? I'm so sorry. There was no colored ink.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: That's okay. Which -- are you talking about the --

REP. DILLON: The darkest smear in the middle there.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: That's you.

REP. DILLON: Yes.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: Or the 92nd? You're talking about going into the 95th?

REP. DILLON: I think I was looking at the -- I don't remember now. But when the numbers came out, we were going online and looking at where there was growth in the city and the contiguous district with the most growth was Representative Candelaria's.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: Is that the 95th?

REP. DILLON: I guess so. Yeah. And the one directly -- and I think I saw her earlier is Representative Walker's is smaller than mine so I couldn't go in there. And I couldn't -- you know, so it seemed like the most logical thing to do so I talked to him about it.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: And Representative Walker is the 93rd. Correct?

REP. DILLON: Okay. There she is. Sorry.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: I've got the map. Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Next this Bill Purcell from Woodbridge.

Good evening.

BILL PURCELL: Good evening, Mr. Chairman. I'm number 11 if you're counting. That should be at minute 31. Is that right according to your watch?

I'm here, although I've signed in as a

resident of the great town of Woodbridge, I'm here this evening in my professional capacity as President of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, which is located in our All-America city of Naugatuck River Valley and those communities include Shelton, Ansonia, Derby, Beacon Falls, Seymour, Oxford, and by extension, into Naugatuck.

I just had a couple of words about the legislative redistricting and to say from my perspective, as the leader of the business association, I think we are well-served in the valley in terms of the current configuration that we enjoy. And while population growth, which ranges from 3.7 percent in Ansonia, to 15 percent in the Beacon Falls, to a whopping 29 percent in the town of Oxford, still one of the fastest-growing communities -- and absolute numbers I will say with all fairness, Oxford grew by 29 percent, but that's 2862 people, so we are not talking in absolute numbers, you know, startling figures. But nevertheless, we are growing and that's a good thing. That's a positive thing.

So I'm certain that whatever you do in terms of tweaking those districts will be thoughtful, prudent and wise. I happen to be partial to the opinion that having someone represent Woodbridge and Derby is not a bad thing or Southbury and Seymour is not a bad thing. And I'm going to come to that point in my final words about congressional redistricting. And I'm here really to speak about that this evening.

As President Williams, chairman, cochairmen Williams this evening pointed out, we did lose a congressional seat. The good news is we are not talking about that anymore, down from six to now five. And the Valley was impacted by

that decision. As you know we eliminated the 6th. The 5th was combined. Folks in Middletown talked about being spun into the 3rd Congressional District, and most of the Valley communities were allocated to the 3rd Congressional District and have been ever since, since 2003 I believe it was.

But we are not entirely in the 3rd District. Shelton, by example, is split between the 3rd and the 4th. Oxford, which we consider part of our All-America city Valley -- and I will say so recognized by the National Civic League, a collection of seven communities, the first in the nation to come together as a collection of communities to be designated an All-American city. That's a big deal. That was 11 years ago and it was my introduction to the Valley when I came here from Massachusetts, and I will never forget it, and it's indelibly etched in my mind.

So we are served by both the 3rd and 4th. I have often stated that the Valley, our valley, our Naugatuck Valley is the bridge that connects New Haven and Fairfield Counties. And by extension, connects three major cities in the State of Connecticut, New Haven, Bridgeport and Waterbury.

So my advice to you is if it ain't broke, don't fix it. And there may be a tendency perhaps based on earlier testimony to say by example in the city of Shelton and I can't speak for the mayor, I'm speaking for myself and my organization, I think it suits us well to have representation from Fairfield County. And Shelton is in Fairfield County -- it's the eastern most or northernmost city in Fairfield County and New Haven County. However, it's split, if it's two-third, one-third, it doesn't make a difference. The fact is we

have two congressmen and women, in this case, looking after our interest, and I think that's a good thing in terms of our support of transportation, brownfield, economic development and issues, et cetera.

I'm going to leave you an example to illustrate that point. Just about 30 days ago, we filed a bill in this session -- this is the age of austerity. I don't have to tell you that at the federal level and certainly at the state level -- but nevertheless we filed a bill representing 17 communities -- excuse me, 14 communities up and down the Naugatuck River from -- representing the headwaters of the Naugatuck River in Torrington all the way south down to the confluence of the Housatonic and the Naugatuck, and Derby. And we filed legislation to become a National Heritage area. We have a couple in our state right now I think you know. We are very proud of this. We think we have a story to tell in our valley. We think we've made a significant contribution to the American experience that needs to be celebrated and recognized and preserved.

But the point of the story is this, it was led by the 3rd Congressional District, Rosa DeLauro, who reached out to the 4th Congressional District, Jim Hines, and said, will you sign onto this bill and the two of them reached out to Congressman Murphy in the northern part of the district and guess what? The bill was filed with all five members of Congress and our two State Senators together.

So I think this notion of having multiple representation forces the kind of collaboration and consensus building that we need in a democracy. I think it's fundamental. We don't want to be isolated

with one person. We want many voices. We want many ears to hear our story so there may be a tendency to say, well, you know, you get this sliver of Shelton. We like it that way and that's my testimony tonight. Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thanks very much.

Are there questions or comments?

Thank you.

Next up is Frank Douglas of New Haven.

FRANK E. DOUGLAS, JR.: Good evening, chairman and cochairs. My name is Frank Douglas. I'm currently cochair of Ward 2 in New Haven, Connecticut, and I'm just here on behalf of the representatives who represent the 92nd District. I think they're -- like the gentleman that just finished speaking said, and he couldn't have put it any better. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I think the representation that we currently have is doing a wonderful job and I think we need to leave it that way. That's it. Thank you.

SENATOR WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Douglas.

Are there questions?

Thanks very much.

Now that concludes the list of speakers, but I just want to ask folks if you haven't had a chance to sign up, but you're here and you wish to speak, please come down front now. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak at this time? If not and you haven't had a chance to pick up the materials that I was talking about before, please pick those up. That has all the information about our process. It also

has our website on the General Assembly's homepage that you can follow along the progress of this process and also to get more information about redistricting.

So again, if there's no further speakers, we want to thank the people of New Haven very much and the others from the surrounding towns for coming out and providing input to us this evening.

Thank you very much.