



2021 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Testimony for 2021 Redistricting Project

On behalf of the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC), we want to thank the committee for its valuable service to the 2021 Redistricting Project. As the bipartisan administrators of Connecticut's elections, Registrars of Voters fully appreciate the importance of this project and maintaining voting districts that are true to our constituencies.

Once the Reapportionment Committee finalizes its work drawing the new districts, our work begins—from confirming the exact location of the district boundaries to determining if new polling locations are needed, qualifying the locations for ADA and social distancing compliance and notifying registered voters in writing so they know where to vote.

As the Reapportionment Committee conducts its work, we would like to meet with you and offer our experience in administering elections and insights into lessons learned from past redistricting processes. We also ask that you consider a process improvement that will ease the process of verifying and implementing your redistricting plan.

In the past, Reapportionment Committees concluded their work by providing Registrars with a "shapefile"—a data storage format for geospatial analysis that we must use to interpret the Committee's district boundaries. The majority of our members then utilize municipal Geographic Information System (GIS) tools to analyze these shapefiles with the precision that we need to verify each district.

However, not all Registrars have access to the GIS tools, leaving us to rely on other municipal departments—such as planning, zoning or public works departments—to fulfill these duties, or interpret the changes without GIS. Neither situation is ideal when it comes to such an important matter like our democratic process.

With all that needs to be done to ensure safe, transparent, accessible and fair elections—time and accuracy is extremely important. We recommend a simple solution: that the 2021 redistricting plan

include precise details of addresses and/or locations where district lines should end and begin. Baking this information into your report will reduce the chances of unintentional human error and make the redistricting process far more efficient and transparent for Registrars, candidates, voters and everyone involved.

We would like to discuss this recommendation with you and offer our ongoing assistance with the redistricting process. In addition, I am happy to assist you and your colleagues with communicating any questions or updates to my fellow Registrars of Voters. I can be reached at (860) 462-3247 or via email at vernon.dem@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

Christopher Prue

President, Registrar of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC)

Registrar of Voters, Town of Vernon, Connecticut.