

September 14, 2021

1022 Boulevard, 277
West Hartford, CT 06119

RE: Redistricting Public Hearing, 9/14/21 => **FAIR MAPS!!!**

Greetings,

I would like to see redistricting done through an independent non-partisan special commission made up of groups and individuals that are representative of the relevant communities. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around!

I understand the CT process is not easily changed; the process could be improved. The redistricting website could be improved. We could follow suit of some other states by having a website with plain language summaries and other resources instead of forcing the reader to find out how the process works within the state statutes.

The General Assembly could establish better transparency requirements. The threat of partisan gerrymandering in CT is very real because of the lack of robust transparency measures. The CT Constitution is silent on transparency and public input but that could be remedied by legislative action to wrap such provisions around the current Constitutional provisions for Redistricting.

State legislative districts must be within 10% of the ideal population average. Some districts exceed the ideal while some are below the ideal. How do you decide which districts will be above and which will be lower than the ideal population?

What conversations has the Commission been having internally about redistricting? What concerns do your members have? When maps are developed, the public should know what considerations have been used to create districts, in addition to federal requirements and geographic contiguity.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Emily Hofstatter