



**Special Bipartisan Committee on Voting Districts
Minutes
Monday, March 14, 2022 at 11:00 AM**

1. Call to Order

A. Chairman Liam Sweeney called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

Attendees – Chairman Liam Sweeney; Vice Chairperson Mark Zydanowicz; Council Member Adrienne Billings-Smith; Council Member Alberto Cortes; Mayor Shari Cantor; Acting Town Manager Rick Ledwith; Democratic Registrar Beth Sweeney; Deputy Democratic Registrar Elizabeth Rousseau; Corporation Counsel Dallas Dodge; and Assistant Corporation Counsel Cynthia Lauture

2. New Business

A. Proposed Resolution Revising the Boundaries of Voting Districts within West Hartford

Corporation Counsel Dodge provided legislative background as to the redistricting process. The State of Connecticut is required to redraw congressional and legislative district lines, in a process that coincides with the decennial census. Connecticut's latest decennial redistricting process began in 2021 and concluded following a decision by the CT Supreme Court. While the newly drawn lines had no effect on West Hartford's Congressional or state Senate boundaries, the House districts changed. Under state law, voting districts may not be drawn in a manner that conflicts with the lines of congressional districts, senate districts or assembly districts, which is why the Town needs to redraw its voting districts to be contiguous with the new assembly districts.

Corporation Counsel Dodge provided an explanation of the procedure for creating voting districts. In accordance with state law, the responsibility for setting voting districts belongs exclusively to Town Council. Once the Town Council adopts voting districts, the Registrars of Voters are required to decide where the polling places will be for each voting district.

Chairman Sweeney advised that the Town Committees discussed redistricting and agreed to the changes of the map. Chairman Sweeney provided a general overview of the changes. Of note, the Town is moving from nine voting districts to eight districts, and splitting precinct 1 into two voting precincts, which will be identified as 1A and 1B. Furthermore, precinct 4 is taking more former districts into it, and is split into 4A and 4B. Chairman Sweeney also advised of the number of voters per district. The proposed resolution regarding redistricting will be considered by the Town Council at its next meeting.

Mayor Cantor thanked the Committee for its work, and the input of the Committee.

Mayor Cantor also advised as to why the Committee had its meeting today.

Chairman Sweeney made a motion to adopt the map and refer it to Town Council. Motion is seconded by Council Member Billings Smith. Unanimous vote. Motion passes.

3. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.