

Gail Lavielle  
109 Hickory Hill  
Wilton, CT 06897

**Testimony before the Reapportionment Committee (Virtual Hearing)  
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Good evening, Members of the Reapportionment Committee. My name is Gail Lavielle. I have lived in Wilton since 2002 (with a two-and-a-half-year interruption), and I had the honor of representing the 143<sup>rd</sup> House district for a decade, from January 2011 until January 2021, when I chose not to seek a sixth term.

As you may know, Wilton is the only town of its size in the state without a dedicated representative whose job – as dictated by the configuration of his or her House district – is to make its interests his or her absolute top priority. As I am well aware, this would be the case whether the district’s representative lived in Wilton or not.

When I was first elected in 2010, the 143<sup>rd</sup> district, which contained about three-fourths of Wilton, covered parts of Wilton and Norwalk. The split was 60% Wilton and 40% Norwalk. The two communities had very different interests, and taking votes that would benefit both communities was not an easy task. But this became much more difficult after the redistricting exercise of 2012. The majority of Wilton remained in the district, while the portion of Norwalk grew, and a sliver of Westport was added. The result was that Wilton and Norwalk, which together now occupied nearly 90% of the district, each took on approximately equal weight.

As time went by, the interests of urban Norwalk and semi-rural, small-town Wilton became more and more divergent. As I saw this happen, it became obvious that it was not possible for a single representative, regardless of party and of all good-faith efforts -- to represent both communities equally well. That remains true today, and it would remain true for anyone holding the seat. This is not appropriate for either community. But for Wilton, which does not share Norwalk’s situation of having five state representatives, it is a particularly difficult situation.

I therefore respectfully ask you to separate Wilton and Norwalk and place Wilton in a district with another small town that has similar issues and interests.

I thank all of you for serving on this Committee, and I hope I may trust that you will give Wilton’s situation the attention it deserves.