

From: [Irene Weiss](#)
To: [Reapportionment](#)
Subject: Redistricting testimony
Date: Thursday, September 9, 2021 10:05:05 AM

Public Hearing, Norwich CT

September 9, 2021,

Dear members of the Reapportionment Committee:

Most people are not aware of the importance of the maps that control who represents them in the state assembly and in congress. The public hearings are a good start to inform and receive input from the public. But more needs to be done to alert the public to the process. The regular emails that representatives send to constituents as well as media coverage would be great places for you to begin.

We also request that the Committee tell people how these maps are created. We would like to know what criteria are being used to draw the new maps based on the 2020 census data. How can we find out what these criteria are? How will the population changes affect Congressional District 2, which as you know is geographically the largest district in the state? What is the effect of the change to the way incarcerated people are counted? Have the maps been drawn already? How and when will the public have access to the maps? We notice that one of the data files posted on the Committee website consists of the addresses of incumbents. Why is that information of particular importance and how will it be used in determining new district lines?

We appreciate that you have stated that a fair process will be carried out by non-partisan staff. However to make this process truly fair and non-partisan, it should be carried out by a committee of citizens who are not beholden to politicians in any way. The process you outlined has not worked within constitutional deadlines for all districts since 1981 according to the National Conference of State Legislators.

We respectfully request that you make greater efforts to alert the public to redistricting that is currently happening as well as informing the public as to how decisions within that process are made. And as a long range goal, start the process of changing the constitution to allow the redistricting committee to be non-political.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Blake, co-president, League of Women Voters of Southeastern CT 860-271-5934

Irene Weiss, Voter Services / Advocacy, League of Women Voters of Southeastern CT 860-884-3784

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The League of Women Voters of Southeastern Connecticut is an inclusive non-partisan organization that

encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.