



**Town of Fairfield, Registrar of Voters Office
611 Old Post Road · Fairfield, Connecticut · (203) 256-3115**

**MATTHEW R. WAGGNER — STEPHEN C. ELWORTHY
REGISTRARS OF VOTERS / ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS**

September 17th, 2021

Dear Senator Kelly, Representative Haddad, and members of the Reapportionment Committee,

My name is Matt Waggnner, and I have been a Registrar of Voters in the town of Fairfield since 2009. I am writing to provide comments based on my experience in last decade's redistricting for your consideration as you revise Connecticut's legislative district boundaries.

The Census Bureau prepares maps that have a number of different geographical features as boundaries: roads, rivers, private driveways, railroad tracks or right-of-ways, and some administrative divisions that correspond to no visible features. They also document a number of internal service roads inside large facilities such as universities and nursing homes. Some of the most complicated situations that arose for Registrars in implementing the reapportionment plans from 2011 arose from the use of these service and administrative boundaries. In the interest of avoiding errors and unnecessary complications, I would ask that you prioritize the use of regular roads (classified using MTFCC numbers S1100 to S1700 in the Census "Edges" file) and avoid dividing institutions (generally classified as "military and other special land use areas" in Census geographical products.)

Some examples of the effect of using these features as district boundaries are:

- The boundary between the 132nd and 134th districts connects the end point of two adjacent cul-de-sacs (Centerbrook Road and Windsor Road in Fairfield). Using this boundary required us to analyze the property intersected by that line – including information on where the residents slept inside the building – order to assign the address to the correct districts. There were several similar examples like this within Fairfield.
- More significantly, Fairfield is home to two universities, both of which have a state legislative district boundary running through them. This complicates the process of registering these students to vote (as the campus address does not correspond in some cases to the district in which they reside), and maintaining their registration from year to year (as they may move between dorms, and therefore districts, without changing their address.) I believe it is important to facilitate student participation in elections, and that we should proactively prevent wrong-district voting by students in the redistricting process.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of these matters – please feel free to contact me by email at mwaggnner@fairfieldct.org or by phone at 203-256-3115 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely yours,

Matthew Waggnner
Registrar of Voters, Fairfield