

From: [Nina Gero](#)
To: [Reapportionment](#)
Subject: Redistricting Testimony
Date: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 8:24:37 PM

To the State of Connecticut Reapportionment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this topic. The following is the testimony I gave during the public meeting this evening (September 14, 2021):

My name is Nina Gero. I have been a Connecticut resident since 1988, and currently reside in Manchester. I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Hartford. Thank you for your time and attention tonight.

I want to start by outlining the League's position on redistricting, a position that I fully support. The LWV believes the best way to conduct redistricting is through independent non-partisan special commissions made up of groups and individuals that are representative of the relevant communities.

Although the Connecticut process for redistricting is embedded in the state constitution, and therefore not easily changed, transparency into the process could be vastly improved, starting with the use and promotion of a user-friendly website inclusive of plain language summaries and other resources. The public should not have to decipher the technical language of state statutes to tease out exactly how the process works.

It is notable that the group [RepresentUs](#) assesses the threat of partisan gerrymandering in CT as "High" largely because of the absence of robust transparency measures. The CT Constitution is silent on transparency and public input. Therefore, the threat could be mitigated by legislative action to wrap transparency and public input provisions around the current Constitutional provisions for Redistricting.

Finally, the LWV believes the public should know what considerations- in addition to federal requirements and geographic contiguity- have been used to create districts. This includes the factors used to decide which districts will be above and which will be lower than the ideal population average.

On a personal note, I see the upcoming task of Redistricting as an opportunity for our lawmakers to engage the voting public and build trust in our state and local government, which is arguably a top priority to preserve our democracy. Taking the time to promote the Reapportionment Committee's work, to seek and place value on public input, and to educate and inform the public of the Committee's considerations and decisions, could go a long way to demonstrate that Connecticut's lawmakers care about fairness and service to the full spectrum of community needs. Thank you again for your time.