

Report of the 2012 Municipal Redistricting Committee

of the Town of Trumbull

On March 20, 2012 the committee approved a municipal redistricting plan to recommend to the Town Council. The motion of the plan proposed a four municipal district plan described as follows:

District 1 Bounded generally by:

Northerly: The Monroe town line.

Easterly: The Shelton town line and Booth Hill Road, each in part.

Southerly: Wisteria Drive, Old Sawmill Road, West Lake Road, Twin Brooks Drive, Beach Memorial Drive, Hedgehog Road, Daniels Farm Road, Route 25 Expressway, Pequonnock River, Daniels Farm Road each in part.

Westerly: Church Hill Road, Main Street (Rte 111), Briarcroft Avenue, Placid Street, a perpendicular line from the end of Placid Street to the Pequonnock River, Pequonnock River, Whitney Avenue, Lower Broadway (adjacent to Long Hill Green), Main Street (Rte 111), Main Street (Rte 25), each in part.

District 2 Bounded generally by:

Northerly: Daniels Farm Road, Pequonnock River, Route 25 Expressway, Daniels Farm Road, Hedgehog Road, Beach Memorial Drive, Twin Brooks Drive, West Lake Road, Old Sawmill Road, Wisteria Drive, the Shelton town line, each in part.

Easterly: The Shelton and Stratford town lines, each in part.

Southerly: The Stratford and Bridgeport town lines, each in part.

Westerly: Reservoir Avenue.

Westerly Again: Booth Hill Road.

District 3 Bounded generally by:

Northerly: The Monroe town line.

Easterly: Main Street (Rte 25), Main St (Rte 111), Lower Broadway (adjacent to Long Hill Green), Whitney Avenue, Pequonnock River to that point perpendicular to Placid Street, Briarcroft Avenue Main Street (Rte 111), each in part.

Southerly: Walker Road, Sterling Road, Mulberry Street/Hampton Road, Elliot Road, Histon Road, Garwood Road, Park Lane, Canoe Brook Road, Wildwood Drive, Lake Avenue, Driftwood Road, Madison Avenue, Kaechelle Street, each in part.

Westerly: The Easton town Line.

District 4 Bounded generally by (all that portion of Trumbull in the 134th Assembly District):

Northerly: Kaechelle Street, Madison Avenue, Driftwood Lane, Lake Avenue, Wildwood Drive, Canoe Brook Road, Park Lane, Garwood Road, Histon Road, Elliott Road, Hampton Road/Mulberry Street, Sterling Road, Walker Road, Main Street, Church Hill Road, White Plains Road, each in part.

Easterly: Reservoir Ave.

Southerly: The Bridgeport town line.

Westerly: The Fairfield town line.

This four district plan imposes less inconvenience than a seven district plan on Trumbull's school district when election events, such as primaries or special elections, are held on days in which school is in session. There have been at least three problems at the school polling places since 2008. 1) A special election (date determined by the state) was held during the CMT/CAPT testing. 2) Voting in two of the elementary schools is held in the cafeteria. This is a problem for the schools and voters when a special election or primary is held during the months of September through June. (i.e. Sept., 2011). 3) April 24, 2012, is the presidential primary. Hillcrest Middle School has scheduled an event, including vendors for that day. An alternate location, using a different entrance, within the school has been agreed upon, but is less convenient for voters. At Jane Ryan the voting will be in the gymnasium rather than the cafeteria. This causes telephone line problems and also creates confusion for the voters. The parking in the back of the school is practically non-existent. At Booth Hill we will be limited to about 25 or 30% of the cafeteria.

Parking and access for voters is inconvenient at three schools. While all the schools are handicap accessible, the accessibility to the voting room can be a problem for voters and the schools. (Voters going through hallways is not an ideal situation with today's security concerns.)

Long voter lines in a four district plan should not be a concern. In the past, whether four, five or seven districts, any lines were caused by the time a voter might spend in a voting machine. There was one voting machine for every 900 voters. Under the present voting system there is one privacy booth for every 250 voters. Any delay occurs when voters check-in, giving their street, street number and name as well as presenting identification. It is planned that there will be two check-in lines, rather than one, per district to keep the process moving.

The number of election official needed to staff the polls will be reduced with a four district plan. A seven district plan does present problems, on occasion, in obtaining enough staff. The ten districts for state elections almost always presented problems. Usually, there are problems with staffing for primaries or special elections. Four districts, using two check-in lines, will require at least 19 less polling place officials than a seven district plan. That savings alone is almost \$4500 per election event. There are other savings including telephone lines (two per district), HAVA equipment programming, food for the poll officials, tabulator service contracts, memory card programming and replacement of battery back-ups for the tabulators. Total conservative estimate of cost savings is about \$8,000 for one election event per year. When there are primaries or special elections there will be additional savings.

Under the present seven district plan, an automatic recount was mandated in ten of the last thirteen Town Council elections. (Some were not held because the fourth place finisher waived his right to a recount.) Recount officials, which are hard to get since they are so soon after an election, are paid \$200 per day. A minimum of seven people are required

for a recount. With voters being given a choice of five out of eight or six out of ten candidates, the likelihood of a recount is diminished.

Ten per cent of the districts in the state are randomly drawn to conduct a hand-count audit of ballots cast on the tabulators. Trumbull needs ten audit officials if one district is selected for the audit, eighteen if two districts are selected. Trumbull has been randomly selected more than its fair share since 2007. If Trumbull has fewer districts, its chance of being randomly selected is lessened.

The four district plan was drawn using a town map showing only the census blocks. No other demographic information, such as party affiliation, age, voter participation, etc. was considered or reviewed. The primary goals were to adhere to "one person, one vote" and eliminate, to the extent possible, split voting districts. Secondary goals were to have a simple plan; using main artery roads, rivers and some existing boundary lines to distinguish the districts and to reduce the cost of elections.

The majority of the Redistricting Committee believe the plan recommended to the Council meets all of these goals.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Holden
Chairman, Redistricting Committee.