



# Town of Trumbull

5866 MAIN STREET  
TRUMBULL, CT 06611  
203-452-5005

## 2020 TRUMBULL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

LAUREL ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN  
TOM KELLY  
KEVIN SHIVELY  
TONY SCINTO

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### **2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee**

**Tuesday June 16, 2020, 7:00 PM**

**Zoom on-line meeting**

### **AGENDA**

2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Join the meeting online:

<https://zoom.us/j/97993822475?pwd=c0Uxb0JOUzFTZi9HUX15dG94Qkt4Zz09>

Webinar ID: 979 9382 2475

Password: 147220

Join by telephone: (312) 626-6799 / Webinar ID: 979 9382 2475

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of minutes of the May 23, 2020 meeting
6. Discuss, review draft report
7. Set next meeting date
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

# 2020 Redistricting Report Draft

## Summary of finding of the Committee

In order to comply with the Committee charge to develop a redistricting plan comprising voting districts of substantially equal populations, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend seven voting districts. The actual configurations of the seven districts would be similar to the pre-2012 voting districts but developed in compliance with one person, one vote requirements.

## Summary of Guidelines used by the Committee

Voter registration data would not be reviewed or used in any deliberations of the Committee.

Residence locations of current Council members would not be reviewed or used in any deliberation of the committee

Census Blocks cannot be split in designing districts

2010 Census data is the most currently available and must therefore be used.

Recommend a plan that has as few “split” districts as possible, ie. local voting districts with multiple State Representative districts

Comply with “one person, one vote” state statute

Prior seven district configuration was out of compliance with “one person, one vote” and could therefore not be used as a model for the committee

Deadline for report presentation to the Town Council (as amended) is July 9, 2020

The committee would not consider polling place locations or impact of voter turnout

## Committee Creation, Duties, Composition and Timeline

The 2020 Trumbull Redistricting committee was established by the Trumbull Town Council on February 3, 2020 under RESOLUTION TC28-34. The resolution stated that the said Committee shall recommend to the Town Council a redistricting plan comprising voting districts of substantially equal populations, including the specific boundary lines of each of those districts.

39 Further, under the resolution, the Committee shall consist of five (5) members comprising the  
40 two (2) Registrars of Voters, two (2) Town Council members, one from each political party, and  
41 one (1) elector of the Town of Trumbull. The Town Council names Kevin Shively and Tony  
42 Scinto as the Town Council members to serve on the committee and Laurel Anderson an elector  
43 of the Town to serve on the committee as its Chairperson. Tom Kelly and Bill Holden as  
44 Registrar's were also to be members, but subsequently, Mr. Holden submitted a letter of  
45 resignation to the Town Council.

46 The original resolution stated that the said Committee shall hold its organizational meeting no  
47 later than March 20, 2020; and shall render its final report to the Council no later than May 4,  
48 2020. Due to the pandemic restrictions, the committee was unable to meet in the month April  
49 and so requested that the Town Council push back the due date for the final report. At its May  
50 4 meeting, the Town Council passed Town RESOLUTION TC28-72 which stating that the  
51 Redistricting Committee's final report due date, as contained in RESOLUTION TC28-34, is  
52 hereby amended to July 9, 2020.

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#### 54 **Committee Research and Deliberations**

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57 Members Laurel Anderson, Tom Kelly, Tony Scinto and Kevin Shively met at public meetings,  
58 either in person or via Zoom, in March, May and June, 2020 calling upon experts to appear  
59 before the committee to review legal, census and geographic information systems (GIS) issues  
60 that needed to be considered.

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62

63 The first expert called upon was Richard White, head of research and development at LightBox,  
64 who has years of GIS and mapping experience. He informed the committee on the structure  
65 and hierarchy of the census divisions and stated that census blocks cannot be split in designing  
66 districts. He also advised that voting districts are described by metes and bounds, not by  
67 census blocks.

68 He stated that Trumbull has nine (9) tracts, each based on the 2010 census and that it was his  
69 understanding that under State law and the current Trumbull charter the 2010 Census data  
70 must be used in designing voting districts. Mr. White distributed maps based on the 2010  
71 census, broken out into seven voting districts, with areas shaded to show population density  
72 within census blocks. On his maps, the 123rd state House district included his voting districts 1,  
73 3, 6, 7 and part of 2, the Trumbull portion of the 122nd state House district was part of his  
74 voting  
75 district 2, and the 134th state House district was his voting districts 4 and 5.

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77

78 Town Attorney Daniel Schopick was the next expert to appear before the committee.  
79 Attorney Schopick reported that there are three legal aspects to redistricting:

80

- 81 1. Connecticut general statutes, section 9-169 gives municipal legislative bodies, such  
82 as the Trumbull Town Council, the right and ability to set voting districts from time to  
83 time;  
84 2. the Trumbull Town Charter specifies that our Town Council be composed of 21  
85 members;  
86 3. state and federal law require that all persons have essentially equal representation in  
87 each of their electoral bodies ("one person one vote").  
88

89 He went on to state that under Connecticut's statutes "minority representation" it is  
90 not required for legislative bodies, but that Trumbull's Town Charter limits the majority  
91 party in any Town Council district to the number of elected members, minus one. Taken  
92 together, these requirements could be satisfied under one district, three districts, or  
93 seven districts structure.  
94

95 Attorney Schopick stated that it was his legal opinion that the Town Council's charge to the  
96 2020 Redistricting Committee was and is legal.  
97

98 Based on Attorney Schopick's information, and at that same March 11 meeting, all four  
99 committee members agreed that a seven-district configuration was the only one that  
100 reasonably met the charge to determine substantially equal populations, did not split  
101 census tracts or create multiple split districts.  
102

103 In addition, at the March 11 meeting, committee discussed whether it should consider the  
104 seven-district configuration used prior to 2012 but it was noted that it was out of  
105 compliance with one-person-one-vote and that the Town could be left with three or  
106 four split districts.  
107

108 At the March 11 meeting, the Committee unanimously agreed that neither the  
109 residence locations of current Town Council members nor the number of voters per district  
110 or their Party  
111 affiliations would be considered in any committee decisions on District boundaries.  
112  
113

114 The final expert to appear before the committee, was Steven Earley, Public Works Survey Party  
115 Chief in the Town Engineering Department. Mr. Earley has been instrumental in the review of  
116 boundary description borders for voting districts in the Town for many years. Mr. Earley had  
117 reviewed the boundary description borders document that conformed to the seven-district  
118 map provided by Mr. White. He, and several committee members, had discovered a few  
119 descriptions that were ambiguous as well as some omissions and errors which over the course  
120 of two committee meetings were discussed, reviewed and amended. On a vote of 3 to 1 the  
121 final boundary descriptions for the seven-district format were approved by the committee at  
122 the May 23, 2020 meeting.

123 **Proposed Redistricting Plan**

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125 The committee unanimously recommends to the Trumbull Town Council that the voting  
126 districts in Trumbull be organized under a seven-district configuration.

127

128 In compliance with its charge to create districts with substantially equal populations, the  
129 committee on a majority but not unanimous vote, approved a seven-district configuration with  
130 the following population totals:

131

132 District 1 = 5194

133 District 2 = 5169

134 District 3 = 5095

135 District 4 = 5165

136 District 5 = 5134

137 District 6 = 5159

138 District 7 - 5102

139

140 The boundary lines for the seven-district configuration are marked in black on the map  
141 attached herein.

142

143 By majority but not unanimous vote, the committee agreed upon boundary description for the  
144 seven-district configuration, that conform to the seven-district map. The boundary descriptions  
145 document is attached hereto.

146

147 The proposed redistricting plan uses the 2010 Census data, creates one "split" voting district,  
148 splits no census blocks and is within 99 votes from the lowest populated district to the highest,  
149 thereby achieving substantially equal districts.

150

151 The Committee is pleased to present this final report to the Trumbull Town Council.

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153

154

155 **Attachments**

156

157 Boundary descriptions

158 Map

159 State Statute covering districts and one man, one vote

160 Town Charter re: districts