



Town of Trumbull

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2020 TRUMBULL REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

LAUREL ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN
TOM KELLY
KEVIN SHIVELY
TONY SCINTO

Final Report of the 2020 Trumbull Redistricting Committee Presented to the Trumbull Town Council June 26, 2020

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, i.e. 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 decisions did 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.

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

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

Committee Research and Deliberations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proposed Redistricting Plan

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

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

- District 1 = 5194
- District 2 = 5169
- District 3 = 5095
- District 4 = 5165
- District 5 = 5134
- District 6 = 5159
- District 7 = 5102

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

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

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

Closing Statement

The committee deliberations focused on the charge it was given, and did not examine or make recommendations about the merits of the current 4-district versus 7-district voting structure. During deliberations the only options we identified that would achieve substantially equal districts for a 21 seat Town Council would be one voting district, three voting districts or seven voting districts. The committee unanimously agreed that the best of those options to meet the requirements placed upon the committee by the Town Council was seven districts.

The Committee wishes to thank the following individuals for their assistance: Steven Earley, Town of Trumbull DPW, Jean Rabinow, Clerk of the Committee, Daniel Schopick, Trumbull Town Attorney, Richard White, Lightbox and the Office of Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman.

This concludes the work of this committee and we are pleased to present this final report to the Trumbull Town Council.

Respectfully submitted

Laurel Anderson, Chairperson
Tom Kelly
Tony Scinto
Kevin Shively

Attachments

- Boundary descriptions
- Proposed voting districts map dated 6/25/20
- State Statute covering districts and one person, one vote

Seven District Plan – Boundary Description

District 1

Northerly: The Monroe town line

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

Southerly: Strobel Road, northerly along Booth Hill Brook, following a line perpendicular to it connecting to the end of Clarion Place, Clarion Place, Country Club Road, Daniels Farm Road, Rte 25 Expressway, each in part.

Westerly: Rte 25 Expressway, Pequonnock River, Old Mine Road, Monroe Turnpike (Rte 111), each in part.

District 2

Northerly: Daniels Farm Road, Country Club Road, Clarion Place, easterly along a line perpendicular to Booth Hill Brook, southerly along Booth Hill Brook to Strobel Road, Strobel Road, Booth Hill Road, the Shelton town line, each in part.

Easterly: The Shelton town line, the Stratford town line

Southerly: The Stratford town line, Merritt Parkway (Rte 15), each in part.

Westerly: Unity Road, Booth Hill Road, West Mischa Road, from the end of West Mischa road along the southern edge of Pinewood Lake until it meets West Lake Road, West Lake Road, Twin Brooks Drive, Brock Street to the Pequonnock River, Pequonnock River, Route 25 Expressway, each in part.

District 3

Northerly: Monroe town line.

Easterly: Monroe Turnpike (Rte 111), Old Mine Road, Pequonnock River, Rte 25 Expressway, each in part.

Southerly: Whitney Avenue, Broadway, Main Street (Rte 111), Stonehouse Road, West Rock Road, Fieldcrest Drive, Old Coach Lane, Wedgewood Road, Asbury Road, Dayton Road, Old Village Lane, Limerick Road, Cromwell Road, Madison Avenue, Monitor Hill Road, Mariner Circle, Inverness Road, Three Trees Lane, each in part.

Westerly: Easton town line.

District 4

Northerly: Kaechele Street, Madison Avenue, Driftwood Lane, Lake Avenue, Wildwood Drive, Canoe Brook Road, Park Lane, Garwood Road, Histon Road, Elliot Road, Mulberry Street, Hampton Road, Mitchell Road, western edge of Jane Ryan Elementary School, Shady Lane, Park Lane, each in part.

Easterly: Main Street (Rte 111), in part.

Southerly: The Bridgeport town line.

Westerly: The Fairfield town line, The Easton town line.

District 5

Northerly: Mulberry Street, Sterling Road, Walker Road, each in part.

Easterly: Main Street (Rte 111), Church Hill Road (Rte 127), Old Church Hill Road, Church Hill Road (Rte 127) again, White Plains Road (Rte 127), along the line of 134th State Assembly District to Reservoir Avenue, each in part.

Southerly: The Bridgeport town line.

Westerly: Main Street (Rte 111), Park Lane, Shady Lane, western edge of Jane Ryan Elementary School, Mitchell Road, Hampton Road, each in part.

District 6

Northerly: Three Trees Lane, Inverness Road, Mariner Circle, Monitor Hill Road, Madison Avenue, Cromwell Road, Limerick Road, Old Village Lane, Dayton Road, Asbury Road, Wedgewood Road, Old Coach Lane, Field Crest Drive, West Rock Road, Stonehouse Road, Main Street (Rte 111), Broadway Road, Whitney Avenue, each in part.

Easterly: Rte 25 Expressway, in part.

Southerly: Pequonnock River, Daniels Farms Road, Church Hill Road (Rte 127), Old Church Hill Road, Church Hill Road (Rte 127) again, Main Street (Rte 111), Walker Road, Sterling Road, Mulberry Street, Elliot Road, Histon Road, Garwood Road, Park Lane, Canoe Brook Road, Wildwood Drive, Lake Avenue, Driftwood Lane, Madison Avenue, Kaechele Street, each in part.

Westerly: The Easton town line.

District 7

Northerly: Daniels Farm Road, Pequonnock River, Brock Street, Twin Brooks Drive, West Lake Road, southern edge of Pinewood Lake, West Mischa Road, Booth Hill Road, Unity Road, Merritt Parkway (Rte 15), each in part.

Easterly: The Stratford town line.

Southerly: The Bridgeport town line.

Westerly: Reservoir Avenue, along the line of the 134th State Assembly District, White Plains Road (Rte 127), each in part.

Connecticut Statutes

Title 9. ELECTIONS

Chapter 146. ELECTIONS

Part I. GENERAL

Current through the 2020 Special Session

§ 9-169. Voting districts

The legislative body of any town, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough may divide and, from time to time, redivide such municipality into voting districts. The registrars of voters of any municipality taking such action shall provide a suitable polling place in each district but, if the registrars fail to agree as to the location of any polling place or places, the legislative body shall determine the location thereof. Polling places to be used in an election shall be determined at least thirty-one days before such election, and such polling places shall not be changed within said period of thirty-one days except that, if the municipal clerk and registrars of voters of a municipality unanimously find that any such polling place within such municipality has been rendered unusable within such period, they shall forthwith designate another polling place to be used in place of the one so rendered unusable and shall give adequate notice that such polling place has been so changed. The registrars of voters shall keep separate lists of the electors residing in each district and shall appoint for each district a moderator in accordance with the provisions of section [9-229](#) and such other election officials as are required by law, and shall designate one of the moderators so appointed or any other elector of such town to be the head moderator for the purpose of declaring the results of elections in the whole municipality. The registrars may also designate a deputy head moderator to assist the head moderator in the performance of his duties provided the deputy head moderator and the head moderator shall not be enrolled in the same major party, as defined in subdivision (5) of section [9-372](#). The selectmen, town clerk, registrars of voters and all other officers of the municipality shall perform the duties required of them by law with respect to elections in each voting district established in accordance with this section. Voting district lines shall not be drawn by a municipality so as to conflict with the lines of congressional districts, senate districts or assembly districts as established by law, except (1) as provided in section [9-169d](#) and (2) that as to municipal elections, any part of a split voting district containing less than two hundred electors may be combined with another voting district adjacent thereto from which all and the same officers are elected at such municipal election. Any change in the boundaries of voting districts made within ninety days prior to any election or primary shall not apply with respect to such election or primary. The provisions of this section shall prevail over any contrary provision of any charter or special act.

Cite as Conn. Gen. Stat. § 9-169

Source:

(1953, S. 651d; 1961, P.A. 398, S. 2; 1963, P.A. 323, S. 2; 1967, P.A. 557, S. 1; 831, S. 4; 1971, P.A. 836, S. 1; P.A. 73-657, S. 1, 13; P.A. 74-197, S. 2; P.A. 85-592, S. 10; P.A. 86-2.)

Case Notes:

Council not authorized to change number or boundaries of wards fixed by charter. [140 Conn. 517](#). Cited. 192 C. 399.

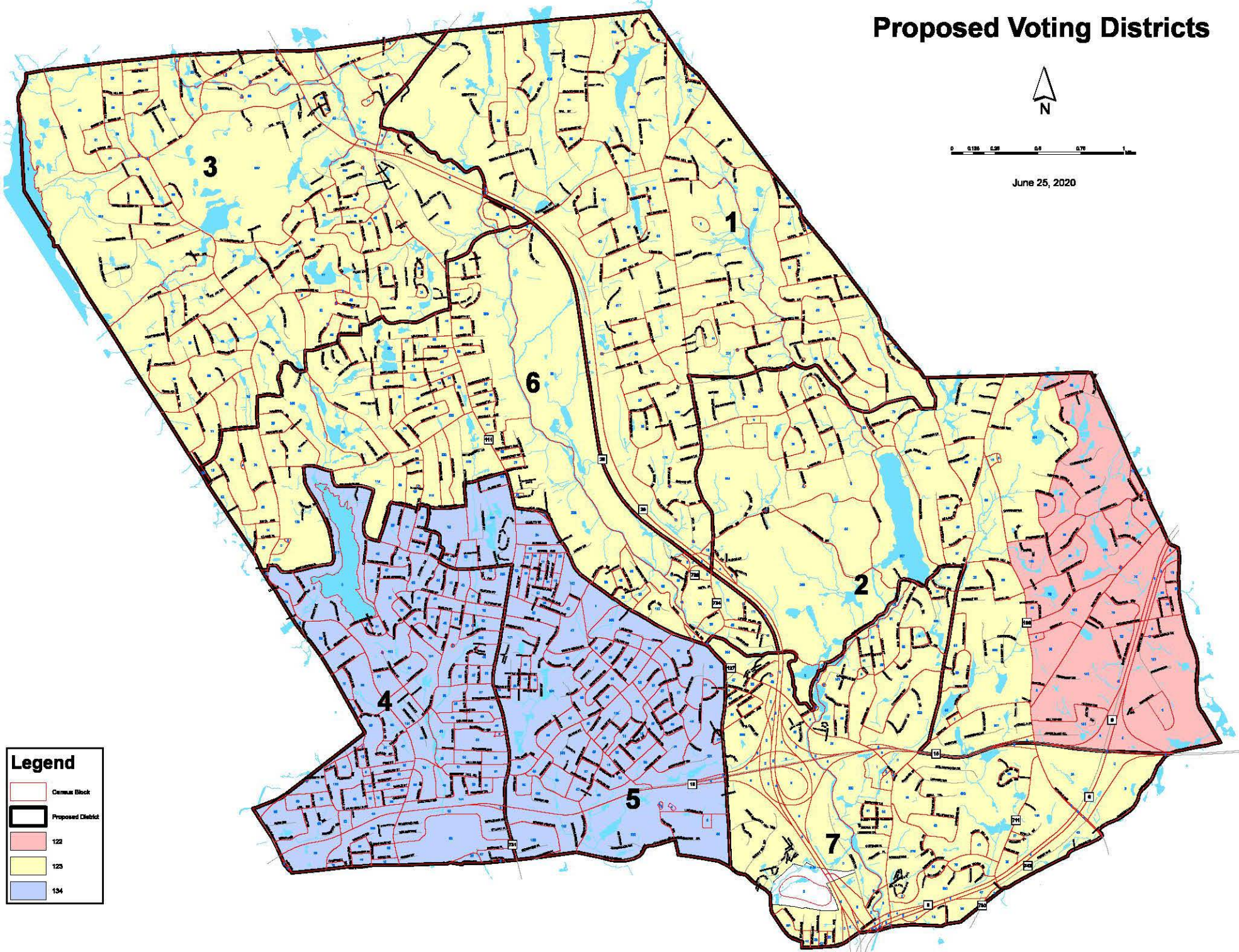
Cross References:

See Sec. [9-240](#) re provision of suitable rooms for elections and voting tabulator booths.

Proposed Voting Districts



June 25, 2020



Legend

