# The Connecticut General Assembly

**REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE** 

#### SENATE

Senator Kevin Kelly Senator Douglas McCrory Senator Paul Formica Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams

Jim Tamburro, Project Coordinator



#### HOUSE

Representative Gregg Haddad Representative Vincent Candelora Representative Tammy Exum Representative Jason Perillo

## MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 3, 2021 10:00 AM on Zoom and YouTube Live

### I. CONVENE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by State Representative Gregg Haddad and State Senator Kevin Kelly.

The following committee members were present:

Representative Jason Perillo, Representative Vincent Candelora, Senator Paul Formica, Representative Tammy Exum, Senator Mary Daugherty Abrams, Senator Douglas McCrory

Absent were:

## II. OPENING REMARKS:

Senator Kelly opened the meeting by thanking and welcoming all who are involved in this process. He remarked on the importance of the work of the committee with thanks to both members of the committee as well as non-partisan staff. Representative Haddad then discussed the importance of the public's involvement in the process. He commented on the current timetable for the process and the release of census data occurring in August of this year as opposed to the typical spring release that has occurred in the past. With Sen. Kelly's approval, he moved on to updates on the scheduling of public hearings.

## **III. PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rep. Haddad commented on the current challenges surrounding scheduling in person meetings around the state. He stated that despite those we have come up with a plan that will allow opportunity for the public to address the committee and create a public record for the committee to rely on prior to the September 15<sup>th</sup> constitutional deadline. He further remarked that it is important to the committee that the public have opportunities through virtual means as well as in-person hearings.

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The agreed upon schedule is for four hearings. One in the southeastern part of the state, one in the north central part of the state and another in the southwestern part of the state. A virtual hearing will also be scheduled. He mentioned that at this point we are announcing a public hearing in Norwich at the Town Hall at 1:00pm on September 8<sup>th</sup>, one at 7:00pm on September 9<sup>th</sup>, a virtual hearing September 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and the final hearing still being arranged hopefully in Fairfield county. That hearing will tentatively occur on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Sen. Kelly clarified that Hartford is on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and Norwich on the 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. He also reiterated something would be set up for southwestern Connecticut on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Jim Tamburro added that tentatively Shelton would be the location for the13<sup>th</sup>, although he was waiting to hear back from Norwalk. Rep. Haddad mentioned that once finalized the schedule would be posted to the Committee's website. He then asked if any of the other committee members had remarks at this time.

### IV. MEMBER REMARKS

Representative Candelora thanked both Rep. Haddad and Sen. Kelly for their work on scheduling the hearings both in-person and virtual. He asked for more details on how the public would be made aware of the hearings and if further information could be placed on the committee's website. Rep. Haddad mentioned that the website would contain the information and that press staff as well as social media accounts should also be involved in helping to share the information. Rep. Candelora then commented that he was getting information that the CT-N feed was not working at present. Senator McCrory asked for detail on the process for the public hearing and Rep. Haddad remarked that at this time he believes it will be similar to any previous public hearing that has been done at the General Assembly. He then noted that at Norwich in particular, masking is a requirement as is limiting our use of the building to within their business hours.

## V. UPDATES FROM STAFF

Rep. Haddad then mentioned that in addition to the public hearings people are welcome to address the committee through its webpage and email address. He further remarked that people in the state do have access to the census data and there are some third parties that have used that data, mapped it, and have put it onto websites. He gave examples of davesredistricting.org and districtr.org. He welcomes the input from people using those tools. Rep. Haddad then asked for an

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update from ITS regarding the timeline for posting census data on our website. Paul Alderucci, ITS Director, mentioned that he was made aware that the CT-N feed was now working. His department is currently working with the Office of Policy Management (OPM) in regard to data from prisons and how to handle that. They have put up election data from the past decade. They do have files from the Census Bureau and are waiting on other files that will be released on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Rep. Haddad asked if there was an estimate on when the information could be available on our website. Paul expects to receive something from OPM on September 10<sup>th</sup> and would make it available as soon as possible after that. Rep. Haddad reiterated the importance of the data being available to those who are able to utilize it, create maps and submit those to the committee and his hope that the information be made available to them as soon as possible. Representative Exum voiced her appreciation for getting the hearings scheduled and asked for details on masking protocol for the hearings. Rep. Haddad mentioned that information would be included in the notices and that we have a mask mandate currently for the Legislative Office building as well as social distancing protocols. Norwich also has a mask mandate in place. Rep. Exum further asked if it would be clear in the notices that the focus of these meetings is on redistricting. Rep. Haddad remarked that the committee would work hard to limit public comment to the relevant information. Senator Formica then clarified the dates and times of the public hearings with Rep. Haddad. Rep. Haddad then asked Sen. Kelly and any other members if they had any further remarks. He added that he would be sure this meeting was made available on the CT-N website and again thanked everyone for their flexibility and work on making the public hearings happen. He also thanked Sen. Kelly personally for his work on this committee.

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

After asking for further questions or comments and seeing none, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 AM by Rep. Haddad.