

**CITY OF NORWALK
REAPPORTIONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Diane Cece, Kenneth D’Arinzo, Khea Gibbs, Jody Proct, Susan Remson
Brenda Penn Williams (7:01 p.m.)

OTHERS: Atty. Steve Mednick, Esther Murillo, Assistant City Clerk; Priti Mathur,
ARCBridge; Sam Mathur, ARCBridge

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. D’Arinzo called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. D’Arinzo called the roll. A quorum was present.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. Chair

Mr. D’Arinzo explained that the Committee needed to nominate a Chair.

**** MS. CECE NOMINATED MR. D’ARINZO AS CHAIR.**

**** MS. GIBBS SECONDED.**

Mr. D’Arinzo asked if there were any other nominations for chair. There were none from the floor. He repeated his question. There was no additional nominations from the floor.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

b. Vice-Chair

**** MR. D’ARINZO NOMINATED MS.REMSON AS VICE CHAIR.**

**** MS. PROCT SECONDED.**

Mr. D’Arinzo asked if there were any other nominations for vice chair. There were none from the floor. He repeated his question. There was no additional nominations from the floor.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

• **Regular Meeting July 25, 2024**

**** MR. D'ARINZO MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 2024 MEETING.**

**** MS. REMSON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES THE JULY 25, 2024 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. GENERAL DISCUSSION REGARDING LEGAL
AND LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Mr. D'Arinzo said that Atty. Mednick was present to assist the Committee in their work. Atty. Mednick said that there had been some questions raised in the July meeting. He said the Democratic Registrar had been very active in the process, but they had not heard from the Republican Registrar. Atty. Mednick explained that there had been suggestion to modify the rules in order to allow the Registrars to appoint designees.

Atty. Mednick then pointed out that there was a deadline of September 11th coming up from the July 11th initiation and suggested that there be a 30 day extension. This would move the date back to October 11th. He noted that it would be very important to have both political party registrars present and able to provide input to the meeting. Discussion followed about the details.

Atty. Mednick then gave an overview about the process and cited the 1962 court decision regarding redistricting. ARCBridge is an experienced company. He also briefly reviewed the standards that the City would need to meet. Keeping the districts as close to how they currently exist is also important.

Atty. Mednick then briefly spoke about the Taxing Districts, which is an different entity, and how this would be handled. These Districts were established by a Special Act of the State Legislature and cannot be modified unless it is approve by the State Legislature.

The main concern is the establishing the Council Districts and the Board of Education Districts. There have been some concerns about split districts due to the new plan. He then explained a possible solution to the issue may be having a separate tabular and possibly a separate moderator where there was overlap and gave the details.

Ms. Cece said that there was at least one area in Norwalk in the Nathan Hale area that had this issue. She noted that Mr. Wells, the Democratic Registrar, had raised this concern along with another potential area. She went on to say that with absentee and early voting, this situation will change. Discussion followed.

Mr. D'Arinzo asked if they would have a name of a designee by the next month. Atty. Mednick said that he would be working with the administration on this.

VI. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF REDISTRICTING – ARCBIDGE SUGGESTED BOUNDARY CHANGES

Mr. Sam Mathur said that they had three potential options for the Committee to consider. Ms. Priti Mathur then presented a report. She explained they had done an assessment based on the 2020 census and they are currently unbalanced. She then presented a PowerPoint slide deck and reviewed the various details with the Committee.

Mr. D'Arinzo said that the Committee would need to discuss this. Ms. Cece had a detailed question about the general population versus voting age population, which Ms. Mathur reviewed with her. Discussion followed.

Ms. Cece asked about a potential solution suggested by Mr. Wells. Ms. Mathur explained that Mr. Wells had based his suggestion on a paper map with numbers that were only estimates. ARCBridge uses the numbers from the Census. ARCBridge was able to incorporate some of his thoughts into one of their options.

VII. NEXT STEPS

Mr. D'Arinzo said he had spoken with Ms. Dixon and Atty. Candela about having a hybrid meeting rather than just a virtual meeting. He asked the Committee for their thoughts.

Ms. Penn-Williams joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Ms. Penn-Williams said that she would prefer virtual. Ms. Remson said that she would like to attend at least one regular meeting. Ms. Cece said that she hoped that the hearing would be a hybrid meeting, but also mentioned that there were some people who would not be available before 7 p.m. Mr. D'Arinzo said he would prefer the virtual meetings other than Public Hearing.

Ms. Cece asked for clarification about the Public Hearing. Mr. D'Arinzo said he thought that they needed to have Republican presence before they can schedule a public hearing. He added that he would be in touch with Atty. Mednick and ARCBridge about the various details.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. D'Arinzo announced that the next meeting would be on Thursday, August 15th. He adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
S.L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Reapportionment Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
August 8, 2024



V.

City of Norwalk CT - Redistricting 2024

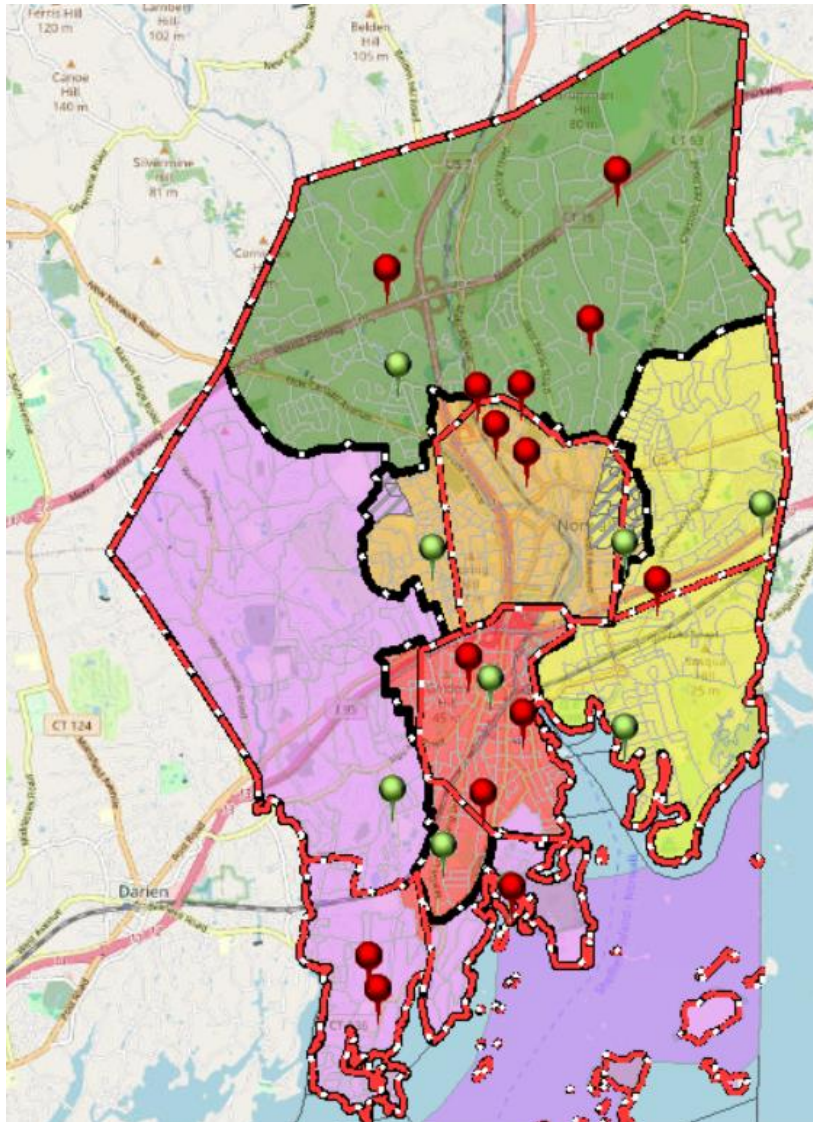
Presented by ARCBridge Consulting & Training Inc.
August 15th, 2024



Comparison of Options

3 DEVELOPED BY ARCBRIDGE & 1 BY THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Option 1



District Summary

1 of 1 | 100%

District Summary

Norwalk-Option1

District Count:	5
Total Population:	91,184
Maximum Deviation:	531
Average Deviation:	205
	1.13%
Minimum Count:	17,963
Maximum Count:	18,494

Name	Count	Optimum	Deviation	Deviation %
A	18,493	18,237	256	1.40%
B	17,963	18,237	-274	-1.50%
C	18,019	18,237	-218	-1.20%
D	18,494	18,237	257	1.41%
E	18,215	18,237	-22	-0.12%

- NorwalkOfficials
- Body
- Board of Education
- Common Council
- Suggested Change
-
- TaxingDistricts
- Current Council Districts
-

OPTION 1 - Pros & Cons

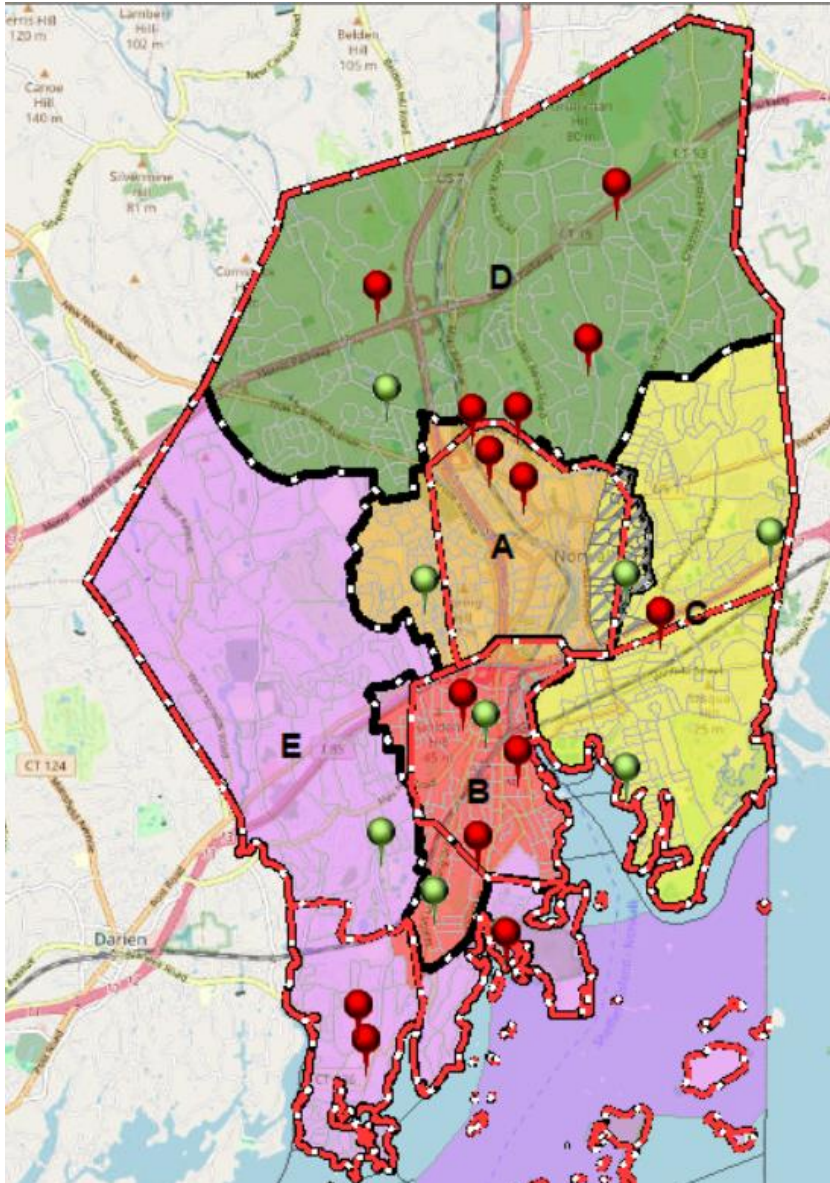
Pros

- ✓ **Population Equality** – *Maximum Deviation should be under 10%; Maximum Deviation is 2.91%. It is the lowest in all 3 options.*
- ✓ **Compact & Contiguous** – The districts are compact and contiguous. Census blocks & Census data was used to build districts
- ✓ **Fair Representation of Minorities** – District B is over 50% Hispanic and District A is an opportunity minority district.
- ✓ **Minimum Changes**
- ✓ **City Council/BOE** - No Council or Board of Education official is affected

Cons

- ❖ **District A splits a Taxing District**
- ❖ **Some splits due to block boundaries**

Option 2



District Summary

1 of 1 100% Find | Next

District Summary

Norwalk-Option2

District Count:	5
Total Population:	91,184
Maximum Deviation:	871
	4.78%
Average Deviation:	325
	1.78%
Minimum Count:	17,798
Maximum Count:	18,669

Name	Count	Optimum	Deviation	Deviation %
A	18,360	18,237	123	0.67%
B	17,798	18,237	-439	-2.41%
C	18,669	18,237	432	2.37%
D	18,494	18,237	257	1.41%
E	17,863	18,237	-374	-2.05%

- NorwalkOfficials
 - Body
 - Board of Education
 - Common Council
- Suggested Change
 -
- TaxingDistricts
 -
- Current Council Districts
 -

OPTION 2 - Pros & Cons

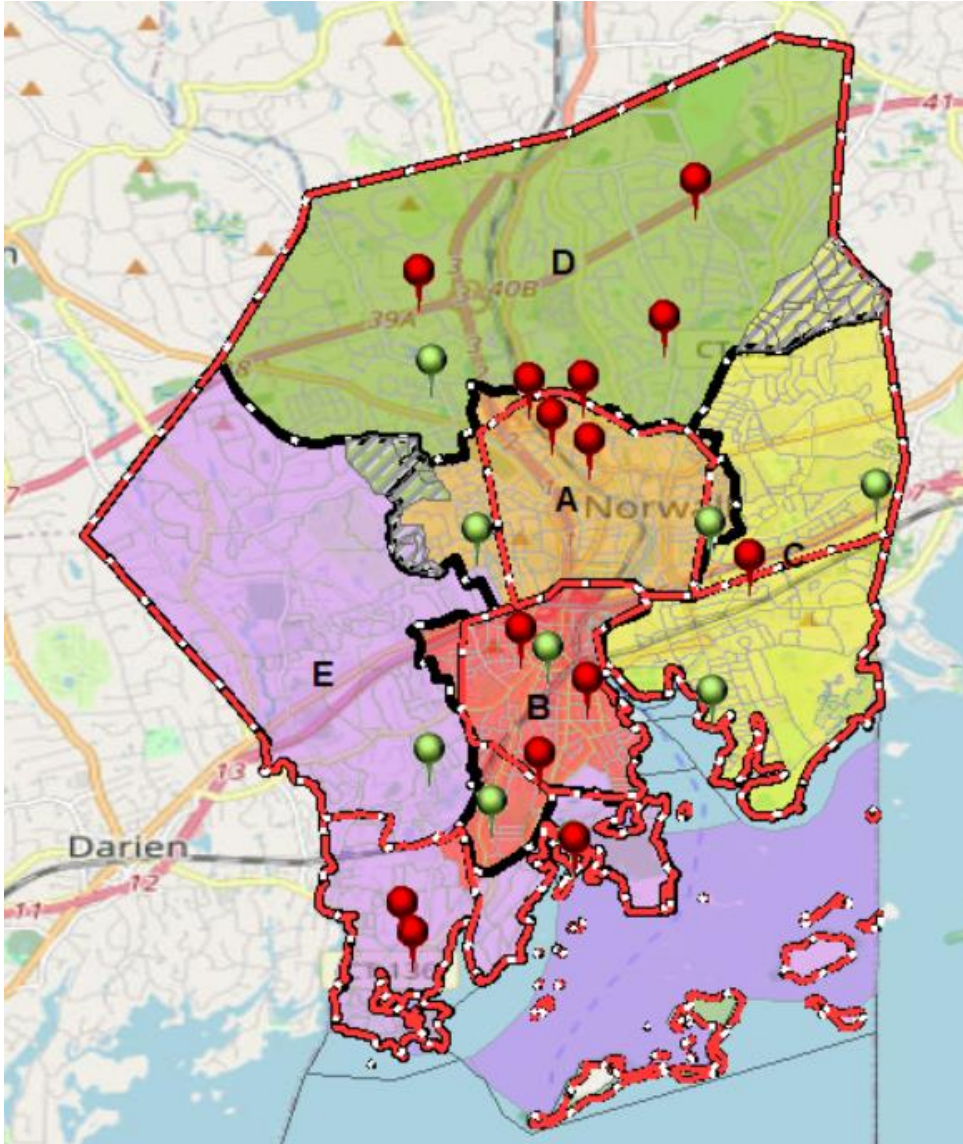
Pros

- ✓ **Meets Population Equality Criterion** – *Maximum Deviation should be under 10%; Maximum Deviation is 4.78%.*
- ✓ **Compact & Contiguous** – The districts are compact and contiguous.
- ✓ Uses **Census blocks and Redistricting data** to build districts
- ✓ **Fair Representation of Minorities** – District B is over 50% Hispanic and District A is an opportunity minority district.
- ✓ **Minimum Changes**
- ✓ **City Council/BOE** No Council member is affected.
- ✓ **BOE** – BOE Member – Kara Nelson Baekey is affected but she is at large

Cons

- ❖ **District A splits a Taxing District**
- ❖ **Some splits due to block boundaries**

Option 3



District Summary

1 of 1 | 100% | Find | N

District Summary

Norwalk-Option3-7-22

District Count:	5
Total Population:	91,184
Maximum Deviation:	714
	3.92%
Average Deviation:	251
	1.38%
Minimum Count:	17,883
Maximum Count:	18,597

Name	Count	Optimum	Deviation	Deviation %
A	18,597	18,237	360	1.97%
B	17,963	18,237	-274	-1.50%
C	17,883	18,237	-354	-1.94%
D	18,253	18,237	16	0.09%
E	18,488	18,237	251	1.38%

- NorwalkOfficials
- Body
- Board of Education
- Common Council
- Suggested Change
-
- TaxingDistricts
-
- Current Council Districts
-

OPTION 3 - Pros & Cons

Pros

- ✓ **Meets Population Equality Criterion** – *Maximum Deviation should be under 10%; Maximum Deviation is 3.92%.*
- ✓ **Compact & Contiguous** – The districts are compact and contiguous.
- ✓ Uses **Census blocks and Redistricting data** to build districts
- ✓ **Fair Representation of Minorities** – District B is over 50% Hispanic and District A is an opportunity minority district.
- ✓ **Minimum Changes**
- ✓ **City Council/BOE** - No Council or Board of Education official is affected
- ✓ **No new splits of Taxing Districts are added**

Cons

- ❖ **Some splits due to block boundaries**

Registrar of Voters Reapportionment Proposal

FOUR PARCELS INVOLVED (SEE FIRST FOLLOWING SLIDE FOR OVERVIEW AND THE FOLLOWING DETAIL SLIDES):

FIRST: MINIMAL CHANGES PROPOSAL:

TRANSFER EACH OF THE FOUR PIECES BELOW FROM PRECINCTS A4 AND A3 TO THE NEAREST DISTRICT (EITHER C OR D).

A4 – GEORGE AVE., THE LARGEST PIECE OF A4 (436 VOTERS &

A4 – ROOSEVELT ST., THE TRIANGULAR PIECE OF A4 (82 VOTERS)

(TOTAL = 518 VOTERS: MOVE FROM A4 TO C2) SEE SECOND FOLLOWING SLIDE

A4 – GLENDENNING ST., THE SMALL STRIP BETWEEN FTD & D2 (63 VOTERS)

MOVE FROM A4 TO D2, SEE THIRD FOLLOWING SLIDE

A3 – PLATTSVILLE AVE., THE NON-CONTIGUOUS PIECE OF A3 (53 VOTERS)

MOVE FROM A3 TO D1, SEE FOURTH FOLLOWING SLIDE

Pros & Cons of Option 4 (Registrar's plan)

Pros

Follows the Taxing Districts

Cons

- ❖ Drawn on a paper copy
- ❖ Based on estimated voter data
- ❖ Does not follow the Census blocks or Census 2020 data
- ❖ Cannot be recreated with census blocks

Questions/Comments
