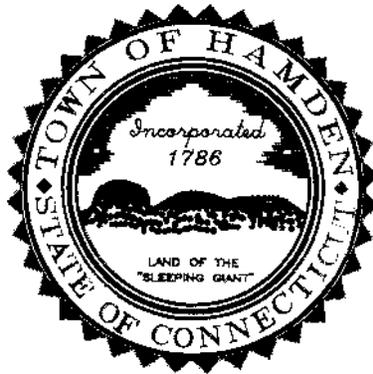


Town of Hamden Reapportionment Plan



Prepared by
The Hamden Re-Districting Committee

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Town of Hamden Reapportionment Plan

Background

Section 9-169(f) of the Connecticut General Statutes contains the requirements for the redistricting of certain municipal legislative bodies. The text of this section is as follows:

Section 9-169(f). Reapportionment required for certain municipal legislative bodies. Not later than June first in the year after the first regular general assembly election following a reapportionment of the General Assembly, each municipal legislative body whose members are elected wholly or partially on the basis of a geographical division of the municipality shall adopt a reapportionment plan for such legislative body. Any such municipal reapportionment plan (1) shall be based on population data for the municipality from the most recent decennial census of the United States and (2) may provide for geographic divisions which use the same borders as general assembly districts in the municipality.

Because Hamden elects Legislative Council members from nine districts, it is subject to this statutory requirement. The first General Assembly election following reapportionment was held in November 2002, so Hamden must adopt a reapportionment plan no later than June 1, 2003, which will be in effect for the primaries and general election in 2003.

In addition, Section 2-5 of Hamden's Town Charter states that the responsibility for drawing the new district lines is assigned to a Commission, which should include five members, no more than three of whom are members of one political party. Section 2-5 states that the Committee

shall...submit to the Council a proposed ordinance, which has been approved by four (4) of the five (5) members of such Commission, re-dividing the Town and designating suitable polling places within each voting district so that each voting district shall contain as nearly as possible an equal number of voters.

In accordance with Section 9-169(f), the reapportionment plan must be based on the 2000 United States Census. In order to provide the level of detail necessary for the reapportionment plan, Census 2000 summary file (SF-1) 100-Percent Data were used. The data provide population counts on a census block basis, which is the smallest census geographic area available.

Equal Population

The purpose behind the requirement for reapportionment is to comply with the concept of political equality, or one person, one vote. The courts have interpreted this to mean that where single-member districts are used, as is the case in Hamden's nine Council districts, such districts

should be as nearly equal in population as practicable. Although there is no state or local legislative definition as to what is considered “nearly equal,” the courts have generally established a ten percent standard as the range of the population between the most populous district and the least populous district. This range is based on a comparison with the “ideal” district population. In Hamden, this “ideal” district population would be 6,323, which results from dividing the Town’s total population (56,913) by nine districts.

Current District Population

As a starting point for the 2003 reapportionment, the Committee applied the 2000 census data to the current Legislative Council districts (see Map #1). The district populations are as follows:

<u>Current Districts</u>		
<u>District</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Variance</u>
1	7,371	+1,049
2	5,968	-355
3	6,173	-150
4	5,912	-411
5	5,939	-384
6	5,749	-574
7	6,095	-228
8	6,054	-269
9	7,652	+1,329

Based on the “ideal” district of 6,323, the deviation from the most populous (Ninth District) to the least populous (Sixth District) ranged from +16.6% to -9.1%, for an overall range of 25.7%. This overall range substantially exceeds the 10% standard established by the courts. It is worth noting that this range, although dramatic, is smaller than that which the 1993 Redistricting Committee confronted. At that time, the range was 36.7%

In fact, the problems confronted by the 1993 Committee are identical, in many respects. The 1993 Redistricting Committee stated that its responsibility was “to reduce population levels in the First and Ninth Districts and to increase the population in several other districts.”

Proposed Districts

Besides the statutory criteria which state that any redistricting plan (1) shall be based on population data for the municipality from the most recent decennial census of the United States and (2) may provide for geographic divisions which use the same borders as general assembly districts in the municipality, when the Hamden Redistricting Committee was established, it determined that it would apply four additional criteria:

1. Neighborhoods

Hamden is a town of neighborhoods. In some cases, the current district lines divide those neighborhoods into two or more districts. Where appropriate, the Committee tried to keep a neighborhood in a single voting district.

2. Incumbents

The Committee assumed that each of the nine incumbent council members intends to continue in office. Ten years ago, the Committee also used this issue as one of its principal bases for drawing new lines.

3. State Districts

When drawing the Town district lines, the Committee tried to consider the recently-drawn State district lines, to allow voters to use the same polling place each year. A common complaint about the prior districts is that too many voters must move from one polling place to another every year.

4. Polling Places

The polling places for some districts currently lie outside the districts themselves (the First District, for example). While it is not always possible to locate a polling place within a district, voters find it annoying and confusing to live near one polling place yet have to travel to another to vote. In addition, driving patterns need to be considered; i.e., a polling place needs to be accessible to the voters in the district.

When addressing the six criteria, the Committee determined that a major obstacle to drawing the map was inherent in the principal tool available to the Committee, the United States Census Department's division of the town. The Census Department divided the Town into Census Tracts, Block Groups, and Blocks. A census block is the smallest census area available. Most census blocks have a population of 0 to 300 people. Unfortunately, some census blocks in Hamden are

far larger. In fact, there are six census blocks in Hamden that include approximately 1,000 or more people each:

- Census block 3000 in census tract 1658.01 (the west side of Mix Avenue, west to Denslow Hill Road, south of Howard Drive) includes 2,560 people – 40% of a single legislative council district.
- Census block 2004 in census tract 1658.01 (the east side of Mix Avenue, east to Dixwell Avenue, south of Skiff Street) includes 820 people.
- Census block 3001 in census tract 1660.02 (Quinnipiac University) includes 2,560 people.
- Census block 2000 in census tract 1657 (the west side of Pine Rock Avenue, on the New Haven line) includes 1,256 people.
- Census block 2009 in census tract 1659 (west of Shepard Avenue, between Fans Rock Road and West Shepard Avenue) includes 1,105 people.
- Census block 6000 in census tract 1660.01 (Town Walk) includes 1,496 people.

The central location of some of these census blocks made it very difficult for the Committee to expand the southern districts that needed additional population, without dramatically changing the character of the district. In fact, the Committee contacted the U.S. Census Department, to determine if it might be possible to divide these large census blocks. It is not.

The following chart shows the proposed new district populations:

<u>Proposed Districts</u>		
<u>District</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Variance</u>
1	6,427	+104
2	6,331	+8
3	6,338	+15
4	6,422	+99
5	6,464	+141
6	6,238	-88
7	6,461	+138
8	6,213	-110
9	6,019	-304

The district map (Map #2) that the Committee is submitting to the Council is the tenth version developed by the Committee. Each map represented an evolution from the prior maps, correcting a neighborhood division or moving population to bring a district into compliance. The most significant changes from the existing boundaries are as follows:

- The Ninth District's eastern boundary has moved west, to Whitney and Tuttle Avenues. This adheres, to the extent possible, to the General Assembly's 103rd District, and keeps the neighborhood surrounding Quinnipiac University in a single council district.
- The First District now extends from Forest Street to the Wallingford border, and the Town Walk community has been moved out of the district.
- The Fourth District moved north, to take the neighborhood south of Forest Street, which had previously been in the First District.
- The Eighth District now includes Town Walk, but the apartments and condominiums along Mix Avenue that were previously in the District have been moved out, so that the District is not comprised solely of apartments and condominiums. In fact, the District bears a strong resemblance to the 1984 redistricting map (see Map #3).
- The Fifth District was moved westward, so that it now extends to the Farmington Canal Greenway line, south to the New Haven line, including the entire Newhall Street neighborhood, which was previously in the Third District.
- The Sixth District moved west, so that its western border is now Whitney Avenue.
- The Third District was moved north, to include nearly all the streets south of Helen Street, which had previously been in the Second District.
- The Second District moved west, past the Wilber Cross Parkway, taking over a portion of the current Seventh District.
- The Seventh District was moved north, to include the apartments and condominiums on Mix Avenue.

One problem that the Committee faced required special consideration: The close proximity of the incumbent council people in Districts 2, 3 and 7. In addressing the problem of Districts 2, 3 and 7, the Committee considered one alternative that would have moved the Seventh District incumbent into the Third District. Although the Committee considered that map to be the most geographically coherent district map possible, the Committee decided to abandon this alternative based on one of the criteria first identified in the Committee report ten years ago, that current legislative council members should be maintained within existing districts. To accomplish this

goal, rather than making radical shifts in population that would have forced major changes throughout the other districts, the Committee instead created a link, joining the Seventh District incumbent to the remainder of his District, disrupting as few people as possible.

The new districts are, otherwise, more geographically coherent than the current districts, and minimize the division of neighborhoods. Some examples: The First District includes the entire Mt. Carmel neighborhood. The Sixth District includes all of southern Hamden east of Whitney Avenue. The Fifth District extends from Whitney on the east to the Farmington Canal on the west, including the entire Newhall neighborhood. In addition, no single district has more than one census block with substantial population. These large census blocks, noted above, predominantly contain apartments and condominiums, or Quinnipiac University, and they are now in six different Council Districts.

Voting Age Population

The Town Charter requires the Commission to consider voting age populations. The total voting age population for the Town, based on the 2000 census, is 45,080, or 5,009 voters per district. The following table shows the proposed district voting age populations:

Proposed Voting Age Population

<u>District</u>	<u>Voting Age</u>
1 st	5,643
2 nd	4,858
3 rd	4,629
4 th	5,286
5 th	5,058
6 th	4,778
7 th	5,198
8 th	5,096
9 th	4,534

Polling Places

Following is a list of proposed polling places for the nine new districts:

District	Polling Place	Address
First District	Knights of Columbus Hall	2630 Whitney Avenue
Second District	Helen Street School	285 Helen Street
Third District	M. L. Keefe Center	11 Pine Street
Fourth District	Miller Library	2901 Dixwell Avenue
Fifth District	Board of Education Building	60 Putnam Avenue
Sixth District	Ridge Hill School	120 Carew Road
Seventh District	Dunbar Hill School	315 Lane Street
Eighth District	Bear Path School	10 Kirk Road
Ninth District	West Woods School	350 West Todd Street

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Redistricting Committee believes that the reapportionment plan outlined in this report meets the statutory requirements of the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 9-169(f), the Town of Hamden Charter, Section 2-5, and the one person, one vote principle established by the courts. In addition, the plan meets all the criteria established by the Committee.

The Committee recommends consideration and adoption of this plan by the Hamden Legislative Council.

APPENDIX A

DESCRIPTION OF NEW TOWN DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1

From the intersection of Tuttle Ave. and the Hamden-Wallingford-Cheshire Town lines, South on Tuttle to the Mill River. South on the Mill River to Mt. Carmel Ave. West on Mt. Carmel to Whitney Ave. South on Whitney to Sherman Ave. South and West on Sherman to a point opposite Old Hill St., then East overland to the Farmington Canal Trail. South on the F.C. Trail to a point opposite Anns Farm Rd., then East overland to Anns Farm. East on Anns Farm to Knob Hill Dr. South on Knob Hill to Forest St. East on Forest to Whitney Ave. North on Whitney to Riverside Dr. East on Riverside to South New Rd. North on So. New to the Mt. Carmel Connector. East on the M. C. Connector to the Mill River. South on the Mill River to the Hamden-No. Haven Town Line. North on the Town Line to the Wallingford Town Line. West on the Town Line to Tuttle Ave.

DISTRICT 2

From the intersection of the Farmington Canal Trail and the Wilbur Cross Parkway, West on the W.C. Pwky to Benham St. West on Benham to Circular Ave. South on Circular to Ursini Dr. West and South on Ursini to a point opposite East Clover Cir., then West overland to E. Clover Cir. West on East Clover to the intersection of E.Clover, Lane St., and Clover Cir. West on Clover Cir. to the West Branch of the Farm Brook. South on the Farm Brook to the Wilbur Cross Parkway. Southwest on the W.C. Pkwy to Wintergreen Ave. East on Wintergreen to Pleasant Dr. South on Pleasant to Baker Rd. North on Baker to Belden Rd. West and South on Belden to Twin Brook Rd. Northeast on Twin Brook to Belair Rd. South on Belair to West Side Dr. East and North on West Side to Brook St. South on Brook to Reyna Rd. South on Reyna to West Helen St. West, South, and East on West Helen to Pine Rock Ave. South on Pine Rock to Helen St. East on Helen to Elmer Ave. South on Elmer to Laconia St. East on Laconia to Glenbrook Ave. North on Glenbrook to Helen St. East on Helen to Langer St. North on Langer to Gorham Ave. East on Gorham to Circular Ave. South on Circular to Putnam Ave. East on Putnam to the F.C. Trail. North on the Trail to the Wilbur Cross Pkwy.

DISTRICT 3

From the intersection of Putnam Ave. and the Farmington Canal Trail, West on Putnam to the intersection of Dixwell Ave. and Circular Ave. North on Circular to Gorham Ave. West on Gorham to Langer St. South on Langer to Helen St. West on Helen to Glenbrook St. South on Glenbrook to Laconia St. West on Laconia to Elmer Ave. South on Elmer to Woodin St. West on Woodin to Pine Rock Ave. North on Pine Rock to Wilmot Rd. West and South on Wilmot to Oberlin Rd. West and South on Oberlin to Woodin St. West on Woodin to a point opposite West Side Dr. South overland from that point to the Hamden-New Haven Town Line. South and East on the Town Line to Dixwell Ave. North on Dixwell to Alling St. East on Alling to the F. C. Trail. North on the Trail to Putnam Ave.

DISTRICT 4

From the intersection of Forest St. and Evergreen Ave., South on Evergreen to Dixwell Ave. Southwest on Dixwell to Shepard Ave. Northwest on Shepard to Mix Ave. Southwest on Mix to Kaye Vue Dr. Southwest on Kaye Vue to Mix Ave. Southwest on Mix to Benham St. East on Benham to the Wilbur Cross Pkwy. East on the W.C. Pkwy to Connolly Pkwy. East on Connolly to the Mill River. South on the Mill River to Lake Whitney. South along the West Bank of the Lake to Mather St. South on Mather to Waite St. East on Waite to Whitney Ave. North on Whitney to the Mill River. North on the Mill River to the Mt. Carmel Connector. Northwest on the Connector to South New Rd. South on So. New to Riverside Dr. West on Riverside to Whitney Ave. South on Whitney to Forest St. West on Forest to Evergreen.

DISTRICT 5

From the intersection of the Farmington Canal Trail and the Wilbur Cross Pkwy, East on the W. C. Pkwy to Connolly Pkwy. East on Connolly to the Mill River. South on the Mill River to Lake Whitney. South along the West Shore of the Lake to Mather St. South on Mather to Waite St. East on Waite to Whitney Ave. South on Whitney to the Hamden-New Haven Town Line. West on the Town Line to Dixwell Ave. North on Dixwell to Alling St. East on Alling to the F.C. Trail. North on the Trail to the W.C. Pkwy.

DISTRICT 6

From the intersection of Whitney Ave. and the Hamden-New Haven Town Line, East on the Town Line to the Quinnipiac River. North on the River to the Hamden-North Haven Town Line. West on the Town Line to Whitney Ave. South on Whitney to the Hamden-New Haven Town Line.

DISTRICT 7

From the intersection of Mix Ave. and Skiff St., West on Skiff to Howard Dr. West on Howard to Denslow Hill Rd. Ext. South on Denslow Hill Ext. to the end, then South overland to Denslow Hill Rd. South on Denslow to Parmalee Dr. West on Parmalee to the East Branch of the Farm Brook. South on Farm Brook to Benham St. West on Benham to Cooper La. Northwest on Cooper to Dunbar Hill Rd. North on Dunbar Hill to Calamus Meadow Rd. West and North on Calamus Meadow to Main St. South on Main to Mountain Rd. West on Mountain to the Diversion Canal. South on the Canal to Lake Wintergreen. South along the West Bank of the Lake to Wintergreen Brook. South on the Brook to Wintergreen Ave. South on Wintergreen to the Hamden-New Haven Town Line. East on the Town Line to a point opposite the intersection of West Side Dr. and Woodin St., then North overland to that intersection. East on Woodin to Oberlin Rd. North and East on Oberlin to Wilmot Rd. North and East on Wilmot to Pine Rock Ave. South on Pine Rock to Woodin St. East on Woodin to Elmer Ave. North on Elmer to Helen St. West on Helen to Pine Rock Ave. North on Pine Rock to West Helen St. West, North, and East on W. Helen to Reyna Rd. North on Reyna to Brook St. Northwest on Brook to West Side Dr. West on West Side to Belair Rd. North on Belair to Twin Brook Rd. Southwest on Twin Brook to Belden Rd. North and East on Belden to Baker Rd. South on Baker to Pleasant Dr. Northeast on Pleasant to Wintergreen Ave. West on Wintergreen to the Wilbur Cross Pkwy. Northeast on the W.C. Pkwy. to the West Branch of the Farm Brook. North on the Farm Brook to Clover Cir. East on Clover to the intersection of Clover, Lane St., and East Clover Cir. East on East Clover Cir. to the end, then East overland to Ursini Dr. North and East on Ursini to Circular Ave. North on Circular to Benham St. East on Benham to Mix Ave. Northeast on Mix to Kaye Vue Dr. North on Kaye Vue to Mix Ave. Northeast on Mix to Skiff St.

DISTRICT 8

From the intersection of Forest St. and Evergreen Ave., West on Forest to Knob Hill Dr. North on Knob Hill to Anns Farm Rd. West on Anns Farm to the end, then West overland to the Farmington Canal Trail. North on the Trail to a point opposite the intersection of Old Hill St. and Sherman Ave., then West overland to Sherman Ave. Southwest on Sherman to Shepard Brook. Northwest on Shepard Brook to Shepard Ave. South on Shepard to West Shepard Ave. West on W. Shepard to the end, then West overland to the Hamden-Bethany Town Line. South on the Town Line to the Hamden-Woodbridge Town Line. South and East on the Town Line to the intersection of the Town Line, Wintergreen Brook, and Wintergreen Ave. North on the Brook to Lake Wintergreen. North along the West Bank of the Lake to the Diversion Canal. North on the Canal to Mountain Rd. East on Mountain to Main St. North on Main to Calamus Meadow Rd. South and East on Calamus Meadow to Dunbar Hill Rd. South on Dunbar Hill to Cooper Lane. Southeast on Cooper to Benham St. East on Benham to the East Branch of the Farm Brook. North on the Brook to a point opposite Parmalee Dr., then East overland to Parmalee. East on Parmalee to Denslow Hill Rd. North on Denslow Hill to the end, then North overland to Denslow Hill Rd. Extension. North on Denslow Hill Ext. to Howard Dr. East on Howard to Skiff St. East on Skiff to Mix Ave. North on Mix to Shepard Ave. Southeast on Shepard to Dixwell Ave. Northeast on Dixwell to Evergreen Ave. North on Evergreen to Forest St.

DISTRICT 9

From the intersection of Tuttle Ave. and the Hamden-Wallingford-Cheshire Town Lines, Northwest on the Town Line to the Hamden-Bethany Town Line. South on the Town Line to a point opposite West Shepard Ave., then East overland to W. Shepard. East on W. Shepard to Shepard Ave. North on Shepard to Shepard Brook. Southeast on the Brook to Sherman Ave. Northeast on Sherman to Whitney Ave. North on Whitney to Mt. Carmel Ave. East on Mt. Carmel to the Mill River. North on the River to Tuttle Ave. Northeast on Tuttle to the Town Line.

NOTE:

It is understood that when streets, roadways, etc. are used-it means the middle of such.