

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Government Operations Committee

FROM: Hartford Board of Civil Authority

RE: HARTFORD BCA Apportionment Plan Recommendation

DATE: February 4, 2022

The Hartford Board of Civil Authority extends its thanks to the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony, presented by Sue Buckholz and Nancy Russell, to you on Friday, January 28th. The Hartford BCA strongly recommends the Legislative Apportionment Board's Alternate/Minority Plan consisting of some multi-member and some single-member districts **with a minor technical change effecting two census blocks (total population 18) in Hartford-see ADDENDUM 1**. The LAB minority plan recognizes there is not a one-size fits all answer to re-districting.

- Demographically and geographically, Hartford residents see themselves as one community with similar interests, regardless of their location in Town. Dividing our current two-member district into two separate one-member districts divides our community in an unnatural way. Both the seven-member Select Board and five-member School Board are elected at-large, serving the entire community rather than by ward or neighborhood.
- Adding a third legislative district makes administering elections challenging; our current, central polling place accommodates two districts but adding a third district could require an additional polling location. Increasing the number of districts would cause voter confusion and frustration.
- The current District configuration has been in place for three decades; the existing model is working and serves our townspeople well. At a time when the State and local communities are trying to inspire voter participation further splitting the Hartford community as proposed by the majority LAB plan could lead to voters feeling separated from town matters and disenfranchised, resulting in voter apathy.
- Three districts would increase costs, require additional tabulators & programming, and increase time and staffing to manage and tabulate election results.
- Leaving Hartford as two districts does NOT affect any other districts/Towns therefore it would not create a ripple effect across the State. The modest population growth within our two districts leaves the total numbers within the acceptable deviation range.

We ask the Committee to support the Hartford BCA's recommendation of adopting the LAB MINORITY Plan with the minor technical change. Although the Hartford BCA recognizes the intent of the small majority of the LAB's plan for the creation of statewide single-member districts, the Majority plan does not support a cohesive community nor does it fall within the Statutory guidelines to establish as few districts as practical rather it creates unnecessary voter divisions, as well as administrative and financial burdens for Towns. The impact of the Legislature's action on this matter is long-lasting for communities across the State. Although the Hartford BCA vehemently opposes the majority plan, in the event the legislature pursues the majority plan for statewide single-member districts, the Hartford BCA recommends a technical change outlined on ADDENDUM 2 (see attached).

ADDENDUM 1

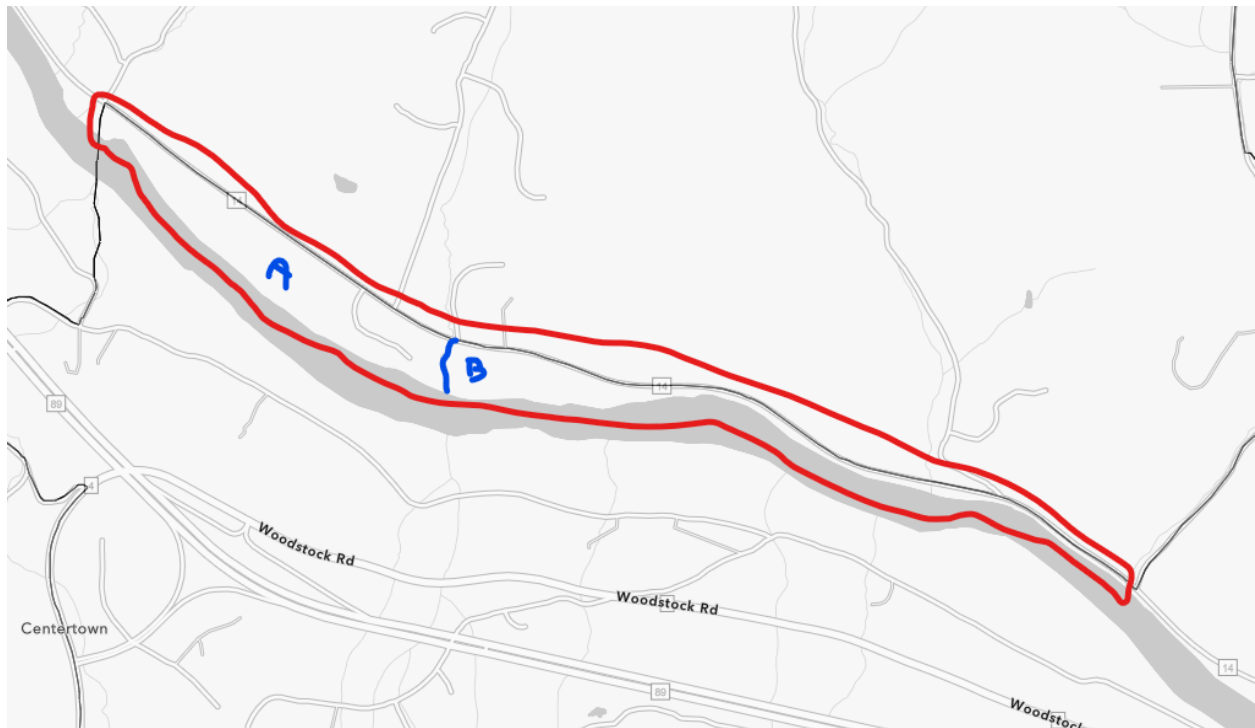
Requested HARTFORD **Technical Change to the Minority/Alternate Plan**

Move the two Census blocks (total population 18) below back to the district containing a portion of Hartford with Pomfret & Barnard (designated in 2012 as Windsor 4-1):

This area is two census blocks (illustrated below):

A - #2223 pop 17

B - #13327 pop 1



ADDENDUM 2

Please Note: The Hartford BCA strongly opposes the LAB Majority Plan. However, if the legislature pursues the majority plan, the Hartford BCA's requests the following Technical Change to the Majority Plan.

Move four census blocks (as described and illustrated below) from the southern district to the northern district in order to keep a distinct neighborhood intact and better balance the population of the two districts: This moves 113 from the 'northern' district to the 'southern' district, resulting in the southern district with a -94 from ideal (instead of -207 from ideal); the northern district will go from +24 to -89, meaning both districts are short by the same amount, and effectively equal.

- 1 - #700 pop 45
- 2 - #2219 pop 32
- 3 - #15686 pop 15
- 4 - #22786 pop 21

