

**DEMOGRAPHER’S MEMO RECOMMENDING CONTINUED USE OF
THE CITY OF WATERBURY’S CURRENT ALDERMANIC DISTRICTS**

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February 22, 2023

This memo recommends that the City of Waterbury, CT continue to use the City’s current Aldermanic election districts without any boundary changes (“**the Recommended Plan**”). This Recommended Plan (as originally drawn) balances traditional districting criteria and does not dilute the voting strength of any protected minority group. These features justify adopting the Recommended Plan with no change to the original district boundaries, based upon newly-issued 2020 decennial Census data.

Below, I summarize the relevant considerations that support this recommendation.

- 1. Right to representation.** The Recommended Plan assures the rights to representation of all the people in the City of Waterbury.
- 2. The original plan remains in balance demographically, based upon the 2020 Census.** There is no need to change any boundary of any election district to restore demographic balance.
- 3. Equipopulous Districts.** The Recommended Plan has five districts which are substantially equal in total population as required by law, based upon 2020 Census (PL94-171) summary population counts. “Substantially equal” means that each district is as close as practically possible to the exact mathematical ideal of 22,881 persons in a district, i.e., one-fifth of the City’s total population of 114,403.

Districts need not be exactly equal in total population. Courts have allowed districting plans with up to a 10-percent total deviation from this ideal. A plan’s *total deviation from ideal* (“TDI”) is measured as the absolute difference between the most populous district and the least populous district, divided by the ideal number (22,881).

Table 1. Districts Equalized on Total Population as of 2020

District	Total (all ages)	White Alone	Black Alone	Hispanic
1	22,915	10,089	3,414	7,320
2	23,931	4,426	6,119	11,782
3	21,822	9,244	3,886	7,037
4	23,324	9,682	4,270	7,316
5	22,411	4,319	4,580	11,826
Total	114,403	37,760	22,269	45,281

<i>Total Deviation from Ideal (population of all ages)</i>		
95%:	21,822	95.37%
Ideal	22,881	
105%:	24,025	104.59%
T.D.I. =		9.22%

Table 1 above documents adherence to these guard rails. For the Recommended Plan, the most-populous district (#2) has 23,931 residents, which is 4.59% too many. The least-populous district (#3) has 21,822 residents, which is 4.63% too few. These two extreme deviations combined (4.59% plus 4.63%) total to 9.22%, referred to as the Plan’s Total Deviation from Ideal (“TDI”). Relative to the maximum acceptable TDI (10.00%), this 9.22% TDI is within the acceptable range of “substantial equality.” Its 9.22% value is a slightly better than the 9.86% TDI which this same plan registered when first enacted (based upon 2010 Census data).

Table 2 below furnishes the detailed demographic profile of the voting-age population for the Recommended Plan. Companion Table 3 below highlights a key attribute of this plan: the opportunities it affords Hispanic voters and Black voters to elect candidates of choice. Such opportunities are most apparent in Districts 2 and 5.

Table 2

Aldermanic Districts Now in Use: Updated 2020 Demographic Profile											
District	Persons Ages 18+	White Alone	Black Alone	American Indian Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian Alone	Other Alone	Multi racial	Hispanic	% Hispanic	% Black Alone
1	17,813	8,886	2,538	60	386	4	321	752	4,866	27.3%	14.2%
2	17,106	3,765	4,656	55	214	4	242	562	7,608	44.5%	27.2%
3	16,188	7,646	2,870	47	285	6	203	576	4,555	28.1%	17.7%
4	18,266	8,594	3,281	43	529	6	212	674	4,927	27.0%	18.0%
5	16,683	3,715	3,454	43	357	7	290	469	8,348	50.0%	20.7%
Total	86,056	32,606	16,799	248	1,771	27	1,268	3,033	30,304	35.2%	19.5%

Source: 2020 Census, PL94-171 file. Data subject to change upon final verification. Note: For accounting purposes only, two 2020 census blocks are assigned wholly to D3 to correct for non-congruent geography: 090093518003010 and 90093518003011.

Table 3. Coalitional Opportunities in Districts 2 and 5

District	Persons Ages 18+	% Hispanic	% Black Alone
1	17,813	27.3%	14.2%
2	17,106	44.5%	27.2%
3	16,188	28.1%	17.7%
4	18,266	27.0%	18.0%
5	16,683	50.0%	20.7%
Total	86,056	35.2%	19.5%

Source: Table 2 above (condensed).

4. Respecting existing neighborhood communities of interest. The Recommended Plan respects the boundaries of existing City neighborhoods. These boundaries correspond exactly to those shown in the original plan. Their continued use without change rules out any possibility of a voter finding oneself “drawn out of” the district in which that voter presently resides.

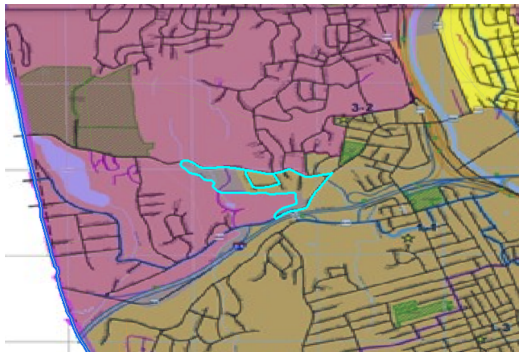
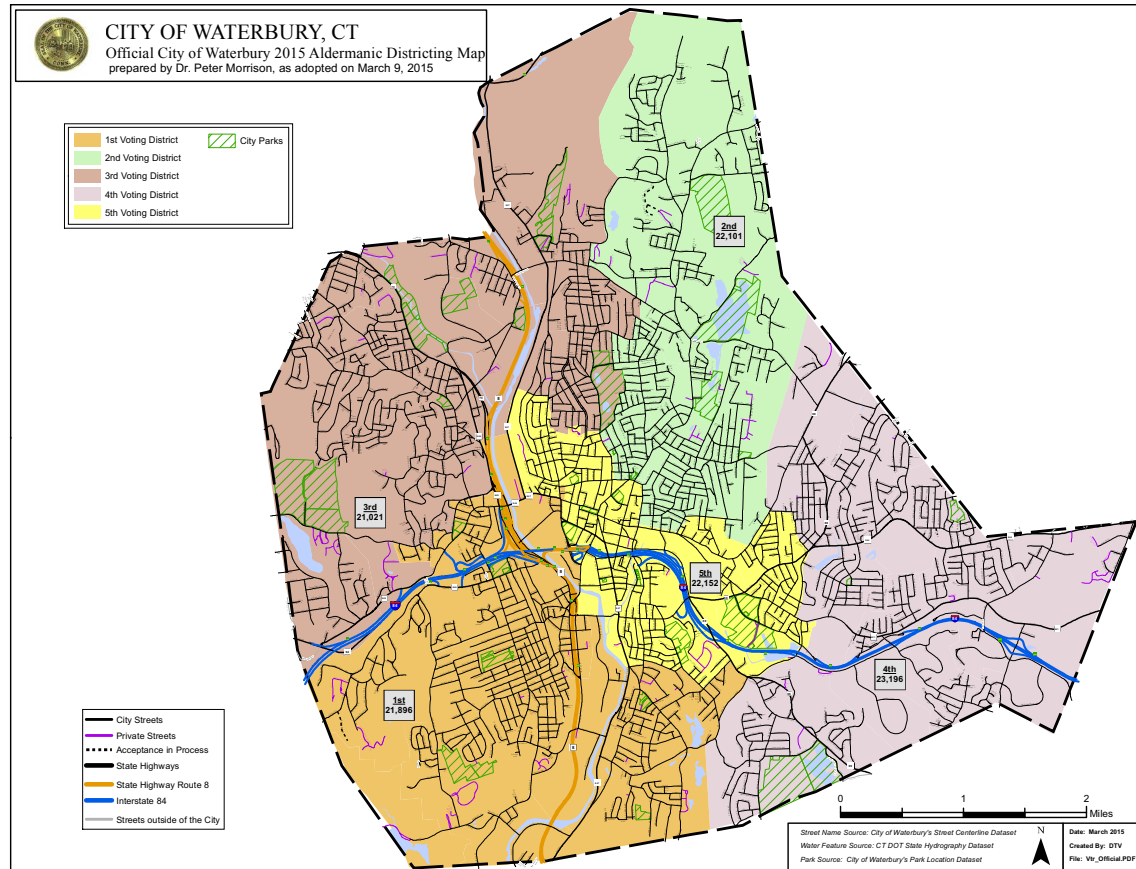
5. Compliance with Federal Redistricting Guidelines. Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act prohibits vote dilution, defined as any electoral practice or procedure that minimizes or cancels out the voting strength of members of racial or language minority groups in the voting population. See pp. 6-10 at: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/press-release/file/1429486/download> for an overview of these prohibitions.

The Recommended Plan complies with these Federal redistricting guidelines. Consistent with them, the Recommended Plan preserves Hispanic voters’ and Black voters’ ability to elect candidates of their choice in two of the City’s five districts. In District 2 and District 5, Hispanics and Blacks together constitute 71%-72% of the 2020 voting-age population (persons 18 and older).

6. District Boundaries Remain Unchanged. The physical boundaries of each recommended district visualized in Figure 1 below are specified by GIS electronic shape files (which correspond to the 2010 Census block geography for demographic accounting purposes, to document the original 2015 districts). The City’s GIS Dept. should continue using these district boundary shape files (furnished as a deliverable in 2015) when preparing any desired high-resolution variants of the above detailed map.

An irregularity in underlying 2020 Census block geography necessitated a demographic accounting adjustment. Two 2020 census blocks--#090093518003010 with 147 residents and #090093518003010 with 51 residents--had to be assigned to District 3. This adjustment in census-block geography preserves the integrity of the physical boundary between two districts, as illustrated in the census-block detail shown below Figure 1.

Figure 1. Recommended Plan (Original 2015 Map)



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. Morrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "P".

Peter A. Morrison

Peter A. Morrison & Associates, Inc.

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