

**Ordinance Establishing an Advisory Committee for the Reapportionment of
Common Council Voting Districts**

Chapter 9 – Article IX

§9-25 Common Council and Board of Education Voting Districts.

- A. Common Council Districts.** In accordance with §3-4.A(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by two elected members on the Common Council (“Council Districts”).
- B. Board of Education Districts.** In accordance with §3-4.B(1) of the Charter, the City shall be divided into five Board of Education Districts, which shall correspond to the five Council Districts, each of which shall be represented by one elected member on the Board of Education.
- C. At-Large Members of the Common Council and Board of Education.** The number of elected Councilmembers-at-Large must be equivalent in number to the number of Council Districts as may exist, from time-time time, in accordance with §3-4A(2) of the Charter. At the time of the adoption of this Chapter there are five at-large members of the Common Council. Moreover, there are four at-large members of the Board of Education, in accordance with §3-4.B(2) of the Charter, elected in the manner set forth in 3-4.B(3) of the Charter. The elected at-large members are not subject to the periodic reapportionment required by the General Statutes, §3-4.A(3) of the Charter, or this Chapter.

§9-26 Standards Pertaining to Reapportionment.

The reapportionment of Council Districts shall conform to federal and state constitutional standards and statutory requirements. Accordingly, the Council Districts shall be:

- A.** of substantially equal population; and,
- B.** to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in compact and contiguous form following geographical divisions, considering communities of interest and historical boundary lines and shall further use best efforts to include the boundary lines of the Taxing Districts as defined in the Charter within a single Council District where practicable; and,
- C.** to the extent possible consistent with the preceding, established in accordance with the requirements of C.G.S. 9-169f.

§9-27 The Reapportionment Advisory Committee: Appointment Date.

- A. Appointment.** No later than thirty days following the completion of reapportionment of the General Assembly, as required by the Constitution of the

State of Connecticut, as further set forth in the General Statutes, a Reapportionment Advisory Committee consisting of seven members, no more than three of whom shall be of the same political party, shall be appointed by the President of the Council, following consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Council, and approved by a Majority Vote of the Council. In addition to consulting with the caucus leaders of the Council, the President shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.

- B. Ex-officio Non-Voting Members.** The Registrars of Voters shall serve as ex-official non-voting members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.
- C. Appointment Date.** The date the Common Council approves the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be the "Appointment Date."

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be approved by the Common Council not later than thirty days following the effective date of this Ordinance.

§9-28 Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

- A. Written Report ("Report").** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall provide a Report, in writing, to the Common Council no later than 180 days following the Appointment Date, which shall include a tentative map setting forth the recommended boundaries of the five Council Districts.
- B. Data and Resources.** The Advisory Committee may utilize demographic data assembled by the City, computer resources of the City, and such other third-party resources and facilities as the Council may deem desirable to carry out the purpose of this Chapter.
- C. Public Hearing.** The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall hold at least one Public Hearing no less than one week before it submits its Report to the Common Council, and shall make a tentative map of its proposed districts available to the public in accordance with the requirements of the Charter at least five days before the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing Notice shall include the contents of the Report including a copy of a map illustrating the boundary lines of each of the proposed Council Districts.
- D. Action by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.** On the basis of information elicited at the public hearing, the Reapportionment Advisory Committee may thereafter alter the Report. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, five members of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee.

- E. Transmittal to the Common Council: Receipt Date.** The Report shall be submitted to the Common Council by filing with the City Clerk and the Town Clerk. Receipt of the Report shall be deemed to be the date upon which it is filed with the City Clerk (“Receipt Date”). The City Clerk shall transmit the Report to the Common Council.
- F. Failure to File Report.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee fails to file the Report with the Town Clerk by the close of business no later than the 180th day following the Appointment Date, the provisions of §9-30 of this Chapter shall be invoked.

2024 Transition Provision. The Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file the Report to the Common Council no later than ninety days following the Appointment Date. In all other respects the provisions of §9-28 shall remain in full force and effect.

§9-29 Actions of the Common Council.

- A. Time-Frame.** The Common Council shall vote on the establishment of Common Council Districts within forty-five (45) days of its receipt of the Report.
- B. Public Hearing and Deliberations.** The Common Council may amend the district boundaries recommended by the Reapportionment Advisory Committee before approving Council Districts, following at least one Public Hearing as required by §4-8.B of the Charter. Nevertheless, the Council Districts approved by the Common Council must comply with the standards of §9-26 of this Chapter.
- C. Voting Standard.** Approval of the Council Districts must be affirmatively supported by a Majority Vote of the Common Council, as defined in the Charter.

(1) Approval or Modification of the Report. If the Report is approved or modified by the Common Council it shall be deemed adopted, as an Ordinance, in compliance with the requirements of the General Statutes and have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal election following Reapportionment.

(2) Rejection or Failure to Timely Act. If the Report is rejected or not acted upon in accordance with the time limitations set forth in §9-29.A, above, then the Mayor shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee as set forth in §9-30, below.

§9-30 Role of the Mayor, if necessitated by Failure of the Reapportionment Advisory Committee to Act or the Common Council to Approve.

- A. Appointment of a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee by the Mayor.** If the Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall fail to file the Report

as set forth in §9-28.D, above, or if the Common Council shall fail to approve Council Districts within the time limit established by §9-29.D, the Mayor, within five days of notice from the Town Clerk of the precipitating action, shall appoint a Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee comprised of three members. Each member shall have a different political party affiliation or no party affiliation; thus, no political party shall attain a majority of the members. The Mayor shall consult with civic, political and community leaders in order to seek members reflecting the diversity of the residents as well as the geographic representation required by the Charter.

- B. Deliberations.** The Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall file a report with the Town Clerk delineating Common Council District boundaries within twenty-one days of its appointment. Approval of the Report shall require the affirmative vote of, at least, two members of the Advisory Committee.
- C. Standard for Approval.** The Report of the Second Reapportionment Advisory Committee shall be subject to approval by a Majority Vote of the Council, as defined in the Charter, within one week of the filing with the Town Clerk. Once approved this provision, in furtherance of the requirements of the constitutional standard, federal law and state law; and, thus, shall have the full force of law and become effective for the next municipal general election following its approval. +

§9-31 Publication of the Adopted Report.

Upon receiving such adopted Ordinance (incorporating the contents of the Report), the Town Clerk shall publish and record the same in the same manner as ordinances are required to be published and recorded as set forth in the Charter, and upon such publication and recording, such plan shall have the full force of law.