

Dear Independent Commission

Abraham Rosenberg

The Independent Redistricting Commission has a historic opportunity to help empower the large and growing Orthodox Jewish community in the Hudson Valley.

Today, our community numbers into the hundreds of thousands in Sullivan, Orange and Rockland counties. While our numbers have grown, so has the interrelationship among the members of the region's Orthodox Jewish community.

While we all have the same conservative values and religious beliefs, the growth in our community has deepened the economic and social integration between the portion of the community living in each county. Today, it is common for businesses and local organizations to serve the Orthodox Jewish community in each county, wherever they are located.

Although we are one large community of interest, we have been divided between three different congressional districts and several state senate and assembly districts. This has made it more difficult to elect candidates who share our values and represent our community, particularly in congress.

In the state senate, Sullivan County's Orthodox Jewish community is blessed to be in Senate District 42. That's because we are linked with other conservative-minded people and have a Senator who represents our values. If more of the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community was connected together in our various state legislative districts, it would help ensure our voice is heard in the State Capitol.

As a minority language group protected by the state constitution and a vibrant and well-defined community of interest, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community deserves to have effective representation in the state and federal government.

Best of luck

Abraham Rosenberg


Thompsonville NY 12784

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission

Abraham Rutner

As A resident of Sullivan County i hope the Commission will fairly represent the orthodox jewish community numbers into the hundreds of thousands in Sullivan, Orange and Rockland counties. While our numbers have grown, so has the interrelationship among the members of the region's Orthodox Jewish community.

While we all have the same conservative values and religious beliefs, the growth in our community has deepened the economic and social integration between the portion of the community living in each county. Today, it is common for businesses and local organizations to serve the Orthodox Jewish community in each county, wherever they are located.

Although we are one large community of interest, we have been divided between three different congressional districts and several state senate and assembly districts. This has made it more difficult to elect candidates who share our values and represent our community, particularly in congress.

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As a minority language group protected by the state constitution and a vibrant and well-defined community of interest, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community deserves to have effective representation in the state and federal government. Please do not divide our community into many districts so we shouldn't have the right representation.

Thanks

Abraham Rutner

 Swan Lake NY

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Commission.

My name is Alan Stern and I am the Chair of the Washington County Democratic Committee. As a resident of Washington County and a representative of the Democratic voters in the 21st Congressional District, I have an abiding interest in the work of this Commission. I wish, today, to offer the following comments and recommendation regarding re-districting:

- The majority of my testimony will address our Congressional District, but I want to note that we have concerns about our State Legislative Districts as well. We have 17 towns in Washington county. Eight are in AD 113, 6 in AD 114 and 2 in AD 107. In the Senate, 15 towns are in SD 45 and only 2 in SD 43. This results in a division of our representation that makes no sense.
- As to our Congressional District, NY-21 is far too large, encompassing 12 counties over 15,000 square miles.
- It is 150 miles and about a 4-hour drive from the town of Easton in southern Washington County to Messina in the north of St. Lawrence County. The Adirondack Park presents a physical barrier to commercial and employment interaction with our northern neighbors.
- The resulting disconnect raises the serious question of the effectiveness of our configuration.
- A more functional districting would link Washington County with counties to which we are physically closer and connected by business, employment opportunities, travel and commuting routes and other shared physical, cultural and political issues.
- We share and have much closer relationships with towns and cities in Warren, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Albany Counties than we do with those in St. Lawrence, Essex, Fulton, and the other northern counties in NY-21.
- It is illustrative of the natural relationships Washington County has with these more southern counties that this Commission recognizes our county's connections and has grouped us in the Mid Hudson and Capital Region rather than the North Country Region.
- It is our recommendation that Washington County be appropriately placed in a Congressional District, as it has been in the past, within our natural region.



Tim Rogers, Mayor

Alexandria Wojcik, Deputy Mayor

Trustees: Stana Weisburd, William Wheeler-Murray, & Michele Zipp

*Nancy Branco
Treasurer*

*Gene Bleu Terwilliger
Superintendent Public Works*

*Alberta G. Shaw
Village Clerk*

August 2, 2021

To the members of the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission:

The Village of New Paltz Board of Trustees wishes to share some thoughts regarding district lines in our region -- in Ulster County in particular. As you know, Ulster County is split into four state Senate districts and four state Assembly districts, while being entirely in NY's 19th Congressional district.

New Paltz is host to SUNY New Paltz, a section of NYC's drinking water aqueducts, and a section of the Empire State Trail; our Main Street is the road leading to Mohonk Mountain House and Minnewaska, making us a major tourist destination. As one can imagine, our municipality must work with countless agencies, interests, and representatives for even the most mundane of matters like adding a crosswalk.

The problems with the district lines as they are currently drawn are even more pronounced when viewed through the lens of our municipality's experiences during the two crises we faced and continue to endure in 2020 through today -- first we had a water crisis due to an oil spill in our largest drinking water reservoir, which was resolved on February 14th and followed soon thereafter by the beginnings of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

Therefore, we wish to encourage the Commission to consider the following during the redistricting process:

- Watersheds.
- NYC drinking water aqueduct host communities.
- Major roadways, or stretches of roads between geographic and/or other pre-existing boundaries.
- Major geographic features like parks and preserves.
 - How does it make sense that parts of the Mohonk Preserve and the Mohonk Mountain House are in a different Senate district than New Paltz's, when Mohonk is a leading reason people visit New Paltz?
- When possible, shouldn't school districts be kept together in the same state legislative districts?
- Other geographic connectors that may impact ways municipalities might share services.

25 PLATTEKILL AVE • NEW PALTZ, NY 12561

PHONE: 845.255.0130 • FAX: 845.255.4305 • TTY Available

WWW.VILLAGEOFNEWPALTZ.ORG • VONP@VILLAGEOFNEWPALTZ.ORG

The Village of New Paltz prohibits discrimination against any person because of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law.

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Thu 7/29/2021 10:22 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Maintain the current Congressional district which includes Albany, Schnectady, Saratoga, Rensselaer, and Montgomery Counties.

These areas share a similar location, economy, use of public transportation and infrastructure. Bill and Anne McCabe

User: Anne and Bill McCabe ([REDACTED]

Delete Comment

Ban User from Future Comments

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ORANGE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

255 MAIN STREET GOSHEN, NEW YORK 10924
845- 291- 2690 FAX: 845- 378-2368

COUNTY CLERK ANNIE RABBITT

KELLY ESKEW
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

PATRICIA MCMULLEN
DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK, DMV

WWW.ORANGECOUNTYGOV.COM/COUNTYCLERK

Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

As County Clerk of Orange County I write to you regarding the upcoming redistricting process for our member of Congress. It is important that all of Orange County be kept in the same district.

We are a rapidly growing county with communities that share much in common with each other. To ensure fair and equal representation we must be kept whole.

Also, to ensure fair and equitable representation we should be paired with neighboring counties like Sullivan and Rockland which we already share state legislative districts, fire district, school districts, hospital coverage, ambulance corps, police coverage and more with.

Your attention to this matter is critical to taxpayers and all residents of Orange County and the West of Hudson region.

Thank you,

Ann G. Rabbitt
Orange County Clerk

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Tue 8/10/2021 3:18 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

The entire Town of Greenburgh should be in one Congressional District. It is disconcerting that our nearby neighbors are in a different CD. The Town has one state senator and one assembly member.

User: ARNOLD NAGER ([REDACTED]

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Map Submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Mon 8/2/2021 5:21 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

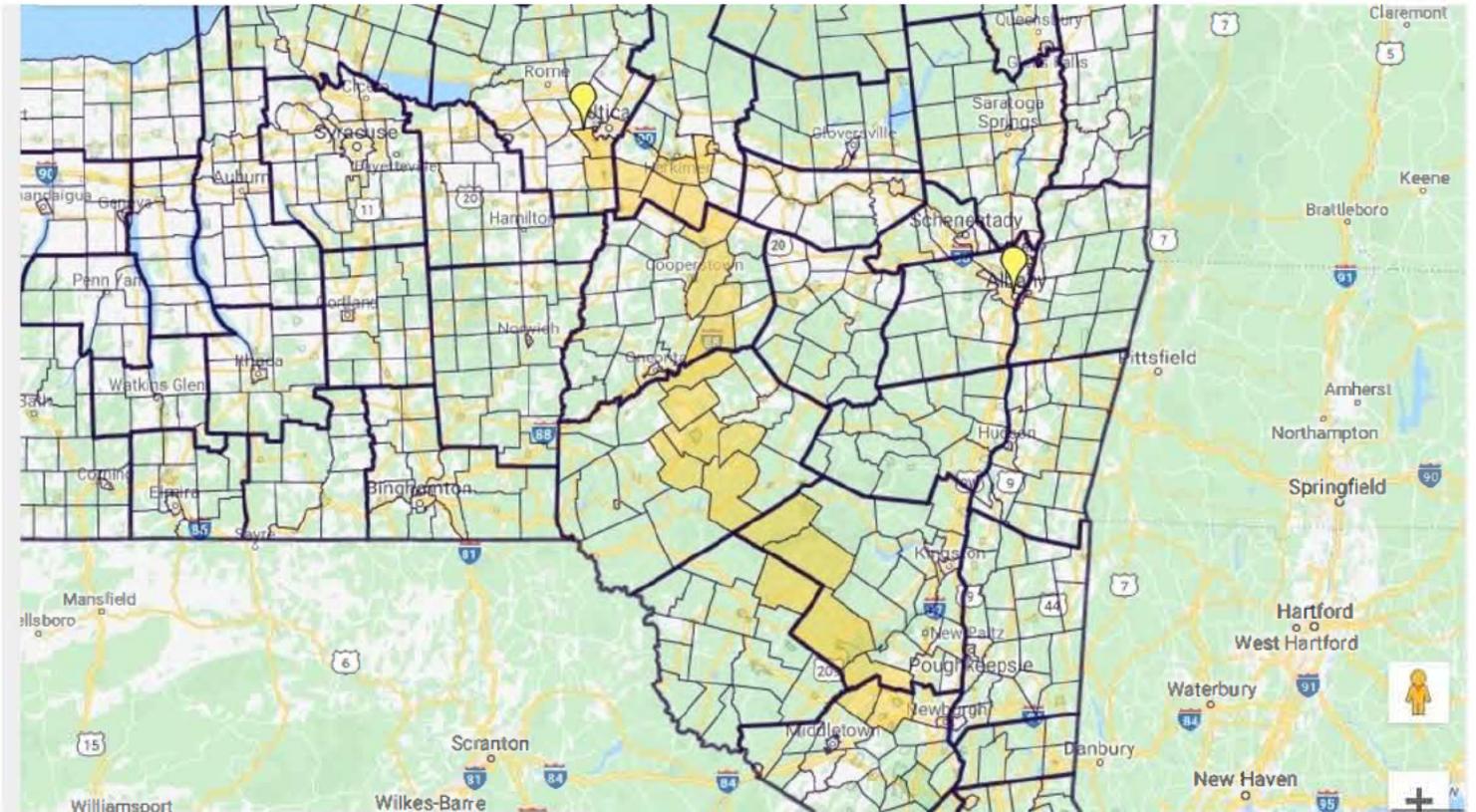
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Submitted Map

- **First Name:** Barb
- **Last Name:** Schmitt
- **Email:** [REDACTED]
- **Description:** NY Assembly District 101 exists purely as partisan gerrymandering. It literally is the shape of a snake. It runs vertically through many communities in about 7 different counties, from Orange County to Oneida County. Should be reabsorbed into nearby districts with similar needs. I speak for the portion sliced off Sullivan County. District 100 better reflects the needs of this community.
- **Map File:** [Link to Map File](#)

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Barb Schmitt Map



Barbara Restaino
[REDACTED]
Grahamsville, NY 12740

July 31, 2021

David Imamura, Esq., Chair & Commissioners
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
www.nyirc.gov

Dear Chairman Imamura & Commissioners,

I have been living in the Town of Neversink which is the northeastern most town in Sullivan County for 16 years. Our town borders on the east and north with Ulster County and is accessible to the Hudson Valley as well as our surrounding County area to the south and west. We are just within the "blue line" of the Catskill Park and our own County includes the watersheds of the Hudson as well as the Delaware. We are blessed with a rural environment but also with accessibility including NYC where many residents here have ties.

Our Congressional District is the 19th and the geographic area that it includes serves us well as an intact and fairly drawn district. I hope our Congressional District remains the same since it serves a substantially rural and suburban population on both sides of the Hudson that has similar cultural and economic needs. By embracing both sides of the Hudson it brings us together and makes our voice stronger. I am very pleased that our Town is part of Congressional District 19.

In stark contrast, our NY Legislative District 101 is possibly one of the worst drawn and most convoluted of the districts. Simply put, the way it is drawn does not serve the population nor can it represent us in any fair fashion. The district starts down in Orange County to the south and continues in a narrow band, zig-zagging its way through the Catskill Mountains northward until it ends up in Utica! I think I counted seven or eight counties. It's an impossible district. Besides being difficult to negotiate, the needs of the district are fragmented and diffused so that we are not able to have solid representation in Albany. Here in the Town of Neversink, we do not even have representation with a single other town in Sullivan Co.

I am taking the time to write this letter because I hope you will address and correct the ineffective and unfair representation the current NY Legislative District 101 creates. Please absorb this district into neighboring districts or somehow redraw it to fairly represent our Town as well the other communities within it.

Respectfully,



Barbara Z. Restaino

Testimony before the Independent Redistricting Commission

League of Women Voters of Saratoga County, NY

8/2/21

Good Afternoon. My name is Barbara Thomas and I am speaking today on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County. We are a non-partisan group of over 200 members working to empower voters through education and advocacy. We recognize the task before you and thank you for your dedication.

The Saratoga County League asks that you respect and preserve the municipal and county boundaries by which we already identify ourselves and conduct our lives.

Saratoga County has seen impressive growth over the past years. A boom in the high-tech business sector has contributed to sustained economic growth. Historic sites, cultural attractions, entertainment and outstanding natural beauty are among our valuable resources. But this boom has been matched by the growing needs of the unhoused, working families and the unemployed. Effective representation is critical to addressing these needs.

When the official new Census counts are released, Saratoga County will likely be entitled to one and a half Assembly Districts. We request that we be split into only two different Assembly Districts, not the current 4 Assembly Districts that we are in.

Our current State Senate and Assembly Districts are drawn so that the county and, in fact, some towns have divided representation. For example, Ballston Spa is the County seat yet it is split off from the largest city in its County, Saratoga Springs. Even Saratoga Springs is split between two Senate Districts.

Please note on the attached map that Senate District 43 stretches over 110 miles from top to bottom. Another oddly drawn Senate District is 49 where Ballston Spa is grouped with the city of Schenectady with a notch out to omit most of Saratoga Springs.

In terms of which Congressional District Saratoga County should be a part of, it is important to note that the majority of our residents are more oriented towards the Capital District than to the North Country. Significant proportions of our population are employed in State government, and in other large businesses in Albany and Schenectady. Currently the Saratoga Springs School District is divided into two different Congressional Districts, 20 and 21.

The League of Women Voters of Saratoga County asks you to maintain the integrity of our community and county borders so that our common needs and goals are represented by one U.S. Congressperson, one State Senator and two, rather than four, Assembly Members.

Thank you.

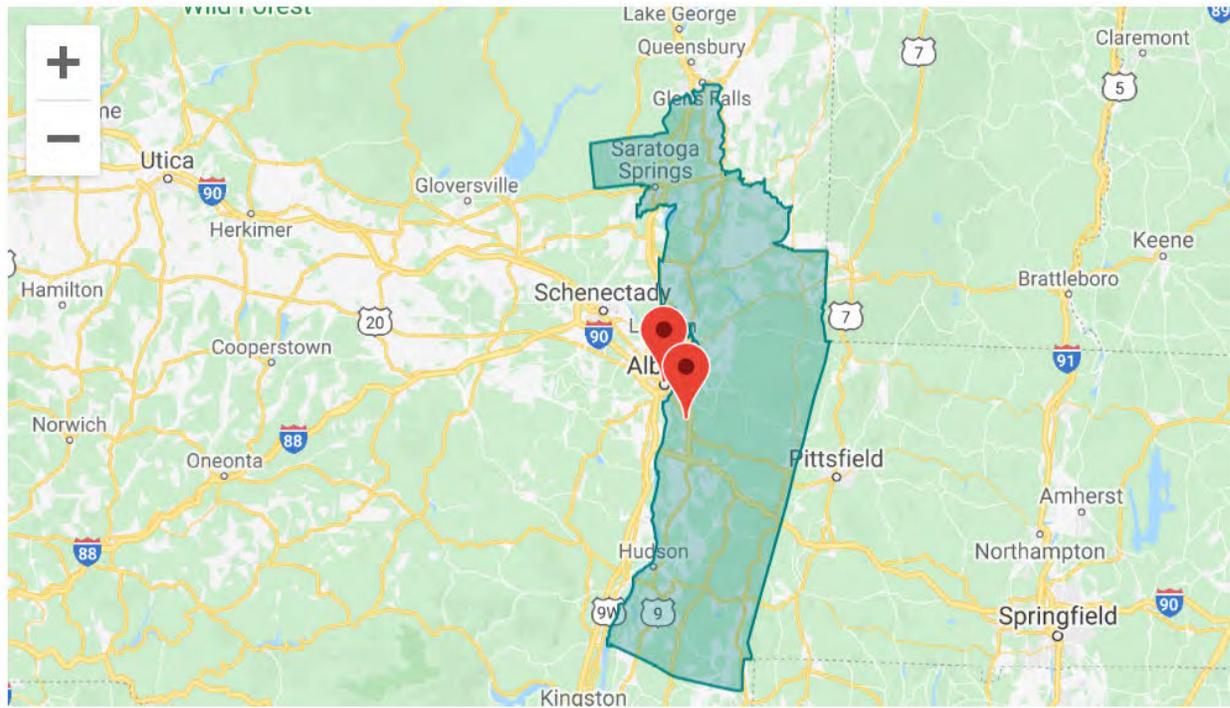
New York's 20th Congressional District



New York's 21st Congressional District

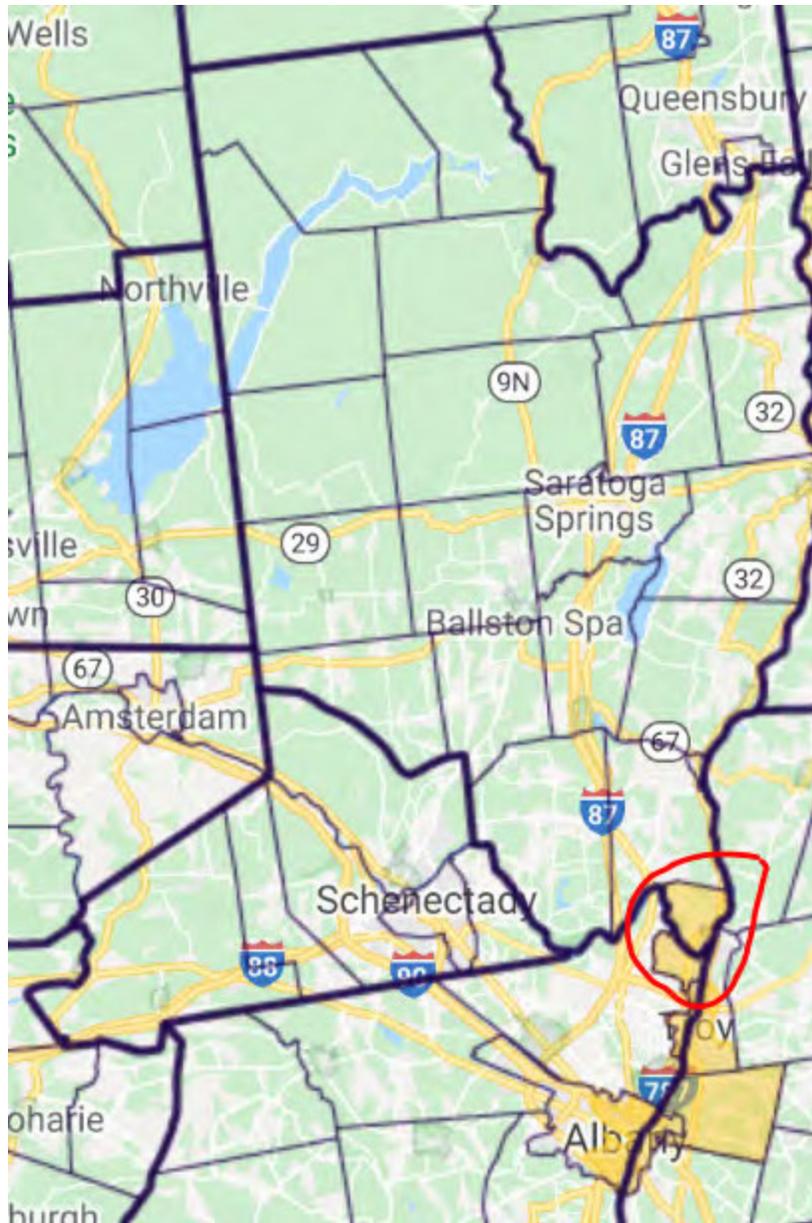


NY SENATE DISTRICT 43



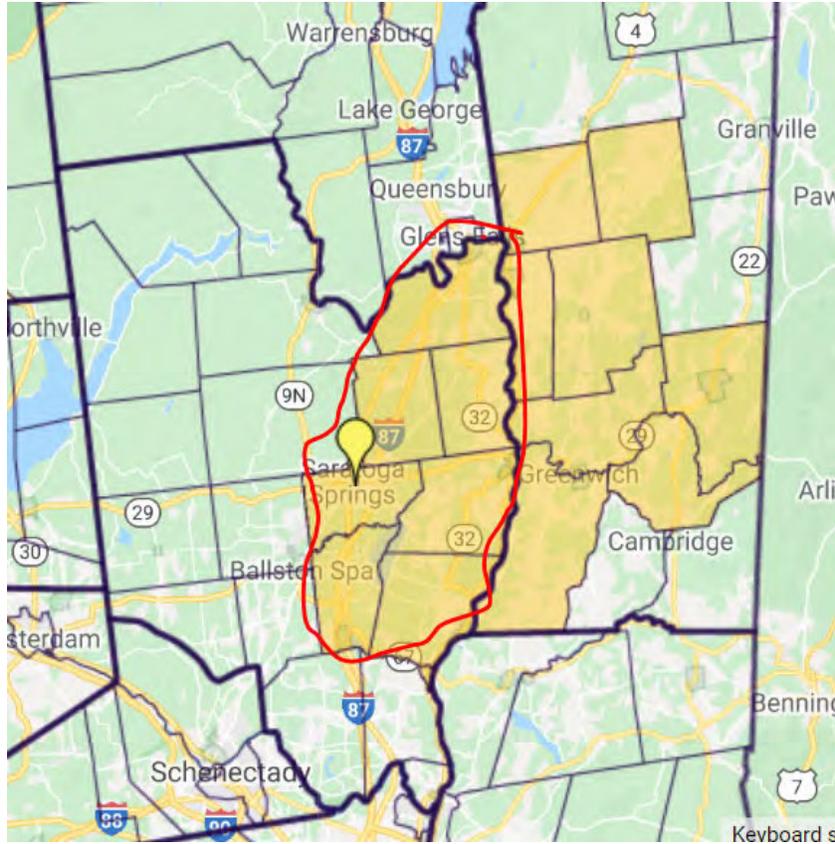
NY SENATE DISTRICT 49





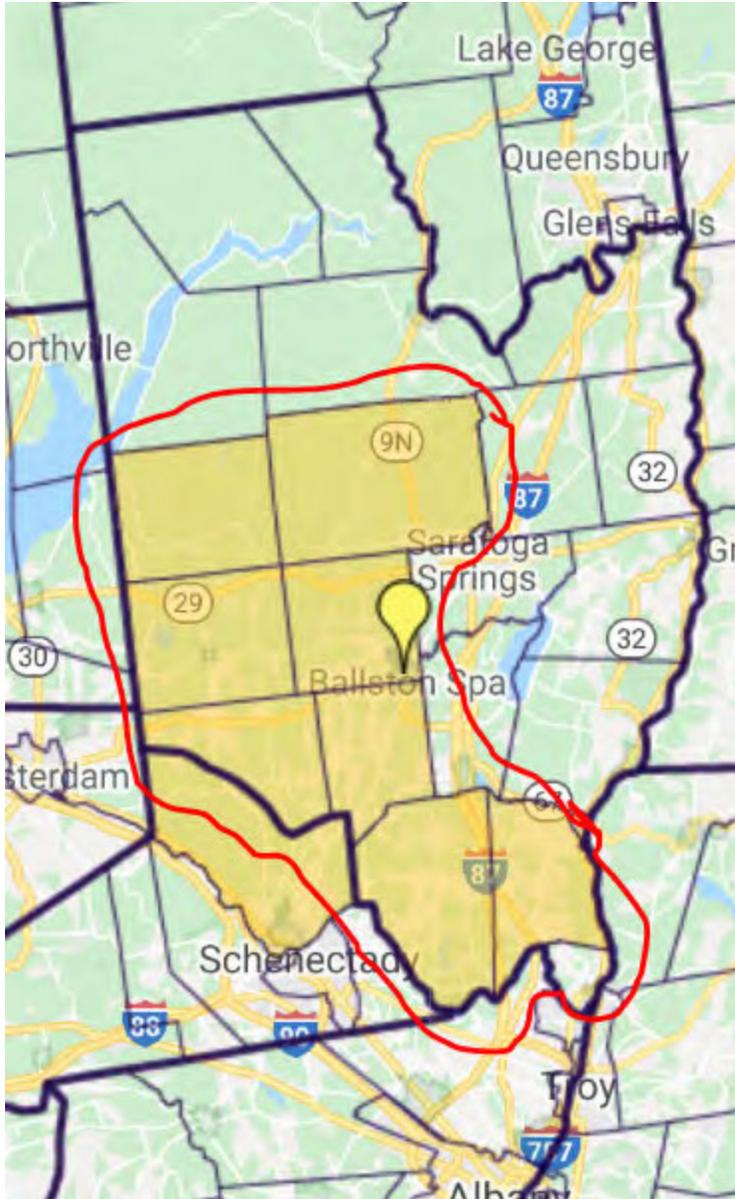
Assembly District 108 highlighted in yellow

Saratoga County section circled in red



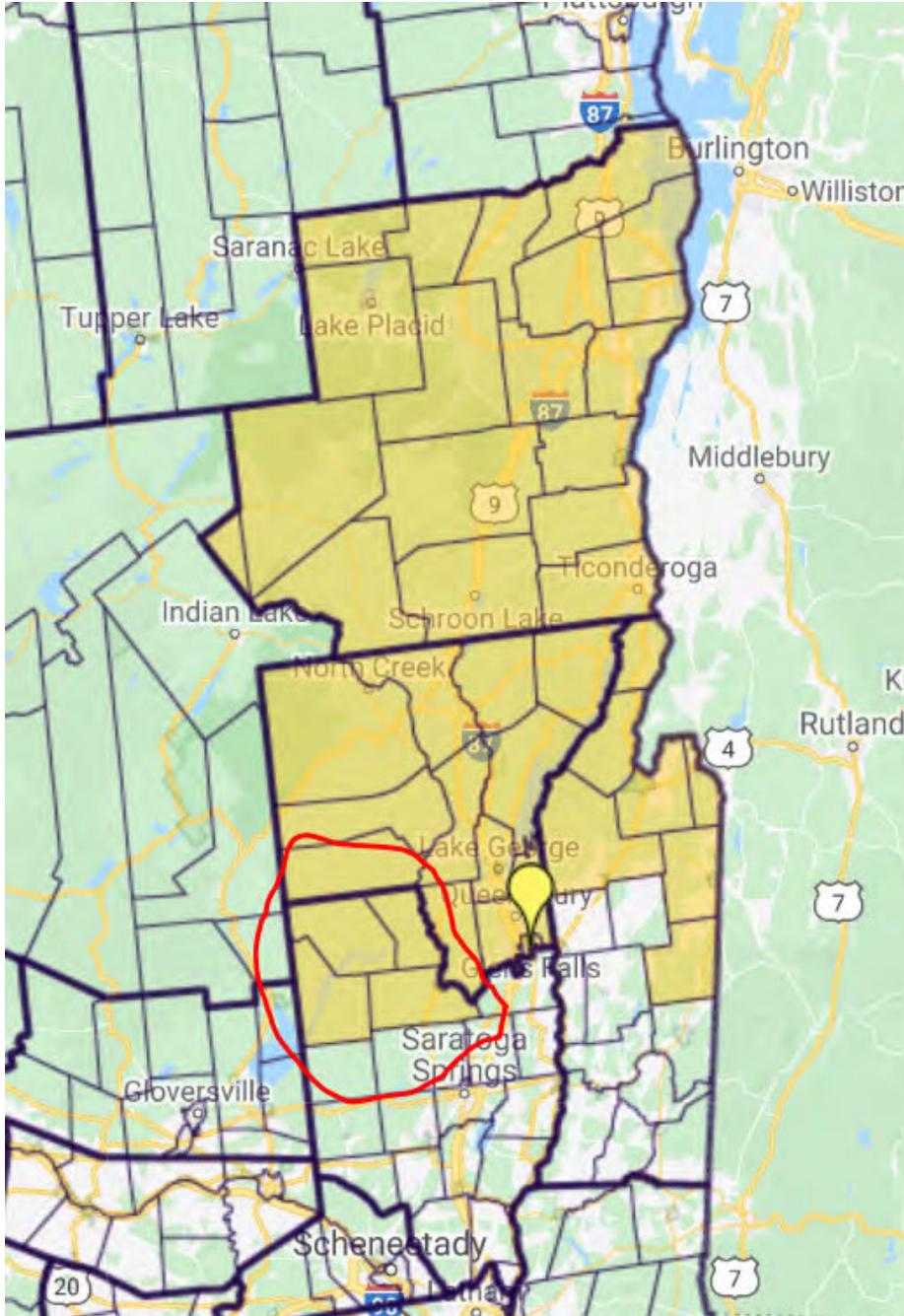
Assembly District 113
highlighted in yellow

Saratoga County section
circled in red



Assembly District 112
highlighted in yellow

Saratoga County section
circled in red



Assembly District 114 highlighted in yellow

Saratoga County section circled in red

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Sun 8/15/2021 10:44 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

As a resident of the Village of Dobbs Ferry and the Town of Greenburgh, I feel strongly that neither Towns nor Villages should be split by representation of our elected officials at the State and Federal levels. It creates confusion for voters and obstacles for our representatives, having experienced this first hand when Congressman Eliot Engel and Congresswoman Nita Lowy both represented parts of Dobbs Ferry and Greenburgh. I urge the committee to keep our Towns and Villages intact in the redistricting. Thank you.

User: Beatrice Joy Haber

Delete Comment

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Betty Berenson

I write in strong support of redistricting Scarsdale, to unite all of Scarsdale into one Congressional district. We were formerly in Nita Lowey's district, and we were redistricted into Eliot Engel's district. We are now the only Scarsdale district that is united with the Bronx, which is Jamaal Bowman's district. This places us in the awful position of not having representation in Washington.

Jamaal Bowman is a Justice Democrat, a group that is decidedly anti-Israel and anti-Semitic. Although I care about poverty, and its impact on all aspects of life, Bowman does not care about our concerns about the safety, protection, and support of our family in Israel.

I want to be in a Congressional district that truly represents my concerns and will vote for Israel's welfare. Jamaal Bowman is being advised by Linda Sarsour, a known anti-Israel liar and propagandist. He owes his election to Justice Democrats, whose reason for being is to separate the US from its alliance with Israel.

Additionally, it makes no sense that Westchester should be included in New York City. The Bronx should be part of New York City for the purpose of its representation in Congress.

Our district should be united in Mondaire Jones' district, so that all of Scarsdale is represented as one entity.

Sincerely

Betty Berenson, LCSW-R

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission,

8/02/21

As you look at ways to best meet the needs of the citizens of New York through the redistricting process, you want to consider district lines that keep a demographic of similar interests or character together. I am writing as an interested party of the rural and agricultural communities. As the lines are drawn, representation of the rural upstate and agricultural communities should have a voice through it's representation and not be combined with the more populated urban areas as they have very different needs and interests at the ground level. We need a voice that can focus on the specific issues related to rural New Yorkers. These interests include but are not limited to; rural broadband expansion, community hospitals/healthcare, jobs and the economic importance to all of New York and particularly to the rural communities is a thriving agricultural economy. This means so much to the upstate rural communities as every dollar brought into an agricultural enterprise multiplies many times over through job creation on site, through complimentary businesses, tourism attraction and ongoing investment in the farming operation itself. The importance of having representation clearly defined for upstate and agricultural communities is critically important to the diversity and strength that New York State has to offer.

Respectfully,

Bill Peck

Dairy Farmer,

Supervisor, Town of Northumberland

Saratoga County

Chairman Imamura,

I missed the capital region nyirc forum an don't have a formal testimony as well. I wanted to state that I have been active in politics for many years and with

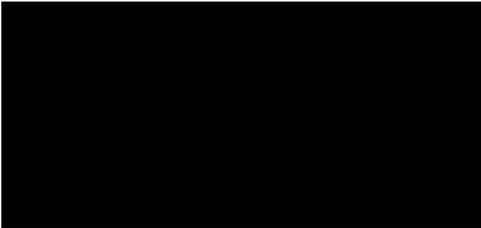
experience in the political arena would like to put a district forward for consideration for new lines to be drawn. The City of Schenectady is divided into two assembly

districts currently. The 110th and 111th. I feel that the current assemblyman Phil Steck, as a progressive best reflects the values of the people of Schenectady and would do justice to the

entire city. I hope you consider this request.

Sincerely,

Bill Purcell



Written Testimony of
Brendan Cushing

[REDACTED]
Generation Vote

Submitted to The Independent Redistricting Commission of New York State

July 31, 2021

I would like to thank the members of The Independent Redistricting Commission of New York State for the opportunity to testify and speak to the fair and equitable redraw of Congressional and State Legislature lines. My name is Brendan Cushing, I am a 24 year old SUNY Ualban graduate, and for the past six years, I have been living, organizing, and most importantly voting in the capital region of the great state of New York. With years of experience organizing young people on Congressional and state electoral campaigns, I would like to speak to the importance of redrawing district lines independently, and urge the commission to recognize and understand why Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Rensselaer, and Montgomery counties must stay together in the same Congressional district.

Firstly, I would like to highlight the importance and necessity of an independent redistricting process and congratulate the state legislature for taking the initiative to ensure that our state and Congressional district lines are drawn independently and fairly. The last time that state and Congressional districts were drawn in New York was 2010. At the time, the New York State Legislature had a direct say in the redrawing of the district lines, and the lines were drawn disproportionately and in a partisan manner. When speaking of the 2010 redistricting process, State Senator Michael Gianaris stated that the drawn lines were “grossly unfair and resulted in some of the most gerrymandered maps in the country.”¹

Traditionally, and in most states across the country, whichever party is in control of the state legislature has a grand incentive to redraw district lines in such a way that benefits the party. This is precisely why independent redistricting commissions are critical to ensuring transparency and genuine representation in our democracy. Independent redistricting commissions are a voter-centric reform used to ensure that voters — not politicians — decide how electoral districts are drawn. Several states, such as Utah, California, Iowa, Missouri, and more have implemented independent redistricting commissions, and as a result voters in the aforementioned states have

¹ Goldmacher, S. (2021, April 26). New York loses House seat after coming up 89 people short on census. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/26/nyregion/new-york-census-congress.html>.

Brendan Cushing

seen electoral districts that comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, have equal population distribution, respect geographical and political boundaries, and more.²

In addition to speaking to the importance of an independent redistricting process, I want to speak to the importance of ensuring that the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission recognizes that Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Montgomery counties fall within the same Congressional district. For starters, each of these counties are geographically cohesive - they border one another, and the socioeconomic and political conditions that affect these counties are uniform across the region.

Additionally, each of these counties are tied together economically and by dense transportation networks. Each of these counties that define the core of the capital region contain cities that are economically interconnected and reliant on one another for longevity. I grew up on Long Island but currently live in the center square neighborhood of the city of Albany, and I love my city and all that it has to offer. Nevertheless, my friends and I frequently travel to Saratoga Springs, Ballston Spa, Troy, Schenectady Amsterdam, and more locations in the capital region to try new restaurants, shop at our favorite stores, enjoy nightlife at the bars, participate in the free concerts, farmers markets, and public events that take place throughout the region, and much more. When I tell people I live in the capital region, I say it with pride - to me the capital region isn't just the city of Albany. To me, and in my experience, the capital region consists of a number of different cities and locations through the above-mentioned counties, and I couldn't fathom the region being split up into different districts.

Furthermore, each of these counties are tied together by the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) which provides readily available public transportation throughout the counties and the cities that fall within them. The CDTA was established in 1970 and provides service for more than 800,000 people who live and work in the region, transporting more than 55,000 customers each weekday.³ The extensive public transportation available to folks within the capital region is yet another example of the socioeconomic infrastructure that holds that capital region together and a clear example of why it would be devastating not to keep these counties together in the same Congressional district.

Finally, keeping these counties together with predictable, stable boundaries promotes good representation and governance. As you can surely see, the economic, social, and political conditions and needs of each of these counties overlap significantly with one another, and the

² Campaign Legal Center . (n.d.). *Independent redistricting commissions*. Campaign Legal Center. <https://campaignlegal.org/democracy/accountability/independent-redistricting-commissions>.

³ CDTA. (n.d.). *Capital district Transportation Authority*. Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA). <https://www.cdta.org/history>.

capital region as a whole deserves to be kept in the same Congressional district so that we as a region can continue to have a champion in Congress who fights day after day for our shared geographic interests.

In conclusion, I want to thank The Independent Redistricting Commission of New York State once more for the opportunity to testify, and I strongly believe and recommend that the commission recognizes that Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Montgomery counties must fall within the same Congressional district.

Thank You.

Brendan Cushing



Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Fri 7/30/2021 7:46 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Please be sure that the entire town/village of Scarsdale is in one district.

User: Carol Silverman

Delete Comment

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Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Sun 8/1/2021 11:05 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Senate d. #42 has rural Sullivan & Ulster but is more like towns in Orange. Assembly d. #98 is also spread out. Orange County's towns are splintered into FIVE DIFFERENT assembly districts! When so separated, any community strength is diluted.

User: Carole Liantonio

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My name is Chris Rio, an Ossining resident of 14 years.

My main concern is that the Ossining school district has not been fairly represented because of previous political deals and gerrymandering. For reasons we still do not understand, the Ossining school district of Westchester County falls under and is represented by the member of the the 38th Senate District, which is mostly in Rockland County. However, the 40th Senate District that borders Ossining, represents the towns to the North (Cortlandt), West (New Castle) and South (Mt. Pleasant) and appears to be a more appropriate district to fall under.

Due to the political gerrymandering and back room deals of the past, I believe Ossining has been left without a unified voice in Albany. Many of us are well aware that although Ossining has grown, as have the amount of children in our schools, we were constantly the *lowest* funded Foundation Aid schools in NYS. To this day, classrooms remain overcrowded and our children are left to struggle without thorough and proper attention.

Last year, Ossining schools finally received a significant boost in Foundation Aid but as expected, these funds are "too little and too late." Our school district is still playing "catch-up" to reach the entire state mandated level of foundation aid that we rightly deserve. Until then though, our schools will continue to suffer from overcrowding and underfunding. I strongly believe that the Ossining School District be represented by a Senator that also represents our bordering schools districts.

Clay Boone- Orange County Right to Life

Orange County Right to Life
P.O. Box 51, Washingtonville, NY



Our Mid-Hudson region encompasses a wide range of cultures and economically diverse backgrounds. Our region is interconnected and spans across demographics of economic, environmental, and jointly shared values.

To the west of the Hudson, Orange County shares more with its fellow counties west of the river. The economic differences from east to west of the Hudson have vast differences and few shared interests. With a common identity and shared values, Orange County should not collectively vote for and be represented by differing values or interests that are not aligned with our own. From Orange County, heading north would be the fairest way to adjoin neighboring communities with similar ideals.

As the population of Orange County expands, representation of shared interests will be important to allow this community to thrive. As there is a push for lines to be drawn that will align communities for fair representation, Orange County should join in a district with similar communities such as Sullivan County and northern Rockland County, like Stony Point.

Mid Hudson areas are rural. They should not be combined with areas like Westchester which range from suburban to urban areas. I believe it is important that rural communities remain as one, ensuring their concerns are listened to and respected.

Clay Boone

President Orange County Right to Life

August 2, 2012

To: The NYIRC:

As a citizen of Peekskill, NY, I urge the commission to consider the importance of preserving the voice and needs of our community as you prepare your recommendations for redistricting.

According to the criteria established by the Commission - contiguity, compactness and community of interest -, Peekskill deserves to be kept intact as a community. The city occupies just 4.5 square miles and is a demographically diverse community that shares social and economic interests. The economic and racial make-up of the city is similar to communities to our south, such as Ossining, as well as the whole of Rockland County. The most recent Census data supports the view that, as a community, we have much more in common with our neighbors in the current 17th Congressional district as compared to communities to our north.

Please preserve our political voice!

Connie L. Lobur, Ph.D

[REDACTED]

Peekskill, NY 10566

[REDACTED]

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Thank you for having this hearing on the redistricting process. My name is Dana Hollis.

The partisan gerrymandering of the Ossining School District has significantly reduced the rights of New Yorkers to be fairly represented. The Ossining school district is currently split between about 70% in SD38 and 30% in SD40. For years, the district was split between members of different parties, significantly reducing the power of the school district to have a unified voice. Moreover, while the district is now represented by two members of the same party, there is still a big difference between the interests of Ossining school district and the rest of the two senate districts. On the one hand, SD40 contains the towns to the North (Cortlandt), West (New Castle) and South (Mt. Pleasant)—all of which have are in Westchester County. More preciously, SD40 also has Peekskill School District and the Sleepy Hollow School District, both of which have similar demographics as Ossining Schools. On the other hand, SD38 is all in Rockland County (except Ossining) and is only connected by leaving SD38, driving through SD40 AND SD35 before taking the Mario Cuomo bridge to reenter SD38. The focus of SD38 as it pertains to education rest by and large with issues seen at the Ramapo School District regarding ongoing differences between the Orthodox Jewish Community and black and Latino students. While this is an important conversation to have, it is much different than the issues facing Ossining School District.

It is imperative that the Ossining School District be represented by one Senator so that we can have a unified voice. Moreover, it only makes sense that the district be represented by the same Senator representing the surrounding towns and more similar demographics. Therefore, I respectfully request that all of Ossining schools be represented by SD40.



**Testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission Submitted on
Behalf of the Engineers Labor-Employee Cooperative ELEC 825**

July 30, 2021

Good afternoon. My name is Daniel Ortega, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Engineers Labor-Employee Cooperative (ELEC 825) in my capacity as Community Affairs Representative. Collectively our membership represents around 8200 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825 and over 1000 signatory contractors. Our territory covers five counties in the State of New York (Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Delaware) and the State of New Jersey.

For more than three years and with the cooperation and support of more than 200 labor, business, environmental, and civic organizations, we have been advocating and continuing our commitment to the expansion of Route 17 in Orange and Sullivan Counties.

Our organization believes that the expansion of route 17 will bring immeasurable benefits to Orange and Sullivan counties and the surrounding Hudson Valley/Catskills region. Economically this project will help to increase tourism while enhancing commuter safety and better protecting our environment.

ELEC 825 believes there is an important synergy between these two counties and it will best support our efforts if the Commission acts to keep the legislative districts as close as they currently are as possible. Our members live and work in these counties. Additionally, our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level.

The continuity of these communities is critical to our success because these are two counties that would be most heavily impacted by the project and our elected officials in those counties are strongly supportive of and are well educated on our efforts. Changes would be counterproductive and force us to have to start over.

We believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to our organization's concerns and intimately understand our needs. Dividing Sullivan and Orange counties would alter this landscape for the worse and negatively impact our members and place significant state goals at risk. We ask that the Commission to consider all of this in its important deliberations.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing us to submit testimony. I again ask that you consider the needs of our community, so we can continue to have adequate and fair representation for us in the State Legislature.

Respectfully,

Daniel Ortega
Community Affairs

Engineers Labor-Employer Cooperative

Wawayanda, NY 10958

<http://www.elec825.org>

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you. My name is Deborah Porder. I have lived in Scarsdale for 27 years, since 1994. I am registered to vote in ED 14.

I am a retired attorney and spend a lot of time on grassroots activism, particularly as it relates to election reform, an interest that I have had since I joined the NY Democratic Lawyers Council in 2004.

Scarsdale's congressional representation is divided in a way that does not serve its constituents well. All of Scarsdale except for one ED is in CD 16. Only one ED, ED 19, is in CD 17. This configuration dilutes Scarsdale's political power. At the County level, in the State Assembly and in the State Senate, Scarsdale has a single representative. This makes sense. Scarsdale has a population of approximately 17,000 in 5,500 households. We are a small community that should have only one representative, if we are to maximize our political impact.

CD 16, as presently configured, combines Scarsdale with urban communities in the Bronx that are not our immediate neighbors and with which we have little in common. We have much more in common with suburban areas in Westchester, such as Edgemont, Larchmont, Ardsley, Hastings-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Chappaqua, Armonk, and Pleasantville. These areas are socio-economically and culturally similar to Scarsdale, whereas the Bronx is not. These communities have similar standards of living, high educational levels, small school districts, liberal views on social and cultural issues, and shared commuter transit via MetroNorth.

Scarsdale residents have much more interaction with contiguous areas like White Plains, where many residents work, worship, shop, receive their medical care, go to the movies, play golf and tennis, go to restaurants, get their hair done and belong to sports clubs. As a general rule, we do not go to the Bronx for any of these things.

The activist community with which I work in Westchester is united and thriving. We work as one on many issues of importance to the Westchester Community, including the environment, voting rights, taxation, education funding, criminal justice, immigration and social justice. The activists all know each other and are in constant communication to organize and to influence our representatives.

In sum, I ask that you put all of Scarsdale in one congressional district that is made up of Westchester communities with similar concerns and outlooks.

Submitted by Deborah Porder, Lead Organizer for Indivisible Scarsdale, Co-Chair of the Indivisible Westchester Elections Committee, Member of the Election Integrity Committee of NYCD16 Indivisible, Member of NY Democratic Lawyers Council

[REDACTED] Scarsdale, NY 10583
[REDACTED]

Westchester written comment

Ahsia Badi <badia@nyirc.gov>

Thu 8/5/2021 9:57 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diane Torstrup <

Date: Thu, Aug 5, 2021 at 9:58 AM

Subject: Changes

To: David Imamura <david.imamura@gmail.com>

As a resident of Greenburgh and a community activist I, feel, all of Greenburgh should be one Congressional District. At the present, we are divided. If we were united our state and local representatives would align. A whole Greenburgh would enable the activist community to work together for common goals that affect all of our residents. The fact that there are two districts impacts voters,too. It leads to confusion as to to who they get to vote for.

I would, also , like to see Greenburgh reunited with North Yonkers in the NYS assembly district. Greenburgh has more in common with No Yonkers then with Mt Pleasant as to population and needs.

Sent from my iPad

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Fri 8/13/2021 2:05 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

The Towns of Olive and Rochester should be in the 46th district of the Upper State Senate, not the 51st. The 51st is too much part of Central New York. Our needs here in Ulster County are much more aligned with the Hudson Valley. Thanks, Doug McGilvray
Olivebridge, NY

User: Douglas McGilvray [REDACTED]

Delete Comment

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This e-mail has been automatically generated

From: [New York State Independent Redistricting Commission](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Comment has been submitted
Date: Sunday, August 15, 2021 11:07:05 AM

Edward Lachterman

Edward Lachterman

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

I am a member of the Town Board in Yorktown, Westchester County. I was first elected to the Town Board in 2015. I am a small business owner, a board member of the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce, a charter member of the Yorktown Sons of the American Legion Squadron 1009 and past-president of the Yorktown Lions. I am writing to encourage the Independent Redistricting Commission to ensure that Yorktown and the rest of northern Westchester are included in state legislative and congressional districts with other towns that have similar issues and economic and social concerns.

In many ways, Yorktown and the towns in northern Westchester and southern Putnam counties that surround it deal with many of the same challenges. We are a broad community of interest and the elected leaders in each town are focused on protecting the suburban character of our neighborhoods and our high quality of life, easing the burden on local property taxpayers, creating desirable jobs for residents and their children and preserving the beauty of our local environment.

From mass transportation to health care, the resident of northern Westchester and Putnam counties have similar experiences. And these experiences inform the priorities that we share. To address the challenges facing our area, we need unified voices in the New York State Assembly, New York State Senate and in the U.S. House of Representatives. We are a single community of interest and by ensuring we speak with a unified voice, our concerns will be heard.

In Congress, Yorktown and the northern Westchester towns to its west are connected with southern Westchester and Rockland counties,

while the northern Westchester towns to its east are connected with Putnam and southern Dutchess counties. Clearly, Yorktown and its residents have more in common with Somers and Putnam County, than with Yonkers and Rockland County. I ask the Commission to correct this flaw in the existing congressional map. In the State Senate, Yorktown and most of northern Westchester are connected with a portion of Putnam and southern Dutchess counties in Senate District 40. Regardless of whether this district is being represented by a Democrat or a Republican, the communities that it includes have common priorities, which helps ensure our voice is heard.

In the State Assembly, Yorktown and Somers are connected with eastern Putnam County in District 94, while the northern Westchester towns to our west are connected with western Putnam County in District 95. I believe the current construction of Assembly District 94 works well for Yorktown and I encourage the commission to preserve it.

As an elected official and small business owner, I thank the commission for the opportunity to submit this information and I hope the commission does its best to ensure our regional community of interest is well served in the state legislature and Congress.

User: Edward Lachterman

Delete Comment

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Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Tue 8/3/2021 11:39 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

As a longtime resident of Larchmont, I want our sound shore area to be together in District 17 and not be lumped with the Bronx which has different concerns.

User: Elizabeth Rosenthal

Delete Comment

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New York State Independent Redistricting Commission - testimony submission without attending a meeting

Liz Ward <[REDACTED]>

Sun 8/15/2021 7:30 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Dear members of the commission,

I am Elizabeth Ward, a resident of Larchmont NY (town of Mamaroneck, zip 10538 aka NY senate district 37, NY assembly district 91 and NY congressional district 16) since 1999. I am a mother of two young adult children who attended the Mamaroneck Public Schools, I am a psychologist working in a private school in NYC and I am a community activist, very determined to help to make our community and state a better place for all. Thank you for considering my statement as you make decisions regarding how to proceed with NYS redistricting.

It is my understanding that a government representative (state or federal) can best advocate for communities with shared common characteristics and needs. Thus, I urge the commission to prioritize drawing district lines that consider the needs of my community and those surrounding me... Specifically, Larchmont is a part of the sound shore in Westchester county. The Westchester Sound Shore communities from Pelham to Port Chester all face the Long Island Sound and have similar issues, including shoreline infrastructure, water quality, flooding, storm resilience, and recreation. In addition, Westchester is a suburban community with common services, common highways, a common transportation system (Bee line busses and Metro-North), common emergency management, similarly structured school systems, and its own county government. In contrast, NYC is an enormous community with many different structures and systems from those in Westchester. Placing Westchester and NYC communities together into one district (as is currently the case for my congressional district) places a burden on representatives who must navigate two entirely separate systems of governance and services and it puts all designated communities at a disadvantage. I hope that the commission will effectively address the needs of my community and all communities in NYS as the district lines are evaluated and changed when needed so that all New Yorkers will have the most efficient and focused representation possible as there are so many complex and urgent issues to address. Thank you again for considering my input.

Sincerely, Liz Ward

--

Liz Ward

[REDACTED]
Elizabeth R. Ward, Ph.D.

- Gender pronouns: she/her/hers [what's this?](#)

Dear Chairman Imamura and Members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission,

As a former Councilperson in the Town of Greenburgh and soon to be elected as an uncontested candidate to again serve in that capacity in November, I would like to express my concerns regarding redistricting in my town.

At a projected population of 93,000 people, Greenburgh is the second largest municipality in all of Westchester County, a county of 1,004,457 people. It is made up of six (6) villages and at least six (6) assorted hamlets/neighborhoods.

As a 22-year resident, first in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and more recently, as a resident of Unincorporated Greenburgh, I have seen the Town carved up into two separate US Congressional Districts in a couple of ways. The current iteration has Hastings-on Hudson, Ardsley and the Edgemont neighborhood in Congressional District 16 while Congressional District 17 includes Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Tarrytown, Elmsford and a good portion of Hartsdale.

The whole of Greenburgh has one State Senator (State SD 35) and one State Assemblyman (State AD 92), along with two County Legislators. Each of the County Legislative districts (5 and 12) are divided into each of the two (2) US Congressional Districts.

Because each of the two Congressional Districts extend beyond the confines of Greenburgh not only into other municipal districts in Westchester, but into other Counties as well; CD 16 into Bronx County (Map1) and CD 17 into Rockland County (Map2), representation is further complicated and unified goals for our not so small town more difficult to attain. In each case, the portions of Greenburgh in each district are bordered by more populous areas in other counties, which conceivably dilute the bifurcated importance of each of its sections.

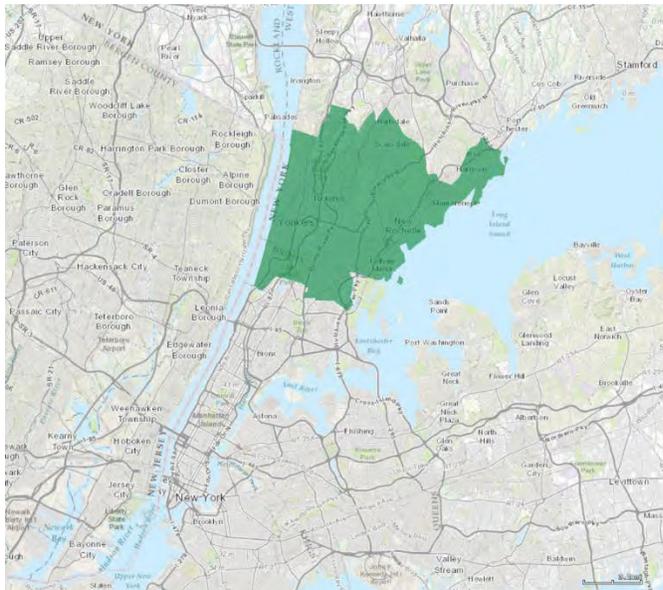
Further, the aspects of the Bronx as a New York City Borough, are very different from that of Greenburgh –most especially in density and representation at other levels of government. As such, I would argue that it would be most beneficial for Greenburgh to be unified within CD17.

Greenburgh in and of itself is very diverse. One of my goals as a presumptive elected official, is to more closely unify its villages and its unincorporated area which is its own challenge. This is further complicated by not having aligned Federal, State and County representation thereby impacting effective representation and failing to serve Greenburgh most effectively. I ask that on behalf of Greenburgh's residents that the Commission recommend the unification of Greenburgh and include it in Congressional District 17. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ellen P. Hendrickx

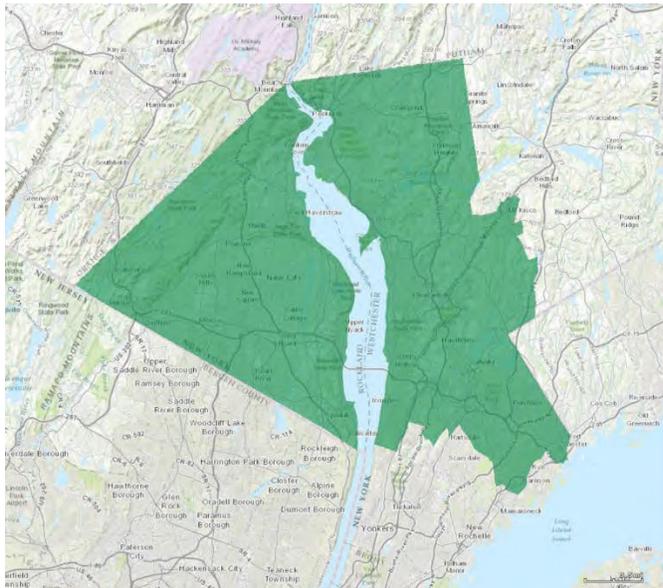
New York State Redistricting
Statement by Ellen Hendrickx
Greenburgh, NY
Page | 2



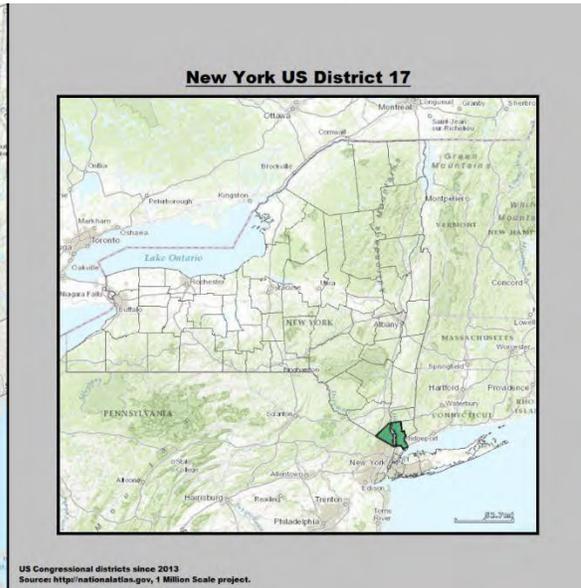
Map 1 – CD-16



US Congressional districts since 2013
Source: <http://nationalatlas.gov>, 1 Million Scale project.



Map 2 – CD17



US Congressional districts since 2013
Source: <http://nationalatlas.gov>, 1 Million Scale project.

Map Submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Sun 8/15/2021 2:05 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Submitted Map

- **First Name:** Gavin
- **Last Name:** Trautman
- **Email:** [REDACTED]
- **Description:** My name is Gavin Trautman and I am a student from Rensselaer County, NY. I created a congressional map proposal based on my lifelong experience with communities of interest in New York. In creating this map, I also prioritized compactness, competitiveness and minority representation. Each district is within 1,000 people of optimal and can be easily edited to create an exact population split. I hope that the commission may find my proposal helpful in drawing the boundaries for congressional districts in the coming weeks.
- **Map File:** [Link to Map File](#)

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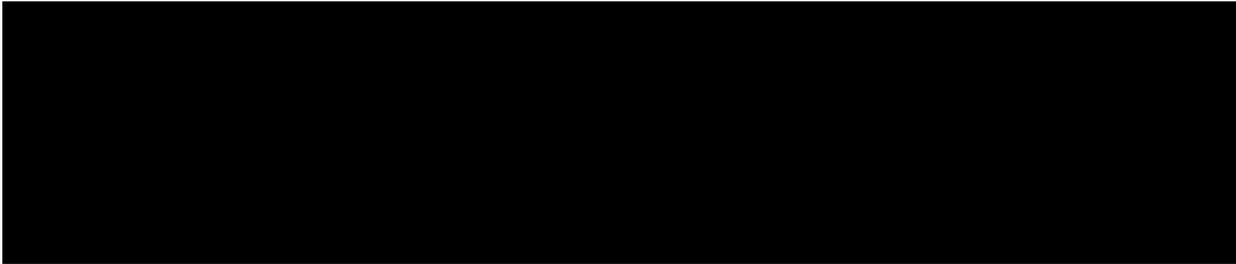
Westchester Congressional District

Gerald Kolbert <gmkolbert@gmail.com>

Mon 8/16/2021 9:30 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

I would like to recommend that Westchester County be considered as one Congressional District. Our interests differ from those of our neighbors in the Bronx and Suffolk County. Our transportation, flooding issues, our tax base, and so many other issues are unique to Westchester. It makes sense to make our County one district. If this is not possible, certainly the Long Island Sound shore communities should be in the same district



Israel Weinstock

I'm writing to the Independent Redistricting Commission to ask that you consider the massive growth in the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community during the last decade as you draft new district lines for the state legislature and congress.

From Rockland County to Orange County and Sullivan County, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community now includes hundreds of thousands of local residents who share the same conservative values, as well as economic and social concerns.

As our community has grown in Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties, it has also become more interconnected. From the businesses that serve our community to health care and social services organizations and our houses of worship, the degree to which the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community has become connected has never been greater.

These economic and societal connections have produced one large community of interest that deserves to have a unified voice in congress and to have that voice empowered in the State Senate and State Assembly.

Right now, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community is divided between three different congressional districts, with no one truly speaking on our behalf and representing our point of view.

In Sullivan County, we have a strong voice in the State Senate and we share conservative values with the rest of the existing 42nd Senate District. Throughout the region, we could build on this foundation in the state legislature by consolidating our community into fewer districts.

The state constitution requires state legislative and congressional districts to be drawn so that "minority language groups do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice."

Given the growth of the Orthodox Jewish community in the Hudson Valley, I believe very strongly that the commission has an obligation to strengthen our voice in Albany and Washington, D.C.

Respectfully

Israel Weinstock



White lake NY 12786

Dear commission

Isaac Hirsch

While drawing the new state and congressional legislative map of the Hudson Valley please consider our community best interest

From Rockland County to Orange County and Sullivan County, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community now includes hundreds of thousands of local residents who share the same values our community has grown in Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties, it has also become more interconnected. From the businesses that serve our community to health care and social services organizations and our houses of worship.

These connections have produced one large community of interest that deserves to have a unified voice in congress and to have that voice empowered in the State Senate and State Assembly.

Right now, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community is divided between three different congressional districts, with no one truly speaking on our behalf and representing our point of view.

In Sullivan County, we have a strong voice in the State Senate and we share conservative values with the rest of the existing 42nd Senate District. Throughout the region, we could build on this foundation in the state legislature by consolidating our community into fewer districts.

The state constitution requires state legislative and congressional districts to be drawn so that "minority language groups do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice."

Given the growth of the Orthodox Jewish community in the Hudson Valley, I believe very strongly that the commission has an obligation to strengthen our community ties to make sure we're represented fairly.

Thanks

Issac Hirsch


White Lake NY

FW: Today's meeting

Ahsia Badi <badia@nyirc.gov>

Tue 8/24/2021 6:34 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

From: Jay Forbes [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 2:37 PM

To: David Imamura <imamurad@nyirc.gov>

Subject: Today's meeting

David: I signed up to attend and speak today but never received a link to the meeting and was told the same by several people who also seemed to have difficulty signing on.

Speaking as a resident of Peekskill, here is my statement:

Basically, for reasons of "**compactness**", i.e. constituents within a district should live as near to one another as practicable... and "**community of interest**" i.e. a group of people in a given geographical area, region or neighborhood who share common political, social and/or economic interests, I am **strongly advocating for keeping Peekskill as one district for Congressional, State Assembly and State Senate seats.**

We are, in fact, a compact 4.5 sq. mile city with 24,000 citizens, a rich demographic diversity of Hispanic, Caucasian and African American constituents and unified as an entity with shared social and economic commonality and interests. In fact, 95% of our youth attend school in just one school district.

Lastly, given the strong hand of political expediency distorting redistricting throughout the country and weaponizing this "democratic process", I plead with the IRC to make its recommendations reflect, as best they can, a fair and just bipartisan set of recommendations that favor all constituents within NYS.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jay Forbes

[REDACTED]
Peekskill, NY 10566

August 2, 2021



To the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission. I am a former mayor of Ardsley, NY in Westchester County. Please note the views expressed here are solely my own.

Ardsley is one of six incorporated villages that together along with the unincorporated portion of the town comprise the Town of Greenburgh. Prior to 2011, Ardsley was included in the same Congressional District as the rest of Greenburgh. After the 2010 census, Ardsley and Hastings-on-Hudson were moved into the 16th District, while the rest of the Town remained in the 17th. I recommend that Ardsley and Hastings be included within the same District as the rest of the Town of Greenburgh, particularly with the other four villages.

During my tenure as mayor I was a founding member of the Village Officials Committee, which was comprised of the mayors and managers of the six Greenburgh villages. Later we were joined by council members of the Greenburgh Town Board. We worked together to find opportunities for joint ventures, shared services, mutual grant applications, and other issues of mutual interest to all of us. We discovered we had many priorities in common, and it was to all of our benefit to work collectively to reach these goals than to unilaterally attempt them on our own. At times these efforts included lobbying of our state and federal legislators.

All of Greenburgh is included in the same State Senate and State Assembly Districts. However, that is no longer the case with our Congressional District. Once Hastings and Ardsley were moved, it prevented Greenburgh from lobbying a common Congressperson. It diluted the collective voice of our municipalities, since we now had to split and approach two separate Congresspersons, with each group representing fewer residents than when they were districted together. This was particularly true for Hastings and Ardsley, whose populations together number only 13,000 residents, about 14% of the Town.

Additionally, Ardsley's issues and priorities are most closely aligned with the Town and its sister villages rather than with other municipalities in the 16th, such as the cities of Yonkers, Mount Vernon or the Bronx, or more affluent suburban towns, such as Scarsdale or Bronxville. This further isolates Ardsley, since with its influence diluted, it can no longer approach its Representative in concert with colleagues from municipalities it is most closely aligned with.

When Ardsley was districted together with the rest of the Town, our Representative was a regular and visible presence in our village. She came to major events and even appeared on occasion at our village board meetings. Since switching to the 16th District ten years ago, our Representative visited Ardsley only once, during a hotly contested 2020 primary. It appears

Jay Leon

Ardsley likely received more frequent and fair attention from its Representative when it was included with the rest of Greenburgh.

Even if Ardsley's Representative was more visible by visiting larger nearby communities such as Dobbs Ferry or unincorporated Greenburgh rather than Ardsley proper, its Representative would be more accessible to Ardsley residents than if s/he focused official visits on even larger communities 10-15 miles to its south or west, which is what is occurring now with our village located in the 16th District.

In the interest of community unity, retaining municipal boundaries and providing our small village with more access to its Representative, please consider including Ardsley in the same Congressional District along with all of Greenburgh. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Jay Leon
Former Mayor, Ardsley, NY

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Mon 8/2/2021 2:34 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Sorry, can't attend the meeting today. As a resident of Rye Neck, I request that Town of Rye and Town of Mamaroneck remain in the same district. Village of Mamaroneck is partially in both Towns, and has an unincorporated portion as well.

User: Jeanhee Chung

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Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Mon 8/2/2021 2:36 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

More on the subject of putting Towns of Rye and Mamaroneck in different districts: residents share the same transit stations, shopping, schools, and interests. They should remain together. The overlapping municipalities are confusing enough!

User: Jeanhee Chung

Delete Comment

Ban User from Future Comments

This e-mail has been automatically generated

August 14, 2021

Jenny Geer

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding redistricting in New York State.

I am a 30-year resident of Larchmont, NY in Westchester County. I reside in Congressional District 16.

I propose two changes to Congressional districting for my community:

- 1) **Reunite Westchester into a single district separate from NYC.** (My district is split between the Bronx and Westchester.)
- 2) If this is not possible, **keep the Long Island Sound Shore communities together from Pelham through Port Chester.** (Port Chester is currently cut off from the rest of the Sound Shore communities.)

Here are my reasons:

- 1) **Reunite Westchester into a single district separate from NYC.**
 - After the 2010 Census, my district, which had been an all-Westchester district represented by Nita Lowey, was split off from a significant portion of Westchester and combined with the Bronx district of Eliot Engel.
 - Although Rep. Engel did what he could to respond to the needs of his Westchester constituents, there are so many differences between Westchester and the Bronx/NYC that it doesn't seem sensible to have put them together into one district. Both the NYC and Westchester portions of CD 16 would be better served by separating them.
 - Westchester is a suburban community with common services, common highways, a common transportation system (Bee line busses and Metro-North), common emergency management, similarly structured school systems, and its own county government.
 - By contrast, NYC is an enormous urban community with many different structures and systems from those in Westchester. Although Westchester does have cities and municipal governments, they are not nearly so complex as in NYC, and are also served by the County.
 - Placing Westchester and NYC communities together into one district places a burden on representatives who must navigate two entirely separate systems of governance and services.
 - Here are some more differences between Westchester and NYC to illustrate why putting them together doesn't make sense:
 - Transportation: WC has Metro-North, NYC has MTA
 - School Governance: WC has local school boards, NYC has City Bd. of Ed

Jenny Geer

- Taxation Systems: WC has property tax, NYC has income tax
- Electrical Grid: WC has overhead wires, NYC has underground
- Boards of Elections: WC has county board, NYC is city-wide
- Transit vs. Cars: WC cities have car-culture, NYC is public transit dominated

2) If this is not possible, **keep the Long Island Sound Shore communities together from Pelham through Port Chester.** (Port Chester is currently cut off from the rest of the Sound Shore communities.)

- Westchester Sound Shore communities from Pelham to Port Chester (and including my village of Larchmont) all face the Long Island Sound and have similar issues, including shoreline infrastructure, water pollution, flooding, storm resilience, and recreation.
- These communities should be kept together to enable their representative to advocate for the challenges that they face, especially in light of increasing challenges from climate change.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on this process. I look forward to seeing the draft maps in September.

Sincerely,

Jenny Geer

[Redacted]

Larchmont, NY 10538

[Redacted]

Joel E. Gingold

[REDACTED]
Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
[REDACTED]

TESTIMONY FOR NYS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

My name is Joel Gingold. I live at [REDACTED] in Croton-on-Hudson, NY, 10520. I very much appreciate this opportunity to present my thoughts to the Independent Redistricting Commission. I do want to make it clear at the outset that I speak only for myself and not for any organization.

From the time I first registered to vote in 1959, I have been a strong and enthusiastic advocate of impartial, non-partisan redistricting. I applauded former New York City Mayor Ed Koch's pre-election pledge drive some years ago, to which many of our legislators of both parties subscribed, vowing to adopt such non-partisan redistricting rules if elected. As you well know, those pledges were almost uniformly abandoned the minute the polls closed. Nonetheless, I continued my advocacy for impartial redistricting.

But that, as they say, was then, and this is now. Our nation faces an existential threat to our democratic traditions and practices. The Republican Party, still largely in thrall to Donald Trump, after largely voting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, has introduced legislation in many states—principally those with both Republican-controlled legislatures and Republican governors—to restrict voting by those who they feel will not support them, most notably the young, the poor, and communities of color.

We know very well that, when the 2020 census figures are finally released, those same Republican-controlled states will gerrymander their state and federal districts to ensure their continued control of their states and to increase, to the greatest extent possible, the number of Republicans in their congressional delegations. And the courts will be of no help, as the Supreme Court has already declined to consider the question of partisan gerrymandering. With the current composition of the Congress, the likelihood of passage of federal legislation preventing such practices is minimal, if it exists at all.

With this as background, acknowledging the dominance of Democrats in both houses of the New York legislature, and as much as it pains me, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that pragmatism must take precedence over idealism, and if the democracy we have come to rely upon is to prevail, we must abandon the concept of an impartial redistricting at this time and realign New York's congressional districts to ensure the election of as many Democrats as possible.

As New York will be losing one seat in the House of Representatives, I believe that it would be fitting to eliminate the seat currently held by Elise Stefanik, an unabashed

Joel Gingold

supporter of former President Trump and a vociferous perpetrator of Mr. Trump's "Big Lie." Ms. Stefanik's commitment to democracy is clearly non-existent and her continued service in the House will clearly be detrimental to the health of democracy in our country.

The majority's margin in the current House of Representatives is razor thin and, historically, the president's party loses seats in the mid-term election. Thus, it is imperative that the New York delegation be comprised of the maximum number of Democrats.

If every state were required to adhere to impartial redistricting, I would be the first one to support that effort. But that is not where we are today. I greatly fear that, if we stand on principle and employ a non-partisan redistricting, we will find that, in 2022, anti-democratic forces will have captured control of the House of Representatives, and our democracy will be in great danger of perishing.

Perhaps by 2030 things will have improved to the point that such independent redistricting is widely accepted. But that is not the case today. And as much as it may offend our sensibilities and run counter to our desires, we must redistrict New York to ensure that democracy will prevail.

Thank you for your attention.

Dear Independent Redistricting Commission

Joel Fied

I'm writing to the Independent Redistricting Commission to ask that you consider the massive growth in the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community during the last decade as you draft new district lines for the state legislature and congress.

From Rockland County to Orange County and Sullivan County, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community now includes hundreds of thousands of local residents who share the same conservative values, as well as economic and social concerns.

As our community has grown in Rockland, Orange and Sullivan counties, it has also become more interconnected. From the businesses that serve our community to health care and social services organizations and our houses of worship, the degree to which the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community has become connected has never been greater.

These economic and societal connections have produced one large community of interest that deserves to have a unified voice in congress and to have that voice empowered in the State Senate and State Assembly.

Right now, the Hudson Valley's Orthodox Jewish community is divided between three different congressional districts, with no one truly speaking on our behalf and representing our point of view.

In Sullivan County, we have a strong voice in the State Senate and we share conservative values with the rest of the existing 42nd Senate District. Throughout the region, we could build on this foundation in the state legislature by consolidating our community into fewer districts.

The state constitution requires state legislative and congressional districts to be drawn so that "minority language groups do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice."

Given the growth of the Orthodox Jewish community in the Hudson Valley, I believe very strongly that the commission has an obligation to strengthen our voice in Albany and Washington, D.C. please have our voice heard.

Thanks

Joel fried


Fallsburg NY

Testimony of John Nonna before New York State

I respectfully submit the following testimony based upon the Constitutional and judicially developed principles of redistricting. I live in the village of Pleasantville in the Town of Mount Pleasant in the 17th Congressional district. Immediately west and south of Mount Pleasant are portions of the Town of Greenburg which is divided between the 17th and 16th Congressional districts. To the east of Mount Pleasant is the town of North Castle, which is in the 17th Congressional district but immediately east of North Castle is the town of Rye, which is divided between the 16th and 17th Congressional districts. It would seem consistent with the principle of contiguity, preserving political subdivisions (Towns of Greenburg and Rye) and maintaining communities of interest together to include the entire Towns of Greenburg and Rye in the 17th Congressional district.

John Nonna

In addition, the City of White Plains is the major urban center of the Westchester County portion of the 17th Congressional district. It would be consistent with sound redistricting to include the communities immediately north, east and west of White Plains in the 17th Congressional district.

I believe these comments satisfy the principles of contiguity, preservation of political subdivisions, and preservation of the core of the district and communities of interest.

Respectfully submitted,

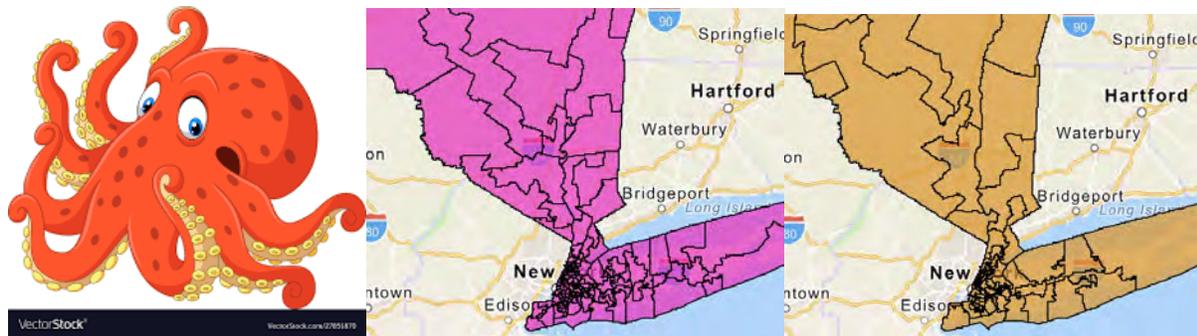
John Nonna, testifying as an individual and not in any government capacity.

Dear New York State Independent Redistricting Commission,

Thank you Commissioners for your time today. My name is Joshua Berry. I am a 22-year old who just graduated from college this May. I am a proud resident of New York's Hudson Valley, calling New Paltz in Ulster County home. I come to you today as a private citizen, sharing my own thoughts.

With my time, I hope to address a distinct concern of mine for this year's redistricting process: the excessive dilution of Ulster County's voting power in the State Senate and Assembly via many districts that are neither compact nor contiguous.

As you have likely heard, my home county, located in the heart of the Hudson Valley, currently has, what I believe to be, 4 Senate Districts--Senate District 39, 42, 51, and 46--as well as 4 Assembly Districts--including Assembly District 101, 102, 103, and 104. Notice how I said, "what I believe to be," though. That is because I am not entirely sure whether I'm missing a district somewhere. Prior to this meeting, I went to the ny.gov website to try and make sure I had included each district. But because there is such a confusing jumble of them in Ulster County, all representing different corners of my county, I can't even be 100% sure I didn't miss a district somewhere. To be honest, trying to figure out which districts include Ulster County, gave me the same feeling I have when looking at an octopus at an aquarium.



From left to right, an octopus, New York's Assembly Map focused on the mid-Hudson Valley, New York's Senate Map focused on the mid-Hudson Valley

Ulster County's current districts are neither compact nor contiguous. This is a serious issue. I am a resident of New Paltz, NY. I know I have representation via Assembly District 103 and Senate District 42. Yet, if I drive to Kingston--about 20 minutes north--or Accord--about 15 minutes west--I have no clue if they share common representation. In Ulster County, if I wanted to organize my fellow citizens around a common cause--such as perhaps advocating for broadband internet access in our rural communities--I would have to work around what I think are 4 Senate Districts and 4 Assembly districts.

Joshua Berry

This is an issue because I think Ulster County forms a pretty distinct community of interest. My dentist lives in Kingston. I go to church in Gardiner. I attended school in New Paltz. I shop at the grocery store in Modena. When I played Little League and high school sports, we mainly competed against other Ulster County towns--from Saugerties to Ellenville. Ulster County towns even have similar economies--we are rural and farm-based, but increasingly have drawn tourists from downstate and the city who want to hike in our Catskill Mountains and play in our towns that dot the Hudson River. The people of Ulster County even have similar values when it comes to the pandemic we are in. Throughout the pandemic I saw residents of my county pull together and for each other--today we have the highest vaccination rate compared to our neighboring counties with over 76.5% of our over 18 population having received at least one dose.

I know the task in front of you is difficult and there is a high likelihood that the lines you draw will not be the lines we as New Yorkers see come 2022. However, I urge the commission to use current technology--such as statistical tools that consider the Efficiency Gap--to draw your initial lines and, please, consider giving Ulster County our fair representation in both the Assembly and Senate by lowering the number of districts representing Ulster County. It would make me much less confused. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joshua Berry

My name is Kathleen Quinn and I reside at [REDACTED] in NYS Senate District 43.

I am reaching out to the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission today to ask that you consider that the state senate district line runs right through the western third of our village of about 2000 people. In dividing us from our "community of concern," district lines have diluted our voices, and made it more difficult for our whole community to seek and receive assistance from our state senators when needed.

I can assure you that Cambridge village residents in the 43rd have much more in common with the Cambridge village residents who live a block away in the 45th than we do with the other communities in our district as its currently drawn.

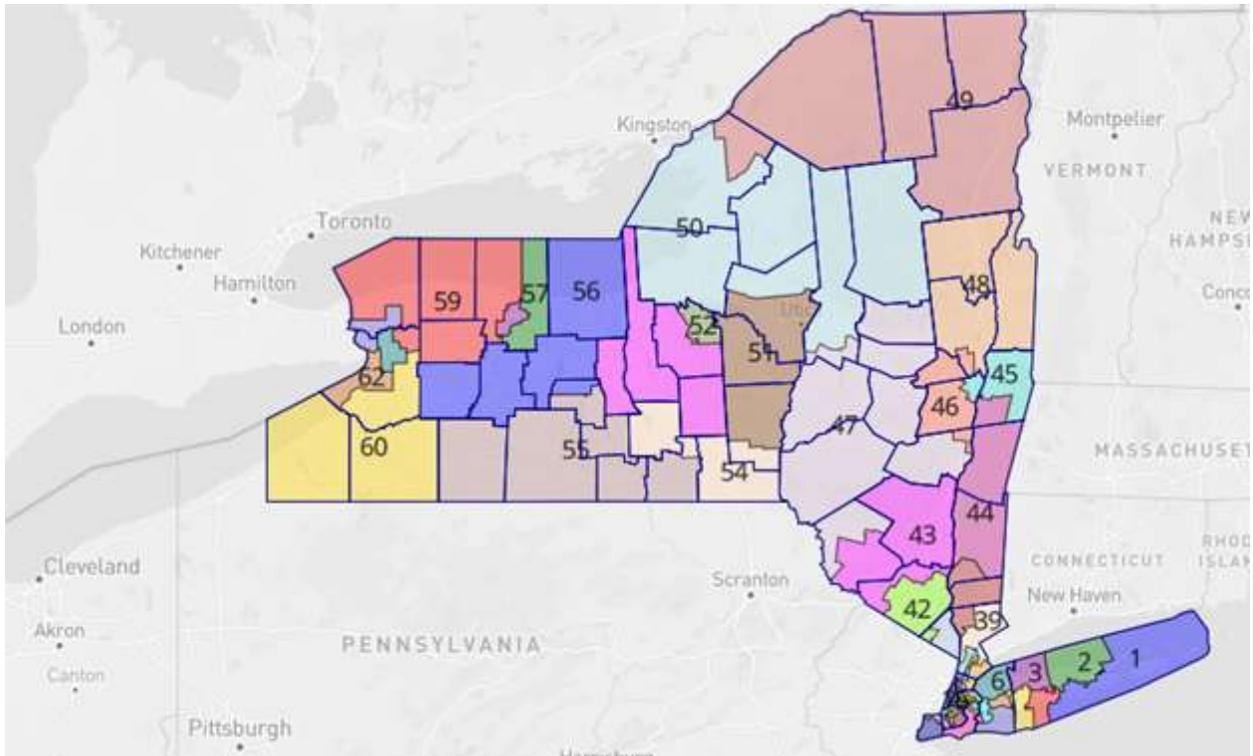
I am sure it is easier to just have the line match the town municipal boundary. This may be so, but the voters and the village as a whole bear the cost. I urge you to consider redrawing the lines of one or the other district so that the whole of the village, without question a community of concern, is in the same district.

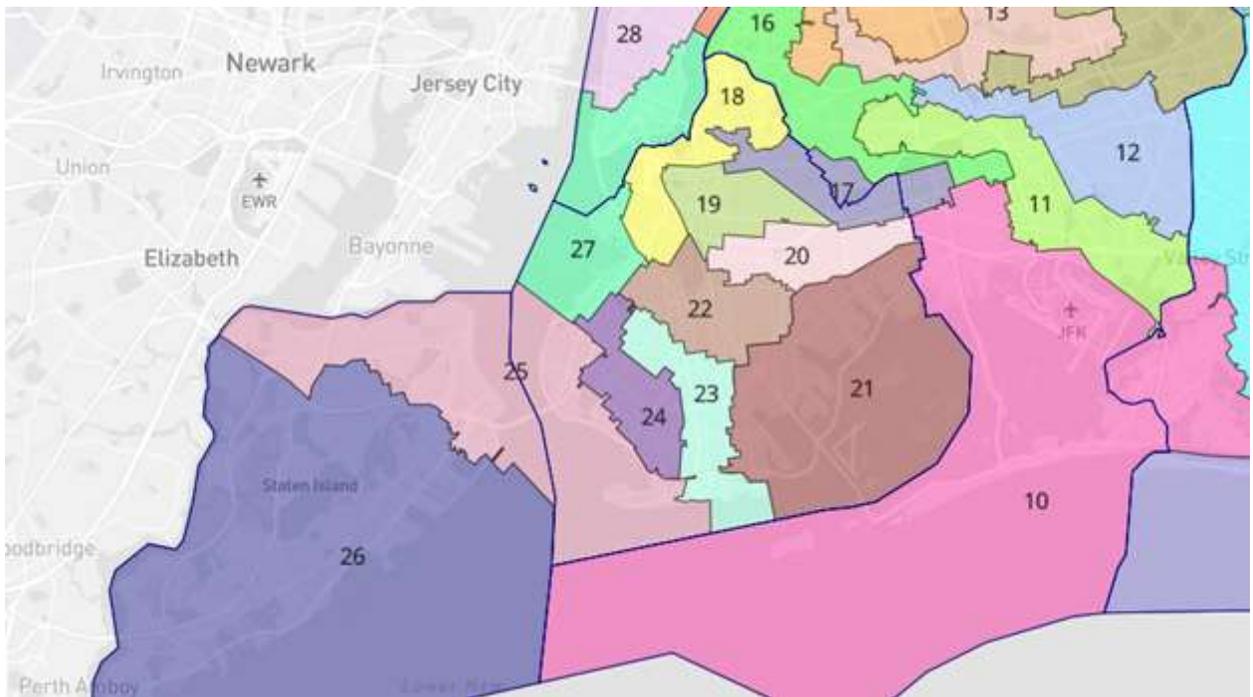
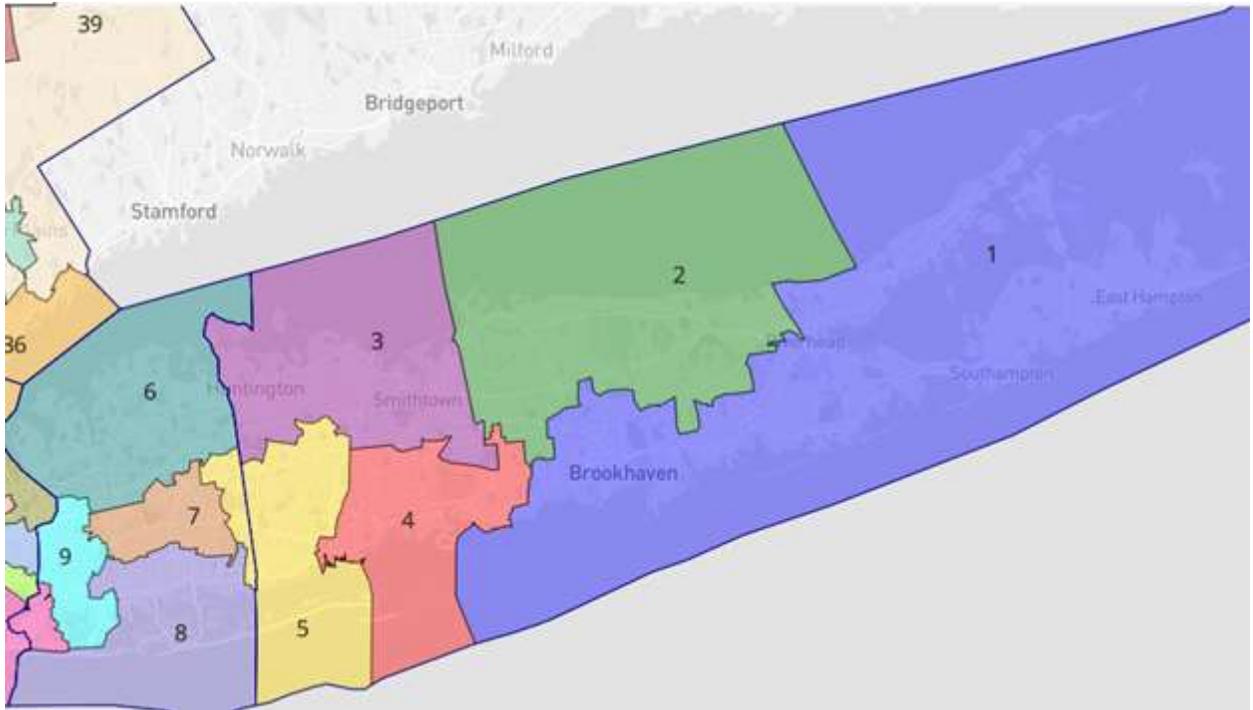
Thank you.

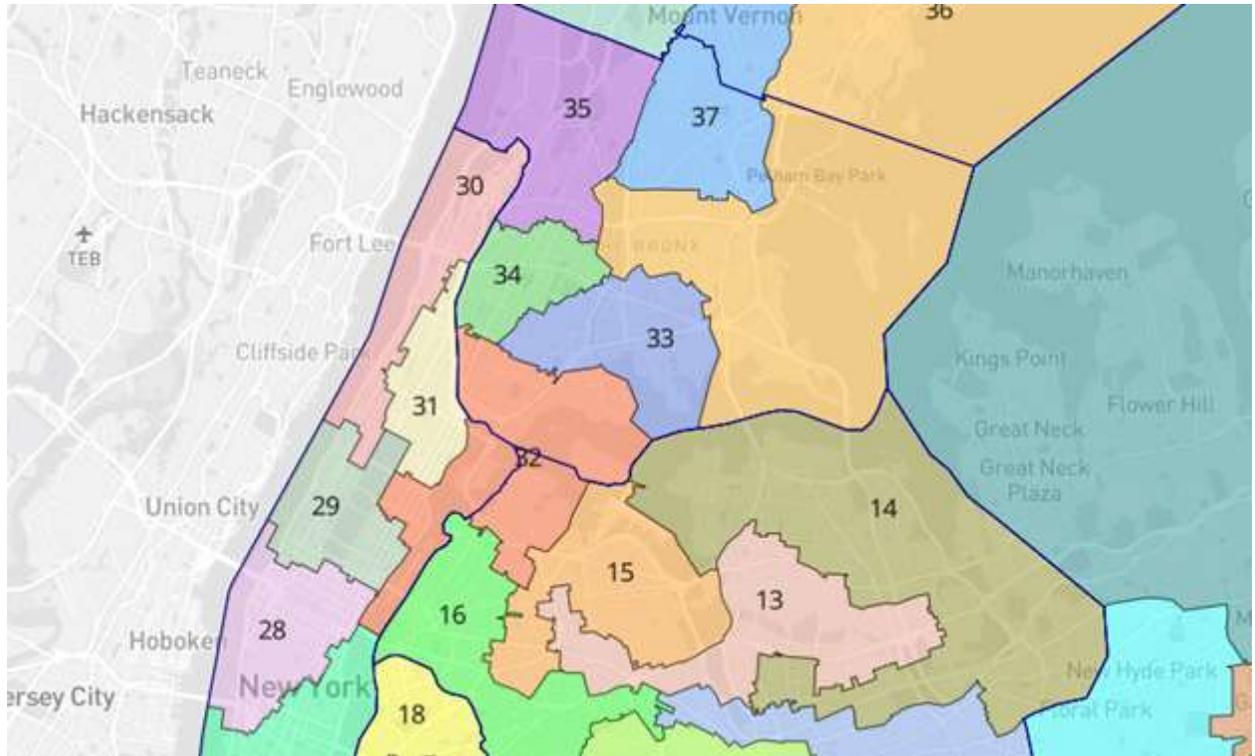
The screenshot shows a contact page for Daphne Jordan, NY Senate District 43. It includes a profile picture, name, and a "MESSAGE SENATOR" button. Below this is a "SENATE DISTRICT MAP" section. The map displays the boundary between Senate District 43 (shaded in light blue) and Senate District 45 (shaded in light green). Handwritten annotations include "my house" with an arrow pointing to a location in District 43, and large numbers "43" and "45" placed near the boundary line. Landmarks such as Cambridge Medical Center, Argyle Brewing Company, and Stewart's shops are also visible on the map.

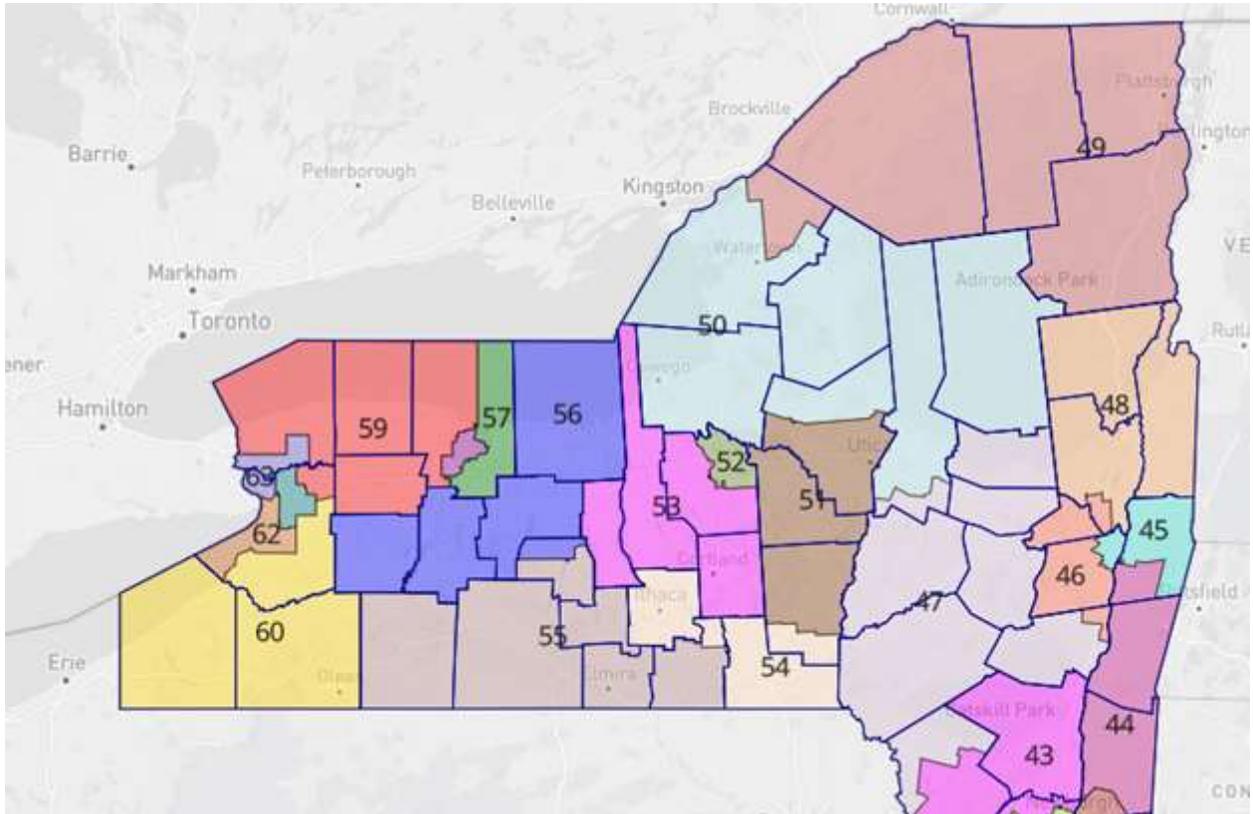
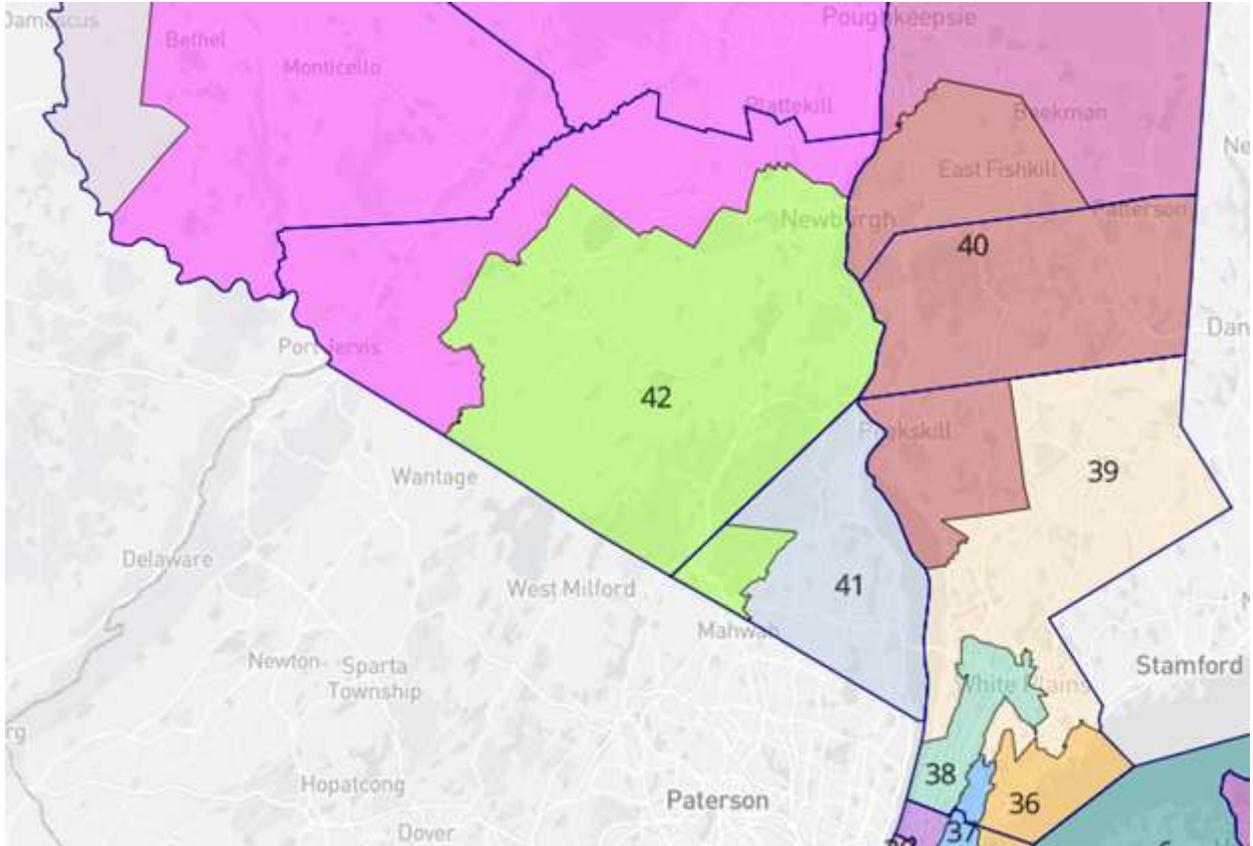
My name is Lars and I am a New Yorker from Niskayuna with an interest in redistricting. Below are my proposed congressional and state senate districts as created in Dave's Redistricting App. Under New York State Senate maps I have a picture of each district in the map and a description and justification of each district. Following the census release of county level data, I will tweak the maps to adjust for population, add a justification of the congressional district map and add a state assembly map and justification. Please note that districts were named in the order in which they were drawn and not the current districts they are most similar to. When I refer to majority minority districts, I am using the majority minority by citizen voting age population, not by total population. For my testimony I will explain the Capital Region State Senate districts on my map. Reach out to me if you have any questions or feedback for the maps.

New York State Senate Districts:









The first district begins on the easternmost part of Long Island on either side of Peconic Bay. Unlike the rest of Long Island, the north and south shores have much in common and form a community of interest together. There are not enough people to leave the district as just the bay area, so I decided to add the south coast to Patchogue region to the district as there is more in common between Patchogue and the Hampton's than there is between the Hamptons and the North shore.

The second district picks up the north coast of Long Island where the first district left off and heads towards Smithtown. It travels as far south as around the center of the island. While the voting precincts from the census do not match well with town borders on Long Island, I did my best to keep the towns intact and I recommend minimalizing town splits when creating districts.

From there I noticed that if the third district continues along the north shore going as far south as the center of Long Island, it's possible to make a district that ends exactly along the Suffolk and Nassau County lines. I prioritize keeping counties intact because most people consider their county to be their community. I was especially pleased that a district here would not split county lines and keep a community of interest together.

The fourth district can be drawn on the southern coast of Long Island just west of the first district and south of the third district. The district is ideal because it keeps the Brentwood and Islip community together. Previous versions of the district have deliberately split that community to dilute voters in that area. As an added bonus, it creates a district that is much more likely to elect minority voters that have historically underrepresented.

The rest of Suffolk County fits nicely into the fifth district. The rest of the county doesn't have enough people to support a district on their own, so I added the nearest towns in Nassau County to fill out the district. This keeps the Farmingdale and Lindenhurst communities together and is the only district splitting Nassau and Suffolk counties.

The sixth district was drawn to represent the white-collar area on the north shore of Nassau County. The district stays entirely within Nassau County, bordering Queens and Suffolk. The southernmost part of the district continues the divide created in the previous districts down the center of Long Island without splitting many towns along the way.

The seventh district was designed to represent the community of Garden City to Levittown, and keeps the central part of Nassau County together. The district follows the Hempstead turnpike as far east as the fifth district, and as far west as West Hempstead. The district could be drawn to follow the pattern of having a south coast district to the central part of the island, but in this part of Long Island the inland population and coastal populations have much more in common with other inland and coastal areas than they do with each other.

The eighth district keeps the southern Nassau community together starting from where the fifth district ended in east Nassau all the way to Long Beach. It keeps the Massapequa area together and combines that community with the Freeport community. The result is a representative district that leaves space for a final Long Island district to border New York City.

The last district that is entirely on Long Island is the ninth district. The district incorporates several towns, like Valley Stream and Elmont, that are quite similar to New York City. More than any other district on Long Island, the towns here feel more like Queens. Unfortunately, the district is not big enough to take up the rest of Long Island so a district must split between Queens and Nassau although not by much.

The first district in New York City is the tenth district. This district takes on a small part of Nassau County then covers the southernmost part of Queens from Belle Harbor all the way north to Ozone Park. It is intentionally drawn in such a way as to create a majority minority district. It does not include the heavily black neighborhoods of Rosedale, Rochdale and Jamaica so Queens can retain two majority black districts.

Directly to the north is the eleventh district. The district starts in the Rosedale neighborhood and stretches northwest towards Kew Gardens Hills and then travels west towards Glendale. The tenth is a majority Black district. It stretches west into areas of Queens where there aren't many black voters to ensure that the fourteenth and sixteenth districts remain majority minority.

The twelfth district follows the eleventh district stretching from Springfield Gardens northwest towards Hillside before heading due west towards Kew Gardens Hills. Like the eleventh district, the twelfth is a majority black district that takes on some nonblack areas so that the fourteenth and sixteenth districts remain majority minority.

The thirteenth district creates a new majority Asian district in Queens that stretches from Oakland Gardens in the east, to Elmhurst in the west. While the current district is almost majority Asian by citizen voting age population, this newly-drawn district increases the number of Asian voters so that it is greater than fifty percent Asian without significantly reducing the Asian population in the fourteenth district. It leaves enough Hispanic voters in the Jackson Heights, Woodside and Corona neighborhoods for the new fifteenth district to become majority Hispanic without entering the Bronx.

The fourteenth district remains largely unchanged, continuing to form the shape of a backwards "C" from College Point to Utopia around the thirteenth district. It stays majority minority and still includes a large Asian population despite the thirteenth taking on more Asian voters and the twelfth district taking on a lot of heavily Asian and Black precincts.

Unlike the current map, the fifteenth district creates a majority Hispanic seat that is entirely within Queens. It's able to become majority Hispanic by substituting the very white Steinway neighborhood with the more Hispanic Woodside neighborhood. Note: This forces the sixteenth district to stretch more to remain majority minority.

The sixteenth district goes from Richmond Hills in the east all the way to Long Island City and Astoria in the northwest to remain majority minority. Part of the reason it stretches so much is that the tenth district is much more compact than the current fifteenth district which leaves the white Glendale area in the sixteenth district. The seventeenth district also takes on a lot of nonwhite voters that were formerly in the sixteenth district so that the eighteenth district can become majority Hispanic.

The only district that is in both Queens and Brooklyn is the seventeenth district. The district runs from Brooklyn Manor heading northwest towards Williamsburg. The district is careful to avoid the heavily Jewish Williamsburg neighborhood as that community definitely does not belong in a majority Hispanic district. The district was able to become majority Hispanic by giving Williamsburg to the eighteenth district and taking on Hispanic neighborhoods in Queens.

The eighteenth district runs from Greenpoint in the north to Park Slope in the south hugging the East River but not crossing into Manhattan. This majority white district was drawn to enable the seventeenth district to become majority Hispanic and to create four majority black districts in

Brooklyn (compared to only three majority Black districts right now). It also allows the twenty-seventh district to become majority-minority by combining Red Hook with the Lower East Side.

The nineteenth district starts in Broadway Junction in the east and goes as far west as Clinton Hill and Prospect Heights, and creates a fourth majority black district in Brooklyn.

The twentieth district goes from the border between Queens and Brooklyn as far west as Crown Heights. Moving the district east and removing Sunset Park makes the district significantly more compact as well as significantly more black, although it already was a majority black district. (Sunset Park is picked up by the twenty fourth district allowing the district to become significantly more Asian.)

The southeastern most part of Brooklyn is the twenty-first district and remains majority black. It starts on the border following Flatlands Avenue until after the Flatlands neighborhood where it travels south to Gerritsen Beach. (The district takes on Gerritsen beach so that the twenty-fourth district can become more Asian.)

From Windsor Terrace to East Flatbush as far south as Brooklyn College is the twenty-second district. The district stays majority black and is careful to avoid the eastern European immigrant community further south because they have very different beliefs and preferences than the black voters in the twenty-second district.

Much of the current seventeenth district is in the new twenty-third district. This heavily Jewish and eastern European district combines a lot of neighborhoods that are very different from the rest of New York City. The district spans from Brough Park to Midwood and then heads south to the eastern half of Coney Island.

Changes to the twenty-third and twenty-fifth districts turn the twenty-fourth district into a majority minority district. The district spans from Gravesend Northwest towards Sunset Park, and combines a lot of previously split Asian neighborhoods to achieve better Asian representation in Brooklyn.

The twenty-fifth district changes from its current borders to take on whiter areas in south Brooklyn. It takes on the furthest northeastern parts of Staten Island and combines them with the southwestern part of Brooklyn. These changes make the district much more compact while keeping it a majority minority district.

The twenty-sixth district is largely unchanged. It stays on the southern part of Staten Island and remains one of the whitest districts in New York City. The only change was made because it is too big in its current form.

The last district in Brooklyn is the twenty-seventh district. The district spans from the eastern part of Sunset Park north into Red Hook before crossing the Hudson River into the Lower East Side. By dropping the old portion of Brooklyn and replacing it with Red Hook and Sunset Park the district becomes a new majority minority district.

Northwest of the twenty-seventh district is the twenty-eighth district. It starts as far south as Hudson Square and goes as far north as Midtown Manhattan. Compared to the current district, it loses some ground along the East River as far north as Kips Bay so that the twenty seventh district can be majority minority.

The twenty-ninth district is in central Manhattan and includes most of the neighborhoods around Central Park. There is a slight jag along the north-western part of the district, in Manhattan Valley, to help the thirtieth district become more Hispanic.

The new majority Hispanic thirtieth district runs along the western side of Manhattan from Manhattan Valley all the way north to Marble Hill. It becomes majority Hispanic by dropping much of the southern white part of the district and becoming slightly wider in the northern Hispanic part of Manhattan.

The thirty-first district is based in Harlem and East Harlem and was drawn to be significantly blacker than the current district is. While the district already was plurality black, the district is now forty-seven percent black, making it even easier for the community to elect a representative of color.

The only district to be in three boroughs is the thirty-second district. It comprises of Yorkville and Roosevelt Island in Manhattan, Steinway in Queens and Mott Haven, Port Morris, and Hunts Point in Brooklyn. The goal of creating this district was to have a compact, diverse, working-class majority minority district in the northeast Manhattan and south Bronx to replace the current twenty ninth district. The district takes on Steinway in Queens so that the fifteenth district can become majority Hispanic and the sixteenth can remain majority minority without messing up the other districts in Queens and Brooklyn.

The thirty third district is just north of the thirty second district and is made up of the neighborhoods between Castle hill and Morrisania. It remains a majority Hispanic district surrounded by other majority minority districts and is much more compact than that district's current form.

To the east is the thirty fourth district that is comprised of the area between East Tremont, Morris Heights and Yankee Stadium to the south. The district moved south from its current form to add a new majority Hispanic district in the northwest corner of the Bronx. The thirty fourth district remains a majority Hispanic district.

The thirty fifth district is a newly created majority Hispanic district in the northwest corner of the Bronx. Most of the area in this district used to be in the old thirty fourth district and thirty third district. The district is careful to stay west of Webster Ave to allow the thirty seventh district to be majority black. To the north it is bordered by Yonkers and to the south it is bordered by Manhattan and the thirty fourth district.

In the northeastern part of the Bronx and southeastern part of Westchester is the thirty sixth district. The thirty sixth district is a majority minority district that was drawn to avoid the black areas of the thirty seventh district. It goes as far south as Throggs neck bordering queens all the way north to Rye in Westchester.

The last majority black district is the thirty seventh district which spans from Eastchester houses in the Bronx to Eastchester in Westchester. This district is one of the blackest districts on the map. Due to population differences, the district has to move north further into Westchester compared to the current district.

The last majority minority district is the thirty eighth district. The thirty eight district is entirely inside of Westchester and goes as far north as Greensburg as far east White Plains and as far south as Yonkers. The district avoids the Hudson river north of Yonkers so that it remains a majority minority without being only shaped and hooking around into downtown New Rochelle like the current district does.

The thirty ninth district comprises most of the rest of Westchester. It has a funny hook shape so that it doesn't take on parts of Westchester that have lots of minorities so that the thirty-eighth district can remain majority minority. It goes east to avoid Peekskill because Peekskill is much more like Putnam County than Tarry town and Harrison.

The rest of Westchester, all of Putnam and southern Dutchess County around Fishkill are part of the fortieth district. The Hudson River is a useful divider for the counties and districts in most of the Hudson valley outside of a few exceptions if the districts are small enough not to try to span from Westchester all the way north to Rensselaer.

On the other side of the Hudson is the forty-first district. The district is entirely within Rockland County and is similar to the current thirty-eight district. The only part of Rockland County that is not in the district is the far northwestern part of the county. That part can't be added because there are too many people to make a district entirely have Rockland County, and that area is most similar to Orange county.

Suffern and the rest of Rockland County and most of Orange County make up the forty second district. The district travels up from Rockland County and goes as far north as Newburgh and Middletown. Like the forty first district, the forty second district can not contain all of Orange County. As such, the rural northern most part of the county was given to the forty third district which is also extremely rural.

The forty third district is based in Ulster County with northern Orange County and southern Sullivan county joining the district. This area is much more similar to each other and more compact than the current forty sixth district. Keeping this area together makes sure that Mid-Hudson is represented and not thrown in with other regions.

Back on the other side of the river is the forty fourth district. This district is also another rural farming area and includes all of Dutchess County not in the fortieth district, all of Columbia and Rensselaer county with the city or Rensselaer being the most northern part of the district. This community is similar to the current forty third and forty first district but is much better and protects communities of interest because the Saratoga spring is much more like north county and the capital region than Mid Hudson and Putnam county is much more downstate than the rest of the district.

The next two districts are in the heart of the capital region and where I grew up so I will spend extra time explaining this area. The main heart of the capital region is Albany, Schenectady, and Rensselaer counties and the southernmost part of Saratoga County. The current maps only allow for one district at the core of the capital region district and spreads the rest of the capital region across other regions of New York. The forty fifth district in my map captures the eastern half of the capital region and allows the forty sixth to be drawn entirely in the capital region. This works because this region is so closely tied together whether its random entertainment playing against each other in high school sport or people commuting to work in this area. If only two districts are taken from this testimony and included in the maps that will be drawn, I strongly hope that these two districts are the ones that make it.

The forty seventh district is a district primarily made up of several small counties in the Catskills area. It combines the northern part of Sullivan County with the area going as far north as Fulton county and heads east to take on most of Greene county. This district captures the spirit of these counties of New York which don't neatly fit into any of the regions of New York.

The last district in the capital region is the forty-eight district. The district comprises all of Essex and Washington counties as well as all of Saratoga County outside of Clifton Park. The district is much more compact than the current map makes this area and forms a hybrid area that is too rural for the capital region but too suburban and far south to be part North county.

The last district in the capital region is the forty-eight district. The district comprises all of Essex and Washington counties as well as all of Saratoga County outside of Clifton Park. The district is much more compact than the current map makes this area and forms a hybrid area that is too rural for the capital region but too suburban and far south to be part North county.

The forty ninth district is the main North Country district. It comprises all of Essex, Clinton, Franklin, and Saint Lawrence counties while including a little bit of Jefferson county to add

enough population to the district. These countries are tied closely to each other and the Canadian border should be kept together to ensure that their community is represented.

The northern half of the Mohawk valley and southern part of the North count are in the fiftieth district. The district spans from Hamilton County in the east to Oswego and Jefferson counties in the west. I lumped in Oswego with the other counties because it isn't dissimilar from the other counties, especially Jefferson, and adding in with the central New York region would mean splitting up the Syracuse suburbs even more than they have to be.

The fifty first district is in the Western part of the Mohawk valley. It comprises most of Chenango County and goes as far north as Rome. The key part of this district, like the fiftieth, is to let the fifty second district be entirely within Onondaga while keeping the central New York Area together.

Syracuse is big enough to have two congressional districts take it on and its suburbs. The current map does a terrible job splitting up the city, so the fifty second district was drawn to be compact and take on the city as well as its suburbs to the northwest. The suburbs should not be slit in this area although the suburbs on the other side of Syracuse will be cut off.

The fifty third district captures the rest of Syracuse suburbs in Onondaga county and takes on the Central New York Counties of Seneca, Cortland and Auburn. The eastern half of the finger lakes is kept together in this district as it is much more compact than the current district is.

The two college counties of Broome and Tompkins are put together in the fifty fourth district. The two countries are both in the southern tier but are much more urban and college educated compared to the rest of the region. That's why they should be put together so that the colleges are of central New York together and not gerrymandered into three districts like Tompkins County currently is.

The rest fifty fifth district hugs the border with Pennsylvania from Tioga to Allegany. This rural area makes up the rest of the southern tier. This area stays close to the border that a rural finger lakes district can be drawn.

Snaking around Monroe County is the fifty sixth district. The district takes on most of the exurban Rochester population and keeps a rural finger lakes district intact. It spans from Wayne County to Wyoming County. Avoiding Monroe county allows Rochester to have a district that is just the city and a few suburbs and a second district that is just suburbs.

The fifty seventh district is made up of the eastern suburbs of Rochester and is completely within Monroe County. It spans from Irondequoit around Rochester as far south as Rush. The suburbs of Rochester have so much in common with each other and the city itself and should not split into a bunch of districts jutting out from the city.

Rochester itself is in the fifty eighth district which is the most nonwhite district north of Westchester. Besides the city proper, the district also includes Chili, Gates the southern part of Greece. The district is compact and keeps the metro area together unlike the current districts which were gerrymandered to dilute the voters in the Rochester area.

To the west of the fifty eighth district is the forty ninth district. The forty ninth district comprises the rest of Monroe County and heads east to Erie and Niagara Counties. Unlike the current map, this district doesn't aim to get as close to Buffalo as possible and instead takes only the rural parts which have more in common with each other than they do with the greater Buffalo area. This leaves Lockport and Niagara Falls with the Buffalo area which is much better for everyone.

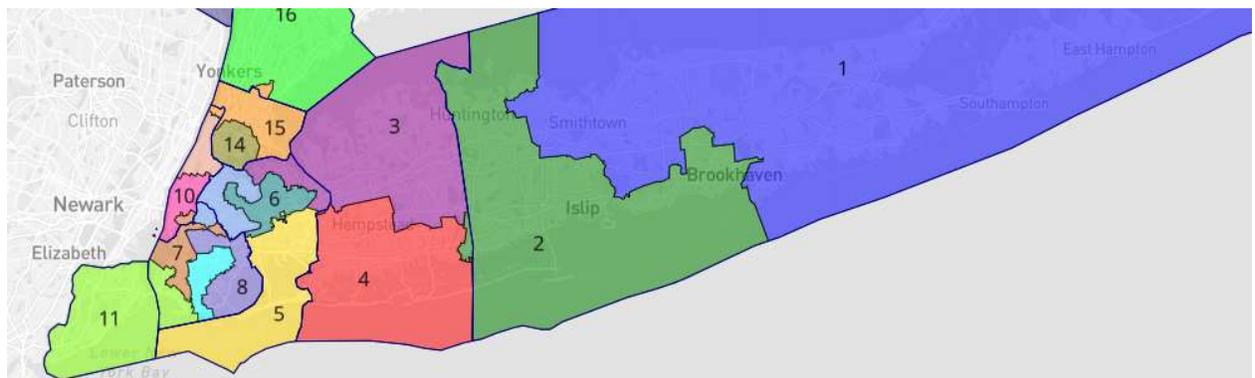
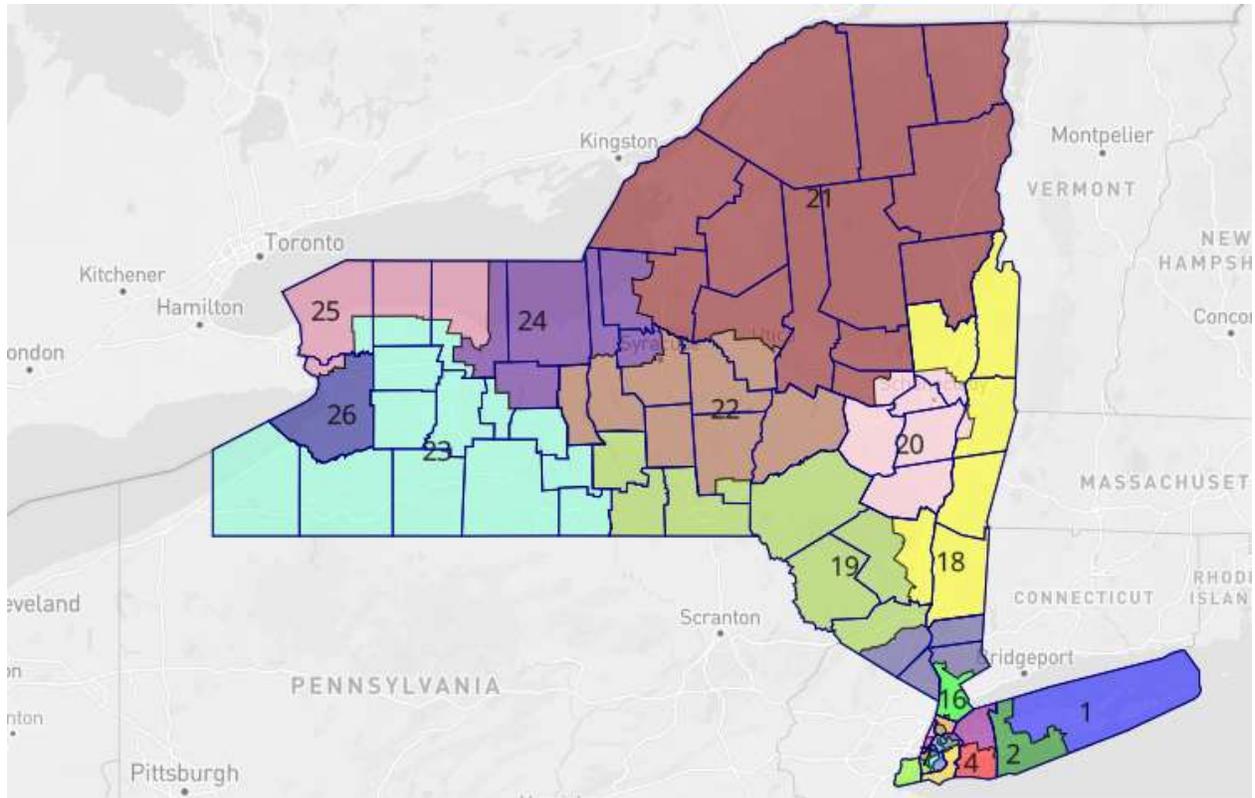
Similarly, the sixtieth district also seeks to keep the rural areas together and to avoid the Buffalo suburbs. The district comprises all of Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties and the rural parts of southern Erie County. The district does not and should not go into the Orchard Park and Hamburg so that those suburbs can be with Buffalo.

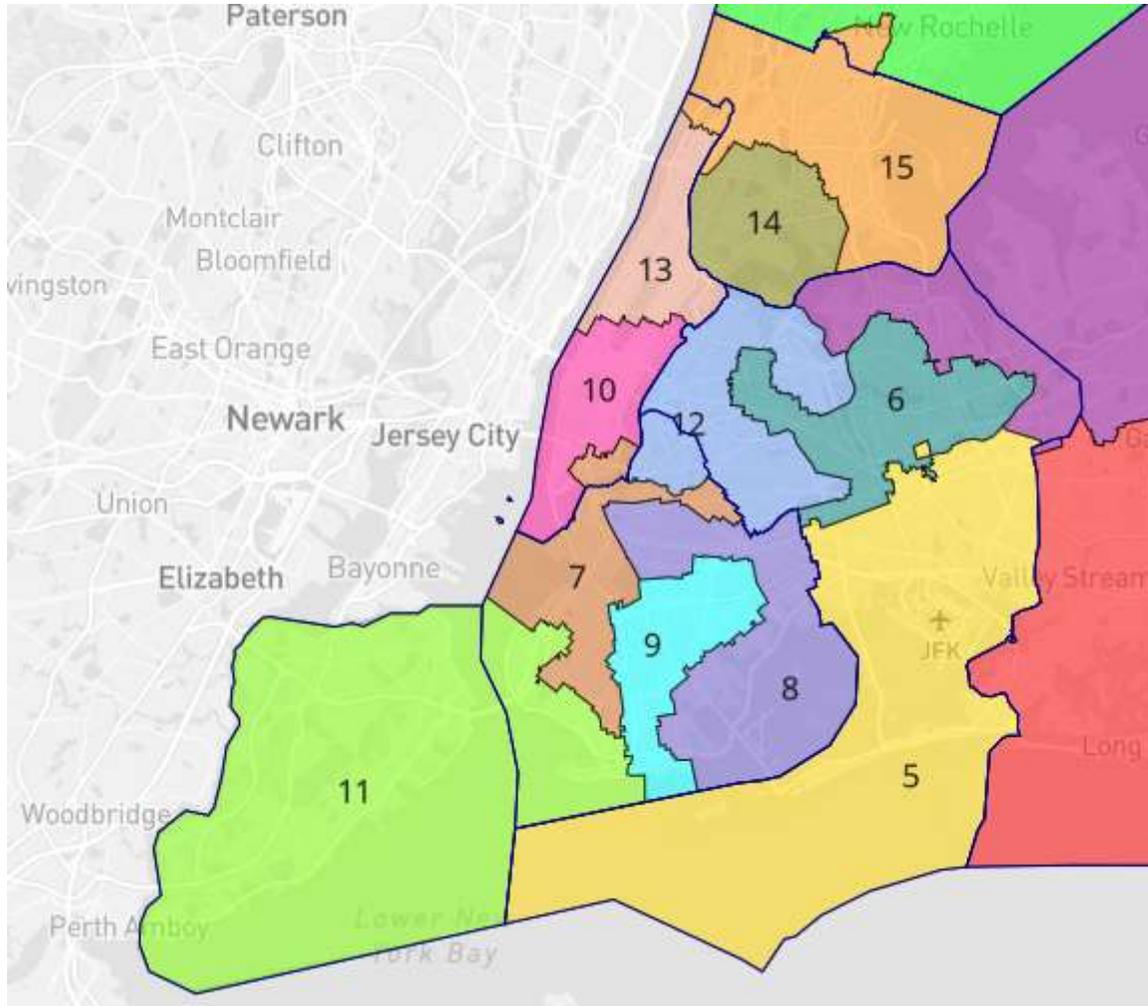
The sixty first district is entirely within the suburbs of Buffalo. It includes Amherst, Lancaster, Cheektowaga, and West Seneca. This area is very similar to each other and other Buffalo suburbs and shouldn't be lumped in with rural areas far from Buffalo or also lumped into the city itself.

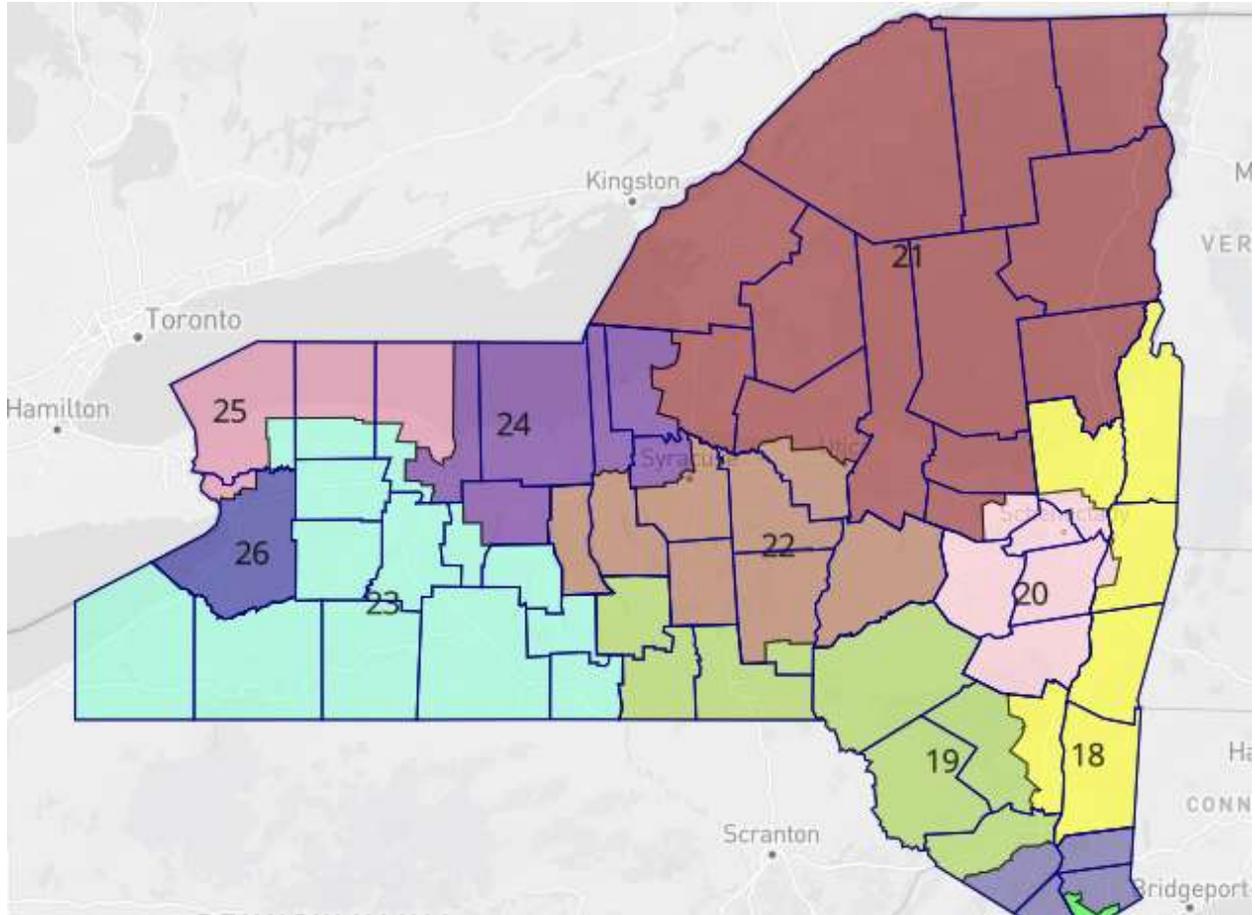
North of the sixtieth district and west of the sixty first district is the sixty second district. It includes a little bit of suburban Buffalo like Orchard Park and Hamburg but is mainly the city of Buffalo. This lets Buffalo elect their own representative separate from the suburbs.

Last but not least is the sixty third district. This district goes as far north as Lockport then travels west towards Niagara Falls before heading south to Buffalo. The goal is to create a more urban north Buffalo district than the sixty first district. Lockport and Niagara Falls were included with Erie county but most of the rest of Niagara County does not belong with the Buffalo area districts.

New York Congressional Districts:







Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Mon 8/2/2021 1:12 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Please make the villages of Greenburgh united within CD-17 together with the river towns on both sides of the Hudson. They deserve common representation.

User: Lisa Genn ([REDACTED]

Delete Comment

Ban User from Future Comments

This e-mail has been automatically generated

Hello, my name is Lisa Tannenbaum, and I am testifying to ensure the 2021 redistricting process considers the best interests of the residents of Westchester County.

Westchester County, for some inexplicable reason, even for the purposes of this input, is grouped with counties with which it has little in common, such as Ulster and Sullivan. Westchester is a suburb of New York City, significantly more like Nassau County than the mid-Hudson communities.

Although Westchester is a cohesive county, it is currently split between three different Congressional Districts. As a result, communities with similar issues and concerns lack common representation. This divides communities with a great deal in common, their economy, public education, transportation, infrastructure and more, from each other. For example, Rye City, the Town of Rye and Bedford, all communities with much in common, are in three different congressional districts.

Purposefully breaking up communities takes away the community's ability to come together and advocate for important issues, which could be why Westchester keeps getting the short end of the stick. MetroNorth receives less funding per rider than the Long Island Railroad. For school funding, the cost of living in Westchester is grouped with upstate counties, rather than New York City and Long Island. As much as I might wish the cost of housing in Westchester were like upstate, it just is not.

When the 2020 census results are published by county Westchester will likely exceed the 1 million population mark. The southernmost cities, which have much in common with New York City, could share representation, the remaining suburban Westchester should all be represented by one member of Congress. Rye Town and Rye City, Bedford and New Castle, Scarsdale and White Plains, should all be represented by the same member.

August 1, 2021

Dear Redistricting Committee,

I have lived in the Town of Ossining for 7 years. I'd like you to keep my community connected to the neighboring Towns in Westchester, instead of in a Rockland County district.

The Town of Ossining has several similarities to the other Towns along the Hudson River in Westchester County. We have many small businesses (restaurants, retail, etc.), shared services through Westchester County, as well as the Metro North train line that connects a rich shared history. There are many opportunities to fund education and environmental stewardship along the Hudson at the State level, however that is not being done equally because my Town has been separated from the neighboring municipalities.

The Town of Ossining is currently in SD38 of which we are only 12% of that districts' residents, none of which also reside in Westchester County. There is no other Town in Westchester that is separated from the rest of the County in this way. All of our local shared services are through Westchester County and our community is at a disadvantage because we are not considered amongst our neighboring Towns when it comes to State level funding. There are no other Towns in Westchester County that have been treated this way and it is clear this was done as a gerrymandering tactic the last time the lines were drawn.

I implore you to return the Town of Ossining to an appropriate district in Westchester County so that we can advocate for our community alongside our neighbors at the State level.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lia Taylor Schwartz

[REDACTED]
Ossining, NY 10562
[REDACTED]



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive

August 2, 2021

David Imamura, Esq., Chair
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

RE: New York State Independent Redistricting Commission Virtual Public Hearing

Dear Mr. Imamura and members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the New York State Independent Redistricting, as I strongly support the independent process to delineate our statewide districts. This commission is tasked with one of the most important responsibilities in our representative democracy. Not only will this ensure honest representation, but the district lines drawn here will also be the basis upon which our Counties representatives are established.

I encourage you and support the basic tenants of the commission's role to ensure the application of substantive criteria that protect minority voting rights, communities of interest, and rational line-drawing. I emphasize the consideration of, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns, geography, and communities of interest and encourage you to consider those highly when deliberating new district boundaries. I offer the following from the Brennan Center for Justice A Citizens Guide to Redistricting:

- Political Boundaries: *"... Political Boundaries – especially counties and cities – are presumed to be fairly neutral, fairly good proxies for groups of people who share a common interest."*
- Geography: *"Emphasizing geographic boundaries has some of the same benefits and limitations as discussed above with respect to political boundaries. Often, these geographic boundaries divide the population into different communities."*
- Communities of Interest: *"A community of interest is a group of people concentrated in a geographic area who share similar interests and priorities – whether social, cultural, ethnic, economic, religious, or political. Communities of interest are at the heart of what many consider to be the point of districts designed to have different character, and behind many of the other redistricting rules: a decision to keep a city together, or to keep a compact group of voters together, is often a proxy for ensuring that people with common interests are grouped within the same district."*

Ahead of you lies the task of balancing all of the above issues in trying to determine how the district lines should be drawn. You will need to decide how all of these factors are weighed against and with each other and the impacts of those decisions. These districts must be drawn irrespective of outside interests; they are the providence of the people and not any incumbent or future elected official. How you decide will likely impact whether legislators have distinct communities of interest to represent or a mixture of interests. My hope is that the proposed boundaries will result in cohesive representation for the residents of Dutchess County.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you need anything further, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Marcus J. Molinaro
Dutchess County Executive

C: Karen Blatt, Co-Executive Director
Douglas Breakell, Co-Executive Director

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Fri 8/13/2021 5:08 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Hello, my name is Mark Chipkin and I am submitting testimony as a resident of Dutchess County and Town of Pawling. Dutchess is a cohesive community and we have many of the same interests. I am writing today to participate in New York's newly implemented independent redistricting process and the effects redistricting will have on my community.

Maintaining the communities of Dutchess County within a single legislative district would ensure our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level. The continuity of these communities is critical to provide services or receive assistance from my representatives.

Dutchess County has much diversity, yet its residents share common interests. If my community was split up into different districts, our representation would be diminished and would hinder the community's ability to come together. I believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to my community's concerns.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing me to submit testimony. I again ask that you consider the needs of my community so that there may continue to be adequate and fair representation.

Respectfully, Mark Chipkin

User: Mark Chipkin





August 12, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

As a local councilman in the Town of Wallkill I write to submit input regarding the upcoming redistricting process.

Our Mid-Hudson region encompasses a wide range of cultures and economically diverse backgrounds. Our region is interconnected and spans across demographics of economic, environmental, and jointly shared values.

To the west of the Hudson, Orange County shares more with its fellow counties west of the river. The economic differences from east to west of the Hudson have vast differences and few shared interests. With a common identity and shared values, Orange County should not collectively vote for and be represented by differing values or interests that are not aligned with our own. From Orange County, heading north would be the fairest way to adjoin neighboring communities with similar ideals.

As the population of Orange County expands, representation of shared interests will be important to allow this community to thrive. As there is a push for lines to be drawn that will align communities for fair representation, Orange County should join in a district with similar communities such as Sullivan County and northern Rockland County, like Stony Point.

Mid Hudson areas are rural. They should not be combined with areas like Westchester which range from suburban to urban areas. I believe it is important that rural communities remain as one, ensuring their concerns are listened to and respected.

Sincerely,

Mark Coyne

I am a resident of area known as Edgemont within the Town of Greenburgh. For too long these areas have been divided into two Congressional Districts, the 16 and 17th, causing voter confusion and diluting the strength of a united electorate. Please consolidate these areas into the 17th CD. Such consolidation will align with many of the committee's goals, including keeping municipalities together and keeping district united where they are otherwise united on the State government level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Lafayette



Scarsdale, New York 10583

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Fri 7/30/2021 10:51 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Wesley Hills is in 2 Assembly districts. District 96 is mostly in Orange County and we are at the far end of this narrow 75+ mile long district. It would make more sense for the Village to be fully in district 98 which is fully within Rockland County.

User: Marshall Katz

Delete Comment

Ban User from Future Comments

This e-mail has been automatically generated

New York State Redistricting Commission,

I am a resident of the Town of Olive in Ulster county. I would like to request that the representation in state government for my town be more appropriate for my community. After the last census, redistricting resulted in the western section of Ulster county being “stuck onto” the 51st Senate district. This caused our representative to be far from the community he represents. It has also caused much confusion about who our Senator is because constituents could not understand why our representative was not one from our county. Luckily our Assemblyman stayed within Ulster county but this was not so for many other residents in many towns in Ulster county.

Ulster County is currently part of four State Senate districts, which is unconstitutional. Ulster County’s fractured representation (portions of four state senate districts and four state assembly districts) results in additional administrative and logistical burdens for both the constituents and our elected officials to get our communities the resources they need.

Please consider the communities the elected officials represent when you are re-drawing the new districts. It has a very big impact on the lives of the citizens of this state.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Shepard



West Shokan, NY 12494

My name is Mary Kirsch. I live in the Town of New Castle in Westchester. I vote in the 17th Congressional District, the 40th Senate District and the 93rd Assembly District. I am a retired public school math teacher and a current adjunct professor of mathematics at Westchester Community College. Adequate funding for public education is a very important issue for me. Although most people in my town are in the Chappaqua school district, I am in the Ossining school district. When my children were in school, I was an active member of the Ossining PTA.

Another keen interest of mine is good governance. I have been an active member of the League of Women Voters and am currently a board member of my local league, LWV New Castle and of our county league.

I was very pleased with the constitutional amendment of 2014 that created this commission. I say this to let you know I have been following the redistricting issue for decades and I am very aware of what contiguous and compact were meant to look like.

If you look at the outlines of the 40th SD and 93rd AD, you can see that they are not reasonably compact. What is the value to the voters of having a district covering a larger geographic area than necessary for population allotment? Whatever the intent of the line drawers in 2012, the effect was to split the Ossining School District among two different Senate districts and three different Assembly districts.

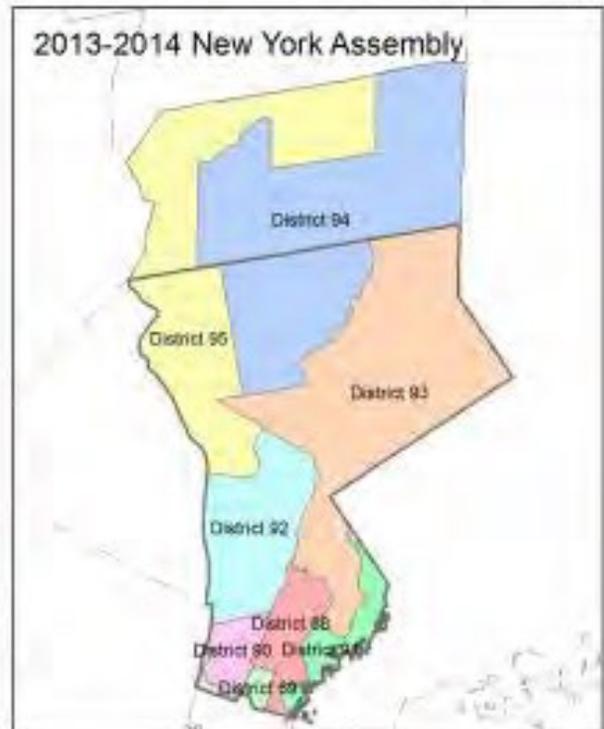
As the maps below show, the Ossining school district is split between SD 38 and SD 40 in the NYS Senate. In the Assembly, it is split between AD 93, 94 and 95. I think a school district would be a natural community of interest. In fact, the Ossining School district was not receiving its fair share of NYS Department of Education for years. I hope that when you consider district lines for the northern part of Westchester, you consider school district boundaries as well. Please be aware of the impact any proposed lines have on those jurisdictions so that citizens can effectively lobby their representatives.

In general, the value of compactness is that people who live near each other often share circumstances related to education, transportation, roads, waste and water infrastructure. That is why the work of your commission is so important.

[The graphic below is a screenshot of "Westchester County Profile, 2017" Compiled by Jan Vink, Cornell Program on Applied Demographics, page 5.]

[During my testimony, I will be screen sharing maps for SD40 and AD93 in addition to the graphic below.]

Westchester County, NY Overlap with School and Political Districts



**Statement of Maryellen Chomsky
to the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
August 15, 2021**

Good afternoon.

My name is Maryellen Chomsky. I am a life-long resident of New York State, and a long-time resident of Westchester County, specifically, the Town of Mamaroneck.

When my family first moved to Mamaroneck, we were in Nita Lowey's Congressional District. As you know, she served from 1989 until this year. During those 32 years, the district's number and outline changed, but it always included southern and central Westchester County – that is, until the redistricting that followed the 2010 Census.

Do you remember the scene in *The Wizard of Oz*, when the Tin Man and Cowardly Lion come upon the Scarecrow after the attack by the Flying Monkeys? “Help!”, the Scarecrow cries out, “*They tore my legs off and threw them over there! Then they took my chest out and threw it over there!*”

Well, to those of us who had long been in Nita Lowey's CD 18 – together with most of our Westchester neighbors – it seemed that, like the Scarecrow, our District had been dismembered. Miscellaneous parts of southern Westchester had been lopped off and illogically tossed in with the northwestern Bronx.

Equally arbitrarily, Westchester's Sound Shore communities, from Pelham to Port Chester, had been splintered, despite the many significant environmental issues and other concerns they share, including shoreline infrastructure, water quality, flooding, storm resilience, and recreation. Those communities should all be in the same district.

As you know, the law requires that the Commission take into account “*pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest.*”

Since the Bronx is part of NYC, and Westchester is completely outside of NYC, combining parts of the Bronx with parts of Westchester blatantly violates that principle.

Here are just a few of the many reasons why Westchester and the Bronx do not belong in the same district, and why *no one* – not the Bronx, not Westchester, and not the Congressperson – is well served by randomly conjoining the constituencies of such structurally different governmental systems. As I have described more fully in my written statement, they have entirely separate and different:

- **Governments:** Bronx has NYC's Mayor and City Council, a Borough President, etc. Westchester has its own County government – County Executive and Board of Legislators – plus numerous political subdivisions: cities, towns, villages, hamlets, unincorporated areas, etc., each with its own government.
- **Police:** Bronx has the NYPD; Westchester has County Police, plus the separate PDs of its many different political subdivisions.

Maryellen Comsky

- **Firefighting and EMS:** Bronx has the FDNY; Westchester has an amalgam of professional and volunteer services.
- **Transportation:** Bronx is public-transit oriented, with NYC's mass-transit system of MTA subways and busses. Westchester County relies primarily on cars, plus Metro-North Commuter Railroad and a contractual arrangement with a private bus company (Beeline).
- **Public School Governance:** Bronx has NYC's centralized Board of Education. Westchester has numerous, separate, local school boards.
- **Taxation Systems:** Bronx has NYC income tax. Westchester has real estate taxes.
- **Boards of Elections:** Bronx has the NYC BOE. Westchester has its own County BOE.
- **Libraries:** Bronx is part of the NYC Library System. Westchester has a cooperative system of local libraries, separately funded and governed.
- **Electrical Infrastructure and needs:** NYC has underground infrastructure and fewer trees. Westchester has overhead wires – and lots of trees – resulting in more frequent, widespread, prolonged, dangerous, and costly power outages.

These are just some of the significant structural differences.

Thus, placing Westchester and Bronx communities together in one district is illogical. It places an untenable burden on the Representative who must navigate such diverse and divergent systems of governance and services. This shortchanges everyone involved.

Quite simply, the northern Bronx belongs with other NYC communities. Westchester, particularly central and southern Westchester and all of its Sound Shore communities, should be reunited.

And, apart from Congressional districts, our NYS legislative districts, e.g., Senate Districts 37 and 35, among others, are so blatantly gerrymandered that Elbridge Gerry himself would blush. There's not enough time, in a three-minute presentation, to address that. But those districts must also be reviewed and revised in accordance with the applicable redistricting standards.

Thank you for listening to our concerns on this extremely important subject.

Respectfully,

Maryellen Chomsky
Mamaroneck, New York
August 15, 2021

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Sun 8/15/2021 9:59 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Matt Slater

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

I want to thank the Independent Redistricting Commission for accepting public input about the upcoming redistricting to help inform its decision-making process.

I'm a resident of Yorktown, Westchester County. Yorktown is in northern Westchester, along with other towns including Somers, Cartlandt, Mount Pleasant, Lewisboro and North Salem that are located north of I-287.

These northern Westchester towns represent a broad community of interest, with intersecting local economies, social institutions and common concerns, that is substantially different than the communities in southern Westchester.

In northern Westchester, our towns are less urbanized and retain some of Westchester's past rural character. We are less dependent on mass transportation and far less integrated with New York City.

In fact, northern Westchester is much more closely connected, economically, socially and politically, with our neighbors in Putnam County, with numerous overlapping footprints for local social service and healthcare providers.

This interrelationship has long been reflected in northern Westchester's representation in the state senate and state assembly and that should continue. Unfortunately, northern Westchester's voice in congress has been diluted, with half connected with Putnam and southern Dutchess counties, with which northern Westchester also has significant economic

integration, and the other half inappropriately tied to southern Westchester.

I urge the Commission to recognize these local considerations and communities of interest when making its decisions.

User: Matt Slater

Delete Comment

Ban User from Future Comments

This e-mail has been automatically generated

Meredith Wisner

August 1, 2021

My name is Meredith Wisner, I live in South Nyack, and I am a voter in New York Congressional District 17. I am on the Steering Committee of Rockland United, the Chair of Rockland Working Families Party, and Legislative District Leader in District 17. I am a known advocate who has been working in my community since I moved here in 2016. I am compelled to offer this testimony because Rocklanders depend upon the connection forged between Rockland and Westchester by our shared congressional district.

Like many members of my community I live in Rockland but work in New York City, and the Mario Cuomo Bridge is a critical lifeline. I often cross the bridge to get to work, either by car or by using Hudson Link, which connects South Nyack and points West to Tarrytown and points East - and most importantly the vital train artery of Metro North Train line. My husband, likewise, teaches high school in the Bronx and commutes entirely by car through Westchester each day. Shared transportation is vital to my community's existence. I read [140,000 cars cross the Mario Cuomo Bridge](#) each day, the lionshare of those being commuters getting to work in our respective counties, and onward to New York City.

As a South Nyack resident, the Mario Cuomo Bridge spills directly into my neighborhood; bringing pedestrians, bicyclists, and commuters to our shops, restaurants and bars. Westchester and Rockland's farmers, food purveyors, and craftspeople, sell their wares on both sides of the river at our farmer's markets each week. The Federal Reserve Bank considers Rockland and Westchester to be part of [a regional economy](#). Health and Education are significant employers on both sides of the Hudson, including Regeneron (Tarrytown), and Pfizer (Rockland). Both counties are centers of higher education as well, including SUNY Purchase (Westchester), Westchester Community College, Rockland Community College, and Dominican (Rockland).

As an activist and organizer in Rockland I can say that it matters that our congressperson represents a body with shared demographics, political orientation, environmental concerns, and social justice goals. Communities on both sides of the Hudson share progressive values guided by a desire to see our racially diverse populations thrive. Our shared reliance on the health of the Hudson means that environmental groups like the Lower Hudson Sierra Club advocate for communities in Westchester *and* Rockland. And, as a steering committee member of Rockland United, a Rockland chapter of Indivisible, I personally work with Westchester Indivisible chapters to support elected officials, and host debates and town halls to keep our electeds accountable and our communities informed.

If we lose our joined congressional district:

- The transportation needs of our shared districts would suffer from a lack of coordinated services. This would negatively impact individuals as well as small businesses in Rockland and Westchester, and in New York City.
- The deeply enmeshed economic fabric of Rockland and Westchester would suffer without the ability to advocate in unison when their collective interests are at stake.
- Our community's ability to organize around issues of environmental and social justice would be diminished if our current district were to be split.

This is why it's so important that Rockland and Westchester continue to share a congressional district - particularly the river villages that flank the Hudson. We are mutually diverse, exurban, politically liberal, and economically tied. The health of this compact electoral district is reliant upon its shared representation. Please take this into consideration as you redraw the lines.

Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Sincerely,

Meredith Wisner

[REDACTED]

Nyack, NY 10960

[REDACTED]



ADIRONDACK REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

100% Member Funded, 100% Member Focused

July 27, 2021

Mr. David Imamura, Chair
Mr. Jack Martins, Vice Chair
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Re: Mid-Hudson Valley and Capital Region Redistricting

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the upcoming Redistricting of our beautiful State at the Congressional level. Thank you for the time and commitment to make sure that our citizens are heard throughout the State.

Our focus for purposes of this discussion is on Warren, Washington and Northern Saratoga Counties. The Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, which I am blessed to work for, covers this geographic region. We partner well with many folks inside and outside this geography, but it is very apparent on a daily basis to us where this region aligns itself most with other geographies. The citizens of Warren, Washington and Northern Saratoga Counties share most in common through our business, agricultural, tourism, and many other relationships with our New York neighbor counties to the north of us.

From a business community standpoint most companies set up their regional sales and even operational territories from South Glens Falls/Glens Falls to Plattsburgh north. Tourism is a large part of our economy, and we find that the Adirondacks as a whole, which a large part of our region is located in, work well together to fuel that tourism economy. Agriculture, whether it be dairy, beef, cheese, fruits, vegetables, etc. is very contiguous in our counties and with our partner counties to the north of us.

It is our hope that the Redistricting Commission will keep our counties partnered and tied to the counties north of us at the Congressional level.

Thank you much for this opportunity and for your consideration.

Blessings,

Michael T. Bittel
President/CEO

I strongly recommend that the area covered by any Assembly or Senate district should be relatively rectangular, and have approximately the same number of citizens as the other districts. A classic example of a current bad district is the 61st Senate district. Obviously, some districts cannot be rectangular especially the Western and far North sections of NY State. The registered party affiliation should not be considered when a district is created.

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Sun 8/1/2021 11:07 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

The Capital District Counties including Montgomery share geography, workplaces, labor pools and infrastructure challenges. They are connected by the same transportation networks They should & deserve to be kept in the same Congressional District

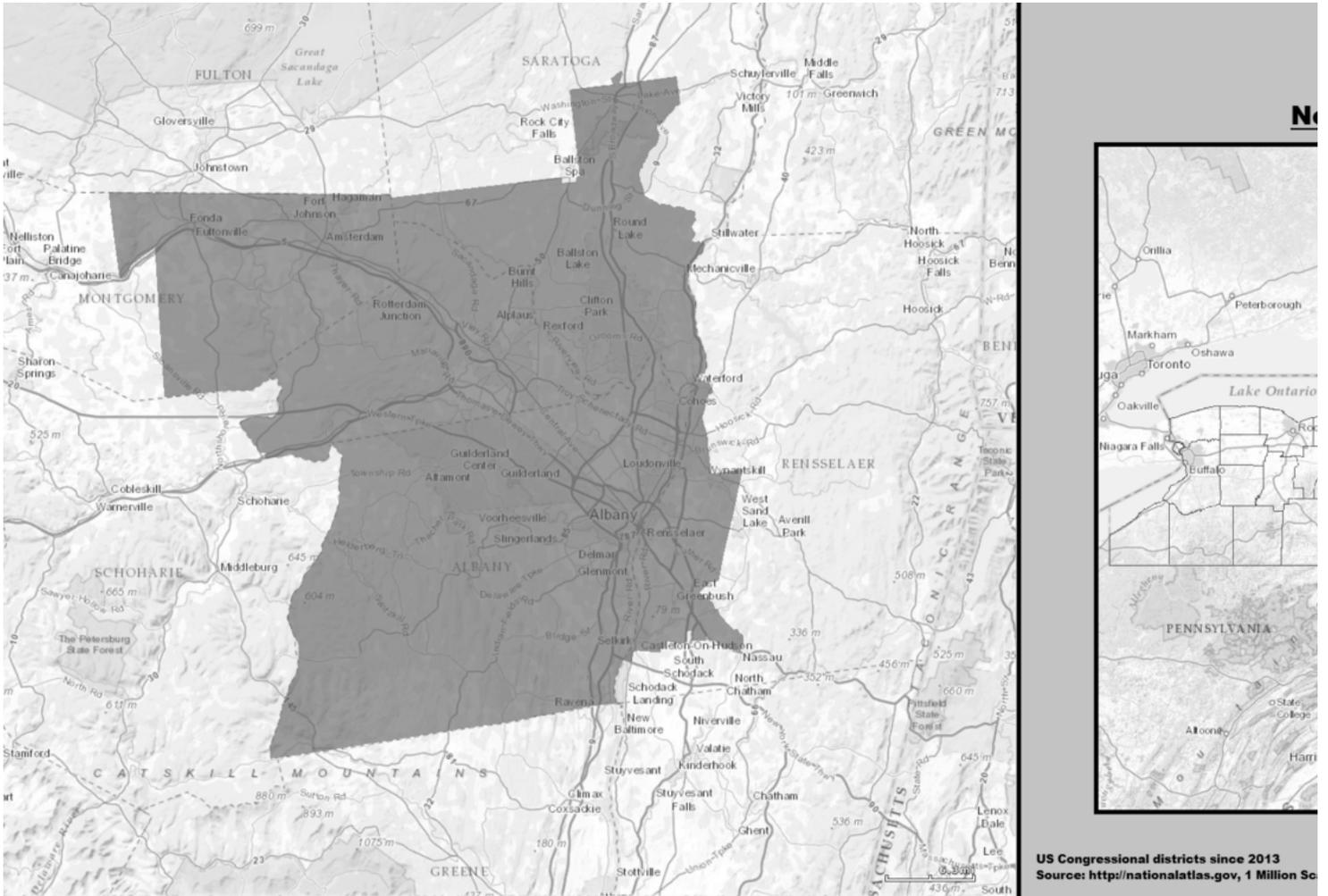
User: Michael Cinquanti (

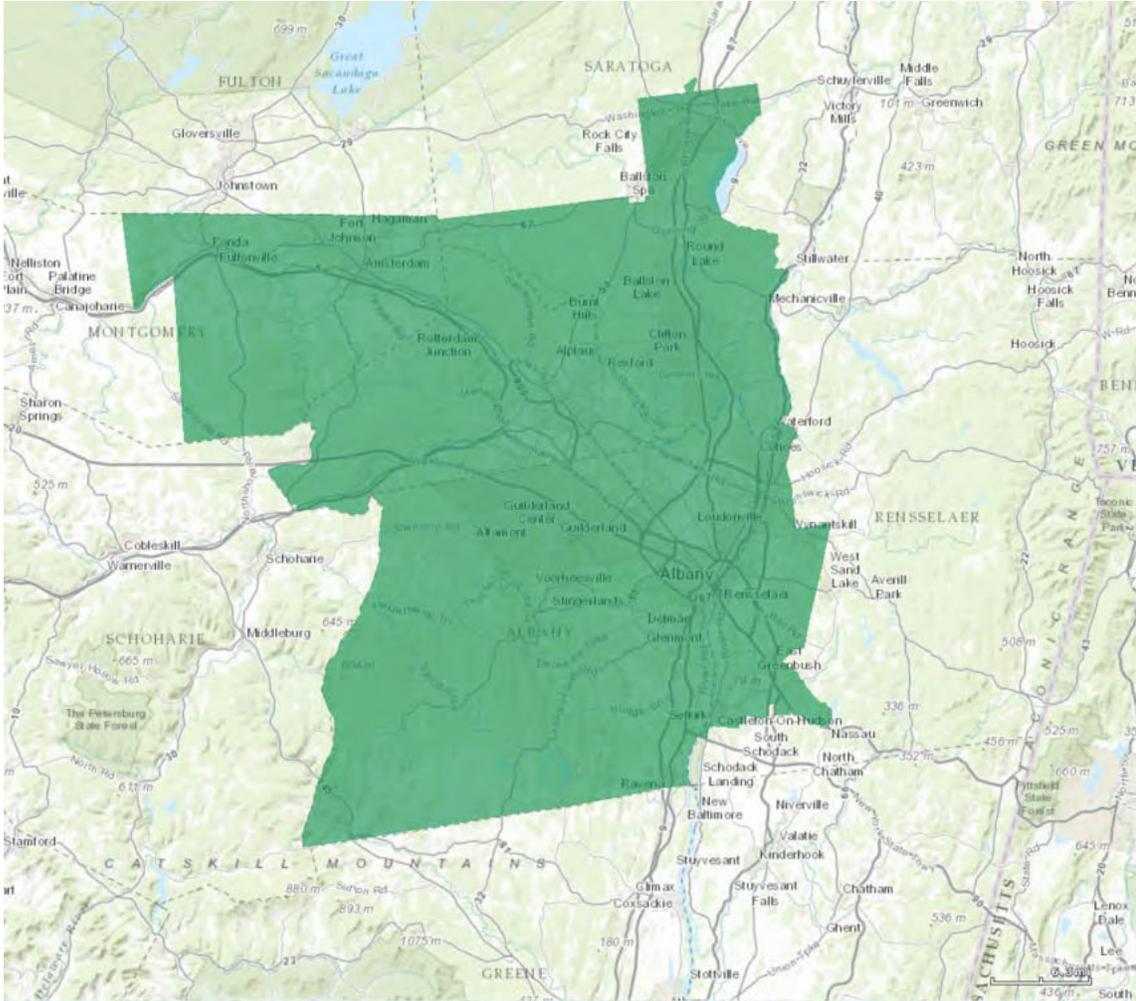
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Michael Cinquanti Map





US Congressional districts since 2013
 Source: <http://nationalatlas.gov>, 1 Million Scale

Michael Otten



www.reformelectionsnow.org

Do you recognize that the 2021 ballot proposed further revision of your Independent Commission charge is a threat to the integrity of your 'independence,' specifically because it reduces the motivation to come up with a bi-partisan 'fair' redistricting proposal, changing the required legislative approval % from 67% to 60%, thereby eliminating the need for bipartisan support for a proposal to be accepted? Please do the utmost to produce recommendations that will receive all parties' support, which was the reason that the 2014-15 constitutional change was approved.

JCC of Sullivan County

5019 Main Street
South Fallsburg, NY 12779



Testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission

Submitted on Behalf of: JCC of Sullivan County

August 9, 2021

Hello, my name is Moishe Grunhut and I am submitting testimony on behalf of JCC of Sullivan County

This organization represents approximately 100,000 people, (a big portion are second home owners that choose their voting home in Sullivan County) and covers the towns of Mamakating, Fallsburg, Thompson, Liberty, Bethel and villages of Woodridge, Monticello, Liberty, Bloomingburg.

I write today to participate in New York's newly implemented independent redistricting process and the effects redistricting will have on our community.

As a community of interest, we are focused on helping healthy growth and economical development, along with protecting the religious freedoms in our region. Maintaining the above mentioned communities within a single legislative district that would ensure our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level. The continuity of these communities is critical to the ability of my community to provide services or receive assistance from my current representatives.

My community represents a diverse district, yet its residents share common interests. If my community was to be split up into different districts, our representation would be diminished and would hinder the community's ability to come together.

We believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to my community's/group's concerns.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing us to submit testimony. we again ask that you consider the needs of our community so that there may continue to be adequate and fair representation.

Respectfully,

Moishe Grunhut
President - Jcc of Sullivan County
South Fallsburg NY 12779



MORGEN FLEISIG

August 2, 2021

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
Mid-Hudson Valley and Capital Region

Dear Honorable Commission Members:

I am a Trustee of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson in the Town of Greenburgh, and speak for the majority of the Board of Trustees when I say that we would prefer that the District map remain unchanged with respect to our municipal boundaries.

It is true that we have much in common with the Villages to the north of us: the rivers, ridges and valleys of our region have all historically encouraged the construction of north-south railways and roadways. The Rivertowns react to many social and environmental issues in much the same way, and our economic interests are typically aligned. We are a proud member of this community.

Given that Hastings is at the southern end of the Rivertowns, though, we also have a unique relationship with our more urban neighbors to the south. This relationship keeps us constantly reminded of the great diversity of viewpoints that exist within the larger metropolitan area of which we are a part. The mouth of the Saw Mill River, for example, is in Yonkers, just to the south of us, and that city has been a great force in the cleanup of that watershed. Our emergency services have municipal aid agreements not just to the north of us, but to the east and south. As a community, we seek to build bridges in all directions, overcoming the geographical and manmade boundaries that separate the Rivertowns from the rest of this region while still maintaining our identity.

Representatives with a diverse constituency are encouraged to more creative compromise than stubborn intransigence. We believe that in our case, the District boundaries as they are set for Hastings-on-Hudson do more to bring a diversity of views to Albany and the halls of Congress, and we ask that you leave them in our case as they are drawn.

Sincerely,



Morgen Fleisig
Trustee
Village of Hastings-on-Hudson

[REDACTED] HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK 10706
[REDACTED]

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Sat 7/31/2021 4:57 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

Scarsdale, NY should be inside of one congressional district within the geographic borders of Westchester County with similarly situated towns and which does not include any area within the Bronx.

User: Myra Saul ([REDACTED]

Delete Comment

Ban User from Future Comments

This e-mail has been automatically generated

Fwd: Submissions

MYRA SAUL <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/2/2021 8:56 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Please see my comments below.

Myra Saul

My name is Myra Saul and I have been a resident of Scarsdale, NY. for over 31 years. I wear many hats, one of which is I am the Chair of the Scarsdale Democratic Town Committee. I must precede my remarks with a typical caveat: the views expressed here are my own and are not necessarily those of the Scarsdale Democratic Town Committee or its members.

Scarsdale should be inside of one congressional district within the geographic borders of Westchester County with similarly situated towns and which does not include any area within the Bronx.

Scarsdale is a small community of approximately 17,000 people within a compact area of only 6.66 square miles. Most of Scarsdale is presently situated in CD-16, which includes portions of the Bronx. One Election District is in CD-17, which does not include any areas within the Bronx.

Our political power at the congressional level is diluted, because it is divided. Given Scarsdale's compact area, this dilution is totally unwarranted. Additionally, this division of Scarsdale's representation does not conform to the "communities of interest" test that is one of the guiding principles to determine maps.

Scarsdale does not have a lot in common with the Bronx, the most obvious of which is that Scarsdale is suburban and the Bronx is urban. The Bronx is part of a different political jurisdiction altogether—New York City with its commanding population and unique needs. White Plains is the urban area that is contiguous to Scarsdale and the one in which Scarsdale residents most frequent, not the Bronx. White Plains is also within Westchester's boundaries. Scarsdale has more in common with other smaller communities within Westchester, such as Dobbs Ferry. These "commuter" communities share demographics and other socio-economic factors, such as educational levels and lifestyle.

Politically, the Westchester activist community has acted in a concerted fashion for years. We have organized together on my issues, including voting rights, which is my special concern. We know each other and regularly communicate with each other. Importantly for this discussion, we identify as Westchester residents, not as Bronx residents.

Myra Saul

[REDACTED] Scarsdale, NY 10583

Myra Saul

[REDACTED]
Co-Organizer, Westchester for Change, Co-Chair of the Indivisible Westchester
Elections Committee, Member of the Election Integrity Committee of NYCD16
Indivisible, Member of Indivisible Scarsdale, Member of the New York Democratic
Lawyers Council

Comment has been submitted

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Mon 8/2/2021 8:39 AM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

A private comment has been submitted

New York's 40th Senate District should include Ossining. It presently includes all surrounding towns and villages.

Thank you, Nicola DeMarco, JD

User: NICOLA DEMARCO

Delete Comment

Ban User from Future Comments

This e-mail has been automatically generated

Patricia Sibilía

My name is Patricia Sibilía, and I am President of the Albany County League of Women Voters. I submit this testimony on behalf of our County League, other League chapters in the capital region as well as the region's Urban League and the One Person-One Vote Coalition. We appreciate the opportunity the Commission has offered to present this testimony.

The Commission's first task is to determine its objective. It should not be aiding in the election of an incumbent or a challenger to an incumbent or assisting a political party in gaining a legislative majority. Instead, its objective must be to focus on the interests of the voters and attempt to draw districts that will empower them to elect those officials who will act in their interests.

The Commission is obligated to draw maps so as not to deny or abridge racial or language minority voting rights. The districts must be as equal in population as possible as well as contiguous and as compact as practicable. They may not favor particular candidates or political parties.

The Commission's central concern should be communities of interest. In other words, it should look at the interests of various voters and attempt to create districts allowing those voters with common interests to choose their representative. This would enable them to join together and elect someone who will have their interests as a priority.

If the Commission does not adopt these principles as its objective, it will fail in its mission.

Let's take the Capital District. We can identify three major cities within this district: Albany, which is in Albany County; Troy, which is in Rensselaer County; and Schenectady, which is in Schenectady County. Their connections are strong. For example, there is one public transportation system serving all three cities, as well as various towns within the district. In addition, one major airport serves the entire region.

All three cities are centers of arts and culture, with each having major performance halls and well attended museums. All three are on a river and have riverfronts, making the development of such properties a common interest. Significantly, all three are upstate urban centers with the issues common to urban centers, such as the need for affordable housing and quality school systems, policing issues and the maintenance of a vibrant downtown. All have diverse populations. Last week the three cities joined together as plaintiffs in a lawsuit against a single entity based on the defendant's neglect of vacant properties it owns in all of them.

These are the types of concerns that should be the focus of this Commission and its guiding factor in drawing districts. Its success of the Commission will be determined by whether it creates districts that give voters a real say in their government.

We look forward to working with its members to achieve this goal.

Patricia Sibilila addendum

This written submission is from Patricia Sibilila on behalf of the Albany County League of Women Voters, other League chapters in the capital region, the region's Urban League and its One Person-One Vote Coalition.

I submitted oral testimony on behalf of the same organizations at the hearing on August 2 and hereby reaffirm that testimony. Because of time limitations, I was unable to fully set forth all of the thinking of these organizations. This submission is intended to supplement the earlier testimony, and I request that the two be considered together so that the Commission has a complete understanding of our viewpoint.

In the prior testimony, I described the common interests of the three largest cities in the capital region – Albany, Schenectady and Troy – and urged the Commission to focus on these types of interests as it carries out its responsibilities. However, the capital region consists of much more than these cities. There are a good number of suburban towns as well as significant geographic areas that remain largely rural. This submission discusses the interests of these areas.

In addition, Saratoga County is very much part of the capital region. It has similar features – a city, albeit a smaller city, as well as suburban towns and rural areas. Its population grew seven percent in the past decade, making it one of the fastest growing counties in the state during this period. This continued a substantial growth that began about forty years ago, significantly changing the nature of the county and making it similar to the capital region rather than to the geographic areas to the north and west.

In my earlier testimony, we looked at three cities, all of which have adjoining towns that are what can fairly be described as suburban in nature. Niskayuna is adjacent to Schenectady; Guilderland, Colonie and Bethlehem are adjacent to Albany; and Brunswick is adjacent to Troy. In Saratoga County, the city of Saratoga is geographically closely connected to towns such as Malta and Ballston Spa. All of these towns grew considerably in the last half of the twentieth century and are reflective of many towns throughout the country that were developed in the era of the automobile. They, in general, have a few major heavily traveled streets with substantial commercial activity. Malls and shopping centers are common. Beyond these commercial strips, there are far less traveled streets with mainly one family homes.

While each town is unique in certain respects, all have common issues. Having grown in the era of the automobile, they are now beginning to face the environmental problems that are presented. Public transportation, supplied throughout the capital district by the Capital District Transportation Authority, has recently been enhanced. Bicycling has grown. Stewarts's – a chain of neighborhood shops throughout these towns and beyond – is beginning to install charging stations in anticipation of electric vehicles. Many more are expected to follow.

In addition, the many malls and shopping areas located in these towns have recently suffered because of the COVID pandemic and the competition from online retailers. All of these towns are facing the uncertain futures of their large shopping areas. While commercial development continues to be important, a competing factor is the desire to prevent overdevelopment. The preservation of open land is becoming more of a priority. These pressures are common to all of the suburban neighborhoods within the region.

Another common issue is affordable housing. As noted above, most housing consists of private one, or sometimes two, family homes. Generally, these towns do not have diverse populations. While there is a generally recognized need for more affordable housing and diversity, the challenge is how to achieve these goals while maintaining the nature of the towns that have attracted families during their period of growth. Again, these are common issues.

In short, the Commission's approach as it draws its maps must be to look at locations with common interests. In its efforts, it should note that the suburban areas in the capital region have many similarities. While these similarities are different from those of the cities, they need to be recognized if maps reflective of their interests are to be the result.

Beyond the cities and towns, there are still truly rural areas in the capital region. These are similar to most such areas, with farming being the main economic activity. For these areas, agricultural interests are the driving force. The voters need representatives who truly understand how different their needs are from those of the cities and suburban areas. Their interests are often lost in a state like New York, where the governmental focus is usually on the interests of its heavily populated areas.

One major common issue in the rural areas is lack of broadband. Because it is very expensive to connect each individual building, private industry has, in large part, avoided bringing their service to these areas. Of course, the lack of ability to connect has left these areas way behind in today's world. So much of the lives of all of us is dependent on what technology offers. For those who do not have connections, that is lost to them. It is essential, and government assistance is badly needed. Thus, those who represent these areas must have a good understanding of the need to enable the people who live there to join in many aspects of the modern world.

Rural communities face other common problems. Distance is always an issue for those who live in these communities. While this is often accepted, there is, in many cases, a need for essential services within a reasonable distance. People are generally not seeking significant development, but life is difficult when someone has an hour's drive to get a bottle of milk. In addition, volunteer fire and emergency health services are often lacking. Because of the limitations on broadband availability, telemedicine is not the solution that it is in more populated areas. All of these are problems exist in a good number of rural communities.

Like the common interests of the capital region's cities and suburban towns, those of the rural communities must be recognized by the Commission in its efforts to draw fair districts that afford effective representation for those who have such common interests.

We thank the Commission for this opportunity to supplement our oral testimony.

Paul Diamond

I ask that the redistricting commission view Rockland and Westchester as part of a single congressional district. The 2 counties are linked economically, as the Federal Reserve views the region. Our regions are linked by a bus service that connects multiple towns in Rockland with Elmsford and White Plains. Our common suburban character links Rockland to Westchester far more than the more rural counties to our north. Moreover, our common media markets underscore our commonality. The Journal News serves both counties and radio markets view Rockland as part of the greater metro area. This means Rockland receives primarily Westchester radio stations and visa-versa. The flow of traffic that comes through Rockland daily heading to the bridge that crosses into Westchester means that our daily lives are inextricably affected by one another. Numerous Rockland residents commute to Westchester for work, health care, mass transit. To split Rockland from Westchester is to ignore the common interests we have, economically, culturally, demographically. I ask that the commission continue to have Rockland and Westchester represented in a single congressional district. Thank you.

Honorable Members of the Redistricting Commission

I am the Greenburgh Town Supervisor. Greenburgh is the largest town in Westchester County. We currently are represented by two members of Congress. I think that Greenburgh would be better served if only one member of Congress represented our entire town.

It's obvious. If one member of Congress would represent a town of about 90,000 that congressional representative would fight even harder for our town because we would represent a large percentage of his or her congressional district. Splitting up the district in two or three parts would make it harder to get priority attention from the Congressional representative.

Greenburgh has significant needs. We need lots of attention and help from our Congressional representative. For example, our police and court house need to be replaced. And, we will be lobbying hard for federal infrastructure financial assistance to replace both facilities.

Our town also is pushing hard to make our streets safer for pedestrians. We are building sidewalks need schools and near business districts. Over a year ago we had 9 pedestrian accidents in the town including two fatalities. We need federal financial help.

One of our school districts within Greenburgh (Greenburgh Central) has significant infrastructure problems. The school district –which is independent of the town – also needs to help addressing buildings that are in disrepair. Their buildings need to be brought up to code, Ventilation, roof, window, elevator, heating, wiring problems need to be addressed. And, they desperately need financial help from Washington.

We need our Congressional representative to fight for the Greenburgh Neighborhood Health Center which serves the immigrant population and the poor. We need help creating affordable housing opportunities for our residents. With more financial help we would be able to have better job development programs –preparing the unemployed and youth for the jobs of tomorrow. We are planning to set up a food coop and could use financial help from Washington. Our police department is working hard to address systemic racism worries facing all departments in the United States. Programs that we would like to fund are expensive. We have a police summer youth camp, have community policing, started a youth court but could do even more.

Congressman Mondaire Jones has helped us obtain one million dollars for a sidewalk on Dobbs Ferry Road which will increase safety for pedestrians. We are grateful. And, he has only been in office for a little over a half a year. We hope that the Congressional representative who will serve our town during the next 10 years will give priority attention to Greenburgh and our needs. We need that representative to appreciate the importance of Greenburgh. Please give us one Congressman.

PAUL FEINER
Greenburgh Town Supervisor

Testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission
Submitted on Behalf of: Orange County Vegetable Improvement Cooperative Association,
Inc.

August 2, 2021

Hello, my name is Paul Ruskiewicz, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Orange County Vegetable Improvement Cooperative Association, Inc. (Orange County Vegetable Growers). This group represents approximately 140 farms harvesting 5,500 acres of vegetables in Orange County with an estimated annual value of \$45 million.

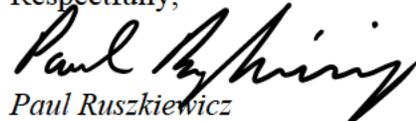
I write today to participate in New York's newly implemented independent redistricting process and the effects redistricting will have on our community.

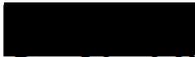
As a community of interest, we are focused on preserving a strong and vibrant vegetable industry in our region. Maintaining the communities of Warwick, Minisink, Goshen and Wawayanda within a single legislative district would ensure our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level. Additionally, putting all our Orange County growing communities – including municipalities with many farms, such as the towns of Montgomery, Crawford and Chester along with those previously mentioned – in a single legislative district would have an even greater positive impact on our operations. The continuity of these communities is critical to the food supply of our State and for the ability of our organization to receive proper representation and appropriate assistance.

The vegetable industry encompasses a diverse area, yet our community shares common interests. If it were split up into different districts, our representation would be diminished and would hinder our ability to work together and put food on the table. Over the years, we have worked hard to educate our representatives on the many import issues facing our community. Splitting up our community would require us to spend a great deal more time and effort informing new representatives of our concerns. We believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to our concerns and hope to see it maintained and improved as outlined.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing me to submit testimony. I again ask that you consider the needs of my community so that there may continue to be adequate and fair representation.

Respectfully,


Paul Ruskiewicz


Pine Island, NY 10969


Good Afternoon Commissioners:

My name is Peter Bernstein and I'm a registered voter in the 17th Congressional District, living in the Village of Irvington, Town of Greenburgh. Thank you for your efforts to reset and improve voting districts and for inviting public comments.

The current districting divides Greenburgh between CD-17 and CD-16. Irvington, Tarrytown, Elmsford, and much of Hartsdale are in CD-17, but Hastings-on-Hudson and Ardsley are in CD-16.

My suggestion today is that all of the Town of Greenburgh be included in CD-17. The truth is that residents are current confused about what Congressional District they live in. We are all represented by the Greenburgh Town Board and Supervisor, and we are all represented by one State Assemblyperson (District 92).

As our local Greenburgh municipalities grapple with high taxes, there are many opportunities for savings through shared services between the various local municipalities. On big ticket items like mitigating the impacts of climate change, improving infrastructure, and the high costs of public safety it makes sense that all of Greenburgh be unified when interacting with Federal representatives to activate Federal agency assistance.

In other areas, like recreation and cultural activities, our family has always viewed all of Greenburgh as our backyard. Our children took karate lessons in Hastings, attended theater workshops in Dobbs Ferry and learned to swim at the Tarrytown Y. Our high school sports teams play each other and we all attend outdoor concerts in our various parks.

We all know how important an informed public is in the political process. We are lucky to have an excellent local weekly paper, the Rivertowns Enterprise. Their coverage, editorials and letters to the editor inform the voters of Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley and Hastings. It is confusing and I know for a fact that voters have gone into the voting booth expecting to vote for a candidate they learned about in the Enterprise only to find out that they are not in that Congressional District.

In conclusion, it makes total sense for many reasons that all of Greenburgh be united into CD-17 as we are already a unified community in many ways and the current districts confuse voters and is inefficient in interacting with our Federal representatives and agencies.

Thank you.



County Legislature

Peter V. Tuohy, Legislator
7th Legislative District
205 Main Street
Goshen, New York 10924
Cell: (845) 281-4844
Email: ptuohy@orangecountyny.gov

August 13, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

As an Orange County Legislator and longtime resident of Monroe, NY I would like to provide testimony regarding the upcoming redistricting process and how it impacts our local federal representation. Our Mid-Hudson region encompasses a wide range of cultures and economically diverse backgrounds. Our region is interconnected and spans across demographics of economic, environmental, and jointly shared values.

To the west of the Hudson, Orange County shares more with its fellow counties west of the river. The economic differences from east to west of the Hudson have vast differences and few shared interests. With a common identity and shared values, Orange County should not collectively vote for and be represented by differing values or interests that are not aligned with our own. From Orange County, heading north would be the fairest way to adjoin neighboring communities with similar ideals.

As the population of Orange County expands, representation of shared interests will be important to allow this community to thrive. As there is a push for lines to be drawn that will align communities for fair representation, Orange County should join in a district with similar communities such as Sullivan County and northern Rockland County, like Stony Point.

Mid Hudson areas are rural. They should not be combined with areas like Westchester which range from suburban to urban areas. I believe it is important that rural communities remain as one, ensuring their concerns are listened to and respected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter V. Tuohy".

Peter V. Tuohy
7th Legislative District

Testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission
Submitted on Behalf of: *Downstate Milk Producers Cooperative*

August 12, 2021

Hello, my name is Phillip W. Johnson, Dairy Farmer, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Downstate Milk Producers Cooperative.

Downstate Co-op was established 33 years ago and is now comprised of eleven dairy farm families. We produce approximately 23 million lbs. of milk each year – almost 2.7 million gallons – and keep thousands of acres open and green in Orange County. Our member farms are located throughout Orange County in the townships of: Warwick, Goshen, Wallkill, Montgomery, and Crawford. We write today to participate in New York’s newly implemented independent redistricting process and the effects redistricting will have on our community.

As a community of interest, we are focused on survival and being productive to our region. Maintaining the communities of Warwick, Goshen, Wallkill, Montgomery, and Crawford within a single legislative district would ensure our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level. The continuity of these communities is critical to the ability of my community to provide services or receive assistance from my current representatives by local representation and would more broadly impact the ability of the community to prosper.

My community represents a diverse district, yet its residents share common interests. If my community was to be split up into different districts, our representation would be diminished and would hinder the community’s ability to come together. We need less bureaucracy not more to deal with when we have an issue needing answers. We believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to my group’s concerns.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing us to submit testimony. We again ask that you consider the needs of our community so that there may continue to be adequate and fair representation.

Respectfully,

Phillip W. Johnson
President, Downstate Milk Producers Cooperative

Contact Information:

Phil Johnson

Goshen, N.Y. 10924



Polly Windels

I have lived in Saratoga County since 1974. I have seen it evolve from a sleepy rural county with summer tourist traffic into a far more vibrant and year-round place to live and work.

A large number of the residents work in Albany County, some even in neighboring Schenectady County. Route 87 (also known as the Northway) used to be relatively busy; now this main artery from Saratoga Springs to Albany is morning rush hour traffic until 9:30 AM.

Saratoga County has adhered itself to its two northern neighbors, Warren and Washington Counties in many official governmental ways, like economic development and job training, but mainly because those counties are Republican. Although the economic fortunes are more closely linked to the rest of the Capital District, Saratoga County officials have stated that political similarity out-trumps anything else.

Saratoga County BELONGS IN THE CAPITAL DISTRICT. It has far more in common with this region for almost all indicators. Only a few individuals in the ruling party have determined who our representatives are. Sadly the residents have little in common with those who live in the most northern and rural parts of the state, yet we have been linked with this rural and more conservative part, effectively erasing any concerns we might have.

Please please reassign Saratoga County with the counties immediately to our south, creating a true picture of the district. Out jobs are there, we dine and shop there. Qw should be able to vote there too.

The Town of Chester
Orange County, New York

[REDACTED] 10918
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern:

The Mid-Hudson region of the Hudson Valley is a diverse and expansive area in New York. While we are connected and belong to the same state, we have areas that are vastly different from each other. It is my personal opinion that representation should not be split between our most rural areas and that of more urban areas requiring a different type of representation for their specific needs.

On the west side of the Hudson River, the areas within Orange County tend to share economic and environmental needs with Northern counties, than those in the more suburban to urban areas of Westchester and Southern Rockland counties. As we share common interests and values, we must make sure that our local, state, and federal representatives are focused on ensuring our direct needs are met and we feel as if there is someone who truly is representing us.

While we hope our region continues to grow, there are direct needs in infrastructure capabilities and preservation of rural character at stake. By being represented by members of our direct community, we will be served adequately. Yet, when a representative is forced to spend the majority of their time and resources in small slivers of urban centers, neglecting those in our rural areas, we are not well represented.

I ask that Orange County be joined with counties like Sullivan County and northern Rockland County, but stay to the west of the Hudson River.

Robert Courtenay Councilman
Town of Chester N.Y

[REDACTED]

Written Testimony for the New York Independent Redistricting Commission

By Robin A. Bikkal August 2, 2021

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you. My name is Robin Bikkal. I vote in the 18th Congressional District in Tarrytown, NY. I am the founder and current co-chair of the Hispanic Democrats of Westchester, the former president of El Centro Hispano of White Plains, the former president of the Westchester Hispanic Coalition, a trustee of Westchester Community College and the chair of Westchester's Hispanic Advisory Board. I would like to draw your attention to the issue of redistricting. Over the last three decades, members of the Hispanic and Latino communities have made the River towns, and adjoining villages, their permanent homes. The villages and cities of Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, Elmsford, Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Ossining and Peekskill have become home to a diverse yet linguistically and ethnically symbiotic community who share common issues both on federal and state levels. Issues including COVID vaccination and protection, small business administration, housing and education, or immigration, are all issues that affect the Hispanic and Latino communities of these contiguous villages and cities. The commonality increases as the populations in each of these villages and cities grow. For this reason, we believe and request that in your deliberations, you keep these villages and cities in one congressional district, and to the extent possible, within one state senatorial and assembly districts.

According to the US Census Bureau, 25% of Westchester's population is Hispanic or Latino. Included in these numbers are a few salient numbers.

1. 28% of this population are US Veterans
2. Hispanics or Latinos comprise 34% of the Town of Ossining
3. Hispanics or Latinos comprise 37% of the City of Peekskill
4. Hispanics or Latinos constitute 25% of Westchester county's population

The consequence of not addressing this include disparate representation of common issues affecting this entire sector of the community. In addition, keeping these villages and cities together as a voting block will eventually lead to possible candidacy by a member of the Hispanic or Latino communities at the federal and/or state levels. There is a severe underrepresentation of this sector of our economy at all levels of government. As the Hispanic and Latino communities grow in numbers and political influence, it is necessary that our electorate see itself in those who represent them. We need to give these communities the tools to be empowered politically.

I ask you to keep these communities together as a voting block, to draft congressional and state legislative districts that will provide Hispanic opportunity districts at all levels of government by keeping the above villages and cities as one voting district.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Name Robin A. Bikkal

Ema

City Tarrytown NY Zip 10591 Date August 2, 2021

MEMORANDUM

July 27, 2021

To : NYIRC

As redistricting impacts all our communities in every way I can think of, it is vitally important that this process maintain the status quo.

By keeping our communities within a single legislative district we, as voters, are insured our area's issues are focused on, and are advocated for, by our elected representatives at the State, and Federal levels. Continuity of our communities is both critical and essential to the ability of our community to provide services and/or receive assistance.

Our District is diverse, yet we as residents, share common interests, goals and lifestyle. If my community were to be split into different districts, I believe firmly that our representation would be diminished, and would certainly hinder our ability to come together on the important issues we face here and in the State.

Respectfully,

Rory O'Connor



Ballston Spa, NY 12020

FW: Written comment

Danielle Futia <futiad@nyirc.gov>

Sun 8/15/2021 5:42 PM

To: Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Danielle Futia

Independent Redistricting Commission
Assistant Director of Public Engagement
www.nyirc.gov

From: [Sandy Steubing](#)

Sent: Sunday, August 15, 2021 3:10 PM

To: [Ahsia Badi](#)

Cc: [Danielle Futia](#); [Miranda Goodwin Raab](#)

Subject: Written comment

Did you want my comment ahead of time?

Gerrymandering contributes to increasing the number of safe seats. Both parties do it because it advantages the incumbent. It contributes to low voter turnout, especially in the general election b/c everyone knows who the winner will be. Essentially gerrymandering is a cheat on democracy reducing elections to a ritual. It enables and allows the holders of power to cheat on democracy. In a nutshell it turns democracy on its head with the electeds choosing their voters rather than the voters choosing their representatives.

I'm from NY20 which is a really safe seat for Congressman Tonko. Congressman Stefanik is from NY21 and that's a really safe seat for her. Why not give all of Saratoga county and all of Rensselear county to Stefanik and expand the rural area for Mr. Tonko? Then both seats would be less safe.

Thank you for listening to my comments.

Sandy Steubing

**Testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission
Submitted on Behalf of: Hudson Valley Carpenters, LU279**

July 31, 2021

Good day, my name is Scott Smith and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hudson Valley Carpenters, LU279.

This community of interest represents approximately 3,000 men & women and covers the approximate areas of Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, Orange, Ulster, Sullivan & Columbia counties.

I write today to participate in New York's newly implemented independent redistricting process and the effects redistricting will have on my community.

As a community of interest, we are focused on educating our neighborhoods regarding local labor, fair wages & benefits to my region. Maintaining the communities of the Hudson Valley Region within a single legislative district would ensure our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level. The continuity of these communities is critical to the ability of my community to provide services or receive assistance from my current representatives by redistricting. This would more broadly impact the ability of our community to continue to receive and benefit from their existing representatives.

My community represents a diverse district, yet its residents share common interests. If my community was to be split up into different districts, our representation would be diminished and would hinder the community's ability to come together. By redistricting, we would lose our voice, our concerns, and beliefs could be in jeopardy due to redistricting with other areas that have other concerns and/or populations that could ultimately change our way of living. We believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to my community's concerns.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing me to submit testimony. I again ask that you consider the needs of my community so that there may continue to be adequate and fair representation.

Respectfully,

Scott Smith, Business Manager
North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

[REDACTED]
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
[REDACTED]

Dear Independent Redistricting Committee,

I am a resident of Clarkstown in Rockland County and unable to attend the Mid-Hudson/Capital Region meeting, but I wanted to express my thoughts about the Congressional redistricting that we are about to do in New York.

As a longtime Rockland resident, I remember what it was like when our small county was carved up and split into 3 Congressional districts. It was very disjointed and felt like no one was really representing us. I hope you will consider keeping Rockland together in one district.

In addition, I hope that you will keep us with the Westchester towns that are currently in the NY 17 and if you have to add some, consider adding the rest of Greenburgh, Scarsdale and some of the other Southern Westchester towns, perhaps extending east to the Connecticut border. We share so much with these towns—with many of our Rockland residents working there and many of the Westchester residents working here, each crossing the Mario Cuomo Bridge daily. We share a newspaper, radio stations, a high school athletic conference and many of our Rockland residents shop, dine, and most importantly, seek medical care in those towns. With our public transportation to New York City lacking, we often use the Tarrytown Metro-North station to go in and out of the city, as well as taking the Haverstraw Ferry to link up to Metro-North in Ossining.

As the Rockland County Lead for Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, much of our gun violence prevention work is done in conjunction with our counterparts in Westchester. Part of this is because we share representatives in the NY State Senate and in Congress, but also because the communities are similar in demographics, both racially, socially, and economically. We have a shared purpose—to reduce gun violence but also to teach gun safety practices and to support our survivors. Additionally, I have gotten to know the activists in other parts of NY17 through our shared goals and values, and we've worked together to fight for equity, social justice, healthcare and other reforms. I'm hopeful we can continue that work together and to expand it to other parts of Westchester when the district is redrawn.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely,

Shari Maurer
New City, NY

Testimony of Steven Stowitts Elliott – August 2, 2021

My name is Steven Elliott and I am a resident of Albany County. I am a political scientist and a former LTFOR staff member. I have also served as a redistricting expert on the partisan staff of both Republicans and Democrats in the Assembly.

The Commission, like the Task Force before it, is the public face of redistricting in New York. As with the Task Force, the Commission serves to insulate the legislature from scrutiny. It's important to make this clear, since the legislature has the staff and resources to draw maps on its own, notwithstanding anything the Commission does.

Up to this point, the Commission has focused on community of interest (COI) mapping. This can be a useful first step. But it can also divert attention and dissipate public energy. Taken in their raw form, COI maps are unworkable: they overlap and conflict; they usually ignore other legal requirements; and they create a patchwork of areas outside their boundaries that cannot be fashioned into legal districts.

All this can lead to a kind of redistricting Darwinism where only large voter communities are heard.

COI districts are just one of the constraints you face. The public is largely uninformed about the others.

The first and most important constraint, and the one that encompasses them all, is that it is not possible to maximize all legally mandated redistricting criteria at the same time. The rules often flatly contradict each other. The more rules, the harder it is to balance them. As a result, redistricting plans can never be fair and neutral in all respects.

The corollary is that every rule can either be used to promote fair districting or to impede it. The plain fact, as any experienced gerrymanderer knows, is that the more rules, the easier it is to gerrymander.

Your task should be to establish a hierarchy of legal requirements, inform the public about the trade-offs you envision, and show how you have used that hierarchy in your plans.

Start by documenting the three parts of every rule: The law that establishes its legal basis. The data and technology that allow it to be applied. And the statistical and legal measures used to judge it.

I understand you might be reluctant to do this. It would add work in the short run. But it will help you sort your choices. You may find it reduces the differences of opinion that are sure to arise among you.

Lay it all out. Create a road map through New York's convoluted and opaque requirements. It will help prepare for the inevitable litigation to come.

You will also be giving the public the tools to move beyond COIs.

The legislature will have its preferences and you may hear of them. You may produce two sets of plans, reflecting your partisan split. This need not be an admission of failure.

The Commission was designed to incorporate the legislature's interest. One way to redirect those calculations is to unmask the biases inherent in the process and in the results. It remains possible for you, within the constraints of your partisan allegiances, to improve an imperfect process.

August 11, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

First of all, I want to thank you for all your hard work and attention to this complex issue and your handling of community outreach. I very much appreciate the opportunity to weigh in about my community and how I believe it fits in to NY State as a whole.

I have lived in Rye for 27 years, during that time we have been part of Congressional Districts 16 and 17 (maps here show the before and after 2010 redistricting

<http://www.censusviewer.com/district-maps/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NY-CD-16.jpg>)

Since that redistricting, we have been cut off from our fellow Sound Shore Community to the immediate north, Portchester, and our neighbor to the west, Harrison.

I believe that Westchester would benefit by having one Congressional representative. We are a suburban community with common services, common highways, a common transportation system, (Bee line busses and Metro-North), common emergency management, and similarly structured school systems. These are all areas that benefit from Federal attention and do not easily fit into commonalities with those same services in New York City. Culturally Westchester is quite different from NYC, even our cities are relatively suburban, and car culture focused.

I strongly believe the Sound Shore communities should all be kept together, as we all have similar Long Island Sound focused cultures and issues; infrastructure, water quality, recreation and rescue issues. Even without being part of the Sound Shore, Harrison is a much more similar community to Rye, then Rye is to the Northern Bronx.

My hope is that this Commission can find a way to unite Westchester County and give us a representative who can focus on our unique culture that sets us apart from both New York City and the more rural parts of New York State. We have the population size, and I believe, deserve the voice in Congress.

Again, thank you very much for taking the time to listen to my opinion on this matter. I really appreciate it and all your hard work.

Sincerely,
Susan H. van Dijk

████████████████████
Rye, NY 10580

August 2, 2021

To the Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission:

I am a resident of the Town of Ossining and would like to go on record for including the Town in the 40th Senate District during the redistricting process.

Currently, my state senator represents three towns in Rockland County, as well the Town of Ossining in Westchester. The Hudson River separates the Rockland part of the District from Ossining. There is no physical transportive connection between these disparate parts of the district.

In short, it is a district created not by common sense but with gerrymandering as its main purpose.

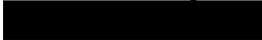
Further, as Ossining is wholly involved with Westchester County in terms of governance, administration and mutual support, it just makes sense that it is included in a senate district with other Westchester towns.

Please return the Town of Ossining to a Senate District comprised entirely of towns from Westchester.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Illowsky



Ossining, NY. 10562



LWWW REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY FOR IRC PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 2, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Westchester (LWVW) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the redistricting efforts that will soon take place for all U.S. Congressional Districts and NYS Senate and Assembly Districts.

While the LWVW recognizes the legal constraints involved in shaping legislative districts, we oppose partisan gerrymandering, because it strips rights away from voters and splits communities. The results of this can be seen in several of Westchester County's districts which variously include areas of Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, and Bronx Counties. Ensuring that communities of interest are not split especially resonates with the LWVW at this time. As our letter of July 23, 2021 explained, we are vehemently opposed to being included in the IRC hearings' Mid-Hudson Region because Westchester County's commonality lay with the boroughs of New York City, rather than the rural areas of our northern neighbors.

LWVW on all levels is laser focused with the goal to combat gerrymandered districts which benefit politicians and political parties rather than citizens. Our request is for the IRC to think about the priorities of communities of interest so that elected representatives truly represent their constituency and work for them.

Westchester County is a diverse county that offers much variety with many communities of interest that cross municipalities. Better maps would make fair communities.

Examples:

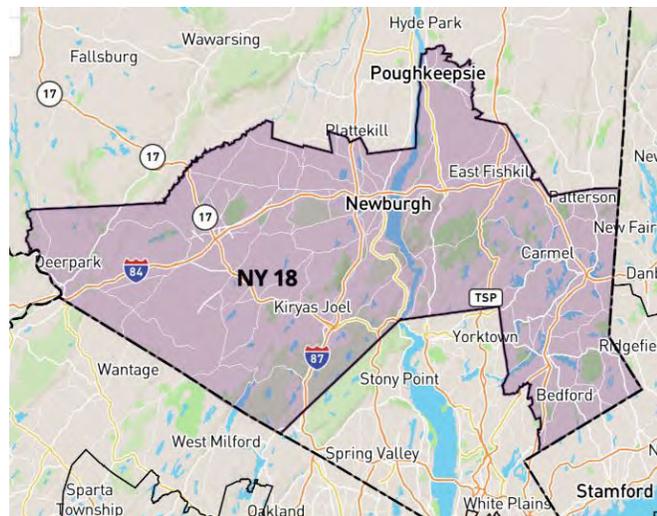
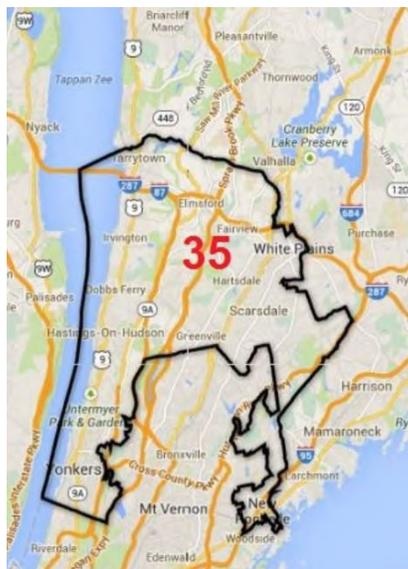
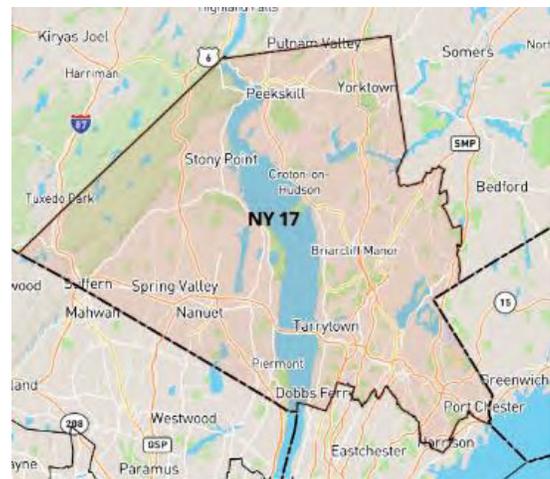
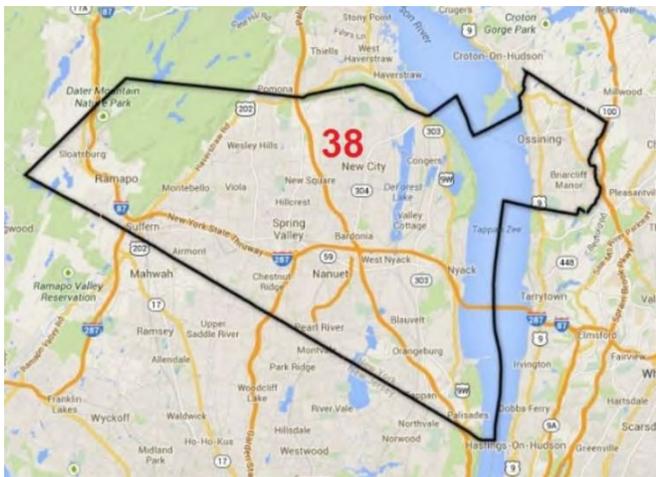
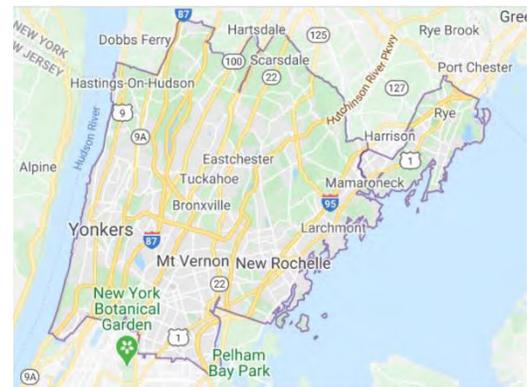
- Larchmont/Mamaroneck are Long Island Sound Shore communities and environmental issues relating to LI Sound are really important to them. The northern part of the **Senate 37** and **Assembly 91** districts, and 95% of **CD 16** don't share those concerns to the same extent.
- Ossining Town and Village in Westchester is a diverse community that faces economic and cultural challenges. Why would **Senate District 38** be interested in that small community on the other side of the Hudson River?
- The city of White Plains is a city within Westchester County, yet is divided into **two Senate Districts – 35 and 37**. How can interests and challenges be addressed when divided?
- **Congressional District 17** is split down the middle by the Hudson River, yet includes Westchester and Rockland Counties. How can that fairly meet the needs of those diverse communities? (Again, includes Ossining Town and Village.)
- Currently, **Congressional District 18** comprises four counties: Westchester, Putnam, Orange, and Dutchess. How can that mapping fairly meet the needs of those communities?

The League of Women Voters of Westchester asks that the IRC focus upon the needs of community citizens by actively listening to them, and not hold a political lens upon mapping.

The people want their voices heard, and expect those whom they elect to represent them in legislatures to actively listen, accurately represent their voices, and take actions to meet their needs.

Examples: CD 16, 17, 18, SD 35, 37,38, AD91

Suzanne Kavic



The current CD #20 boundaries should be kept together. It includes the areas of Capital Region in the counties of Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Rensselaer and Montgomery. Here are the points in favor of retaining the CD #20 map:

Geographically cohesive

Tied together economically and by dense transportation networks

They deserve to be kept together in a Congressional map

Keeping these counties together with predictable, stable boundaries promotes good representation and governance.

Please retain the District Boundaries.

Thank you.

Thomas Goodfellow

Delmar, NY

Member of the Albany County and Town of Bethlehem Democratic Committee

Member of Bethlehem Morning Voice Huddle

Member of Capital District Chapter of Democratic Socialists of America

August 7, 2021

To the Independent Redistricting Commission,

I am writing to you as a local Democratic Party district leader (Election District 1) of the Peekskill Democratic City Committee (PDCC).

I have huge concerns regarding redistricting on the federal/congressional and state level, because of the voting district where I inform Peekskill Democratic Party voters. This district includes residents of public housing (100+ Democratic Party voters). In addition, Peekskill has a much lower (roughly 35% lower) Average Median Income in comparison to Putnam County residents and (30 % lower) for Westchester County residents.

I am advocating that Peekskill's congressional districting and state legislative districts remain with Rockland County as well as the City of Ossining because of economic parallels not only in demographics but issues that include economic, environmental, and social justice concerns. It should not be redistricted with Putnam County as it would not allow Peekskill fair legislative representation of its constituents. If anything, our state senate district should be included with the City of Ossining.

Environmental justice community – Rockland County and the City of Ossining's vicinity to the Hudson River

In addition, the city of Peekskill has been identified as an environmental justice community. This information may be found here: https://www.clearwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/CBEJI_FINAL-DRAFT-1-30-11-for-printing.pdf

This year marks the closing and decommissioning of Indian Point, with the additional burden of over 2,000 tons of irradiated fuel rods added to this environmental justice inventory. In addition, the company applying for the license for decommissioning lacks experience, a record of malfeasance, with the license transfer being challenged by the New York State Attorney General's office. Therefore oversight and radiological monitoring is critical to our community health.

In addition, radioactive isotopes have been identified in our groundwater that is mapped to flow into the Hudson River. The Hudson River is shared by Rockland County and Ossining and therefore share these issues of environmental remediation. We need unified legislative representation in this unprecedented time of remediating environmental pollution.

Social and Demographic community consistency with Rockland and Ossining

Rockland and Ossining are diverse entities just like Peekskill. Peekskill needs to keep our 24,000+ residents together with children attending the same school district. Regarding language other than English spoken at home, both Peekskill and Rockland County have an almost identical percentage at 40 and 39% respectively (comparatively, Putnam County has 18% of language other than English speakers).

Affordable housing

Rockland County and Ossining have public housing options too, whereas other Westchester County municipalities have been sued by the federal government for lack of affordable housing. Putnam County too has little public housing authorities in comparison to Peekskill. It is critical that Peekskill as a city not be divided in any kind of way.

Thank you for addressing my concerns and maintaining for Peekskill's equal and fair representation as the law intends in redistricting. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tina Volz-Bongar

atic Party district leader (Election District 1)
Peekskill, NY 10566

Testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission
Submitted on Behalf of The Hudson Valley Building and Construction Trades Council

July 30, 2021

Hello, my name is Todd Diorio, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Hudson Valley Building and Construction Trades Council in my capacity as President in which I have served for over 20 years. Collectively our membership represents 29 local trade unions and over 8000 thousand members. The Council covers the Counties of Orange ,Ulster,Sullivan and Dutchess.

Our organization includes locals throughout the Hudson Valley, but this testimony will focus on our support for ensuring that the redistricting process keeps Orange and Sullivan Counties in the same Legislative Districts as they currently are.

There is tremendous economic and workforce synergy between these two counties and it will best serve my members and local residents for the Commission to keep these areas together.

Maintaining the communities of Orange and Sullivan counties as they are currently constituted in Senate District 42 within a single would ensure our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level. The continuity of these communities is critical to the ability of my organization to provide services or receive assistance from my current representatives on many critical energy and infrastructure issues that tie these two counties closely together. These include transmissions projects, repowering projects, construction projects and hundreds of renewable energy jobs in these two counties, which are critical to the state meeting and exceeding its climate change goals.

We believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to our Unions concerns. Dividing Sullivan and Orange counties any further would alter this landscape for the worse and negatively impact my members and place significant state goals at risk. We ask that the Commission consider all of this in its important deliberations.

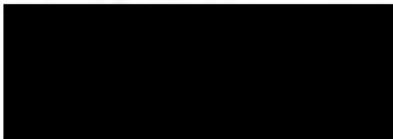
Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing us to submit testimony. I again ask that you consider the needs of our membership so that there may continue to be adequate and fair representation for us in the State Legislature.

Respectfully,

Todd Diorio , President

Hudson Valley Building and Construction Trades Council

 *Newburgh NY 12550*



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Mary Ellen Beams, RMC
845-783-1900 ext. 203

Highway Superintendent:
John Scherne
845-783-1900 ext. 211

Attorney:
Brian Nugent
845-353-2000

Supervisor
Tony Cardone
845-783-1900 ext. 104

Councilpersons:
Richard Colon
Michael McGinn
Mary Bingham
Salvatore Scancarello

Dear Commission,

The following is our position on the redistricting of Orange County and Mid-Hudson Valley,

The Mid-Hudson Valley place is comprised of many different people and community members, but there are many separate areas that split with the help of and resources of the Hudson River. To the west of the Hudson River, there are various cultures, economic statuses, rural communities, and different backgrounds, that are ranging from the east side of the river. I believe we must make sure that shared values and shared pastimes are well represented.

West of the Hudson River, Orange County, a group of communities with similar interests and values and deserves equal representation. Economic challenges and backgrounds from west to east may additionally favor to the people of higher status if put together, which is unfair. Orange County wishes to be represented by means of elected officers who understand them, and will those in these communities. The district needs to run north to south, not from the east to the west.

Orange County is growing. Our shared values deserve to be shared and understood by our representatives.

We are a rural area in the Mid Hudson Valley, without large suburban or urban communities. Let it be known that this is our position regarding the districting of Orange County.

Cordially,

Tony Cardone

Supervisor – Town of Monroe

Easy Testimony Fill-in

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you. My name is William H. Schrag. I vote in the 16th CD District in New Rochelle (city/municipality). I would like to draw your attention to the issue of redistricting.

In my neighborhood, (tell your story)
I understand that here is the possibility that NY 17, Mondaire Jones ' district, may change. Currently, he

This effectively means
Congressman Bowman is being forced to represent residents of New York City and Westchester County,

_____.

Facts, etc.

1. ~~Residents of New York City have their own school budget, tax structure and a variety~~
Residents of New York City have their own school budget, tax structure and a variety
2. ~~The representatives of the 16th and 17th CD's are both freshmen~~
The representatives of the 16th and 17th CD's are both freshmen
- 3.

The consequence of not fixing this problem include
having suburban residents represented by a congressman who must also focus on the needs of New Yor

_____.

I ask you to
support a redistricting that joins residents of Westchester County with other suburban areas such as Rocl

_____.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Name William H. Schrag _____

City New Rochelle NY Zip 10804 Date 8-1-21

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you. My name is William H. Schrag. I vote in the 16th Congressional District in New Rochelle. I would like to draw your attention to the issue redistricting.

In my neighborhood:

I understand that here is the possibility that NY 17, Mondaire Jones' district, may change. Currently, he represents all but one precinct in Scarsdale, which adjoins New Rochelle. I reside in the North End of New Rochelle, which is currently represented by Jamaal Bowman, who also represents portions of the Bronx. I don't understand why Westchester residents are being represented by a congressman representing the Bronx. The interests of New York City residents are different from those in suburbs like Westchester County. Accordingly, I believe that Westchester County residents should be included in the 17th CD (together with residents from Rockland County) and that the Bronx should remain part of the 16th CD.

This effectively means:

Congressman Bowman is being forced to represent residents of New York City and Westchester County, who have distinct interests that don't fully align with one another.

Facts, etc:

Residents of New York City have their own school budget, tax structure and a variety of issues that are separate and distinct from those in suburban counties like Westchester and Rockland.

The representatives of the 16th and 17th CD's are both freshmen congressmen.

The consequences of not fixing this problem include:

having suburban residents represented by a congressman who must also focus on the needs of New York City, which are separate and distinct from Westchester County.

I ask you to: support a redistricting that joins residents of Westchester County with other suburban areas such as Rockland County and keeps them separate from the 16th CD for residents of New York City.

** reformatted for legibility

Independent Redistricting Commission

Ximena Francella <[REDACTED]>

Mon 8/2/2021 4:06 PM

To: [REDACTED] Ahsia Badi <badia@nyirc.gov>; Submissions <submissions@nyirc.gov>

Dear Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission ,

My name is Ximena Francella. I am a resident in New Rochelle , Congressional District 16.

I want to highlight the need of a fair and equitable process that no longer disenfranchises communities of color, and allows us to pick our own elected leaders.

As we await the results of the last census we know that there are changes in the population in New Rochelle and every effort should be made in redistricting to maintain communities together to provide the ability of equal representation , and our communities to have the ability to pick our own representative.

1. DataUSA 2019 revealed 5 largest ethnic groups in New Rochelle, NY are White (Non-Hispanic) (43.6%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) (18.7%), Other (Hispanic) (13.6%), White (Hispanic) (13%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic) (5.11%).

2. Latinos , African American & Asians are now over 50 % of the population of New Rochelle, but do not have equal representation in elected posts.

The consequence of not fixing this problem include

1. People feeling discouraged and not voting in elections.
2. Decrease in civic involvement. Elected representatives will not know the true impact of policies in people's lives.

When lines are drawn every effort should be made to maintain these communities together. Census data is important , but also consider looking at school data to have a more accurate count on our city's population .

I commend you on setting up the process for public input on such an important topic.

Thank you for your time and consideration .

Ximena Francella

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] New Rochelle NY 10805
[REDACTED]

Date August 2, 2021