

**ANDREW RUSSEM**  
**531 MAIN STREET #803**  
**ROOSEVELT ISLAND, NY 10044**

January 10, 2023

Members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for considering Roosevelt Island's needs when determining the redistricting map for New York State's Assembly. I strongly oppose the current proposal which removes Roosevelt Island from Manhattan's District 76 and places it in Queens District 36.

New York State's redistricting rules require:

Districts must consist of contiguous territory and shall be as compact in form as possible.

- a. Our Manhattan Island's contiguous territory is Manhattan, not Queens.
- b. The proposed change to our district is sprawling, not compact.

The commission must take into account the maintenance of existing districts, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest.

- a. Roosevelt Island is being severed from long established communities of interest. Our political subdivision is not being respected.
- b. The City Charter of New York City recognizes Roosevelt Island as a Manhattan community.

The Constitution of New York State specifically provides two State legislators for each district, a Senator and an Assembly Member. Roosevelt Island, a Manhattan community, has a unique form of local governance. We are governed by an unelected, State appointed Public Benefit Corporation, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp (RIOCI). All of our local services are administered by RIOCI, not by New York City. The Board of Directors for RIOCI is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor of NY. Because of this unique relationship with the State of NY, in which our residents do not have a voting voice in their local government, it is imperative that we, a Manhattan community, have the combined efforts of both of our Manhattan based representatives, working together on our behalf, to provide us with responsive and fair dealing by RIOCI.

Sincerely,

**ANDREW RUSSEM**

531 Main Street

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Roosevelt Island, NY 10044