

**Daniel and June Walden**  
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March 8, 2023

Ken Jenkins  
Chair, New York State Independent Redistricting Commission  
Independent Redistricting Commission  
250 Broadway, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins:

**Re: Opposing the proposed redrawn Assembly District map moving the Sutton Place neighborhood into District 36 across the East River in Queens.**

We are residents of Sutton Place, having moved back to Manhattan in 2016 as our permanent home after 25 years in Westchester. We are particularly happy to have access to the world-leading hospitals and beautiful parks within easy walking distance from our home.

The proposal in the Committee's December map to move Sutton Place, Turtle Bay, Roosevelt Island, and a narrow strip bordering the FDR into Queens based District 36 raises a number of practical concerns:

- A predominantly Queens based population physically separated from our neighborhood and our issues likely would elect the Assemblymember responsible for representing the far east side of Manhattan.
- A Queens based Assemblymember would be based physically distant from (i.e., across the East River) from the significant population of aging folk living in the Sutton Place or would be forced to maintain presence and staff on both sides of the East River.
- An Assemblymember for this District would face significant conflicts representing the needs of both the population in Queens and the population of the far east side.
- We would be separated from Midtown East and the Upper East Side, which are our natural and historic community of interest, where we walk every day, and which share our use of the unique parks along the west bank of the East River, including the esplanade still in construction, and the world leading health care institutions along York Ave.

Further, inclusion of the far east side into District 36 as proposed by the Commission's December maps fails to meet several requirements of the NY State Constitution, including that proposed District 36 (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political

subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) creates an oddly shaped cross-borough district separated by the East River, defying citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The Sutton Place neighborhood, often referred to as a unique Manhattan residential enclave, should not be stuffed into an Assembly District primarily made up of very different communities across the East River in Queens. We strongly urge that the Commission's next draft map retain Sutton Place, all of the blocks along York Avenue, Turtle Bay and Roosevelt Island in one of the Manhattan-based State Assembly Districts.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel and June Walden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel and June Walden