

## *From the Desk of* Carrie Woerner

Commissioners  
NYS Independent Redistricting Commission

RE: 113th Assembly District Boundaries

January 29, 2023

Commissioners,

I am the Assemblymember who represents the 113th Assembly District and I write to you today to discuss the current definition of the 113th Assembly District and to argue for it remaining as defined to support the shared communities of interest that reside within it.

The current boundaries, from Glens Falls in the north to Mechanicville in the south and from Greenwich to Saratoga Springs, encompass 3 small cities, 3 larger suburban towns, and 6 rural towns and 6 villages. The Hudson River and Champlain Canalway link all of these communities around shared infrastructure and shared recreation. Indeed, communities comprising the 113th Assembly District have much in common, from a shared history to a shared economy. Though Glens Falls is in a different Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), in reality its economy is linked in meaningful ways to the Capital Region. The state recognizes this by including Glens Falls as the northern-most city in the Capital District regional economic development council. (It is also worth noting that going north from Glens Falls the next city is Plattsburgh, 1 hour and 43 minutes away.)

Small cities are the regional hubs for commercial activity, for social services, for affordable housing. Older than the towns that grew up around them, small cities are challenged by aging infrastructure. In the last year, Glens Falls, Saratoga Springs, and Mechanicville have all experienced water main breaks due to pipes that are more than 100 years old. Homelessness and the need for safe, secure housing for all is a problem experienced primarily in cities. The local Habitat for Humanity builds affordable homes in Glens Falls and Saratoga Springs, and their ReStore is located in Moreau. Housing Authorities and subsidized housing complexes are located in the small cities of Mechanicville, Glens Falls and Saratoga Springs.

While the disease of addiction does not respect municipal boundaries, the organization that assists those struggling with it is located in Hudson Falls and Saratoga Springs (serving Glens Falls, Washington and Saratoga counties). Food insecurity impacts people in all communities, and in the 113th AD one of the most impactful organization addressing hunger is Comfort Food Community located in Greenwich and offering services in under contract with Glens Falls Hospital, in communities across northern Saratoga county and southwest Washington county.

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The two major Farmers Markets in Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls both feature products produced on farms from Greenwich, Fort Edward, Stillwater, Saratoga and Northumberland. Many of the dairy farms whose home farm is in Saratoga County also lease farm fields in Washington County towns. Farm to table restaurants in Saratoga Springs and Glens Falls source their ingredients from farms located in eastern Saratoga county and in Washington county. The heritage of farming and the culture of independence that is part of the ethos of the

region are shared across the rural communities that are part of the 113th AD in both Saratoga and Washington counties.

Major employers located in these communities draw employees from across the region. Residents from Glens Falls, Hudson Falls, Fort Edward, and Greenwich, join residents of Saratoga County in making the daily trek to the state government offices in Albany, the logistics warehouses in Wilton and the Global Foundries plant in Malta. Paper mills, like Finch Pruyn and Essity, literally straddle the municipal boundaries between Glens Falls and South Glens Falls in the town of Moreau. The Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce draws its membership from northern Saratoga County, Washington County along with Glens Falls and southern Warren County. Environmental advocates who recently are challenging industrial development plans in Moreau, just as they did the PCB spill in the Hudson by GE plants in Fort Edward years before, come from Glens Falls, Washington County and Saratoga County because the waterways that support all of these communities are affected by the decisions made in any of these communities.

Mechanicville, Stillwater, Saratoga, Northumberland, Moreau, Greenwich, Fort Edward and Hudson Falls are all river communities and are all members of the Historic Hudson Hoosick Partnership (HHHP). This Partnership was formed in state law recognizing the interdependence these communities have and the shared history they have spanning the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the rise of the Industrial Revolution, the abolition and women's suffrage movements. Indeed the Partnership recently completed a new Visitor's Center located in Schuylerville which is a resource and a jumping off point for heritage tourists visiting our region.

The Healthcare Systems that serve this region overlap in these communities. The service areas for Glens Falls Hospital includes the Washington County towns and the northern Saratoga County towns. Saratoga Hospital, which along with Glens Falls Hospital is affiliated with Albany Medical Center, serves patients across the same region. Hudson Headwaters Health Network has primary care in Moreau, Fort Edward, as well as Glens Falls. The Council for Prevention serves Saratoga County, Glens Falls and Washington County.

A merger between Greater Glens Falls Transit (which services Glens Falls, southern Warren County, South Glens Falls in Saratoga County, and Hudson Falls and Fort Edward in Washington County) and the Capital District Transit Authority (which services Saratoga Springs and southern Saratoga county) is in the final stages of discussions. The merger should it happen is a recognition of the relationship Glens Falls has to the other cities and towns that lie in the Capital Region.

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The totality of the 113th Assembly District as it is presently defined represents a unique blend of communities linked by family, by history, by character and by economy. Including Glens Falls in a district with two other Capital Region small cities has served to amplify its needs because of commonality with Mechanicville and Saratoga Springs. These three cities anchor the economy of the northern part of the Capital Region and provide the social services that support the people who live in the towns and villages that lie between them. I respectfully urge you to consider the communities of interest that span these 18 communities and the retain the 113th Assembly District boundaries.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carrie Woerner  
Member of Assembly  
113th Assembly District  
Resident, Village of Round Lake