



Office of the Town Supervisor

The Honorable William W. Moehle

January 10, 2023

Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

VIA <https://www.nyirc.gov/participate>

Dear Commissioners:

RE: 136th Assembly District

Please find attached my comments on the proposed redistricting plan and my recommendation to keep the Town of Brighton, Monroe County, in a single Assembly District.

Sincerely,

William W. Moehle
Town Supervisor

Attachment

2300 Elmwood Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618

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Office of the Town Supervisor

The Honorable William W. Moehle

SUBMISSION TO NYS INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

My name is William Moehle and I am the Supervisor of the Town of Brighton in Monroe County. I have served as Brighton Town Supervisor for eleven years and previously served as Attorney to the Town for 18 years. Today, I ask you to maintain the Town of Brighton's single Assembly District, as opposed to the proposed IRC plan to divide the Town into two Assembly Districts.

The Town of Brighton is an inner ring suburb of Rochester with a population slightly over 37,000, which is a small increase from the 2010 census. The entire Town of Brighton is currently a part of the 136th Assembly District, represented by Assembly Member Sarah Clark. The Town of Brighton has been included in a single Assembly District since at least the 1970s. Audre "Pinny" Cooke represented Brighton in the Assembly from 1978-1990. Joe Morelle represented Brighton from 1991-2018. Jamie Romeo represented Brighton from 2019-2020 and Sarah Clark has represented Brighton since 2020. For most, if not all of that time, the entire Town of Brighton has been included in an Assembly District that, regardless of its District number, has also included Irondequoit and a portion of the City of Rochester.

For the first time in over 40 years, the plan proposed this year by the IRC would divide Brighton between two Assembly Districts. While I understand that, unlike Senate Districts, there is no absolute prohibition on dividing Towns between two or more Assembly Districts, on the IRC webpage under *Frequently Asked Questions*, the question, "What criteria are used to draw district lines?" is answered as follows: "The Commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities and towns, and of communities of interest." However, as proposed, this plan would not only separate the residents of this part of Brighton from the rest of the Town of Brighton, but it would also remove them from the core of an Assembly District that has existed in substantially its current form for over four decades.

The population of Brighton is small enough that it can easily be included in a single Assembly District. The IRC could do so by unifying Brighton within what is now the 136th Assembly District, and returning a portion of the east side of Rochester to the 137th District currently represented by Assembly Member Demond Meeks. Additional slight adjustments to the District lines could also restore Members Harry Bronson and Sarah Clark to the Districts they currently represent, maintaining the relationships and local understanding of their Districts that they have developed.

I firmly believe that the residents of the Town of Brighton are best served under the current, single District model. I thank you for taking these recommendations under consideration.

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