

To: 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. My wife and 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.

1. Our Manhattan Island's contiguous territory is Manhattan, not Queens.
2. 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.

1. Roosevelt Island is being severed from long established communities of interest. Our political subdivision is not being respected.
2. 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 (RIOC). All of our local services are administered by RIOC, not by New York City. The Board of Directors for RIOC 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 RIOC.

Unfortunately, my wife and I are not able to attend the public hearing that will take place on this topic. However, please allow us to URGENTLY ask that Roosevelt Island remain part of Manhattan for the additional following three reasons:

1. Our six year-old daughter attends a gifted & talented program at a school in Manhattan (PS 198). She was only able to participate in this program as we are residents of Manhattan and in the Manhattan school district #2. We all know that the Department of Education will move Roosevelt Island to be part of a Queen's school district if Roosevelt Island is moved out of Manhattan for district / voting purposes.
2. My wife (Citibank) and I (BDO) work in Manhattan and take our daughter to school on our way to work. If she is forced to go to a school in Queens, then our daily commute time is doubled (or worse) as we now have to take our daughter to school in Queens, then go back through Roosevelt Island to get to our office in Manhattan. Why would we want to remain in Roosevelt Island if this occurs?

3. We bought our co-op in the Island House complex five years ago because Roosevelt Island is in Manhattan. We wanted to live close to where we work in Manhattan, yet also enjoy the peace and quiet of Roosevelt Island that can only be found in the Battery Park City area on the island of Manhattan - which of course is a pretty far commute from mid-town Manhattan. We have to believe the value of our co-op would significantly decrease if Roosevelt Island became part of Queens (i.e. for then the families that live in Manhattan, but who are interested in moving to Roosevelt Island in order to be able to enjoy the island's advantages, can no longer send their children to a school in Manhattan). Ask a realtor if our co-op becomes less valuable if it is now considered to be part of Queens. I am sure the answer would be - yes!

Thank you in advance for taking into your decision-making process our URGENT request to stop this proposed redistricting of Roosevelt Island.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Windsor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sean Windsor

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