

COMMON CAUSE/NY COMMENTS RE PROPOSED MAPS FOR LONG ISLAND¹

Common Cause/NY submits these comments to supplement its testimony introduced at the Brooklyn hearing.

Relevant Demographic Changes

TOTAL POPULATION				
	2010 Total	2020 Total	Change	Change%
Long Island	2,832,882	2,921,694	88,812	3.1%
Nassau County	1,339,532	1,395,774	56,242	4.2%
Suffolk County	1,493,350	1,525,920	32,570	2.2%

From 2010-2020, Long Island’s total population grew 3.1% -- a slightly slower rate than New York State’s overall 4.2% growth rate. In prior cycles, Long Island was not subjected to the regional population gerrymandering that occurred between Upstate and New York City in the state legislative districts and districts were drawn relatively equal in population. As a result, Long Island’s share of state legislative districts will likely remain constant at nine State Senate districts and 22 Assembly districts. In Congress, Long Island will still remain the predominant population base for four districts, although one (or two) of these districts will include a greater share of Queens than the current map.

In Nassau, population growth was greater in Hempstead and North Hempstead than in the town of Oyster Bay. In Suffolk, population growth concentrated in the far east end with East and Southhampton growing by over 25%, likely reflecting pandemic-related population shifts. The much larger suburban areas of Huntington, Islip, Brookhaven, Babylon, and Smithtown were nearly stagnant in overall population.

¹ Note, this analysis does not use the prisoner-adjusted Census datasets that were recently made available by LATFOR for State Senate and State Assembly.

DEMOGRAPHICS

	NHWht VAP	%	Change %	NHBlk VAP	%	Change %	NHAsn VAP	%	Change %	Hispanic VAP	%	Change %
Long Island	1,451,332	62.7	-5.4%	201,168	8.7	12.0	175,473	7.6	54.0%	418,418	18.1	36.2
Nassau	641,172	58.3	-7.6%	117,222	10.7	11.1	123,754	11.3	63.3%	184,325	16.8	33.4
Suffolk	810,160	66.7	-3.5%	83,946	6.9	13.4	51,719	4.3	35.6%	234,093	19.3	38.5

Long Island continued its decades-long pattern of increasing diversity. This ongoing shift is especially strong in Nassau County where the NH² White VAP declined from 67.5% to 58.3% of the total. While NH Black VAP grew 11% in the county, Latino and especially Asian VAP grew at far faster rates.

Due in large part to explicit practices of segregation in the postwar period, Long Island's Black population is highly concentrated in a small number of communities: Hempstead, Freeport, Lakeview, New Cassel, North Amityville, Wyandanch, and with most recent growth in Elmont and Valley Stream as an extension of the southeast Queens community. The Hispanic/Latino community in Nassau is also concentrated in Hempstead and Freeport, though not to the same extent.

Suffolk County has comparatively smaller Black and Asian populations to Nassau but a greater Hispanic/Latino population centered in the Town of Islip.

The Asian population of Long Island is most heavily concentrated in a string of communities stretching along the Long Island Expressway in Nassau including Little Neck and Great Neck, Glen Oaks, Roslyn, Jericho, and Hicksville.

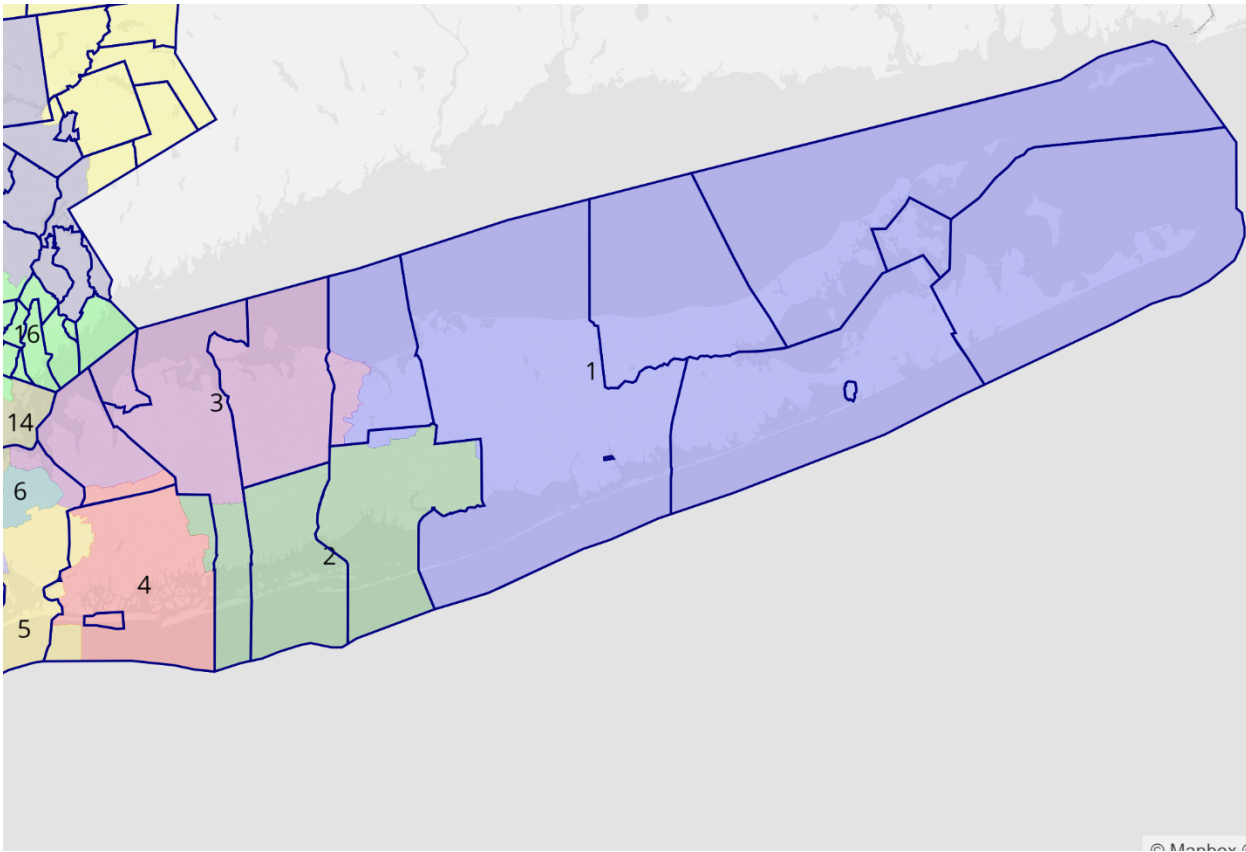
Current Congressional Districts

The current Long Island Congressional districts are drawn as an eastern Long Island district, two South Shore districts, and one North Shore district, following town borders when possible. The map largely keeps Suffolk's Latino and Black populations together in District 2 and Nassau's in District 4, while the current District 3 includes a large share of the island's growing Asian population.

² We follow the convention of referencing Non-Hispanic populations as "NH".



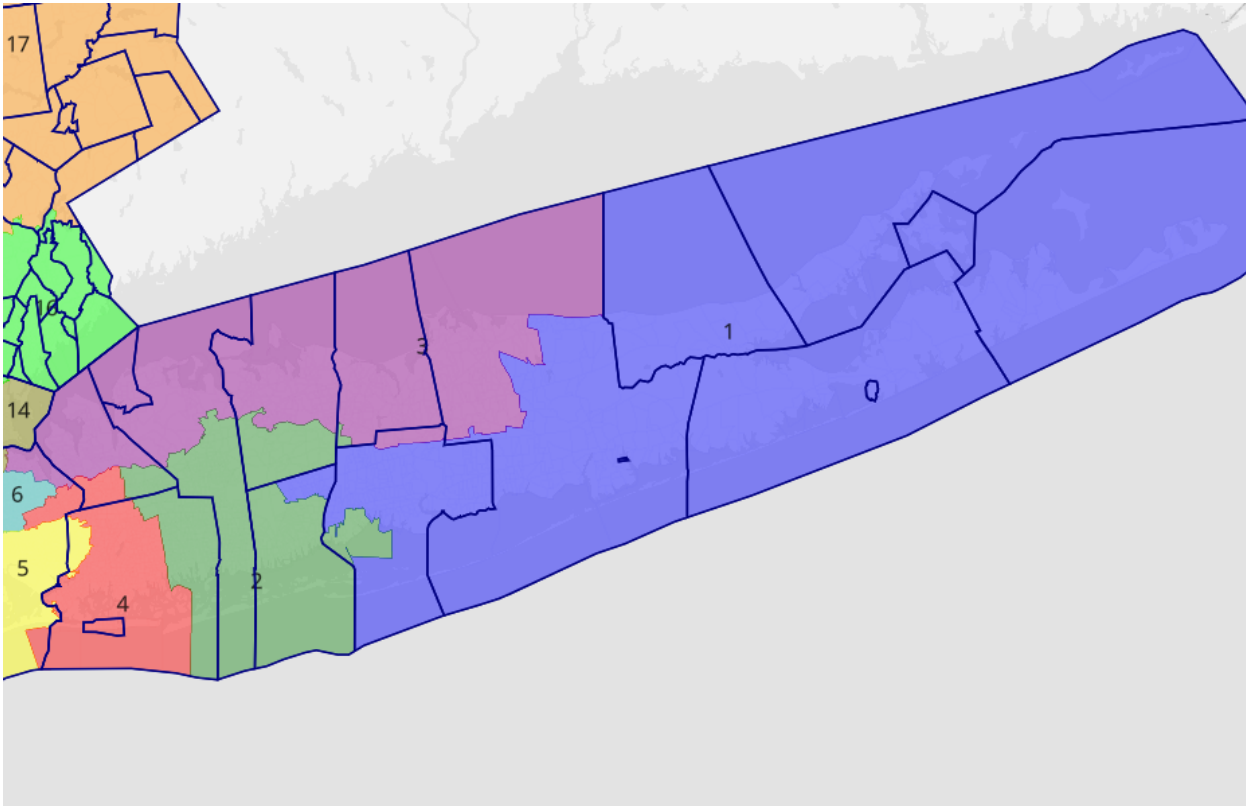
District	2010_Total	2020_Total	Change	Change %	Deviation	Dev %	2020 NHWhV AP %	2020 NHBk VAP %	2020 NHAsnVAP %	2020 HspVAP %
1	717,707	740,319	22,612	3.2%	-36,652	5.0%	72.7%	5.0%	4.1%	15.2%
2	717,708	728,156	10,448	1.5%	-48,815	6.7%	61.0%	8.8%	4.0%	23.7%
3	717,707	739,197	21,490	3.0%	-37,774	5.1%	64.4%	2.9%	18.7%	11.5%
4	717,708	751,432	33,724	4.7%	-25,539	3.4%	54.9%	13.7%	7.9%	20.5%



Congress -- NYS IRC – “Letters” Plan

Note – both the “Letters” and “Names” IRC plans are confusingly named/labeled. We have assigned numbers that best approximate the current districts as well as noting the label for the district as presented in the plans published by the IRC.

District	2020 NHWhtVAP %	2020 BlkVAP % ³	2020 AsnVAP %	2020 HspVAP %
1 aka A	61.43	9.99	3.52	24.57
2 aka N	68.26	6.75	10.70	13..80
3 aka C	71.16	4.29	11.77	12.11
4 aka M	43.93	17.53	17.00	20.75



The commission’s “Letters” plan reconfigures the east end District 1 to include most of the Town of Islip instead of parts of north shore Brookhaven and Smithtown. There is actually some merit to this approach as this would bring the Latino community in Islip together with growing Latino populations further east including Riverhead and Patchogue. This could potentially create an influence district for this growing population in Suffolk. However, it is strange that District 1 does not simply include the entire Town of Islip within its borders.

The North Shore district in this plan is strung out significantly further east than the current District 3, running all the way from Bayside, Queens to Port Jefferson, with little regard for town lines. It’s hard to argue how parts of Long Island as distant as Port Jefferson and Stonybrook form a coherent community of interest with Queens. The district lines also split up the growing Asian communities in this part of Nassau between three districts.

The redrawn District 2 is a more compact district straddling central and southern Nassau and Suffolk but also has seemingly no regard for town borders. In the Town of Babylon in Suffolk, the two historic black communities of

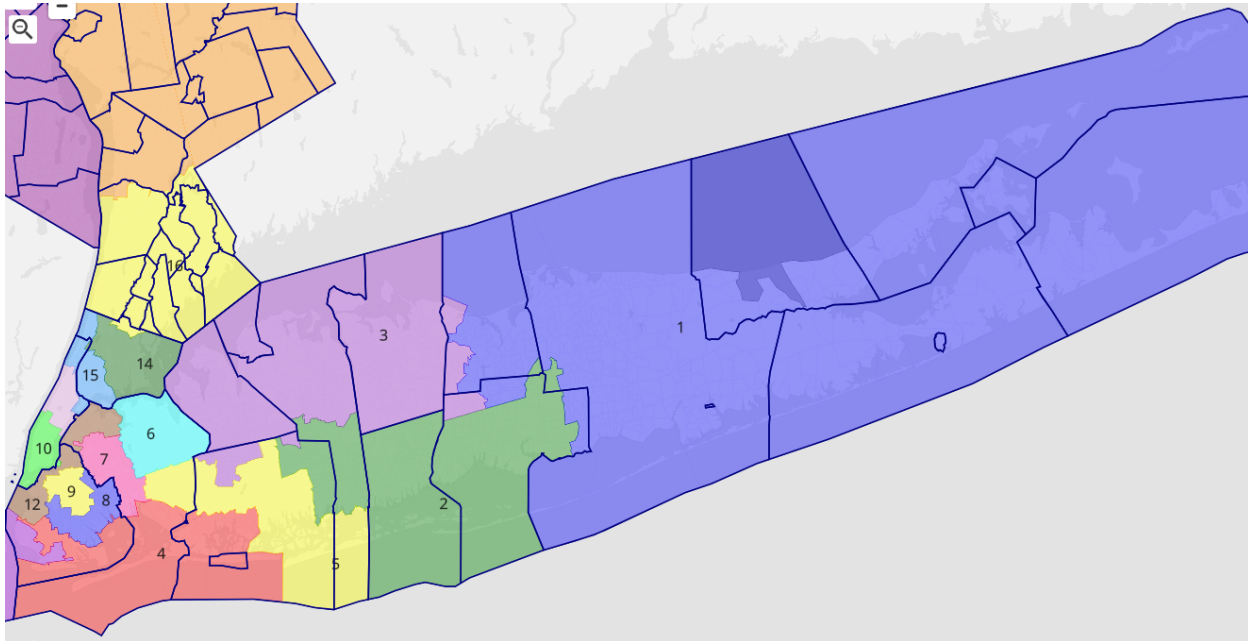
³ Dave’s Redistricting currently outputs Non-Hispanic White VAP but the Black and Asian VAP figures are inclusive of Hispanics

North Amityville and Wyandanch are split between District 2 and District 1, and in Nassau these lines also split minority communities in New Cassel from Hempstead.

The proposed District 4 here is similar to the current but extends into a portion of eastern Queens, with three districts crossing between Nassau and Queens.

Congress -- NYS IRC – “Names” Plan

District	2020 NHWhtVAP %	2020 BlkVAP %	2020 AsnVAP %	2020 HspVAP %
1 aka “EASTSUFLK”	72.4	6.6	4.7	15.7
2 aka “SOUTHNASSUF”	64.1	5.2	6.7	19.5
3 aka “NORTHNASSUF”	63.9	5.2	14.9	15.5
4 aka “JFK5TWNS”	55.8	11.4	18.5	14.0
5 aka “QNSBLLMR”	21.5	50.5	8.3	19.6



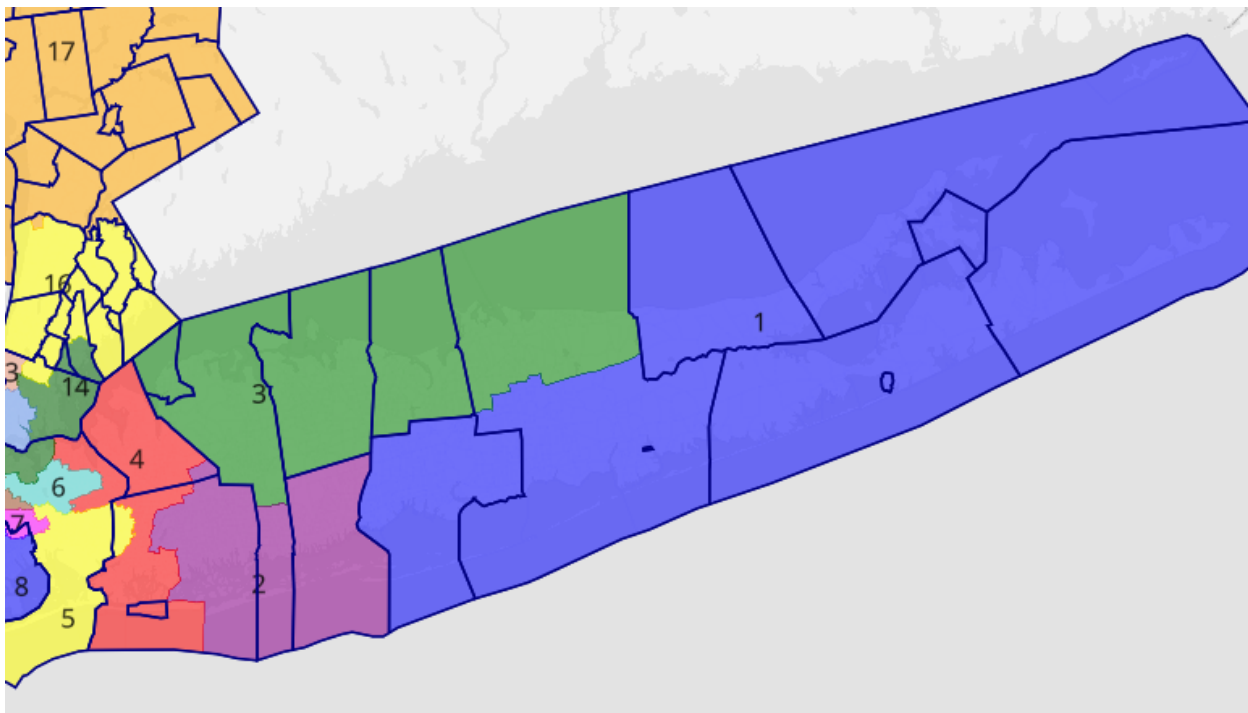
The commission’s “Names” plan keeps three Long Island districts closely similar to the existing District 1, 2, and 3.

However, this map radically redraws the current Districts 4 and 5, among other New York City districts, to create a Southeast Queens-Nassau district that brings together the core of the black community in Southeast Queens together with the majority-minority areas of the Town of Hempstead. While a majority-Black district on paper, this is a questionable combination that separates parts of the Southeast Queens black community from the district and may reduce that community’s ability to elect a representative of their choice, instead combining a portion of the community with Hempstead, Freeport, and Lakeview where there is little existing connection. Connected with this proposal, the

“Names” map would also draw a sprawling new south Nassau-Rockaways-South Brooklyn district that would bring together disparate populations across three counties. This district would be majority White and appears intended as a political gerrymander to maximize Republican opportunities.

Congress – Potential Alternative

District	2020 NHWhtVAP %	2020 BlkVAP %	2020 AsnVAP %	2020 HspVAP %
1	63.1	8.5	3.5	24.4
2	53.9	18.5	5.8	21.8
3	72.9	4.5	11.4	10.5
4	55.4	6.9	23.1	13.4



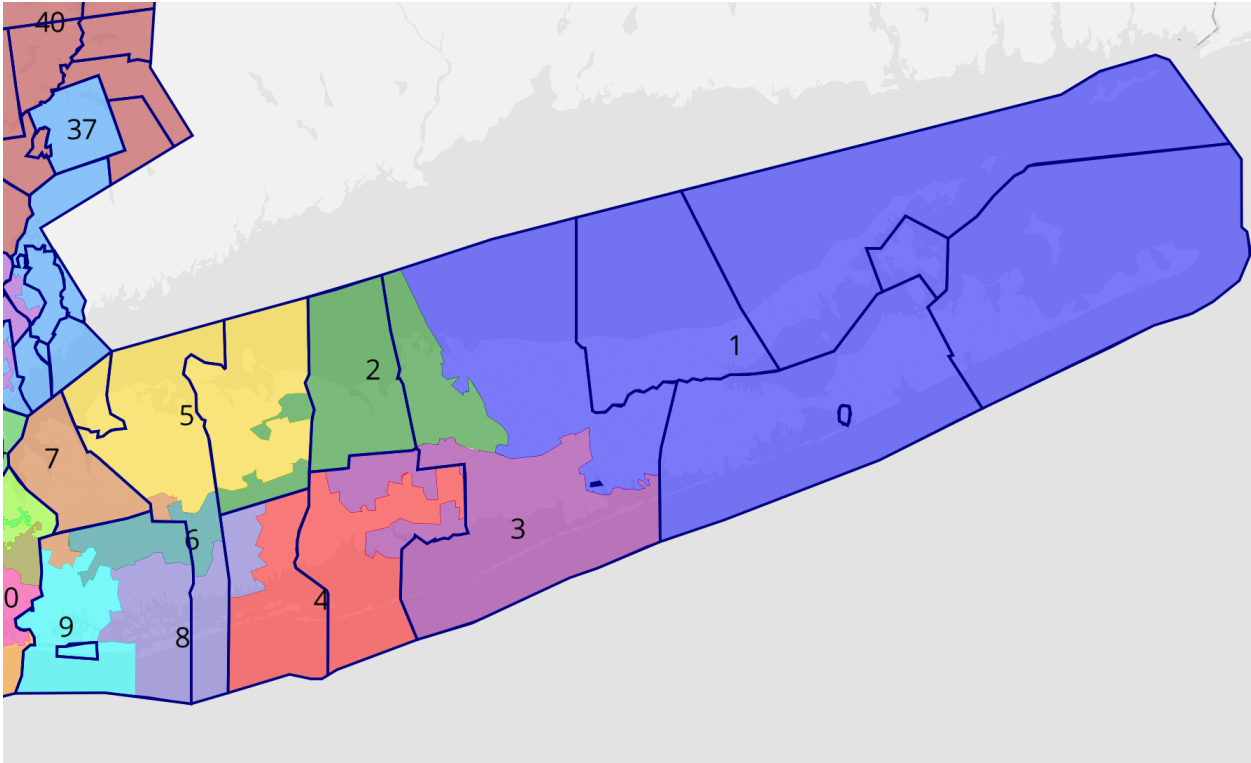
This potential alternative would much more closely follow town borders, maintain a more compact Long Island-only North Shore District 3, unites many of Nassau and Western Suffolk’s Black and Latino communities (including Lakeview, Hempstead, Freeport, New Cassel, North Amityville, and Wyandanch) in a single compact south shore District 2, and reconfigures District 4 to cover the areas of Nassau bordering Queens while maintaining the current cores of the Southeast Queens majority-black district and the Asian-plurality district in northern Queens. District 4 would become an Asian influence district with a rapidly growing Asian demographic.

Current State Senate Districts

While equal in population and not disproportionately weighed vis a vis New York City or Upstate, the shape of the nine current State Senate districts in Long Island are the product of a notorious “cracking” gerrymander that for decades has divided Nassau’s Black and Latino communities into four districts (6, 7, 8, 9) and Suffolk’s into three (3,4, and 8).

For many years, this succeeded in maintaining the “Long Island Nine” Senate Republicans that were essential to the Republican majority. However, the continuing changing demographics and political environment has resulted in 5 of these 9 districts now in the hands of Democrats as the Republican gerrymander designed to win all 9 relied on ever-closer and narrowing margins and became unsustainable.

District	2010_Total	2020_Total	Change	Change %	Deviation	Dev %	2020 NHWht VAP %	2020 NHBlik VAP %	2020 NHAsn VAP %	2020 Hsp VAP %
1	315,163	341,101	25,938	7.6%	20,446	6.4%	73.4%	4.9%	2.4%	16.2%
2	315,164	313,143	-2,021	-0.6%	-7,512	2.3%	75.5%	4.4%	7.2%	10.2%
3	315,163	315,425	262	0.1%	-5,230	1.6%	57.0%	7.6%	3.1%	29.3%
4	315,163	318,696	3,533	1.1%	-1,959	0.6%	62.0%	9.4%	4.0%	21.8%
5	315,163	320,972	5,809	1.8%	317	0.1%	70.3%	3.0%	11.5%	12.9%
6	315,163	325,865	10,702	3.3%	5,210	1.6%	54.5%	13.7%	8.5%	20.6%
7	315,163	331,029	15,866	4.8%	10,374	3.2%	53.3%	7.5%	21.2%	15.0%
8	315,163	321,254	6,091	1.9%	599	0.2%	58.4%	14.8%	3.2%	20.8%
9	315,164	334,209	19,045	5.7%	13,554	4.2%	59.8%	13.1%	7.0%	16.5%



While the partisan results have shifted, the current district lines are still an obstacle to Black and Latino communities electing a representative of their choice. None of the current nine Long Island senators are Black or Latino.

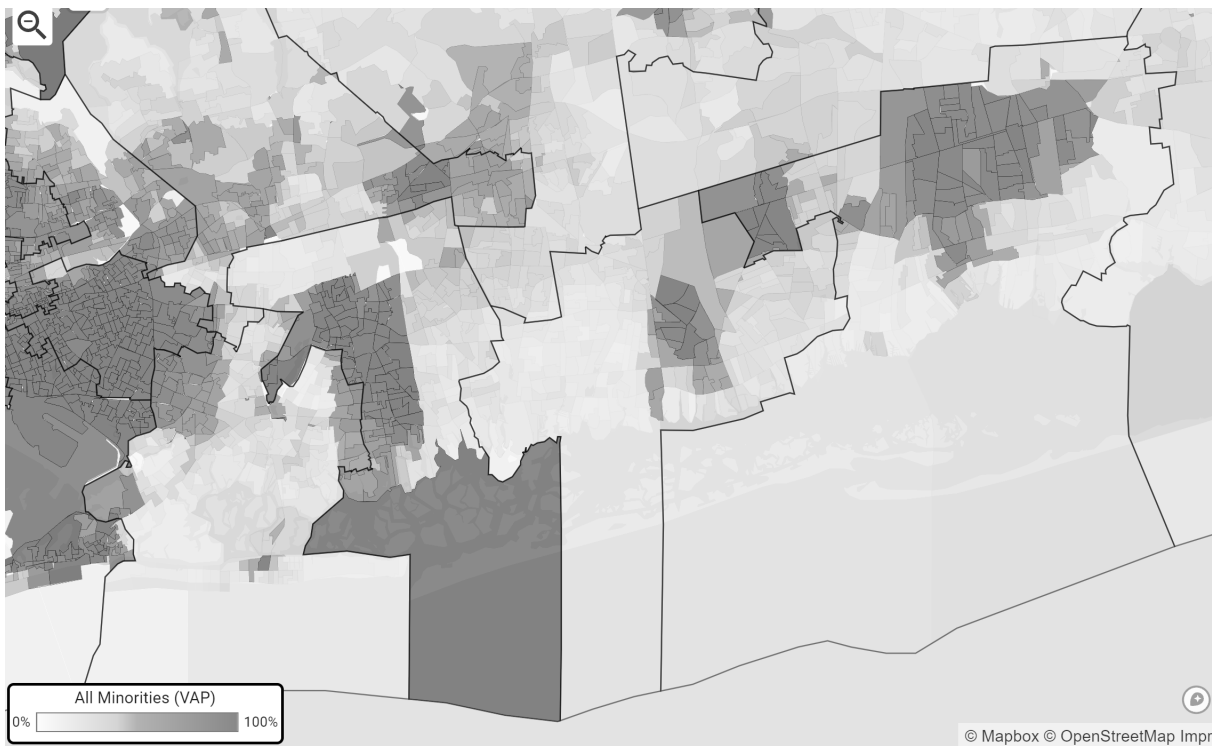
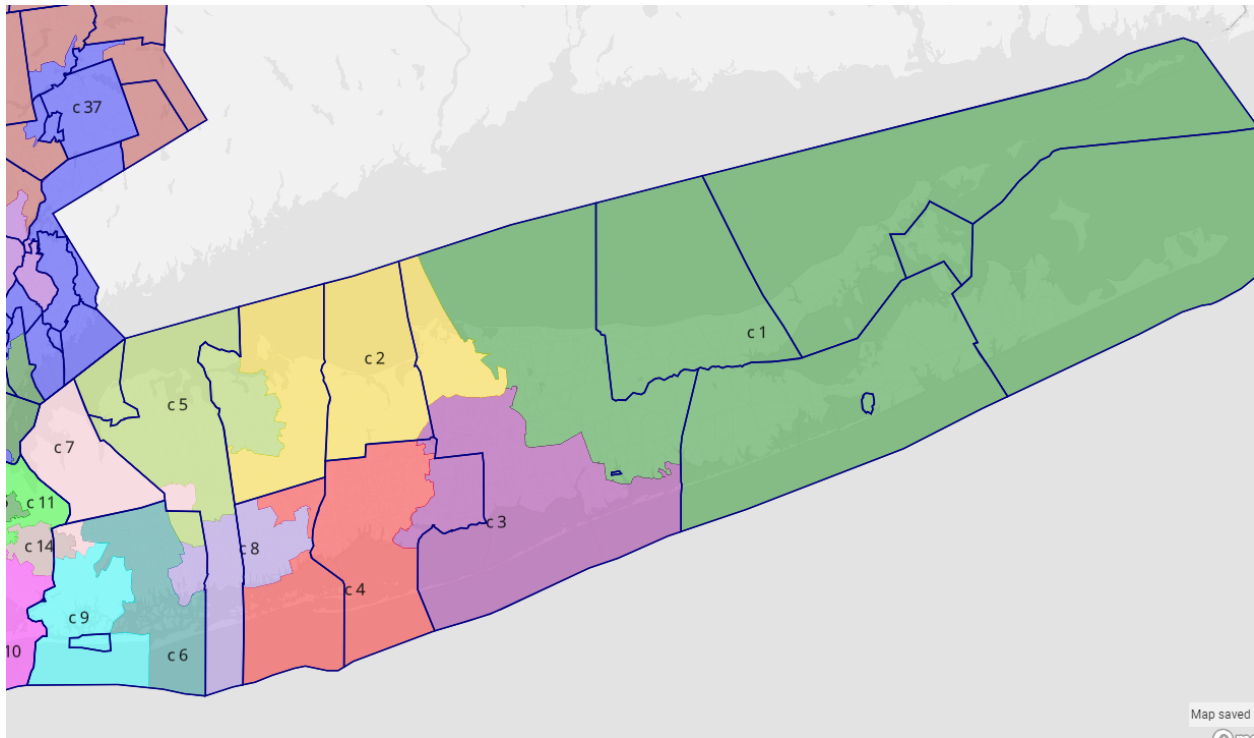
The political gerrymander has also resulted in districts that have strange winding shapes and little regard for town or village borders.

State Senate -- NYS IRC – “Letters” Plan⁴

CURRENT DISTRICT BEST MATCH	"LETTERS"	TotalPop (adj)	Dev	2020 NHWhtVAP %	2020 BlackVAP %	2020 AsianVAP %	2020 HispVAP %
1	B	323,223	0.84%	73.80%	6.11%	2.67%	16.14%
2	AO	318,886	-0.52%	77.99%	4.74%	7.97%	8.60%
3	AL	322,513	0.62%	72.95%	6.22%	4.74%	15.35%
4	AP	325,831	1.65%	44.62%	15.66%	4.52%	35.66%
5	BJ	322,273	0.54%	68.12%	3.90%	12.99%	14.40%
6	AY	318,231	-0.72%	40.82%	25.76%	6.81%	27.14%
7	E	319,933	-0.19%	55.74%	5.86%	23.14%	14.51%
8	AT	320,320	-0.07%	72.74%	7.86%	4.05%	14.89%
9	AS	318,512	-0.63%	62.20%	13.04%	7.79%	16.48%

⁴ The total population figures for the commission plans use the prisoner-adjusted file (but the VAP figures do not) – this is the current information available on Daves’ Redistricting website.





On Long Island, the “Letters” plan is a considerable improvement from the current districts in regards to repairing the longstanding “cracking” of minority populations. The new District 6 (AY) is drawn as a compact majority-minority district centered on Hempstead-Freeport.

However, this map makes some puzzling decisions that break up clear communities of interest and opportunities to maximize the potential for Long Island’s growing Black and Latino populations to participate. Although the proposed District 4 (AP) unites the Latino communities in Islip that are currently cracked (between the current 3 and 4), it divides the black communities in Wyandanch and North Amityville. Including North Amityville in this district could increase the Black and Latino VAP in the district by 5 to 10 points. Similarly, the proposed lines between District 6 (AY) and 7 (E) split minority communities in New Cassel from Hempstead-Freeport, the inclusion of which could increase the Black and Latino VAP in the district by 5 to 10 points.

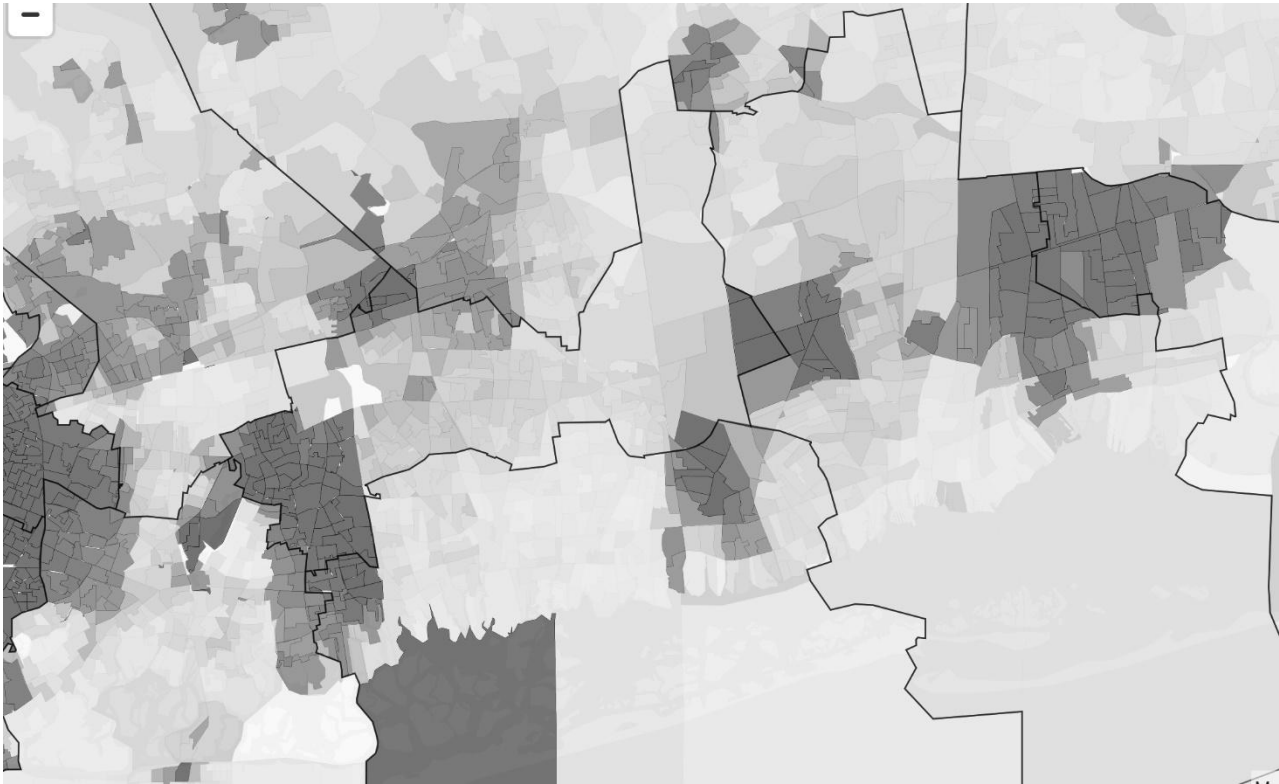
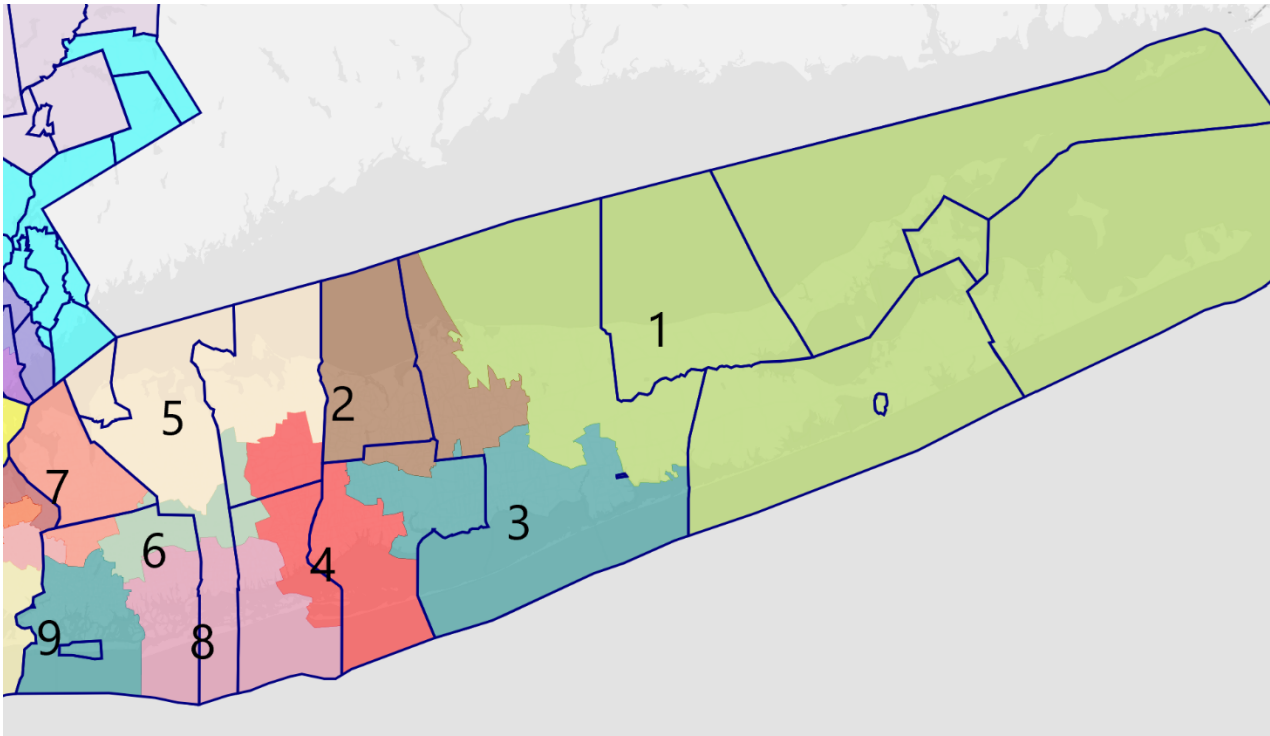
There is also the potential to draw this district in Nassau to include Elmont but that community arguably has more affinity with Southeast Queens than with Hempstead/Freeport. The “Letters” plan also, for the first time, proposes that Elmont be included in a Southeast Queens-based district (as it currently is in Congressional District 5).

This map keeps the three North Shore districts closely similar to their current configuration.

State Senate -- NYS IRC – “Names” Plan

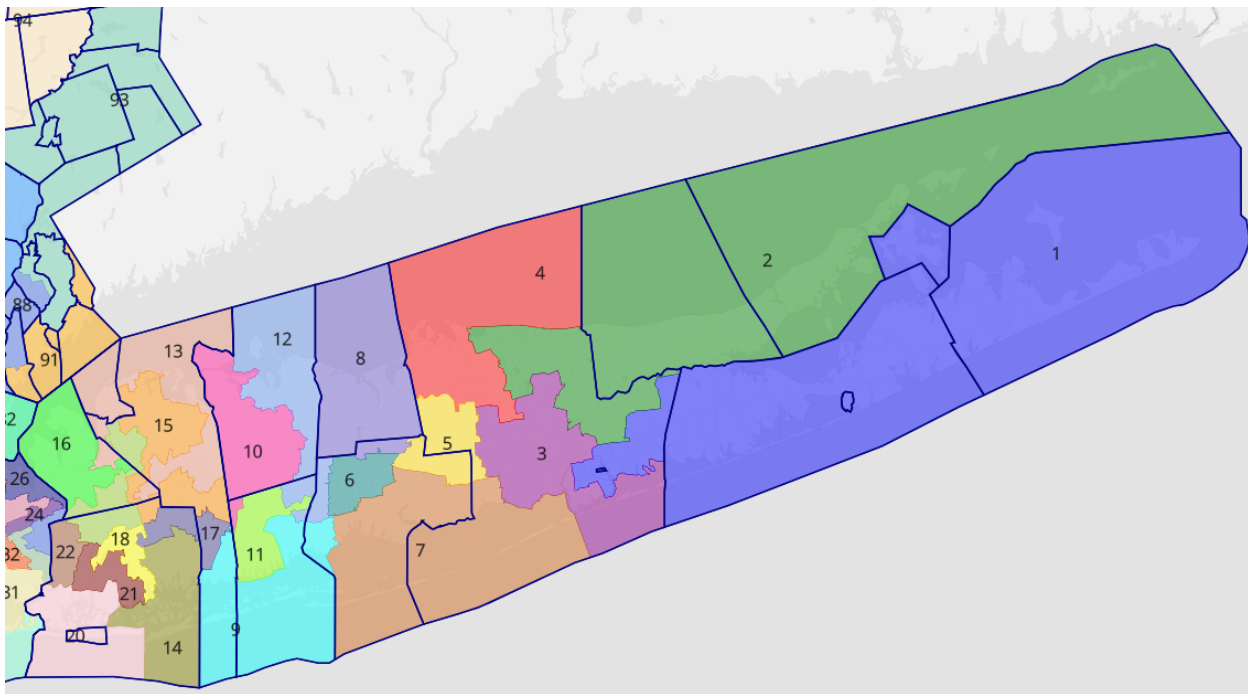
CURRENT DISTRICT BEST MATCH	"LETTERS"	TotalPop	Dev	2020 NHWhtVAP %	2020 BlackVAP %	2020 AsianVAP %	2020 HispVAP %
1	EASTLI	321,192	0.20%	75.22%	5.26%	2.88%	15.38%
2	SMITHCORAM	321,202	0.21%	74.39%	5.94%	7.57%	11.43%
3	BRETNHSHIRL	321,188	0.20%	58.30%	9.85%	3.21%	28.43%
4	BABYDIXDEER	321,198	0.21%	58.82%	12.57%	6.39%	22.17%
5	NORTHNASSUF	321,189	0.20%	68.68%	4.10%	12.84%	13.74%
6	HMPSDLVTWN	321,182	0.20%	44.14%	21.20%	9.86%	24.99%
7	PNTSHLSGRDN	321,197	0.21%	62.16%	4.23%	20.52%	12.27%
8	FREPRTLINHRS	321,180	0.20%	68.33%	10.14%	3.64%	17.67%
9	VALLEYBEACH	321,189	0.20%	59.42%	15.93%	7.58%	16.71%

The commission’s “Names” plan not surprisingly keeps the nine Long Island State Senate districts very close to the current configuration. The lines notoriously “crack” Long Island’s minority communities are all in place but the configuration of districts shifts in some cases. Islip is cracked between District 1 and 3 (instead of the current 3 and 4), and Elmont/Valley Stream is cracked between 9 and a Southeast Queens based district (instead of the current 9 and 7). More of Freeport-Hempstead is kept together in District 6 than in the current District 6 but Lakeview and the southern portion of Freeport are still divided



Current Assembly Districts

District	2010_Total	2020_Total	Change %	Dev%	2020 NHWhtVAP %	2020 NHBlkVAP %	2020 NHAsnVAP %	2020 HspVAP %
001	128,932	151,053	17.2%	12.2%	70.5%	4.1%	1.8%	20.1%
002	128,932	131,649	2.1%	-2.2%	80.2%	3.3%	1.9%	12.0%
003	128,930	128,374	-0.4%	-4.7%	65.9%	8.3%	3.1%	19.1%
004	128,933	129,147	0.2%	-4.1%	66.1%	8.6%	8.5%	13.5%
005	128,927	126,040	-2.2%	-6.4%	75.2%	2.9%	6.0%	13.2%
006	128,933	134,233	4.1%	-0.3%	16.8%	14.8%	3.3%	62.4%
007	128,931	129,444	0.4%	-3.9%	78.1%	3.9%	2.1%	13.5%
008	128,926	127,163	-1.4%	-5.6%	83.7%	1.5%	4.9%	7.7%
009	128,930	129,235	0.2%	-4.0%	80.1%	4.2%	2.7%	10.7%
010	128,932	130,869	1.5%	-2.8%	66.3%	6.0%	7.8%	17.4%
011	128,931	131,536	2.0%	-2.3%	47.0%	21.1%	2.9%	25.7%
012	128,928	129,342	0.3%	-4.0%	74.6%	4.3%	5.8%	12.8%
013	128,930	134,190	4.1%	-0.4%	57.3%	7.6%	15.3%	17.8%
014	128,931	129,228	0.2%	-4.0%	81.1%	2.7%	4.5%	9.5%
015	128,928	134,080	4.0%	-0.4%	62.9%	2.5%	19.1%	13.0%
016	128,932	135,390	5.0%	0.5%	61.8%	1.8%	24.7%	8.8%
017	128,931	128,514	-0.3%	-4.6%	71.3%	2.7%	10.4%	13.2%
018	128,932	137,770	6.9%	2.3%	9.5%	42.5%	2.2%	42.1%
019	128,930	135,368	5.0%	0.5%	64.9%	3.2%	16.6%	12.4%
020	128,931	136,868	6.2%	1.6%	74.7%	4.3%	3.5%	14.9%
021	128,929	134,940	4.7%	0.2%	59.2%	13.8%	4.4%	19.2%
022	128,930	137,261	6.5%	1.9%	33.4%	26.9%	15.0%	19.5%

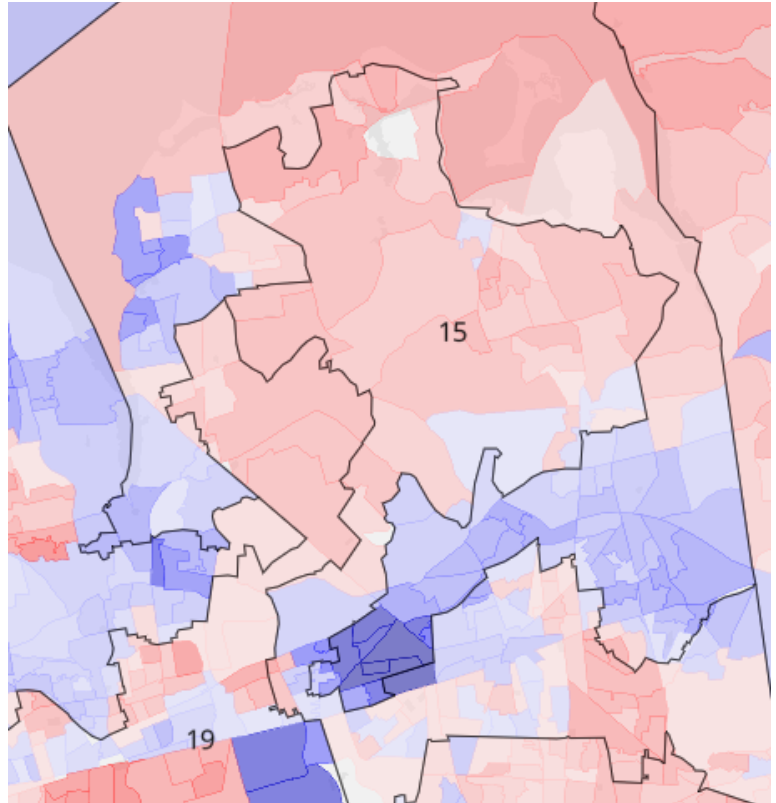


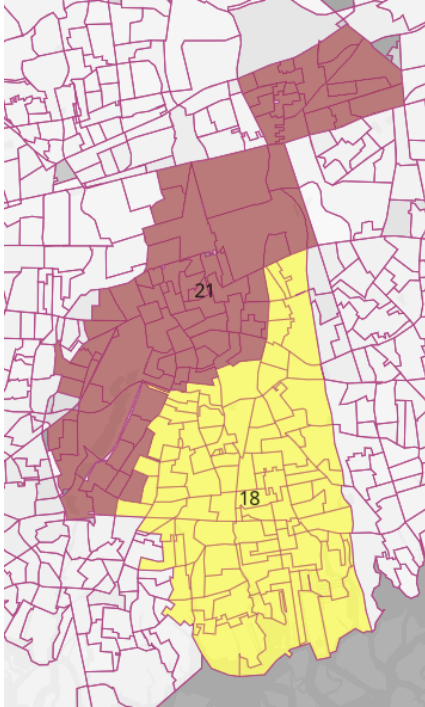
There are currently 22 Assembly Districts in Nassau and Suffolk counties with none crossing the border into Queens. When drawn in 2011, these 22 districts had an average deviation of -2.32% from

the average; it was appropriate to argue that drawing 23 districts in Long Island would have produced a lower deviation. But now with the 2020 Census, the 22 districts average a -1.39% deviation from the Statewide average and represent the appropriate apportionment for Long Island. The increase in population in the Hamptons sections of District 1 is very apparent here and clearly a result of pandemic-related relocations to second homes.

In regards to minority representation, the current Assembly districts keep the Latino community in Islip together in District 6, Wyandanch-North Amityville in District 11, Lakeview and parts of Hempstead and Freeport in District 18, and Elmont-Valley

Stream in District 22, all of which are represented by Black or Latino legislators. However, the New Cassel community is isolated within the winding District 13 which runs from Glen Clove all the way around to New Cassel -- Example A of a partisan gerrymander favoring Democrats (known in the past as the "Long Island Lobster Claw.")



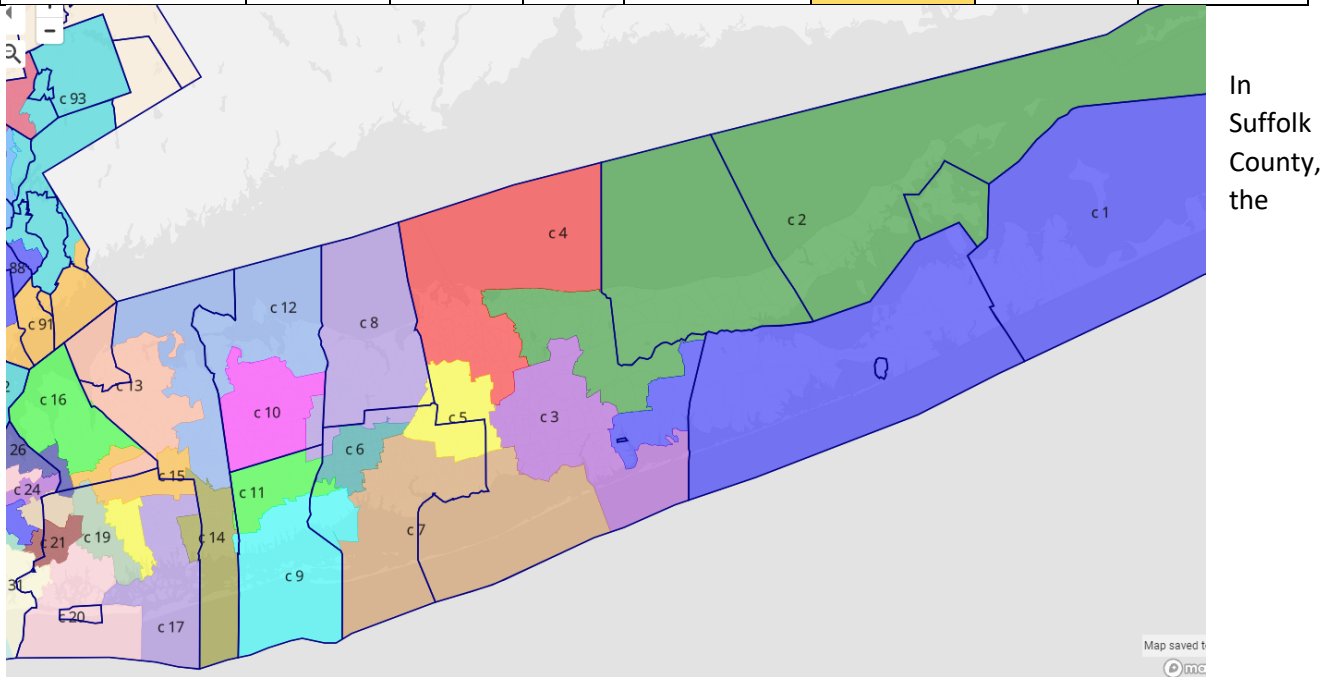


It is possible for an additional Black and Latino majority district to be drawn if New Cassell is combined with Hempstead and Lakeview and a second district is drawn centered on Freeport. These two districts would each be only slightly less Black and Hispanic VAP than the current District 18 (about 35% Black, 35% Hispanic compared to current District 18 at 42% and 42%). Not only would this add an opportunity for the Black and Latino communities of Nassau to elect an additional Assembly Member, it would also remove an overt political gerrymander (the Long Island Lobster Claw)

State Assembly – NYS IRC “Letters” Plan

CURRENT DISTRICT BEST MATCH	"LETTERS"	TotalPop	Dev	2020 NHWhVAP %	2020 BlackVAP %	2020 AsianVAP %	2020 HispVAP %
1	A	135,203	0.43%	70.62%	5.14%	2.29%	20.21%
2	B	134,999	0.28%	80.39%	4.27%	2.38%	11.90%
3	C	134,546	-0.06%	63.45%	11.99%	3.51%	20.51%
4	D	138,595	2.95%	68.44%	9.16%	9.19%	12.78%
5	E	134,051	-0.43%	75.62%	3.90%	6.56%	12.99%
6	F	133,591	-0.77%	16.81%	18.19%	3.85%	62.44%
7	G	131,548	-2.29%	74.14%	6.02%	2.73%	16.56%
8	H	135,634	0.75%	82.83%	2.40%	6.05%	7.85%
9	M	129,043	-4.15%	75.53%	5.94%	3.22%	14.93%
10	J	139,141	3.35%	67.54%	6.90%	8.70%	16.42%
11	I	135,278	0.48%	44.50%	25.86%	5.64%	24.30%
12	L	135,381	0.56%	78.63%	1.40%	12.43%	6.66%
13	O	135,626	0.74%	57.12%	9.87%	12.80%	19.80%
14	K	133,953	-0.50%	85.39%	1.50%	4.23%	8.12%
15	S	138,353	2.77%	58.81%	3.83%	21.73%	14.92%
16	P	136,968	1.74%	65.13%	2.08%	23.14%	8.83%
17	N	138,070	2.56%	76.36%	2.94%	9.04%	10.92%
18	R	137,291	1.98%	9.30%	45.59%	2.52%	44.14%
19	U	138,947	3.21%	55.02%	19.76%	6.72%	18.61%

20	T	137,426	2.08%	77.05%	4.50%	4.59%	13.04%
21	V	132,704	-1.43%	26.58%	47.22%	11.61%	15.18%
22	AG	134,925	0.22%	16.82%	56.96%	11.87%	14.47%



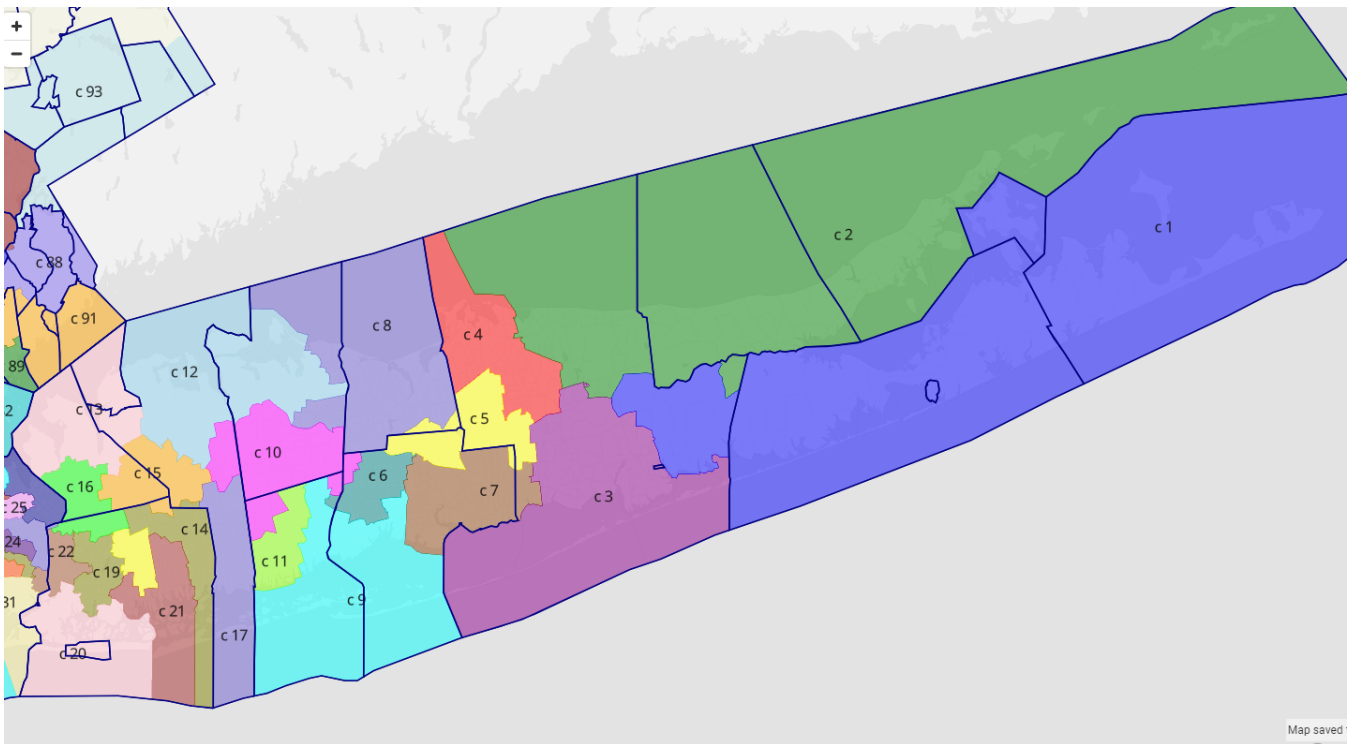
“Letters” Plan maintains 12 districts very close to the current lines, proposing only minor changes, chiefly affecting Huntington where District 12 (L) would become a North Shore district and District 10 (J) an inland district. The plan eliminates the “Lobster Claw” gerrymander of the current District 13 but keeps New Cassel within the proposed District 13 (O) and separated from Hempstead. As a result, the opportunity to potentially draw two majority Black and Latino districts in Central Nassau as described above is missed.

The plan does however propose four districts to cross the Nassau-Queens border where none do today. Proposed Districts 21 (V) and 22(AG) both cross between Elmont/Valley Stream and Southeast Queens to create two majority-Black assembly districts. The current Congressional District 5 also combines these areas. Doing so may facilitate maintaining the current count of 5 majority or plurality Black districts in Southeast Queens + Elmont/Valley Stream while creating a new district centered on the Richmond Hill district in Queens. The proposed districts that cross between Nassau and Queens to the north and south have less clear rationale.

State Assembly – NYS IRC “Names” Plan

CURRENT DISTRICT BEST MATCH	"LETTERS"	TotalPop	Dev	2020 NHWhVAP %	2020 BlackVAP %	2020 AsianVAP %	2020 HispVAP %
1	STHETSUF	134,289	-0.25%	73.09%	4.20%	2.25%	18.82%
2	NRTHESTFK	134,890	0.20%	79.54%	4.91%	2.52%	11.99%
3	STHCNTSFK	134,589	-0.03%	62.96%	11.37%	3.22%	21.65%
4	CORAMSTONY	134,747	0.09%	66.85%	10.23%	8.97%	13.66%

5	RNKNKMA	133,735	-0.66%	74.35%	4.19%	7.39%	13.18%
6	BRENTBAY	134,337	-0.21%	16.98%	19.00%	3.85%	61.48%
7	HOLSAY	133,967	-0.49%	75.67%	5.30%	3.02%	15.44%
8	SMITHTOWN	133,609	-0.76%	83.83%	2.20%	5.65%	7.38%
9	BABYISLIP	134,200	-0.32%	73.83%	6.91%	5.27%	13.56%
10	STHHUNTINGTN	134,371	-0.19%	65.29%	6.20%	11.53%	16.58%
11	LINDENHURST	134,140	-0.36%	49.83%	22.08%	3.26%	25.03%
12	HNTGTNOSTR	133,707	-0.68%	78.75%	3.08%	9.18%	8.12%
13	POINTS	134,463	-0.12%	69.13%	3.09%	12.54%	14.49%
14	ESTMDWLVTVN	134,972	0.26%	72.58%	3.37%	11.08%	12.38%
15	HICKSVILLE	134,647	0.02%	49.39%	9.15%	23.08%	17.93%
16	MNHSSTGRDN	134,450	-0.13%	59.05%	2.72%	28.03%	9.38%
17	MSPQBTHPG	134,108	-0.38%	81.00%	3.42%	5.82%	9.05%
18	HMPUNIONFRE	135,339	0.53%	6.36%	47.89%	2.56%	44.78%
19	FRNKLNKRVLL	135,087	0.34%	64.96%	11.49%	7.23%	16.05%
20	WDMRLNGBCH	135,003	0.28%	71.22%	6.86%	5.17%	15.90%
21	MRRCKBLLMR	135,145	0.39%	65.89%	11.67%	6.48%	15.68%
22	ELMONT	134,241	-0.29%	18.15%	52.45%	13.18%	16.78%



In Suffolk County the “Names” plan also proposes districts that are similar to the current arrangement. Like the “Letters” Plan District 12 becomes a North Shore District and the “Lobster Claw” of the current District 13 is eliminated.

In North Shore Nassau, this plan would keep the northernmost areas together instead of district lines that follow the North Hempstead-Oyster Bay town border. The proposed Districts 15 and 16 here may

actually do a better job keeping Nassau’s growing Asian communities together than either the current lines or the “Letters” proposal.

However, the same shortfalls as in the “Letters” plan are present in the division of New Cassel from Hempstead/Freeport and the missed opportunity to draw a second majority Black and Latino district in central Nassau.

This plan proposed that District 22 combine Elmont/Valley Stream with a small portion of Southeast Queens but that is the only Queens-Nassau border crossing proposed (compared to four in the “Letters” plan).