

January 25, 2023

To: New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Subject: Opposition to the State proposal for Redistricting Roosevelt Island

Dear Members of the Commission:

I am a resident of Roosevelt Island, and like many in my community, I strongly oppose the current proposal which removes Roosevelt Island from Manhattan's District 76 and places it in Queens District 36.

It is easy to look at our little island geographically and believe that because it straddles both Queens and Manhattan, it could be considered equally contiguous with either. However, to make a redistricting decision purely based on geographic convenience would be a gross mistake.

Most of our connections—economic, political, and social—are entrenched within Manhattan. The vast majority of our commuters, for work, school, or otherwise, head to Manhattan via the F train or the tram, rather than Queens via the bridge. Our local political representatives have long been based in Manhattan, and have a deep institutional knowledge when it comes to acting on our behalf when dealing with RIOC, our unique state-run government. Our local organizations, including our public school, rely on existing district-based relationships to manage their operations and funding.

To alter this long-standing dynamic with a needless shift to a new district would destabilize our community. I ask you to consider our community's needs when devising your proposals.

Thank you,

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