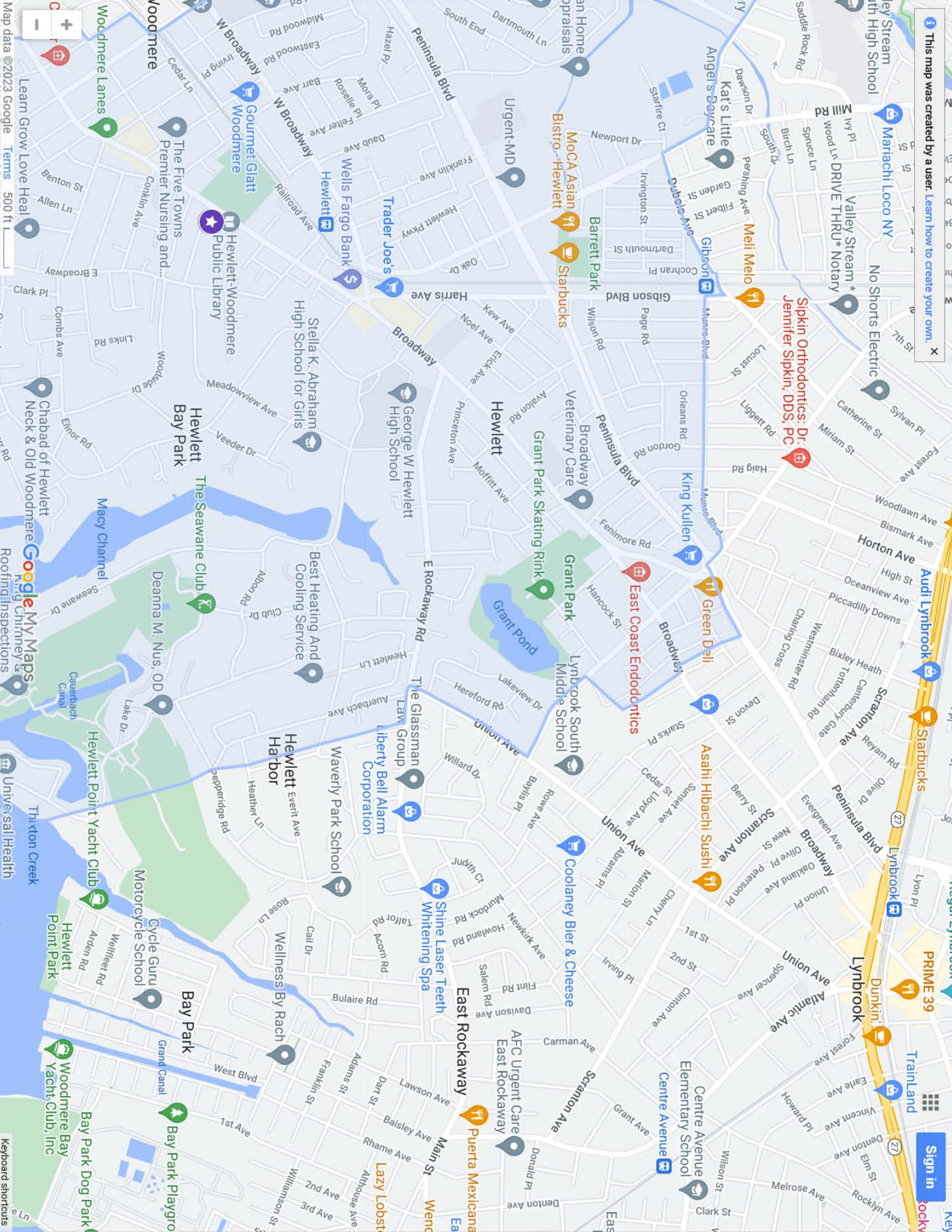


**NASSAU COUNTY  
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

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## Bruno Romano

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**From:** Bruno Romano  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2023 4:08 PM  
**To:** Bruno Romano

Hello, my name is Bruno Romano, longtime resident of East Rockaway New York and currently the Villages Mayor.

I wanted to take the time to testify today because East Rockaway is currently split between two Assembly districts. I am asking this Committee to consider unifying East Rockaway under one Assembly District for the following reasons:

- On a governmental level I believe the Village is better served with one voice in the Assembly instead of split representation.
- The Village of East Rockaway currently enjoys shared service agreements with the Villages of Lynbrook, Malverne and Rockville Centre.
- Part of East Rockaway is in the Lynbrook School District and part of Lynbrook is in the East Rockaway school district.
- East Rockaway shares several athletic organizations with the Village of Lynbrook including: soccer, Little League and our football team has a large population of kids from the Lynbrook area.
- East Rockaway and Lynbrook share common houses of worship including St. Raymonds Church and East Rockaway Jewish Centre, which are both located in East Rockaway but a large portion of its congregation is comprised of Lynbrook residents.
- East Rockaway Fire Department has joint response agreements with RVC, Malverne and Lynbrook.

For all of the reasons stated, I ask this Committee to consider unifying East Rockaway under one Assembly District that includes our neighboring villages to the north that we share so many commonalities with.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

**From:** [Jennifer Baratta](#)  
**To:** [Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Redistricting  
**Date:** Monday, February 6, 2023 3:03:47 PM

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Please keep in mind that the disabled people are in the city too and we are tired of being forgotten about. We have been marginalized and showed off when needed to display that we are useful when we do something. We really need to have the American Disability Act put in to action. It's 2023 and the Act passed in 1990. So please when considering redistricting keep in mind the disabled community and the elderly.

Sincerely Jennifer Baratta  
237-11 Edmore Avenue  
Bellerose New York 11426-1139  
516-965-9756  
718-347-0633

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

The following comments coincide with my oral testimony on 2/28/23. As the former Assemblymember, I represented AD21 for two terms, from 2019-2022. This experience gave me some important insight on how best the district can be represented in this year's redrawn lines.

Aside from a few minor issues, the proposed map for AD21 is a major improvement of the map that was drawn in 2022. I will explain the key reasons why I support the proposed map as well as discuss the parts of the newly drawn district that make sense.

#### *Equal Population with Neighboring Assembly Districts*

I was pleased to see the proposed map for AD21 revert back to a population of 132,456. The most serious flaw in the map drawn in 2022, was that AD21 was given a population of 139,710. This was about 7000-8000 more than neighboring Assembly Districts and much more than the average size of an assembly district. I anticipated that representing an additional 7000 constituents would definitely put a challenge on resources: presenting a need for increased staff, raising the cost for constituent mailings, certificates to recognize local achievements, etc., and require much more time to represent the entire district equitably and sufficiently.

#### *Applauding the IRC's Unification of AD21 School Districts*

I was pleased to see that your proposed map made a concerted effort to consolidate school districts. I believe this is the best way to remove political gerrymandering because school districts are fixed lines, known to local residential taxpayers, and often the central civic relationship in many Long Island communities. Last year, my legislative counsel and I drew a proposed map using school districts as our guide and felt this not only was a pragmatic way to redraw districts, but also benefited the school districts as well as the constituents. An effort should be made to include an average number of school districts in each Assembly district when possible. Consolidating school districts helps achieve many of the goals important to the IRC such as creating equitable maps for all. In my experience as a state legislator, representing a high percentage or the entirety of a school district is more effective because state representatives must advocate for funding for each district, as well as allocate funding to the school districts as part of the annual state budget process. It is not beneficial for a district to have only 10%-25% of their residents represented by an individual assembly member, given the governing reality that often a member needs to allocate resources to districts that they represent a much higher percentage of in order to best serve the greatest number of their constituents. Having districts divided among two or more members often compromises the ability to provide adequate resources and also presents a challenge in residents being able to hold their elected representatives accountable. Assembly Members often meet with administrators, Board of Education Members and the PTA leadership of their school districts, attend events at their local schools, and endeavor to help resolve school districts' issues with other state governmental entities. As a result, it compromises limited public resources and time if too many school districts are included into a single Assembly district.

Therefore, I fully support the inclusion of Lakeview in AD21, given that historically the Village of Malverne and the shared Malverne School District has been represented within AD21 already. The IRC's proposed map included Lakeview in its first draft, as did prior drafts proposed last year during the 2022 redistricting process. In my experience as a local elected official, government staffer and citizen, this change makes sense because Lakeview makes up about 40% of the Malverne School District. Carving Lakeview out of AD21 was the most obvious gerrymander on the south shore of Nassau County for the past decade. When you view the existing map, the regions to the south, west and east are included in AD21 but Lakeview is carved out. If Lakeview was included in AD21, it would be ideal because one Assemblymember could allocate support to the school district while also advocating for and providing resources to the Lakeview Public Library, Lakeview Volunteer Fire Department, the local Nassau County Police precinct and the parks serving Lakeview.

I was also happy to see that last year's expansion of AD21 into the Village of Valley Stream was not included in your proposed map. This addition in the 2022 map not only increased the population of AD21, again compromising the resources of AD21, but it also gave a bigger share of the Valley Stream School Districts, of which there are 3 in total, to AD21. This unique situation and the requirements to represent such a large and diverse community in good faith would compromise the resources of funding and time to provide fair representation for any Assembly member. The IRC's proposed map makes sense by removing the Village of Valley Stream and the lion's share of the Valley Stream School Districts to the neighboring AD. It is important to note that although the villages of Lynbrook and Malverne are partially served by 2 of the 3 Valley Stream School Districts, those clearly established communities are distinct from the Village of Valley Stream.

#### *Suggested Improvements to the First Draft of AD21*

The minor issues I have with the IRC's proposed map are as follows:

I favor the Assembly's 2022 map's changes to the eastern part of the district, which included more but still not all of the Village of Freeport served by the Baldwin School District. I believe this action was taken by the Assembly because 84% of the Baldwin School District was represented by AD21 prior to the 2022 redrawn map. I would advocate for the IRC to go one step further and include all residents in the Village of Freeport included in the Baldwin School District within a redrawn AD21. I believe that a case can be made for unifying all of the Baldwin School District within AD21.

Additionally, I favored the decision reflected in the 2022 map to add the small area of North Baldwin surrounding Coes Neck Park to AD21. Many constituents living here told me, this past year, that they felt cut off from the rest of Baldwin in AD18 since Hempstead is the focal point of this district. They explained that they identified with Baldwin and South Hempstead and therefore felt their common interests could be better met by being included in AD21. Although some of this area is in the Uniondale School District, Baldwin is otherwise an unincorporated hamlet with a distinct shared community of interest centered around their public school district and the Grand Avenue corridor running from the Southern State Parkway southward to Baldwin Harbor. The IRC's

current proposed map reverted this area of Baldwin back to AD18, but I recommend keeping this area of North Baldwin in AD21.

The following lists show the percentages of School Districts and villages and hamlets represented by AD21 prior to the 2022 Redrawn Maps.

**Percentage of School Districts Represented by AD21**

1. Baldwin 83.7%
2. East Rockaway 48.9%
3. Franklin Square 10.4
4. Freeport 26.2
5. Hempstead-5%
6. Hewlett-Woodmere-7%
7. Lynbrook- 81.9%
8. Malverne 60.1%
9. Oceanside-8.7%
10. Rockville Centre 96.8%
11. Uniondale 4%
12. Valley Stream 13 -23.1%
13. Valley Stream 24 - 8.4%
14. West Hempstead 35%

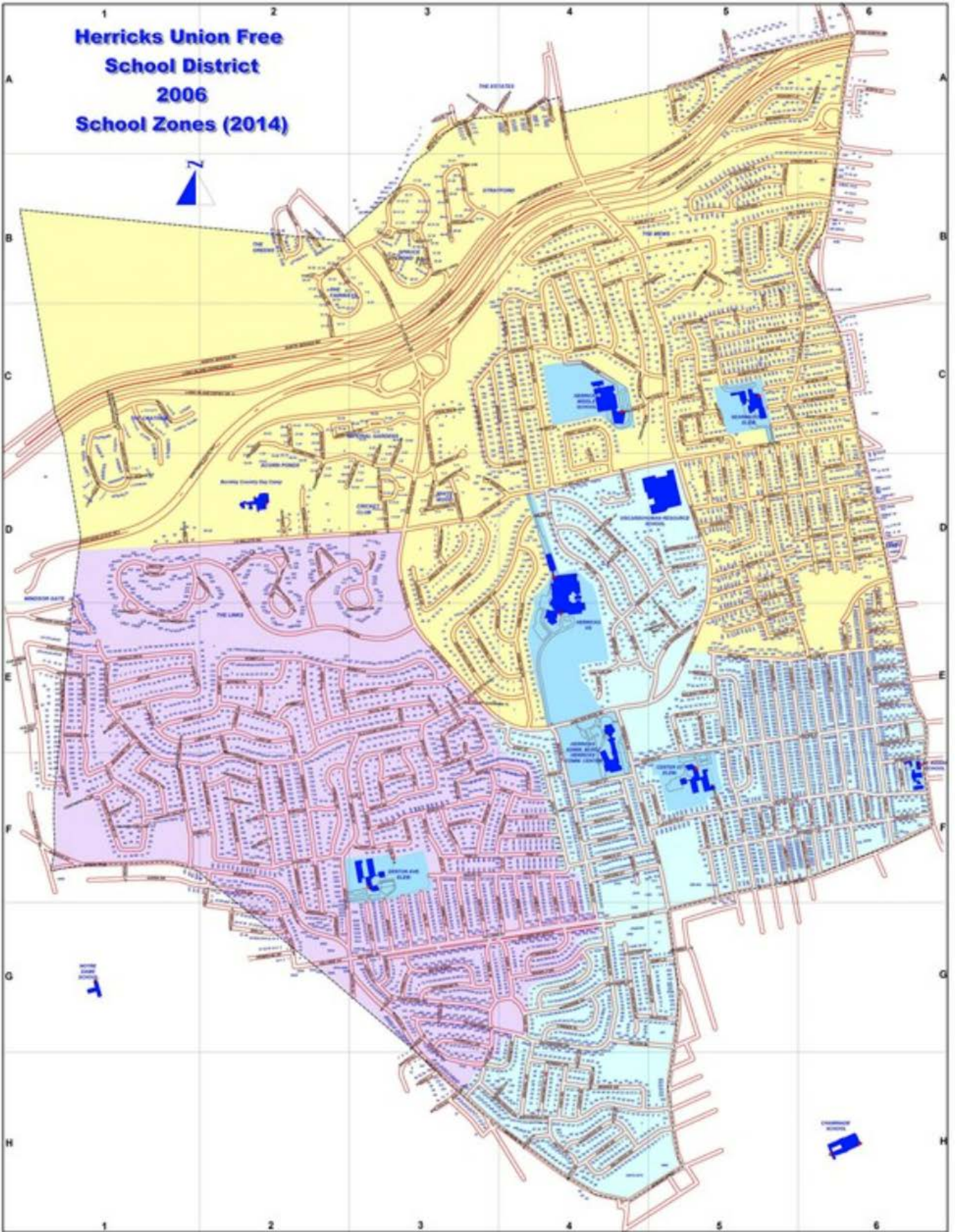
**Population Breakdown in AD21**

1. Baldwin 77.5%
2. Baldwin Harbor 100%
3. East Rockaway 64.8%
4. Franklin Square 10.3 %
5. Freeport 47.4%
6. Hempstead-1.5%
7. Hewlett-36.7%
8. Lakeview-.4%
9. Lynbrook- 99.9%
10. North Lynbrook 100%
11. Malverne 100%
12. Malverne Park Oaks-100%
13. Oceanside-16.1%
14. Rockville Centre 99.9%
15. South Hempstead 100%
16. Valley Stream 0%
17. West Hempstead 38.6%





**Herricks Union Free  
School District  
2006  
School Zones (2014)**



My name is Juleigh Chin and I'm the Chairperson of the Herricks Korean Community and have been a Trustee (and past Presy) for the Herricks School District Board of Education for the past 10 years. I reside at 10 Cricket Club Dr, North Hills, NY 11576. I am against the new draft proposal for District 16 for the following reasons and would like the map to stay as is or as close to it as possible.

First, school districts should not be separated. Residents of a school district should not be in different assembly districts. Schools are at the heart of our community in Long Island and our voices need to be heard clearly when it comes to policies and laws that affect our schools. Splitting school districts also makes it harder to have them represented in Albany when two Assemblymembers need to coordinate to advocate on a school district's behalf. The proposed draft splits both the Herricks School District and Great Neck School District and that is unacceptable.

Second, District 16 is almost 30% Asian. As Asian Americans we have a strong voting block in District 16, higher than anywhere else in Long Island. That should be applauded and respected, not taken away from us. The draft proposed would significantly cut that percentage to only 20%, diminishing the strength of our Asian vote.

For these reasons, I urge you to keep the current map for District 16 and reject the proposed draft. Thank you.

**STATEMENT TO THE NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
BY THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NASSAU COUNTY**

***THIS STATEMENT WAS PRESENTED IN PERSON TO THE COMMISSION AT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023 PUBLIC HEARING***

My name is Karen Moskowitz and I serve as a Co-Chair of the Redistricting Committee of the League of Women Voters of Nassau County. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Commission.

The League is a nonpartisan, political organization encouraging informed and active participation in our democracy. While the League takes positions on a variety of public policy issues, we never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

We commend the Commission for delivering a bipartisan State Assembly map. However, we believe refinements are needed with respect to Nassau County in order to fairly represent our communities of color, which comprise 44% of County residents per the 2020 Census.

We remind you of the special protections afforded to racial and language minority groups under the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act, the New York State Constitution and the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York.

One of the highest - yet fully attainable - goals of legislative redistricting is to fairly reflect minority voting strength by ensuring their ability to elect candidates of their choice. To accomplish this, districts must not be drawn to discourage competition or to favor or disfavor incumbents or political parties, and communities of interest must be preserved.

Given that Nassau residents face a number of pressing issues, including affordable housing, infrastructure needs, a high tax burden, inequities in public education and a spike in opiate overdose deaths, fair representation is essential for all our communities.

With the above points in mind the League suggests several aspects of your map be adjusted in order to equitably represent minority communities.

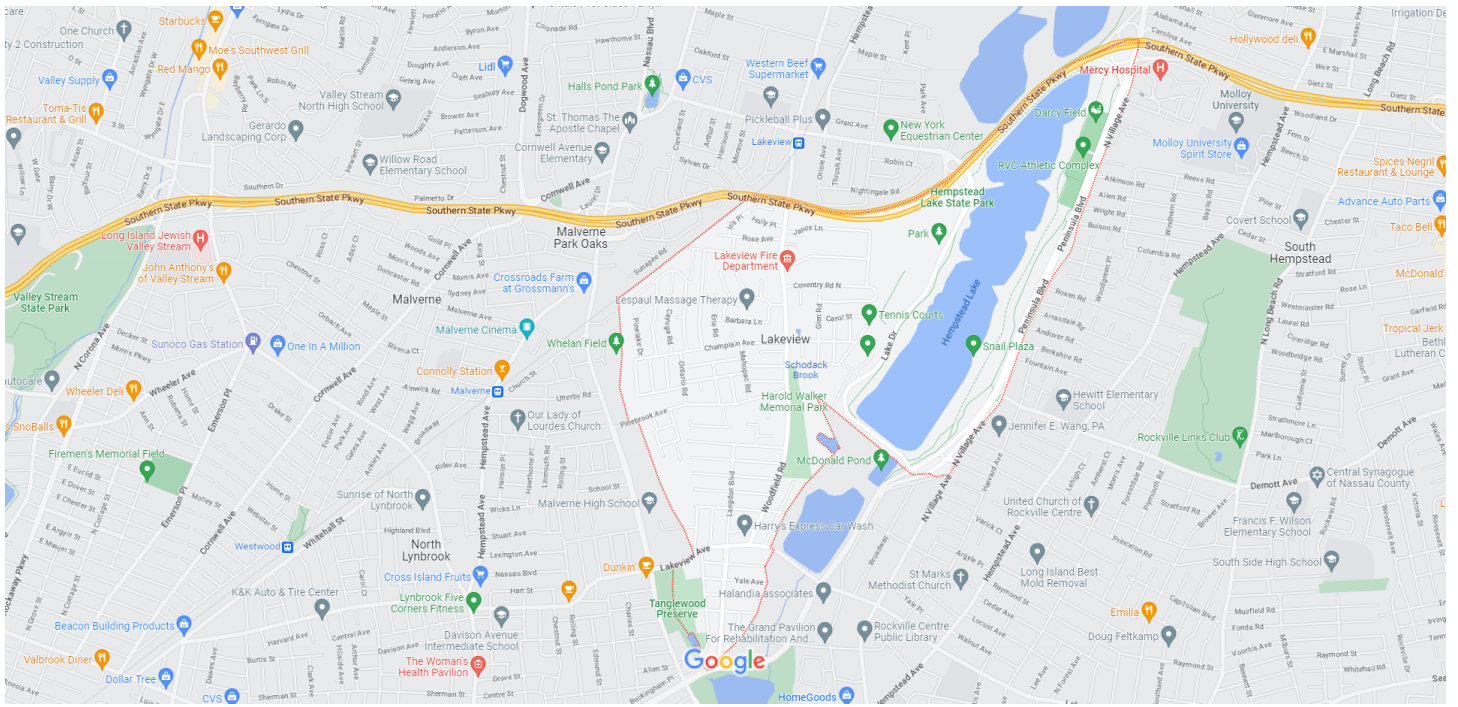
- First, the Southern portion of proposed District 15 narrows and extends West to capture the Village of Westbury, a minority community. The voice of Westbury's voters would be stifled by those of the district's highly affluent and overwhelmingly White Non-Hispanic communities, including Mill Neck, Brookville, Upper and Old Brookville, Muttontown and Old Westbury. The sharp difference in socio-economic diversity was not taken into account.
- Secondly, the minority Village of Freeport has been cracked between proposed Districts 18 and 21. The community would best be served by having a single representative in the Assembly.

In both cases the minority political influence of these two villages will be weakened if they remain in the districts as currently drawn.

We encourage you to take into consideration public comments made during this round of hearings and fine tune your map accordingly, with the goal of delivering to the State Legislature a map that best represents the needs of New Yorkers, in particular, our minority communities.

Thank you.

# Lakeview



**From:** [Miranda Goodwin-Raab](#)  
**To:** [Submissions](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd:  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:05:39 PM  
**Attachments:** [Lakeview - Google Maps.pdf](#)

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Miranda Goodwin-Raab  
Director of Public Engagement  
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission  
[www.nyirc.gov](http://www.nyirc.gov)

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**From:** Lisa Ortiz <[mrslmortiz@gmail.com](mailto:mrslmortiz@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 8, 2023 2:03:50 PM  
**To:** Miranda Goodwin-Raab <[goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov](mailto:goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re:

Hi Miranda,

Attached is a copy of the map requested by the commissioners when I appeared before them to share my testimony concerning the placement of Lakeview in the proposed maps. Lakeview is a small hamlet located in Nassau County that shares a postal code with both Rockville Centre and West Hempstead.

I would like to reiterate the significance of Lakeview being drawn into a district that allows our community to select and elect candidates of our own choosing. Lakeview is a minority community that has a little more than 6,000 residents according to the 2020 census. Placing Lakeview in district 21 would dilute Lakeview's voice and potentially restrict our community from electing an official of our own choosing. I respectfully request that Lakeview remain in AD 18.

Thank you for your consideration

Please advise if this submission to you is sufficient, or if I will need to share this on any additional websites.

Kind regards,  
Lisa Ortiz

On Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 6:27 PM Lisa Ortiz <[mrslmortiz@gmail.com](mailto:mrslmortiz@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thank you!

On Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 6:27 PM Miranda Goodwin-Raab <[goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov](mailto:goodwinraabm@nyirc.gov)> wrote:

Miranda Goodwin-Raab  
Director of Public Engagement  
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission  
[www.nyirc.gov](http://www.nyirc.gov)

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Be someone's reason to smile

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Be someone's reason to smile