



UNITED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
OF WILLIAMSBURGH AND NORTH BROOKLYN
פאראייניגטע אידישע ארגאניזאציעס פון וויליאמסבורג

32 Penn Street • Brooklyn, N.Y. 11249 • Tel: (718) 643-9700 • Fax: (718) 819-1817

**Submitted to the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission in
response to questions asked during verbal testimony**

March 9, 2023

My name is Rabbi David Niederman. I am writing to respond with follow up information to my verbal testimony on February 28, 2023 at the Nassau County Public Hearing and provide additional information requested of me by the Commissioners.

1. UJO Representation

In reference to the comment relating to who I represent- The UJO of Williamsburg represents the interests of the major Orthodox congregations in our area as the social service umbrella group. Our organization was founded by these congregations in 1966 as a social service provider and the public voice of this community of immigrants and Holocaust survivors. The congregations that comprise of our agency appoint members to our board. Thus we are the central voice of all segments of the community.

2. The Area of our Community of Interest

The area of concern for us is for the Orthodox Jewish community. In the current 2022 adopted map we are in New York State Assembly Districts 50, 52, 53, 56, and 57. A five way split of the community is really unprecedented and detrimental to our being recognized as a “Community of Interest”. In the draft maps, we are reduced to 4 districts Assembly Districts 50, 52, 53, 56, which still hurts the community’s ability to advocate for itself and our voice is really diluted. In the 2012 maps we were in two districts (the community later grew into a third district) and over 90% of the community was in District 50, which is the traditional district we have been a part of.

On behalf of our community I respectfully ask and submit to the commission that our Yiddish speaking community in South Williamsburg, Bedford Stuyvesant and Clinton Hill be recognized as one “community of interest”. Our community of interest has a unique language, distinctive dress, religious background, common history and other shared ties and identifiable interests.

3. Our Proposed Map

Attached is a map of the area in Brooklyn that we are referencing and request for this area to be included in a single Assembly district (available here <https://districtr.org/plan/175727>). This map contains the 87,232 people we represent which should be able to fit, in its entirety, into any district in our area while maintaining the one voice one vote requirement. Not being experts in other local communities of interest we are only in a position to indicate where our community begins and ends.



Thank you for the opportunity to present to you.

Nassau County

The current Assembly map and IRC draft proposal divide and dilute Asian voters in Nassau County. Census data is clear in Nassau about the growing number of heavily Asian tracts concentrated there. Neighbors, friends and family have moved to Nassau from New York City for better schools, less crime and more space. Their presence is visible in student populations and reflected in the increasing number of businesses such as Asian supermarkets like H-Mart.

The largest concentration is in areas of North Hempstead adjoining northeastern Queens: New Hyde Park, Lake Success, Great Neck. But the Assembly maps divide that community. The second concentration is in and around the communities of Syosset, Jericho and Hicksville. They have also been divided among multiple districts.

As my map proposal below reflects, two compact districts are achievable. Heavily Asian areas in Nassau are all adjacent to each other. You don't need to search for population or draw meandering district lines. And none of this would harm representation for other minority groups.

The Asian population in these two heavily Asian districts would be much greater than in District 44, where recent IRC hearings have seen concerted lobbying regarding the district lines in Kensington Brooklyn. The Asian population in these two Nassau areas is not far from that in Assembly District 65, which includes Manhattan's Chinatown. They even exceed the Census Asian population in the draft proposal for District 24 encompassing South Richmond Hill.

DistrictR

<https://districtr.org/plan/173793>

