

Central Queens Redistricting Coalition (CQRC) Calls for Fair Senate Districts that Keep Communities Whole

The Independent Redistricting Commission's Proposed Senate Maps Fail to Uphold CQRC's Ideals of Fairness, Non-Partisanship, and Community-Focus

The CQRC has reviewed the proposed Senate maps released by the New York Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). We found that both sets of maps fall short of our ideals of fairness, non-partisanship, and community focus. The maps also fail to keep our communities of interest whole, instead, they split racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and geographic neighborhoods, diluting their ability to advocate for representation and resources.

Keeping Communities Whole

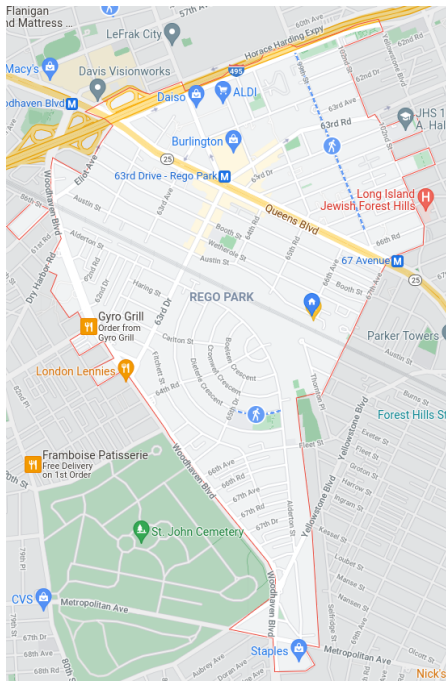
Central Queens is made up of multiple unique neighborhoods, including Elmhurst, Rego Park, Forest Hills, Kew Gardens, Briarwood, Jamaica Hills, Richmond Hill, Ridgewood and Glendale. Many other neighborhoods touch Central Queens, including Corona, Middle Village, Ozone Park, South Richmond Hill and Woodhaven. We have members and friends in all these neighborhoods.

As we previously testified, we believe Elmhurst, Rego Park, Forest Hills, Kew Gardens, Briarwood and Jamaica Hills belong in one district. We believe Richmond Hill belongs in another district with South Richmond Hills, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park and Woodhaven.

The "Letter" Senate maps designed by Democrats on the IRC, by contrast, dice up communities in bits and pieces. The Name maps proposed by IRC Republicans map do this less.

Example 1: Rego Park, NY 11374

Current 11374 Map



Rego Park is presently represented by two state Senators, Toby Stavisky and Joseph Addabbo. CQRC testimony centered on keeping our community whole, with one State Senator. Yet the Letter plan proposed by Democrats on the IRC has **Rego Park** split into three different districts:

- Senate District A
- Senate District AV
- Senate District P

11374 - Border District A & District P



The “crescents” portion of **Rego Park** (bottom right corner) has been severed from the streets to their west, which run between Alderton & Woodhaven and parallel to Alderton share. Yet they are part of one small community that is zoned for the same public schools and uses the same bus lines. Both are residential areas that suffer from heavy traffic as cars seeking to avoid congestion on Queens and Woodhaven Blvd take shortcuts through them.

11374 - Border District AV & District A



Similarly, residents of the sliver of **Rego Park** between 62 Drive and Horace Harding have been separated from neighbors with whom they commute, worship, and shop. Their sliver and a sliver of Forest Hills seem to have been created to connect Elmhurst and Flushing,

11374 - Border District A & District P



A zigzag border separates **Rego Park** neighbors that send their children to PS 139 and JHS 190, worship at a synagogue on 66th Ave & Booth St., and hop on the Q60 on 66th & Queens Blvd.

Example 2: Forest Hills, 11375

Current 11375 Map

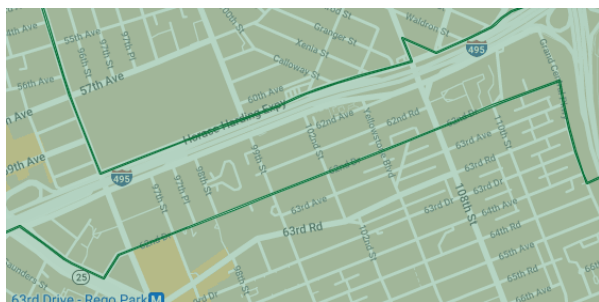


Forest Hills is now represented by three state Senators: Toby Stavisky, Joseph Addabbo and Leroy Comrie. CQRC testimony called for having **Forest Hills** represented by one State Senator.

Yet the IRC Democrats' plan once again splits **Forest Hills** split into three different Senate districts:

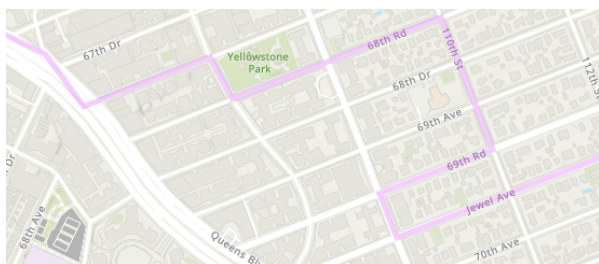
- Senate District A
- Senate District AV
- Senate District P

11375 Border District AV & District A



A sliver of **Forest Hills** between 62 Drive and Horace Harding, along with a sliver of Rego Park, serves to connect Elmhurst and Flushing. The plan removes residents of these blocks from neighbors that they commute, worship, and shop with, and divides a public school zone and community district.

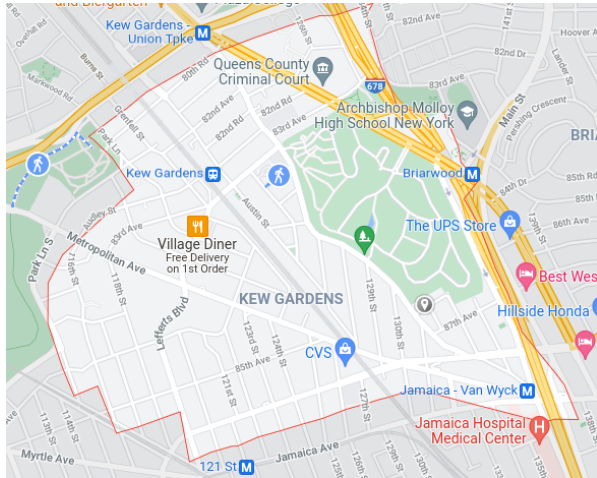
11375 - Border District P & District A



This border punctures two school zone districts in **Forest Hills**: PS 196 and PS 303. It cuts through Jewel Avenue, a major travel corridor for **Forest Hills** and **Rego Park** community members.

Example 3: Kew Gardens, 11415

Current 11415 Map

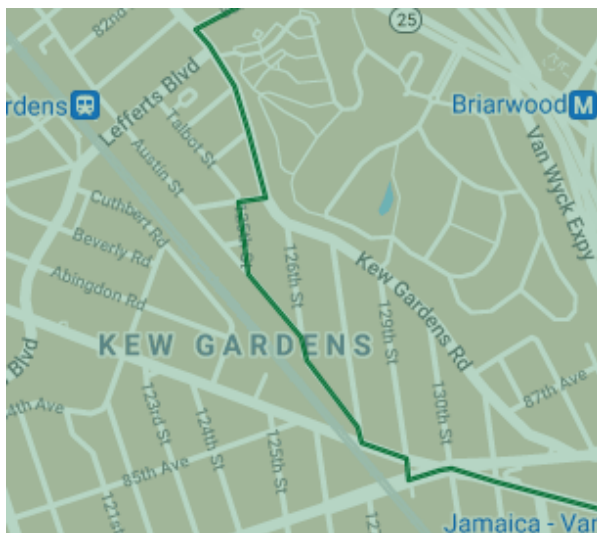


Kew Gardens is now represented by two state Senators, James Sanders and Leroy Comrie. CQRC testimony called for keeping **Kew Gardens** represented by one State Senator.

The IRC Democrats' plan splits **Kew Gardens** split into two different districts:

- Senate District P
- Senate District O

11415 - Border District P & District O



In the Letter plan **Kew Gardens** is divided, with the eastern portion wedged into a district that sprawls into Elmont, Nassau County.

Example 4: Richmond Hill, 11418

Richmond Hill is now chopped into three Senate Districts, represented by James Sanders, Joseph Adddabo and Leroy Comrie. Residents testified fervently that they want their community to be kept whole so they can have a stronger voice. CQRC also testified that Richmond Hill should have one state Senator.

The Letter plan puts most of Richmond Hill into District P, with Woodhaven, Ozone Park and Howard Beach and part of South Richmond Hill. While the Letter plan treats Richmond Hill better than Rego Park, Forest Hills and Kew Gardens, we would much prefer to have **all** of South Richmond Hill in District P, and Howard Beach moved into another district.

WE CALL ON THE IRC to:

1. Fulfill its mission by producing one set of fair, non-partisan maps;
2. Release maps that reflect communities of interest as described during our public testimony, and
3. Increase transparency in their process by providing detailed explanations of the criteria used to draw their districts.

ABOUT: The Central Queens Redistricting Coalition (CQRC) is a non-partisan, neighborhood-based group that seeks to provide a voice to the diverse center of Queens, resulting in fair representation for all. The CQRC is composed of local citizens and civic leaders who reflect the diversity of our community and share in the belief that the redistricting process should be driven by the people.