

Guenther Gross
575 Main Street Apt N1910
New York NY 10044

New York, January 8th, 2023

Re: Opposition to the State proposal for Redistricting Roosevelt Island

To: Members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Dear Madam/Sir,

Thank you for considering Roosevelt Island's needs when determining the redistricting map for New York State's Assembly. I strongly oppose the current proposal which removes Roosevelt Island from Manhattan's District 76 and places it in Queens District 36.

New York State's redistricting rules require:

Districts must consist of contiguous territory and shall be as compact in form as possible.

1. Our Manhattan Island's contiguous territory is Manhattan, not Queens.
2. The proposed change to our district is sprawling, not compact.

The commission must take into account the maintenance of existing districts, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest.

1. Roosevelt Island is being severed from long established communities of interest. Our political subdivision is not being respected.
2. The City Charter of New York City recognizes Roosevelt Island as a Manhattan community.

The Constitution of New York State specifically provides two State legislators for each district, a Senator and an Assembly Member. Roosevelt Island, a Manhattan community, has a unique form of local governance. We are governed by an unelected, State appointed Public Benefit Corporation, the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp (RIOC). All of our local services are administered by RIOC, not by New York City. The Board of Directors for RIOC is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor of NY. Because of this unique relationship with the State of NY, in which our residents do not have a voting voice in their local government, it is imperative that we, a Manhattan community, have the combined efforts of both of our Manhattan based representatives, working together on our behalf, to provide us with responsive and fair dealing by RIOC.

Below are the main reasons why I oppose the redistricting of Roosevelt Island:

1. Our tramway is operated by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) to link residents with Manhattan destinations. All maintenance, repairs, and capital improvements must be made by this state agency. It is not part of the MTA system. Our tramway is a vital transportation link that is used each day by commuters to work and

school children. It has no connection to Queens and is of no consequence to a Queens Assembly Member.

2. Many of our children go to public and private schools in Manhattan, not Queens. This relationship is a community of interest. Our one and only public school, which only goes through 8th grade, is located in a Manhattan school district. Most of our high school students attend schools in Manhattan. Our Assembly Members have all had long, established relationships with our school district. We need to retain this Manhattan connection.
3. Since our inception almost 50 years ago, Roosevelt Islanders have established enduring relationships with many Manhattan based communities of interest. Due to our proximity to the United Nations, we have a large immigrant and non-resident population who retain close ties with the United Nations. We have many UN officials, UN staff, and their families living in our community. The living quarters for the staff of Cornell Weill Hospital, in District 76 are located on Roosevelt Island. Also, a significant portion of our population work at other nearby Manhattan hospitals. Many of our residents are actively engaged with religious institutions in Manhattan. Most of our working population commute to Manhattan for employment every workday.

Your consideration of my opposition for redistricting Roosevelt Island will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guenther - 10".

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