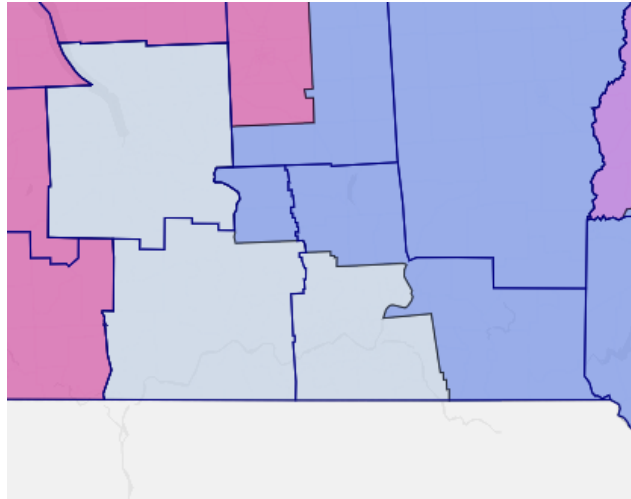
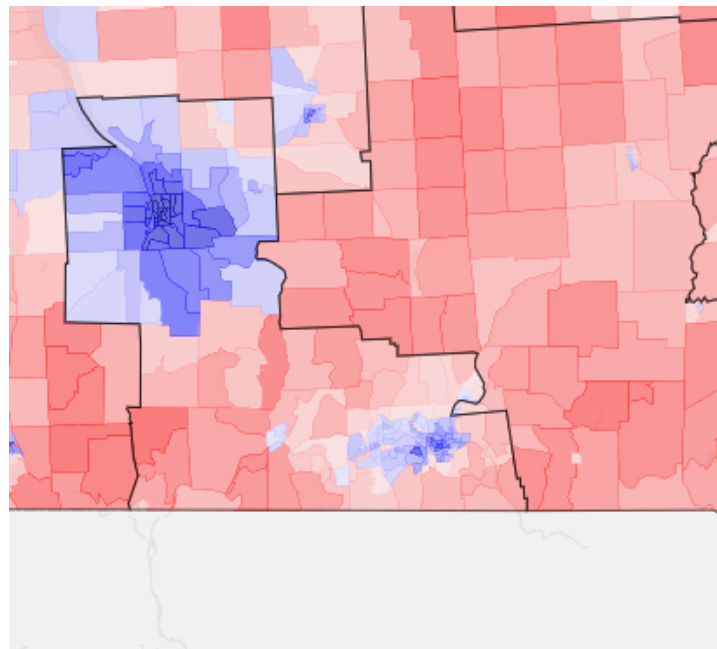


I wish to address the proposed state senate seats which cover Broome county, particularly the seat that was created as a result of the “Letters” map, internally titled “C” and shown below as the light blue district. (County borders have also been drawn over the map.)

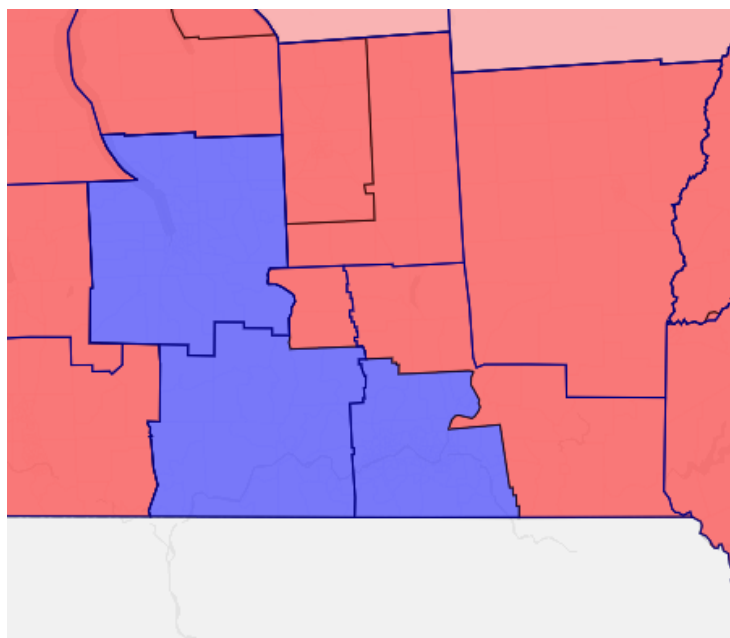


Broome is the L-shaped county which is being split into two separate districts in the center of the image. I think this is regrettable, but I can understand that this is sometimes a necessity in redistricting to create a map with overall greater cohesion. Especially since Broome county has a population of around 200,000, and is surrounded by counties in the high 40,000 range, that the math just doesn’t always add up to the 320,000 or so that a senate district needs to be while keeping counties intact. For this reason I am completely willing to overlook this.

However, my attention is drawn to the area in which the county has been bisected. The image below shows how each individual precinct of the proposed map voted in the 2020 presidential election.



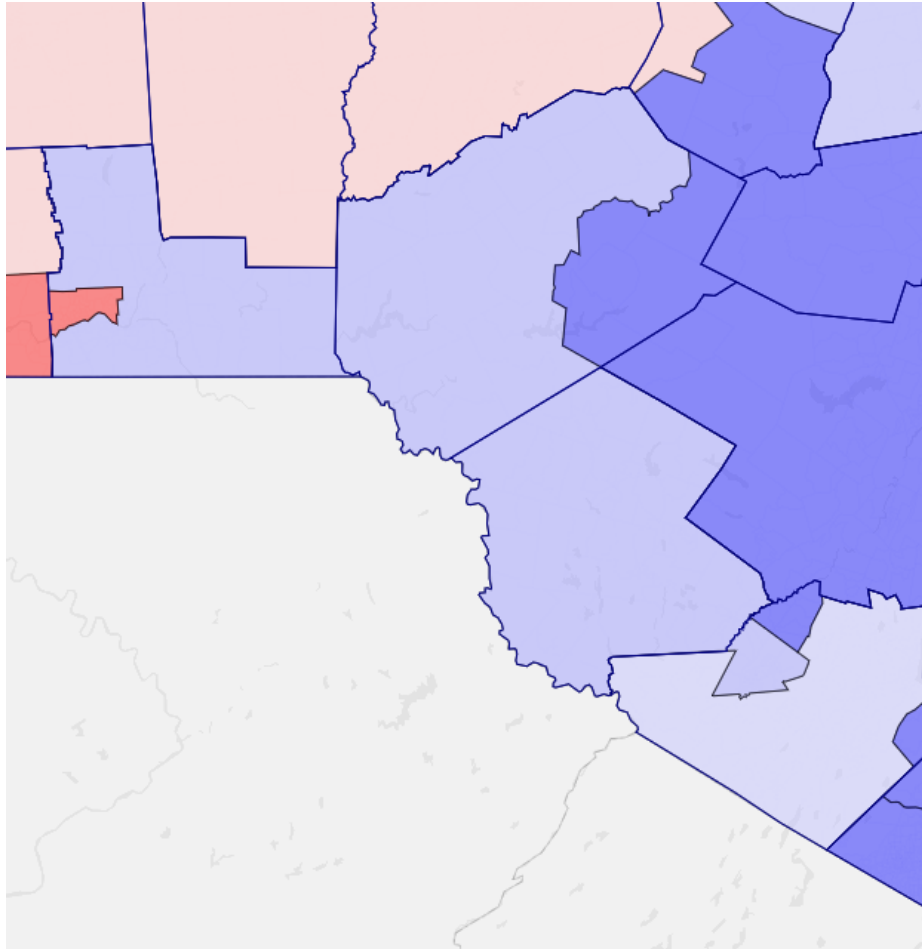
District “C” has been made in such a way that combines the very left-leaning Tompkins county with every precinct in Broome county that votes to the left, while cleaving the right-leaning portions to the north and east, using the majority of Tioga county as a bridge. The result is a very blue senate seat which is surrounded by very red senate seats.



As I said earlier, I understand that compromises need to be made in map drawing. Sometimes - as was pointed out during the public hearing I attended - that’s just how the dominoes fall. Regardless if this seat was drawn like this by accident or not, however, it would still have the effect of clustering practically every blue voter into a signal district while solidifying red voters outside.

Broome county voted for Biden over Trump in 2020 by just three points, after having voted for Trump over Clinton in 2016 by just two points. It is not a red county nor a blue county; it is one where either party has the potential to succeed. This makes it a great place for strong candidates to shine; a candidate wins on virtue of swaying independents and members of the opposing party. As such, it is disappointing to me that the competitive nature of Broome has been done away with.

I feel that the “Names” senate map does a much better job of containing the voter base of Broome county within a single district, although it also concerns me that the district is not very compact. This seat, internally named “PENNB RDG”, reaches from the northwestern portion of Broome all the way into the tip of Orange county, close to a two-hour drive from its furthest points.



In spite of this, I feel that the “Names” map does a slightly better job at representing constituents, at least in the Southern Tier region. Purple Broome county is (mostly) competitive, dark blue Tompkins is dark blue, and the surrounding counties are appropriately red. I feel as though this is a version of the senate map that comes much more closely in line with the whims of Southern Tier voters.

I implore the mapmakers at NYIRC to keep Broome county and surrounding areas proportionate to their voters, and I thank you for your consideration.

Ryan Feeney