

January 23, 2023

Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, New York 10007
Hon. Ken Jenkins, Chair
Hon. Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair
Website: nyirc.gov

Dear Commissioners:

I strongly oppose the Commission's draft plan to move Sutton Place, Roosevelt Island, the community around the Rockefeller University, Cornell Medical School, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and other parts of the east side into Assembly District 36 in Queens.

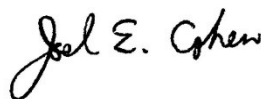
The proposed district violates New York State Constitutional districting requirements because it (1) is not contiguous and compact; (2) fails to consider pre-existing political subdivisions and communities of interest; and (3) defies citizens' reasonable expectations of rational line-drawing.

The communities on both sides of the East River have different interests regarding housing, tax policy, transportation, open space and other matters. The draft proposal would create practical difficulties in providing governmental services. Even the location of an Assembly District Office is complicated by this irrational two-borough district plan.

My neighbors and I successfully opposed a similar proposal involving City Council districts this past summer. While the law and the process are different, the essential concepts of good government and rational line-drawing remain the same.

I strongly urge you to scrap the draft plan for Assembly District 36 and not to create a two-borough district that would combine parts of Manhattan's east side with parts of Queens.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Joel E. Cohen in black ink.