

Helen Montero
1151 Bay 24th Street
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
Helenmontero27@gmail.com
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To the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission:

I, Helen Montero, am a resident of Far Rockaway in New York State. I live in Assembly District 31 State Senate District 10 and Congressional District 5.

I vehemently oppose the recently proposed district map titled Assembly Districts – Names Plan on the following grounds:

The maintenance of existing districts, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest.

As a constituent of district 31 residing closest to Far Rockaway, I must say that I struggle to see the positive in expanding the lines to include Cedarhurst, Inwood, and Lawrence. I feel that problems bigger than we can foresee are at stake. These lines essentially make current inhabitants minorities in terms of opinion. How can we expect to be attended to when we no longer comprise half of the district? This raises a major concern as the new map has the potential to drastically unbalance the socio-economic demographic that is present as well. By including these particular areas, differentiated concerns among constituents will likely become an issue. I propose that those areas be kept in district 20, as I see their values to be better aligned with citizens of Long Beach, Hewlett and East Rockaway.

Respectfully Submitted.

Helen Montero