

Second Amendment for EVER, Inc.



October 15, 2021

To: Independent Redistricting Commission

**From: Ed Pettitt
President, Second Amendment for EVER, Inc.**

Re: Independent Redistricting Commission Submission from (SAfE) in Niagara County

Dear Commissioners,

I am Ed Pettitt, President of Second Amendment for EVER, Inc. (SAfE) in Niagara County. Our role as a civics organization is to encourage gun owners to vote and to advocate for the rights of gun owners in Niagara County in a manner that is non-political and non-partisan. I am writing to you to share my perspective that although the proper districting of the NYS Senate should be by county, the most logical alternative option for the current 62nd district should be to have the combined borders of Niagara County and Orleans county be designated as a single senatorial district.

Article IV, Section 4 of the US Constitution guarantees to every state “a republican form of government.” Key constructs of our republic are the protection of individual rights through the rule of law, that power flows upward from the citizenry with their consent and that checks and balances are required to prevent a consolidation of government power that can “abuse” its people. In our Federal government the Legislative Branch was designed to balance the “voice of the people” with the “voice of the states”. Each state has 2 senators regardless of population. The Wisdom of this design continues to prevent an overwhelming consolidation of political power to the few populous states which would overwhelm the majority of states in the nation. Likewise, the purpose of the NYS senate should be a balance to the NYS Assembly and thus, as much as possible have representation more in line with county governments. To this end, it would not be logical to split senate districts within a county. We suggest given the current redistricting options, that you combine Niagara and Orleans into one senate district.

Although each county is unique in its culture, government, industry, natural resources, and people, Niagara and Orleans share many commonalities that would make a logical pairing for the purpose of senatorial representation. Outdoors hunting and fishing sports, agriculture, manufacturing, culture and way of life are nearly indistinguishable between our counties. We respectfully request you keep our senatorial representation intact.

Respectfully,

Edward D. Pettitt

Edward D. Pettitt
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