



ALEX BORES  
Assemblymember 73<sup>rd</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse  
Consumer Affairs & Protection  
Corporations, Authorities & Commissions  
Insurance  
Science & Technology

Dear Chair Jenkins, Vice Chair Nesbitt, and Commissioners of the IRC,

I am Assemblymember Alex Bores, representative for New York's 73rd Assembly District.

I oppose the New York Independent Redistricting Commission's (NYIRC) Draft Assembly Plan in its current form, as it unnecessarily undermines the needs of distinct communities of interest in Manhattan and Queens.

The NYIRC's proposed Assembly District 36 spans the East River and would connect Long Island City and Astoria to Roosevelt Island and portions of Manhattan, specifically Sutton Place and parts of Turtle Bay. This proposed district is not in line with the New York State Constitution, which requires that in the districting process consider "communities of interest" and "maintaining the cores of existing districts."

Astoria and Long Island City are distinct communities of interest that are in no way better represented by sharing representation with Sutton Place, Turtle Bay, and Roosevelt Island, and vice versa. These three communities, **all of which are in Manhattan**, do not need to be drawn together with a separate borough.

While I understand the commission's need to think creatively given population movement in Manhattan, this is not the best way to accomplish that. The updated 2022 maps produced by the Legislature were already adjusted for New York's updated population count, and do not require substantial revision.

I also ask the NYIRC to consider the harm to constituent services. Given limited budgets for staff and district offices in the Assembly, and the cost of office space within the lines of the proposed AD 36, it would be difficult for the Assemblymember to open district offices in both Manhattan and Queens, creating a serious hurdle for constituents to meet with their representatives. This also hampers the ability of staff to address the many constituent concerns members receive by forcing them to navigate the bureaucracy of two separate boroughs.

It is worth remembering that the first draft of the New York City Districting Commission Maps drew a similar cross-borough district, but when confronted with testimony from residents, found a better solution. In fact, the most substantial change to district lines in the previous cycle may have been the Congressional lines, which revised CD-12 to be entirely within Manhattan. Given those changes, creating new cross-county districts makes even less sense than it may have before.

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By implementing this new district, which departs from the previous cores of existing districts, and by dividing existing communities of interest, the NYIRC is harming the residents of both Manhattan and Queens. Therefore, I urge the commission to reconsider this proposal.

As an endnote, I will reiterate that **Roosevelt Island is in Manhattan.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Bores". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alex" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bores".

**Alex Bores**

*Assemblymember for the 73<sup>rd</sup> District*