



November 5, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

The League of Women Voters of New Castle appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft redistricting maps.

The New Castle League has looked at both sets of proposed maps for Congress, State Senate, and State Assembly. We thank you for making these plans available on your website. However, we are very disappointed that the Commission presented us with two sets of partisan maps instead of one bipartisan map.

The Commission was charged with producing nonpartisan districts that adhered to definitions of equal population that are:

- Compact,
- Contiguous,
- Do not favor or disfavor a party, an incumbent, or a minority group, and
- Do not split county, town, city, or villages more than necessary to achieve other goals.

The lines should also consider keeping together **communities of interest**.

The New Castle League primarily works with community members in the Town of New Castle, which spans at least five school districts with most of the children attending the Chappaqua Central School District and the Ossining Union Free School District. As school districts are an important factor in a person's choice of where to live in Westchester County, and they are responsible for over 70% of the real estate tax burden on properties, we believe that, in Northern Westchester County, a school district constitutes a community of interest and is as important as a town in determining nonpartisan districts.

Below are our specific comments on each of the districts proposed by the Commission. Note that the blue pointer on each map represents an address in New Castle.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAPS

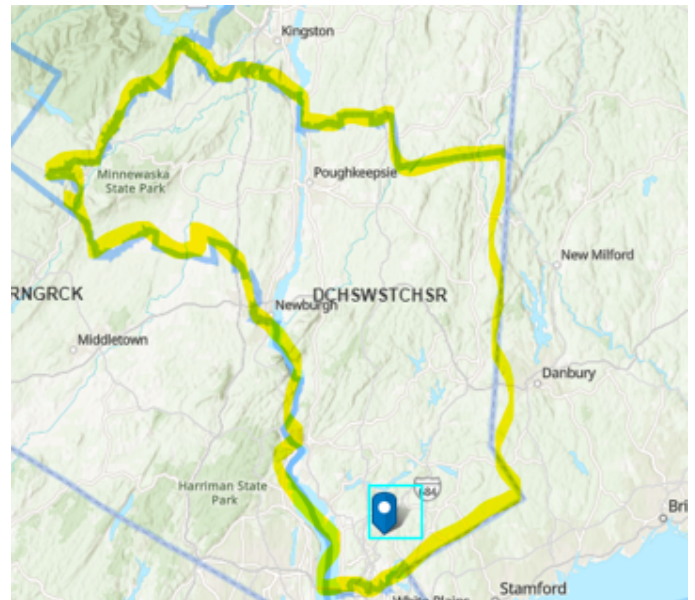
Proposed Congressional District DCHWSTCHSR

This proposed district includes our portion of Northern Westchester with Putnam, Dutchess, a very small part of Orange, and parts of Ulster.

The proposed district:

- Is radically less compact than the current CD 17
- Results in decreased racial diversity in the district
- Fails to consider communities of interest as it includes parts of five different counties.

Northern Westchester County has far more in common with suburban Rockland County than with residents of far more rural Ulster County.

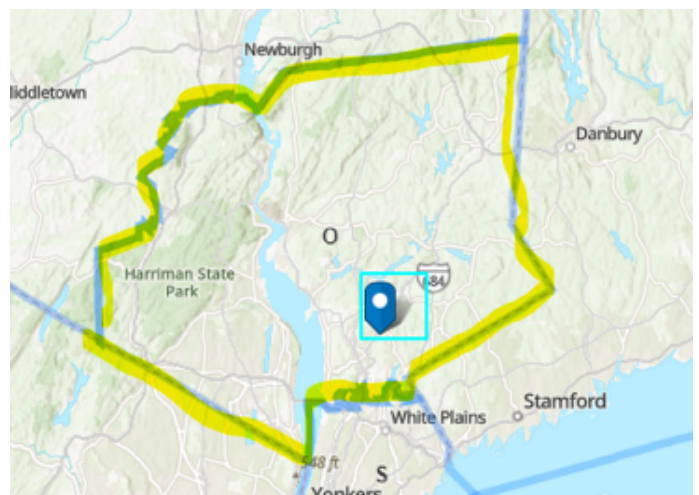


Proposed Congressional District O

This proposed district includes our portion of Northern Westchester with Putnam, Rockland, and a portion of Orange County. The proposed district:

- Is much more compact than DCHWSTCHSR
- Results in less racial diversity than the current CD17.

The southern boundary of the district does not seem natural, especially since it divides Tarrytown.

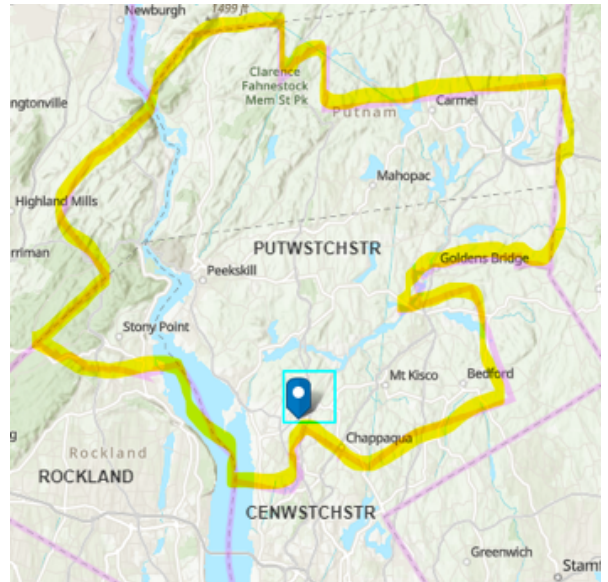


STATE SENATE MAPS

Proposed Senate District PUTWSTCHSTR

This proposed district, while quite compact, includes Northern Westchester County with parts of Rockland, Orange, and Putnam and it excludes our neighbors in the eastern most section of Northern Westchester County. The proposed district:

- Fails to consider communities of interest since it includes towns in Rockland and Orange Counties, separated by the Hudson River, which share far fewer commonalities with Northern Westchester than communities such as Pound Ridge.

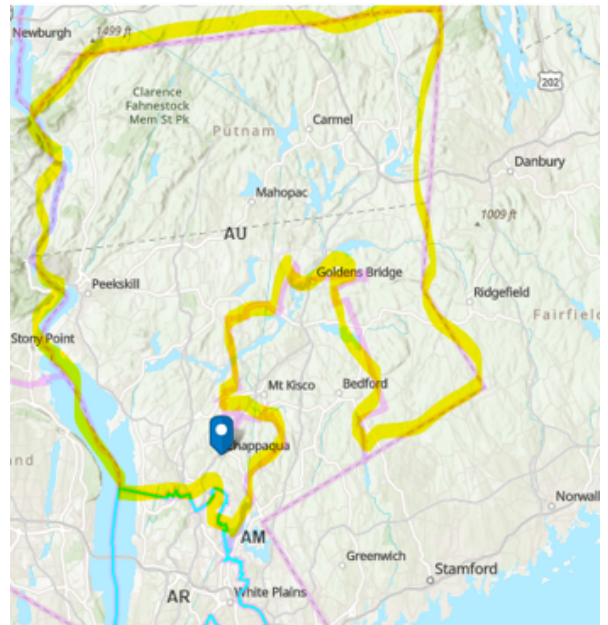


Proposed Senate District AU

This proposed district includes parts of Westchester County with Putnam. The proposed district:

- Carves out the town of Mount Kisco so that you would drive through another district to get to another point in the proposed AU district
- Divides both the Town of New Castle and the Chappaqua Central School District into two different Senate Districts
- Is more compact than the current Senate District 40.

The borders of the neighboring districts, AM and AR, look as though they have been manipulated for some unknown reason which could undermine confidence that the mapping is fair.

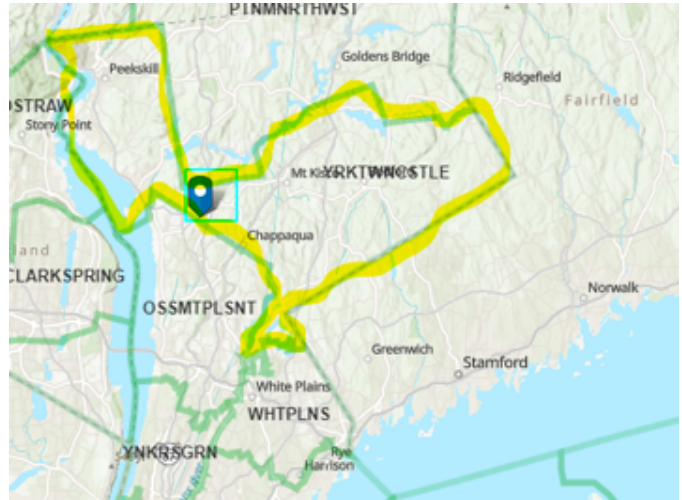


ASSEMBLY DISTRICT MAPS

Proposed Assembly District YRKTNEWCASTLE

The proposed district:

- Has fewer compact borders than the current district
- Is comprised of two distinct geographic regions anchored by densely populated Mount Kisco and Peekskill, and is connected by a tiny isthmus of the rural far West End of New Castle
- Divides the Ossining Union Free School District between two districts
- Carves out the town of Yorktown.

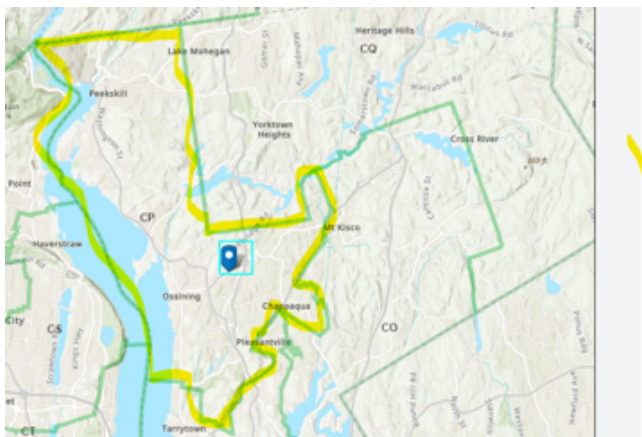


The residents of the West End of New Castle, which is zoned for the Ossining School District, share a greater commonality of interests with the OSSMTPLSNT proposed district than with the curiously named YRKTWNCSTLE district which does not include the Town of Yorktown.

Proposed Assembly District CP

The proposed district:

- Has fewer compact borders than the current district
- Separates us from some New Castle residents to the north and east
- Divides the Town of New Castle and the Chappaqua Central School District into two Assembly Districts.





We hope that your next set of proposed district maps will take into consideration the concerns we have outlined above. Please cross as few county lines as possible to keep the geographic area as small as possible. In addition, please consider keeping the Town of New Castle and the school districts within one district whenever possible. Please use a mapping company that is not partisan.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Regards,

Suzanne Kavic, President
Lea Barth
Sheila Miller Bernson
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Haley Ferraro
Jennifer Mebes Flagg
Alexandra Holt
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Leslie Kuhn
League of Women Voters of New Castle Board

The League of Women Voters of New Castle, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.