

Testimony of
Kingsborough Community College
Dr. Claudia V. Schrader, President

Submitted for the Public Meeting of the
New York State
Independent Redistricting Commission
At Medgar Evers College (CUNY)

Hearing on New York State's district lines
after the 2020 Census

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman David Imamura, Vice Chairman Jack Martins and distinguished members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony about New York State's district lines after the 2020 census. Although many districts require examination by the Commission, my testimony pertains to the NY-08 congressional district.

As President of Kingsborough Community College, I represent more than 11,000 students enrolled in Brooklyn's only community college, currently in the NY-08 congressional district. Kingsborough Community College is located on a 70-acre campus on the southern corner of Brooklyn, in a community called Manhattan Beach. It's a beautiful waterfront campus surrounded by communities that include Brighton Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Mill Basin and Coney Island.

Between 2010 and 2020, NY-08's population grew by 12.1 percent (an increase of 86,692 people from 717,708). The communities within NY-08 are diverse and include a large population of Russian-speaking Jewish immigrants, LatinX and Caribbean-born residents. The southern Brooklyn communities and Kingsborough's student body both mirror the hard-working Brooklynites found throughout the NY-08 districts, and the principal concerns, such as food, affordable housing, education, employment and public safety.

This "community of interest" greatly appreciates the support and efforts made by the 8th district congressional leaders, past and present, to address constituent concerns through local community engagement events and talking directly with KCC's student body. In addition, as KCC embarks on a major education/ecological project to develop an Off-Shore Wind training facility for students, the benefit of keeping the southern section of the district intact is significant. I strongly urge the Commission to keep the NY-08 district lines intact.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Claudia Schrader".

Dr. Claudia V. Schrader

President

