

LWVW REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY FOR IRC PUBLIC HEARING

NOVEMBER 8, 2021

The League of Women Voters of Westchester (LWVW) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the redistricting efforts that continue for all U.S. Congressional Districts and NYS Senate and Assembly Districts.

The LWVW is disappointed and displeased with the Independent Redistricting Commission's failure to attain bipartisan consensus in offering voters ONE SET of redistricting draft plans to review. The LWVW strongly requests the bipartisan Independent Redistricting Commission return to the drawing board, review public input, and do its job developing ONE SET of draft plans in accordance with its directive, as stated on its website, "**The Commission is required to create a plan for the re-drawing of the State legislative and congressional districts....**" The website specifies a plan, not two plans that the public has been left to its own devices to compare, contrast, ponder and deduce. In 2014, New Yorkers passed the state Constitutional amendment creating the Commission. Many, many voters looked forward to a successful, significantly more public process. If the Commission fails to come together in its work now, it will set a precedent that lowers the bar for future Commissions.

Until the IRC completes its assigned task of providing ONE SET of draft plans, the LWVW can offer only limited comments. We have studied and continue to study both Republican and Democrat draft plans for the County, and have included in our written testimony detailed comments on the following draft plans:

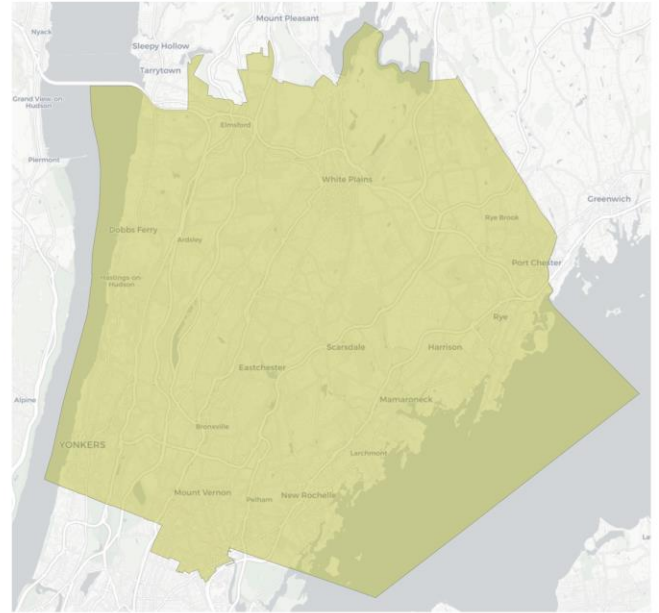
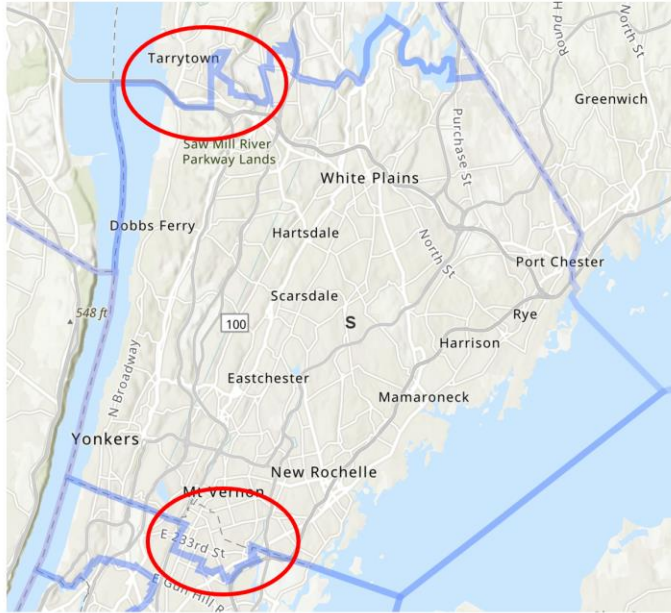
- Democrat – Congressional District S
- Republican – Senate District CENWSTCHSTR
- Democrat – Senate District AM
- Republican – Assembly District YRKTWNCSTLE
- Democrat – Assembly District CM
- Republican – Assembly Districts Yonkers (3)

The LWVW recognizes the legal constraints involved in shaping legislative districts, but we vehemently oppose partisan gerrymandering which strips rights away from voters and splits communities. The LWVW is laser-focused to combat districts that are gerrymandered to benefit politicians and political parties rather than citizens. We hold that it is the voters who select their representatives, not the politicians who select their voters. We ask the IRC to give communities of interest a high priority so that representatives actually represent their constituency and work for them. Please refrain from mapping through a political lens.

The people want their voices heard. We expect nothing less from those whom we elect to represent us than to actively listen, to accurately represent our voices, and to take actions to meet our needs. To that end, we look toward the day when all legislative maps are fair and each district enables one person their one meaningful vote.

The LWVW respectfully submits this testimony today, and asks the IRC to produce ONE SET of draft plans for the public's further review.

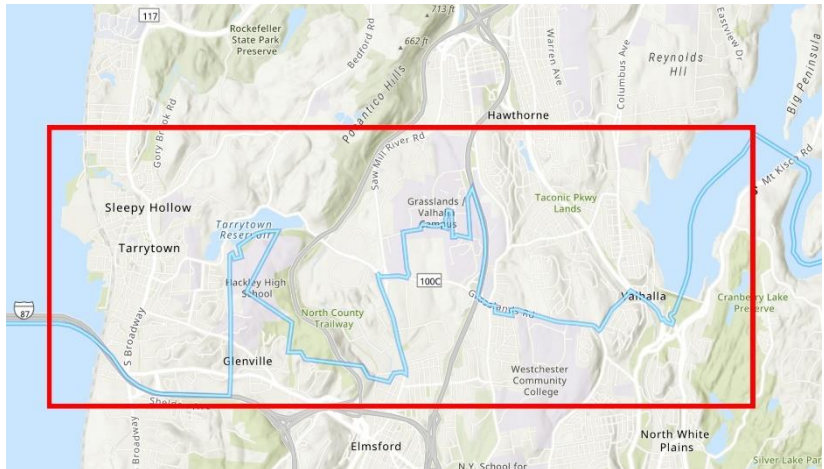
Draft maps Democrat – Congressional District S



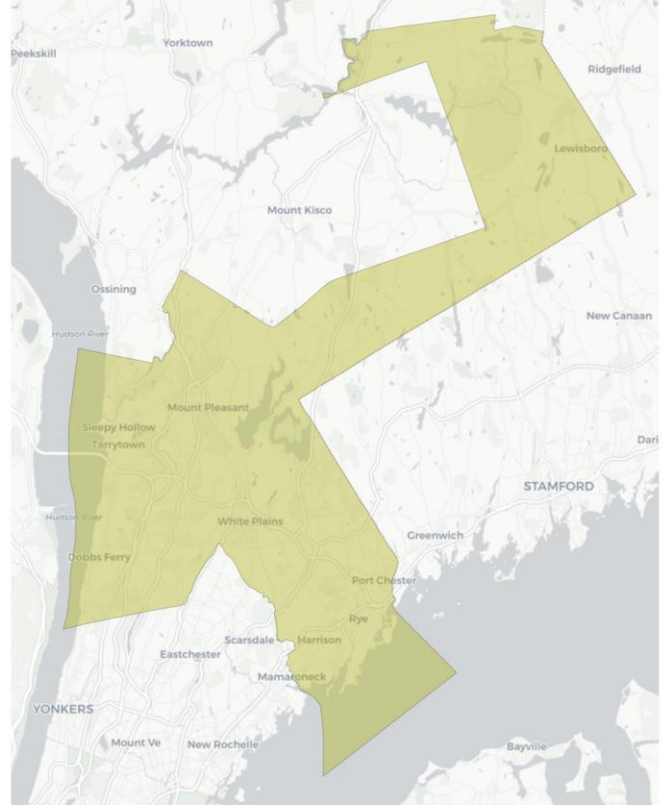
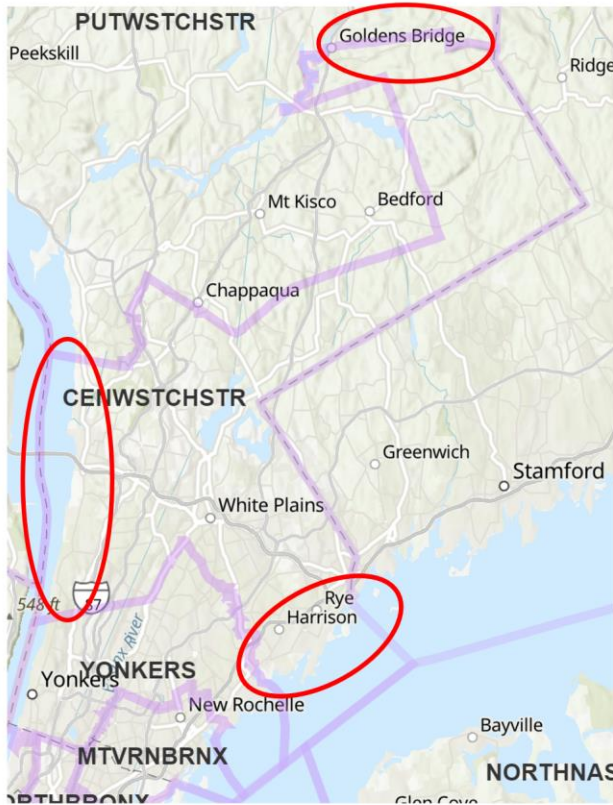
Legend	Details	Info
ID	19	
AREA	157.61	
DISTRICT	S	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
POPULATION	776,970.00	
CVAP_1519_	491,002.92	
CVAP_15191	25,886.24	
CVAP_15192	111,707.61	
CVAP_15193	253,494.83	
CVAP_15194	94,345.09	
IDEAL_VALU	776,971.00	
DEVIATION	-1.00	
F_DEVIATIO	-0.00	
F_CVAP_151	0.63	
F_CVAP_152	0.05	
F_CVAP_153	0.23	
F_CVAP_154	0.52	
F_CVAP_155	0.19	
MULTIPLE_F	S -1	
DISTRICT_L	S -0%	

LWWW Comments:

- Why is a portion of the Bronx included in drafted CD S?
- LWWW recommends that this district would be better served to move this small section of Bronx communities to the Bronx, as it is a borough of New York City, and has no alignment of similar interests with Westchester County communities but different laws, services, etc.
- LWWW recommends including the communities above the blue line (Tarrytown north) to better align with surrounding Westchester communities to ensure voters' voices are ONE and aligned based upon community interests. This map displays Tarrytown as a fractured community.



Draft maps Republican – Senate District CENWSTCHSTR

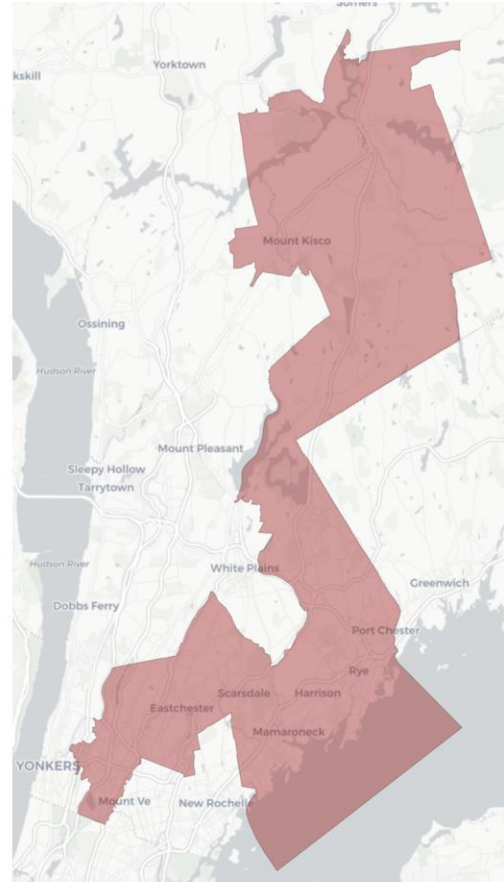
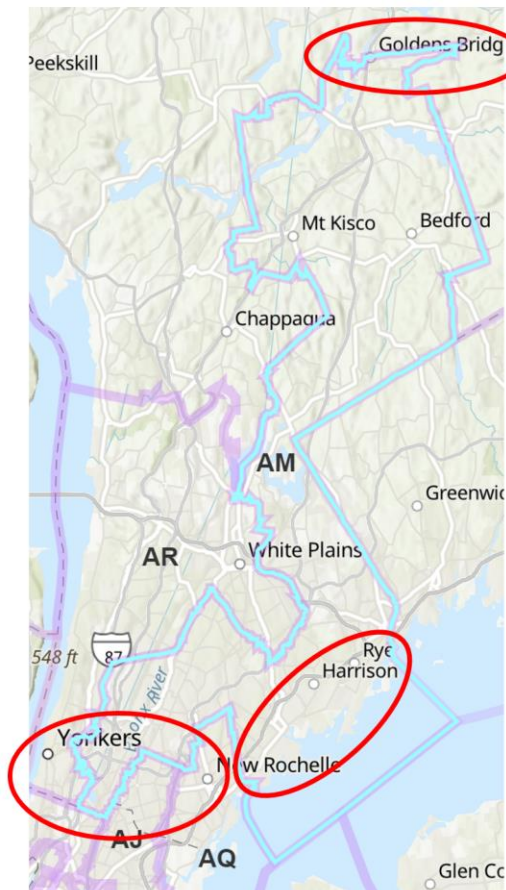


Legend	Details	Info
ID	9	
AREA	201.76	
DISTRICT	CENWSTCHSTR	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
TOTAL_ADJ	323,729.00	
WHITE	195,164.00	
ASIAN	26,877.00	
BLACK	22,909.00	
HISPANIC_O	77,975.00	
CVAP_1519_	208,418.60	
CVAP_15191	10,491.87	
CVAP_15192	17,664.46	
CVAP_15193	31,615.07	
DEVIATION	2,539.00	
F_DEVIATIO	0.01	
F_WHITE	0.60	
F_ASIAN	0.08	
F_BLACK	0.07	
F_HISPANIC	0.24	
F_CVAP_151	0.64	
F_CVAP_152	0.05	
F_CVAP_153	0.08	
F_CVAP_154	0.15	
IDEAL_VALU	321,190.00	
DISTRICT_L	CENWSTCHSTR 0.79%	

LWVW Comments:

- The draft plan of SD CENWSTCHSTR clearly indicates ignoring communities of interest in Westchester County, as “up-County” and “down-County” communities are so diverse based upon interests, race, urban vs. suburban, economies, environment, etc.
- This district needs to be redrawn to display better alignment of like communities.

Draft maps Democrat – Senate District AM

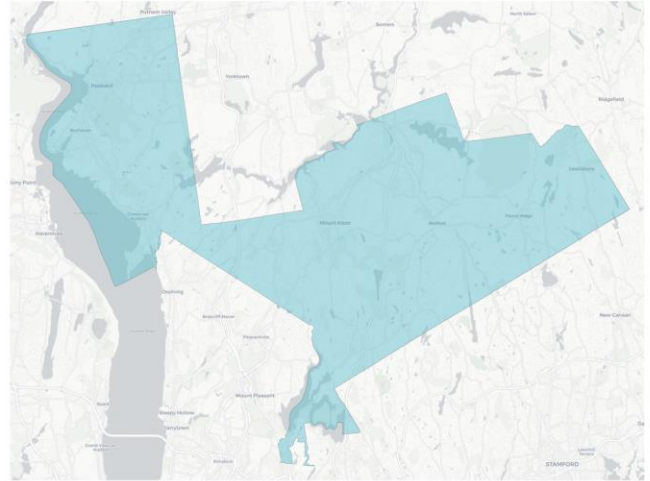
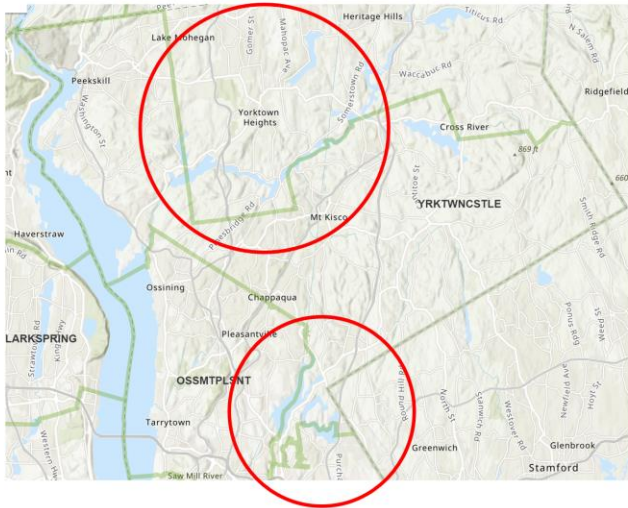


Legend	Details	Info
ID	167	
AREA	169.12	
DISTRICT	AM	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
POPULATION	315,208	
CVAP_1519_	204,866.22	
CVAP_15191	10,857.54	
CVAP_15192	28,278.84	
CVAP_15193	9,057.24	
IDEAL_VALU	320,655.00	
DEVIATION	-5,447.00	
F_DEVIATIO	-0.02	
F_CVAP_151	0.65	
F_CVAP_152	0.05	
F_CVAP_153	0.14	
F_CVAP_154	0.04	
DISTRICT_L	AM -1.7%	

LWVW Comments:

- The draft plan of SD AM clearly indicates ignoring communities of interest in Westchester County, as “up-County” and “down-County” communities are so diverse based upon interests, race, urban vs. suburban, economies, environment, etc.
- There is no reasonable way an elected official can effectively represent this constituency in this geographic locale from the populous city of Yonkers to the rural Golden Bridge.

Draft maps Republican – Assembly District YRKTWNCSTLE

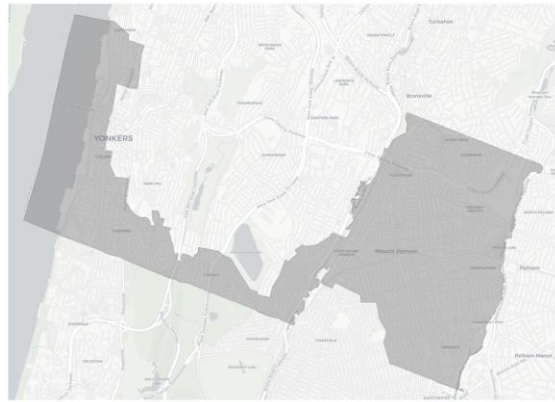


Legend	Details	Info
ID	150	
AREA	179.01	
DISTRICT	YRKTWNCSTLE	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
TOTAL_ADJ	134,987.00	
WHITE	88,779.00	
ASIAN	6,767.00	
BLACK	9,797.00	
HISPANIC_O	30,548.00	
CVAP_1519_	91,376.49	
CVAP_15191	3,400.36	
CVAP_15192	6,712.04	
CVAP_15193	10,930.20	
IDEAL_VALU	134,626.00	
DEVIATION	361.00	
F_DEVIATIO	0.00	
F_WHITE	0.66	
F_ASIAN	0.05	
F_BLACK	0.07	
F_HISPANIC	0.23	
F_CVAP_151	0.68	
F_CVAP_152	0.04	
F_CVAP_153	0.07	
F_CVAP_154	0.12	
DISTRICT_L	YRKTWNCSTLE 0.27%	

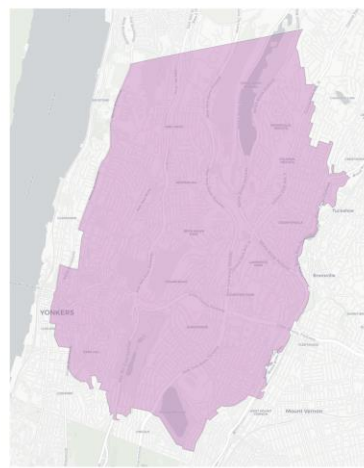
LWWV Comments:

- Definitely a misnomer here as Yorktown is not included in this drawn map and this town is being included with Putnam County. This map need to be drawn to align communities of interest.
- As drawn, Mohegan Lake is split. Yorktown and Yorktown Heights have shared interests with this northern local of the County, and needs to be aligned with them, rather than going southward to include North White Plains instead.

Draft maps Democrat – Assembly District CM



Draft maps Democrat – Assembly District CL



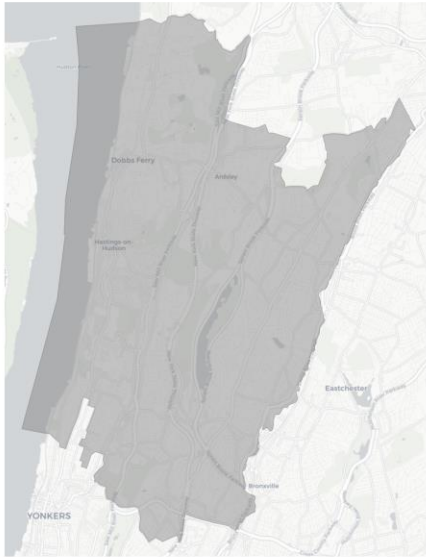
Legend	Details	Info
ID	361	
AREA	7.64	
DISTRICT	CM	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
POPULATION	134,731	
ADJPOP	134,731.00	
CVAP_1519_	80,116.10	
CVAP_15191	2,614.57	
CVAP_15192	37,601.23	
CVAP_15193	20,112.29	
CVAP_15194	18,756.65	
F_DEVIATIO	0.00	
F_CVAP_151	0.59	
F_CVAP_152	0.03	
F_CVAP_153	0.47	
F_CVAP_154	0.25	
F_CVAP_155	0.23	
IDEAL_VALU	134,675.00	
DEVIATION	56.00	
F_ADJPOP	1.00	
DISTRICT_L	CM 0.04%	

LWWW Comments:

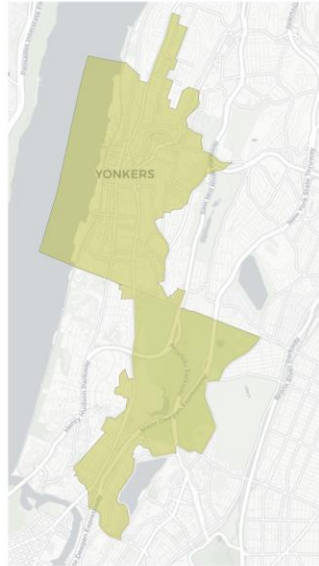
- Assembly CL Yonkers is being flanked on both sides by Assembly CM. These districts need to be redrawn to better represent communities of interest.

Draft maps Republican – Assembly Districts Yonkers (3)

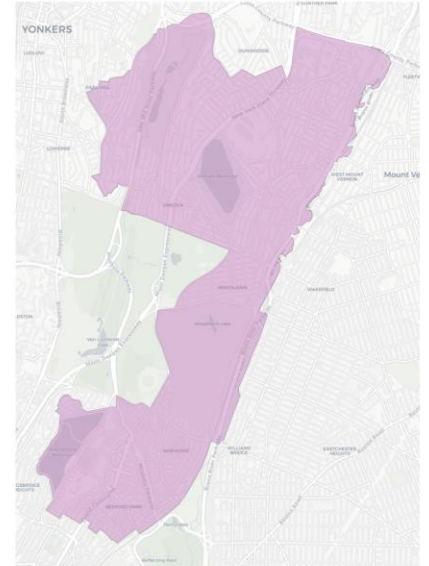
YNKRSGRN



YNKRSKTSBRG



YNKRSBDFRD



Legend	Details	Info
ID	148	
AREA	29.88	
DISTRICT	YNKRSGRN	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
TOTAL_ADJ	134,336.00	
WHITE	77,656.00	
ASIAN	13,859.00	
BLACK	12,767.00	
HISPANIC_O	30,735.00	
CVAP_1519_	95,104.28	
CVAP_15191	7,005.59	
CVAP_15192	7,530.98	
CVAP_15193	15,060.25	
IDEAL_VALU	134,626.00	
DEVIATION	-290.00	
F_DEVIATIO	-0.00	
F_WHITE	0.58	
F_ASIAN	0.10	
F_BLACK	0.10	
F_HISPANIC	0.23	
F_CVAP_151	0.71	
F_CVAP_152	0.07	
F_CVAP_153	0.08	
F_CVAP_154	0.16	
DISTRICT_L	YNKRSGRN	-0.22%

Legend	Details	Info
ID	149	
AREA	6.43	
DISTRICT	YNKRSKTSBRG	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
TOTAL_ADJ	135,724.00	
WHITE	22,445.00	
ASIAN	5,413.00	
BLACK	30,488.00	
HISPANIC_O	85,713.00	
CVAP_1519_	71,946.91	
CVAP_15191	2,847.93	
CVAP_15192	17,484.44	
CVAP_15193	37,832.70	
IDEAL_VALU	134,626.00	
DEVIATION	1,098.00	
F_DEVIATIO	0.01	
F_WHITE	0.17	
F_ASIAN	0.04	
F_BLACK	0.22	
F_HISPANIC	0.63	
F_CVAP_151	0.53	
F_CVAP_152	0.04	
F_CVAP_153	0.24	
F_CVAP_154	0.53	
DISTRICT_L	YNKRSKTSBRG	0.82%

Legend	Details	Info
ID	147	
AREA	6.00	
DISTRICT	YNKRSBDFRD	
MEMBERS	1.00	
LOCKED		
NAME		
TOTAL_ADJ	134,828.00	
WHITE	37,368.00	
ASIAN	11,303.00	
BLACK	23,295.00	
HISPANIC_O	68,796.00	
CVAP_1519_	76,814.32	
CVAP_15191	5,128.07	
CVAP_15192	12,373.73	
CVAP_15193	33,535.37	
IDEAL_VALU	134,626.00	
DEVIATION	202.00	
F_DEVIATIO	0.00	
F_WHITE	0.28	
F_ASIAN	0.08	
F_BLACK	0.17	
F_HISPANIC	0.51	
F_CVAP_151	0.57	
F_CVAP_152	0.07	
F_CVAP_153	0.16	
F_CVAP_154	0.44	
DISTRICT_L	YNKRSBDFRD	0.15%

LWWV Comments:

- Why is the city of Yonkers split into (3) different Assembly districts?
- LWWV recommendation is to draft (2) districts to better address the communities of interest within this populous city.