

## **NYS Independent Redistricting Commission Meeting, January 25, 2023, Albany, NY**

Tina Lee  
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My name is Tina Lee, and I would like to share why Niskayuna should remain together in one assembly district as part of the 110th State Assembly District.

My husband and I moved here 22 years ago from Sacramento, California. We chose Niskayuna because of its great schools and walkable neighborhoods. With my Asian roots, I was also interested in a diverse community, which we found in Niskayuna. Currently, our student body has a non-white population of 30%. But what I love most about Niskayuna is how we come together to care for each other.

For example, I run several times a week with the Niskayuna Moms on the Run. We run early in the morning in rain, snow, and even when temperatures dip below zero. Over the miles, our friendships have grown and for me, our time together acts as much needed therapy!

Beyond our running group, I see Niskayuna organizations working so all of Niskayuna can thrive. We have Niskayuna Community Action Program (also known as NCAP), the Niskayuna Community Foundation, Nisky NOW, Niskayuna Neighbors Network, and others. These organizations work to prevent substance abuse, support innovative education and recreation opportunities, provide weekly delivery of food to families in need, and keep seniors active and independent.

When asked, "What's your favorite part of Niskayuna?" People of all ages respond, "Niska Day!"

Niska Day was started more than 40 years ago when NCAP recognized the need to strengthen our youth's identity to Niskayuna. Niska Day starts with a parade through the neighborhoods with floats, community groups, marching bands, local celebrities, and lots of candy tossed to young parade watchers. We then gather by the soccer fields to enjoy food, entertainment, community tents, rides and games, and fireworks at night! Niska Day is a unique Niskayuna tradition which illustrates our commitment to bringing our community together. Please don't divide us into separate assembly districts which would only harm our efforts to help each other.

Many of the services provided by the organizations I mentioned demonstrate our families' increasing economic needs. For example, after the 2012 Census, Niskayuna's school district had one of the area's lowest economically disadvantaged rates of 4.28% which has now increased to 13.8%. We are a suburb of Schenectady, and as such our cultural, racial, and economic diversity is more closely aligned with our neighbors in Albany County than Saratoga County. Therefore, when looking at the Assembly Districts, I urge you to keep all of Niskayuna together with Colonie in the 110th Assembly District.

Thank you.

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**References:**

**Niskayuna School District Statistics**

<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/new-york/districts/niskayuna-central-school-district-102916>

**2012 Census Data:**

<https://blog.timesunion.com/schools/report-niskayuna-and-shen-districts-have-upstates-lowest-poverty-rates/2249/>