**Date:** 11/18/2021

NYS Independent Redistricting Commission

**Re:** Current Redistricting Maps

As an Elmont resident, I am very concerned with the current maps that have been drawn by the Democrats & the Republicans. In both maps, the political lines for Elmont are being drawn to combine our community with Queens.

I have nothing against Queens County residents. However, Elmont is in Nassau County. All are services such as road paving, sanitation, street lighting and etc. are in Nassau County. We have nothing to do with NYC government. NYC elected officials are not familiar with Nassau County multi-levels of government. We have already been experiencing this on a Federal level since our community, from the redistricting lines drawn 10 years ago, was drawn into Queens County. That would mean we start out at a disadvantage. It will take time, if it ever happens, for any Queens elected official to know who to contact whenever we contact their office with constituent issues. When I say, if it ever happens, I’m not trying to insult the intelligence of these elected officials. However, that office will be getting contacted by their Queens constituents about 5-to-1 of Elmont residents.

Aside from issues pertaining to our services, another issue is our school districts. NYC has one Board of Education. In Elmont, we have two separate school districts that we pay taxes for. As some may know, our school districts are a little over 60% of our tax bill. Based on this, I believe we would still receive our customary state funding. My concern lies in two areas:

1. not knowing if the school funding formula will remain the same now that we are drawn west into Queens
2. most of our previous elected officials have been able to help limit the increase of our taxes by giving additional funding to our school district. I do not believe this will continue to happen if we are drawn into Queens

Based on these issues alone, I feel that the lines should be redrawn to make Elmont a whole community, politically. Please do not cross county lines. That is the biggest non-commonality that we have. We may look the same, have similar income as our Queens neighbors but, our services, taxes and school districts are as different as night and day. Again, I ask, please do not disenfranchise our community!

Sincerely,

Sandra Smith

Concerned Elmont Resident

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