

Brenda A. Wise

From: Michele Quigley <michquigley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Columbia County should be part of a contiguous Congressional district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties when redistricted. We are neither urban nor suburban--we belong as a unified Columbia County community with neighboring counties--Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster and Greene.

-
Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. We share similar agricultural, historic, artistic and economic challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Rensselaer, and Greene Counties as part of a Mid-Hudson Valley Region. Dividing Columbia County or separating us from this region would impact the residents who want to share our rich heritage and build for the future.

Thank you,
Michele Quigley
Spencertown NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: leah katz <lleahkatz@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Queens re districting

My name is Leah Bron, I am submitting this testimony in protest of the new maps that were released for the New York Senate. The Jewish communities of Kew Gardens Hills and Hillcrest were heavily involved in asking the Independent Redistricting Commission to keep these neighborhoods together. Furthermore, Pomonok Houses, and Electchester cooperative have always been part of our district, they are our neighbors, and many of our families originate from these public housing entities.

In the state legislatures plan, they took into account our testimony and made a district that combined most of the Jewish community in Central Queens. Kew Gardens Hills has been gerrymandered into a South East Queens State Senate District. Pomonok, Electchester and Hillcrest has been split off into a Flushing centered district. This is splitting our communities up. Communities of interest must be together in one district.

We ask that in your final draft you put the neighborhoods of Kew Gardens Hills, Pomonok, Electchester, and Hillcrest into the district you drew of central Queens with Forest Hills, Rego Park, Middle Village, and Glendale. Please remove Ozone Park and Richmond Hill as they are not the same communities of interest as we are to the neighborhoods mentioned above.

Sincerely, Leah Bron

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marjorie Hsu <hsubuck@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:00 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Redistricting of Westchester County and Rockland County

Dear Justice McCallister,

As current and former elected officials and community leaders throughout Westchester County and the Rivertowns of Rockland County, we encourage you to respect the consensus of both Democratic and Republican members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission and keep Rockland County and northwestern Westchester County united within one congressional district. Our communities comprise an economically, socially, and culturally intertwined population.

As both maps recognized, only a congressional map that unites them can respect their status as a community of interest.

As you know, Article III §4 (c) of the New York State Constitution lays out the criteria which must be considered in the construction of congressional districts. In addition to requiring an equal number of inhabitants, the state Constitution spells out specific standards which must be taken into consideration, including contiguity, compactness, and protection against denial or abridgement of the rights of racial or minority language groups. Additionally, the Constitution further requires that "[t]he commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest."

Keep The Westchester Rivertowns Together

The maps proposed by both the Republican and Democratic Commissioners on the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) agreed with the dozens of testimonials submitted to the commission that asserted that Westchester County, whose population of over 1 million people exceeds the capacity of any single congressional district, is best divided east and west, rather than north and south. The Rivertowns of Westchester County, a community which spans from Hastings-on-Hudson through Peekskill, is a community of interest owing to its common exposure to the Hudson River floodplain and its shared infrastructure, which includes the Hudson Metro North Line, Route 9, and the Old Croton Aqueduct. The Rivertowns community shares local media outlets such as the Rivertowns Enterprise and the Hudson Independent, distinct from the eastern portions of the county. The map proposed by the petitioners would sever this community of interest by arbitrarily separating Hastings-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, and Tarrytown from Sleepy Hollow, Ossining, and Peekskill. That line has no basis whatsoever in the environment, infrastructure, or social and economic life of our community.

Keep the Rockland Rivertowns with the Westchester Rivertowns The Westchester County Rivertowns should be unified with the Rockland County Rivertowns due to their common interests in controlling the Hudson River floodplain and their economic, social, and transit connection by the Mario Cuomo (Tappan Zee) Bridge. Both the Democratic and Republican commissioners on the IRC agreed that this was an accurate representation of communities of interest. There is broad bipartisan agreement that Westchester is best split east west, not north south.

Keep White Plains Whole and United with CD-17

White Plains is the urban center and economic engine for our region. Whereas the legislature's unconstitutional plan for District 17 would have divided White Plains between two congressional districts, the map you devise to remedy the legislature's errors should keep White Plains whole and within District 17. Once again, we ask you to honor the bipartisan consensus of the IRC: both sets of maps included all of White Plains in District 17, along with all of Rockland and all of the Rivertowns (except for Peekskill in the Map B).

White Plains is the most accessible municipality in Central Westchester County. The city is situated at the intersection of several highways (the Cross Westchester Expressway, I-684, the Taconic State Parkway/Bronx River Parkway) and several thoroughfares (Central Avenue, Mamaroneck Avenue, and Post Road). And the city is also a hub for several Metro North and Bee Line Bus routes. Further, White Plains is the headquarters of a number of important private and public sector institutions in the County. White Plains is inextricably intertwined with the northern and western reaches of the county moreso than with its south and southeast. For residents of northern Westchester and the Rivertowns, White Plains is the closest urban center. In sharp contrast, the southern and eastern portion of the county are dominated by the larger urban centers of Yonkers, New Rochelle, and Mount Vernon. Many Rocklanders also work and obtain services in

White Plains, which is just a few exits past the Mario Cuomo Bridge off of I-287. Many of us testified before the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission to keep the Westchester Rivertowns together in a single congressional district,^[1] to keep the Rockland Rivertowns with the Westchester Rivertowns,^[2] to split Westchester on an east/west orientation rather than north/south,^[3] and to keep White Plains in such a district.⁴ As you consider how to secure fair and effective representation for every community in New York State, we hope that you will carefully consider the record the Commission assembled and both sets of maps the Commission proposed, either of which we feel would accurately respect the communities of interest in our region

^[1] Testimony of Verity Van Tassel Richards, November 7, 2021, Lisa Genn, November 8, 2021, Paul Feiner August 2, 2021.

^[2] Testimony of Clyde Lederman, November 8, 2021 Tomara Aldrich, November 5, 2021, Peter Bernstein, October 26, 2021, Ivanya Alpart, November 3, 2021

^[3] Testimony of MaryJane Shimsky, November 8, 2021, Suzanne Berger, November 8, 2021 ⁴ Testimony of Paul Diamond, August 2, 2021, Testimony of John Nonna, August 2, 2021.

Thank you for your consideration,
Marjorie Hsu
Chair, Sleepy Hollow Planning Board
Executive Committee, Rivertowns Vote

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kathy <jkobrien67@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:04 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Please keep the Capital District Congressional District, my district, together. Why are you messing with it!!!

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN A. O'Brien

Sent from my iPad

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Harry Birckmayer <harry@fieldworkhorticulture.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:04 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Dear Special Master:

Columbia County should be part of a contiguous Congressional district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties when redistricted. We are neither urban nor suburban--we belong as a unified Columbia County community with neighboring counties--Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster and Greene.

Sincerely,

Harold Birckmayer
27 Chatham St.
Kinderhook, NY 12106

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Eileen Finneran <efinner10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:04 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I want the court to keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together! Thank you!

Eileen Finneran
Efinner10@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marciniak, Jacqueline <JMarciniak@mvphealthcare.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam, NY in NY 20

As a resident of the city of Amsterdam, NY, I am strongly opposed to the draft Congressional map that would remove my community from a Congressional district centered in New York's Capital Region. Amsterdam strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Saratoga Springs. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities, and just this month it was announced that the Capital District Transportation Authority would be expanding its service into Amsterdam and the United Way of the Greater Capital Region announced its commitment to our City.

As a lifelong resident of Amsterdam, I have always identified my region as the Capital District, I work in Schenectady, I sometimes shop and dine out in Saratoga and Albany. The close proximity of the cities defined as the Capital Region are within minutes of Amsterdam. It simply is not logical to move our City into an area with cities and towns that border Canada which is over 3 hours away. Placing Amsterdam into a district that stretches to the Canadian border with communities that have much different needs than our own will ultimately be detrimental to our community.

I urge you to include Amsterdam in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Marciniak

C: 518-866-6754

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MEMO

To: Hon. Patrick McAllister
Special Master Jonathan Cervas

From: Ashley Dittus, Commissioner
John P. Quigley, Commissioner

Re: Proposed House of Representative District Map, Public Comment

Date: May 17, 2022

Upon reviewing the proposed map of the redistricted New York House of Representatives map, we implore you to consider the needs of the residents of the City of Kingston, Ulster County's largest municipality, and only city. Crafting fair districts for elections is critical, but we must also be mindful of a functional, responsive government. It is vital that citizens know who their representatives are. It is vital for citizens to know who to call for help in times of need or crisis. When a small city is divided – especially by jagged, irregular lines – it makes government harder to access and it distances people from their government unnecessarily. Keeping the City of Kingston unified, in either district, is more important than one district having a few thousand more people in it than the other.

As bipartisan Commissioners of the Board of Elections, we are responsible for the logistical application of these district boundaries once adopted. If the current map stands, we will have voters who reside within the same Ward (Ward 3) be divided into two Congressional Districts. These voters have traditionally been voting in the same poll site, with the same ballot, as far back as the historical record provides. We have also observed on the proposed map, households divided in half on proposed boundary lines within Wards 3 and 4. We request, with urgency, that in your capacity as steward of this process, that an adjustment to these lines is made before the map is adopted to make the affected Wards, if not the City of Kingston whole. Thus, creating a unified City of Kingston, mitigating voter confusion, and allowing us to conduct elections for the next decade with uniformity for the voters of Kingston.

Brenda A. Wise

From: Judith Katten <judithkatten@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

As a longtime resident of Columbia County, I write to urge that the redistricting lines drawn so as to isolate our congressional district from that of our neighboring communities within the Hudson Valley be reconsidered.

As a unique and vibrant portion of New York State, Columbia County is as one with our neighbors to the south. We share commerce, tourism and recreational facilities and all manner of common interests. Contrariwise those part of our state way to the west, reachable by long car rides, whose make-up and interests share little in common with our vital community.

In this era of extreme partisanship, it behooves our government to find commonality, not differences.

I respectfully request that this misguided effort be readdressed.

Sincerely,

Judith Katten
Chatham, New York

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Brenda A. Wise

From: MARIE DEROSA <mariede@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

I am writing as a voter in Columbia County urging you to keep Columbia County within the Mud-Hudson Valley region with which it shares similar community interests.

Thank you,
Marie DeRosa
12037

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Seth Bisen-Hersh <seth42@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Dismay at the Redistricting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello,

I'm going to try to remain calm here, but I'm pretty incensed by these terrible new districts.

Pitting incumbent representatives against each other does no one any good. Removing Democratic safe seats is going to be a travesty for the entire country and even the world.

Helping the Republicans maintain a majority in Congress for another decade is going to be a huge set back for the environment, gay people, women, and anyone with a conscience.

Look at the Florida map. New York has got to combat Florida. There is no other solution but gerrymandering our state as much, if not more.

People are going to die because of the maps you have drawn. This is not a hyperbole; this is fact.

I want you to think about all the people you are sentencing to death. All the people who will die from gun violence. All the women who will have to have illegal abortions that might kill them. All the gay families who will be ripped apart.

This is on you.

This your fault.

I implore you to reinstate the original New York maps immediately.

We must do whatever we can to stop white supremacy and fascism.

If you do not stop them, you are just as bad as them.

It's like you are pissing on my Holocaust-surviving grandparents' graves.

I apologize for getting emotional, but you are making a huge error and sending this country down the path of darkness for at least a decade, and I need you to fix this and stop being an intellectual academic trying for a "fair" map when the entire electoral system is unfair by its nature.

Thank you for changing the maps back. History will thank you.

---Seth Bisen-Hersh

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Conor Guy <jconguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Greetings,

My name is Conor Guy, I am a long-time resident of Germantown. I am writing regarding the redistricting map that was released

Columbia County should be part of a contiguous Congressional district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties when redistricted. We are neither urban nor suburban--we belong as a unified Columbia County community with neighboring counties--Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster and Greene.

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. We share similar agricultural, historic, artistic and economic challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Rensselaer, and Greene Counties as part of a Mid-Hudson Valley Region. Dividing Columbia County or separating us from this region would impact the residents who want to share our rich heritage and build for the future.

--
Conor Guy
jconguy@gmail.com
646.337.3652 (cell)

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Matthew Stinchcomb <mattstinchcomb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Dear Sir,

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. We share similar agricultural, historic, artistic and economic challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Rensselaer, and Greene Counties as part of a Mid-Hudson Valley Region. Dividing Columbia County or separating us from this region would impact the residents who want to share our rich heritage and build for the future.

Sincerely, Matt Stinchcomb, Gallatin, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Caroline Hillen <hillenc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:09 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Do NOT break up the Captiol Region congressional district!!

Tearing apart the Albany Capitol Region into separate congressional districts is a travesty and does a disservice to all its residents. This region is a natural grouping and is already very diverse. Tearing it apart surely supports the excessive gerrymandering the courts are supposedly attempting to avoid. It is a very diverse region as it currently stands.

Sincerely,
Caroline Hillen

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jeffrey Mattice <jdmattice@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:10 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I believe that the Capital region should remain in one Congressional district along with Schoharie County. We have much more in common with the Capital region than the north country. We shop, see doctors and attend events in the Capital region. Please keep us all together! Schoharie county has traditionally been aligned with the Capital region and we have no desire to be lumped in with the North country.

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Dennis McDonald <deweymcd54@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:10 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I am writing to express my concern that the cities of Saratoga Springs and Amsterdam have been separated from the congressional district that includes the other major cities of the Capital Region. The long-term history of these cities being kept together for the benefit of working together on regional projects on behalf of the people of the district continues to make sense. This is especially true in this day and age of calls for collaboration and limited resources that are available. I would strongly encourage a rethinking of this part of the redistricting plan that results in a district that keeps Albany, Troy, Schenectady, Amsterdam, and Saratoga Springs together.

Sincerely,

Dennis
Dennis McDonald
ARCWP Priest - Upper Room Inclusive Catholic Community
FCM Commissioned Member
Clifton Park, New York

<https://www.upperroomicc.org/>
<https://arcwp.org/>

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kevin Eitzmann <keitzmann.union@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

To whomever has the power:

The special master maps for NY are insane.... They are gerrymandered and ignore historic areas that have common interests. I have lived in Malta for 30 years, I know my area and we have nothing in common with North Country.

Please keep the capital district together and stop throwing our votes away and disenfranchising our community.

8 Homestead Commons, Ballston Lake, NY 12019

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Brenda A. Wise

From: tomm4barbbaol.com <tomm4barbb@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I recommend that the Capital District of New York State be represented as much as possible within one community Congressional District, due to our shared identity, history, values, economy, resources and challenges. Within Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady and Saratoga Counties, the central cities of Troy, Albany, Saratoga Springs, plus Amsterdam (in adjoining Montgomery County), and their surrounding suburbs and countryside, would benefit from common representation in the US House of Representatives. Please consider this viewpoint in making rational choices for district boundaries.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Tom McGuire

228 Walnut Lane
Slingerlands, NY 12159
(518) 452-3561

TomM4BarbB@aol.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Judith Felsten <netslefj@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting Congress

Districts 19 and 21 look absurdly large to me. Are you trying to make each of them a microcosmic model of the nation as a whole?

Judy Felsten
zip 12087



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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marilyn Dyer <dyermm48@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Elise Stefanik does NOT "represent" us!!! Give Amsterdam and Saratoga Springs back to Paul Tonko!!!

--

Mare

Marilyn Dyer

518-505-6434

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Doreen Davis <doreendavis3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Kingston

The city is cut in half. I struggle with the sense of that. Columbia/Greene are separate too. Lots of cultural and economic connections here.

Doreen Parsley Davis
ddavis1@hvc.rr.com
H: 518-678-0317
C: 267-218-6827

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Paul Tick <tick.paul@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

The plan is a clear partisan plan. Stop this sham and protect democracy.

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