

Brenda A. Wise

From: Andrew Lindner <andrewmlindner@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:18 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Districting

Special Master,

I am a resident of Saratoga Springs. I am concerned about the draft map that would place Saratoga Springs in the 21st district. Saratoga Springs is a contiguous district with a shared culture with the cities of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy and belongs in the current 20th district. We have a range of shared regional concerns common to small cities. To haphazardly tack Saratoga Springs on the vast North Country district would reek of the worst partisan gerrymandering. Please keep Saratoga Springs in the 20th Congressional District.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrew Lindner

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ruth Horton <thermh24@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:19 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

As a resident of Saratoga Springs, I strongly believe that the full counties that comprise the Capital Region remain together as part of the 20th CD. These counties share a history and infrastructure and several similarities that bind them together. Thank you for your consideration.

Ruth Horton
Saratoga Springs, NY

Sent from my iPad

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Bob Newman <bob1newman@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:19 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Keep Columbia County in the Hudson Valley!

Bob Newmanh
909 Rt 203 Chatham, NY 12037

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Phyllis heiko <pheiko120@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Please keep us on the. Hudson valley region Phyllis Heiko
201 Moore Rd
Germantown ny
12526

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: dbarnet@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New York Redistricting Plan

To the Special Master:

I write to express my disappointment at the proposed new election district maps, especially the proposed Congressional districts.

As a resident of the greater Capital District, I would urge you to revisit the district geography for our region. It is vitally important that you establish district(s) for our region that reflect the interests that we share across Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer and Saratoga counties, which we need to be reflected in our elected representation in Washington. I say this not to focus on what incumbent currently represents the area, or which party is in power. While we do have shared interests as New Yorkers, in our congressional representation, there are regional distinctions that need to be reflected in the electoral districts. Otherwise, our region has the potential to lose our clout and our voice in important policy and fiscal matters debated in the halls of Congress.

I hope that you will consider this perspective, as you move to finalize the maps for New York's Congressional Districts. Thank you.

David Barnet
2 Normanside Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054
dbarnet@aol.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: carolyn murtaugh <carolynmurtaugh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: State Senate District 31

SD 31 has always been a New York County district. Marble Hill may be physically located in the *borough* of the Bronx since the Harlem Ship Canal was built, but it has been and remains apart of the *county* of New York.

In addition, the new lines put Sen. Jackson, who is African -American, and Sen. Rivera, who is Latino, in the same district. This would mean the loss of a minority member in the Senate. Isn't that contrary to the Civil Rights Voting Act?

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Mark Graham <markcgraham9@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Fwd: Comments on the NY Congressional Plan (from a non New Yorker)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I had sent this email not knowing where to submit public comment for the Congressional Maps, but I still wish to officially comment!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mark Graham <markcgraham9@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, May 17, 2022 at 10:22 AM
Subject: Comments on the NY Congressional Plan (from a non New Yorker)
To: <cervas@cmu.edu>

Hello Mr. Cervas! I'm not sure if this is the way for people to make public comments about the New York Congressional map (or if comments from non-NYers are even listened to), but I wanted to commend you on making a decent map! I noticed its similarity to the proposal by Common Cause, which was the best proposal submitted, in my opinion.

I find two areas, though, that I think could be improved upon. Firstly is the Buffalo region, which I am sure you have/will hear about. I understand the reasoning behind what was drawn there, keeping Niagara County whole and such, but I think it would be best if the 26th district was drawn to be entirely within Erie County instead and to only split Erie two ways. I don't have an example but I think that this will make more sense from a community perspective instead of throwing all of Niagara County in with Buffalo itself.

Secondly, I think the border between districts 2 and 3 could use some redrawing. While I see the reasoning behind how you have drawn it, creating two Trump-Biden districts that I assume are meant to be highly competitive, I believe it would be better if district 2 became more Republican and district 3 became more Democratic. Competitive districts are important, but from some friends who live on Long Island I get the sense that what this plan essentially does is combine two different communities in each district to make two highly competitive seats. What I got from my friends, though, was the sense that south Long Island and north Long Island have enough of a distinct identity to want the districts to be changed. I think it would be better for communities if, say, Massapequa was in district 2 and Huntington was in district 3, which was a comment I heard from my friends. This can still allow the two districts to be competitive, just perhaps not a breakneck 50-50 split as the current draft has.

I find no issue with the rest of the map, personally, as the rest seems very good from both a community perspective and a partisanship perspective. I would like to see the two changes I have outlined in the final draft, but of course my word is not the only one you should listen to. I hope that these next few days prove productive and meaningful and that New York has a good and fair map by the end of the week! Thank you for your work!

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Gillian Black <gilliandblack@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:25 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: No to re-districting NY-20 (Tonko) and NY-21 (Stefanik) districts

Special Master,

As a resident of the city of Saratoga Springs, 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. Saratoga Springs strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Amsterdam. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities. Placing Saratoga Springs 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 Saratoga Springs in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Regards,
Gillian Black
94 York Avenue
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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Brenda A. Wise

From: John Kramel <jk1@johnkramel.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

To the Special Master,

I live in Columbia County, just outside the city of Hudson. I just saw your proposed Congressional and State Assembly and Senate district maps.

These maps make no sense at all to me and others here in Columbia County. Why must our county be torn among these political districts -- literally torn in half in our Assembly representation? Are we just a loose basketball to be bounced back and forth on whim? Our county should be kept whole, without any distortions of boundaries that would exclude or divide towns or the city of Hudson in any redistricting plans. The City of Hudson is the seat of County government. Dividing our county would dilute constituent engagement and constituent services.

The counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster and Greene in the Mid-Hudson Valley have a common history, developing major agricultural and industrial centers because of their proximity to the Hudson River. We have little in common with the central New York counties to our west. The unique specialty agriculture of the Mid-Hudson Valley requires representation that understands what makes it thrive. Assemblymember Didi Barrett has represented Columbia County's 106th Assembly District since 2012. Assemblymember Barrett understands the identity of our county and the needs of our community. She just secured \$1 million dollars to support the capital development plans for a new sustainably designed visitors' center at the Olana State Historic Site, the home of the Hudson River painter Frederic Church. Assemblymember Barrett has sponsored many bills and secured funding throughout her tenure for many much-needed services for veterans, women's services, libraries, Lyme disease research and prevention, and our farms and farmers. However, she is accessible to only some Columbia County constituents, not all, since this small County was divided into 3 Assembly districts during the last redistricting.

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. Again, 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.

Respectfully yours,
John Kramel
Claverack, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Lois Gundrum <legundrum@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Hello,

I would like to say that, as a life-long resident of Watervliet, NY, I think that Saratoga Springs and Amsterdam belong in Congressional District 20. I believe that the configuration we currently have best expresses the realities of the concept of 'community of interest.' I have belonged to many groups and people in Saratoga Springs are often part of them. Just one example is our Climate Reality chapter of the Capital Region, which is led by a person who lives in Saratoga Springs.

When the Independent Redistricting Commission requested public comments, I spoke online to give testimony advocating this same thing.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lois Gundrum
600 Third Avenue
Watervliet, NY 12189

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Donald Stack <dona1dstack1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional Map

Good job!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Please be CAREFUL when clicking links or opening attachments from external senders.

Brenda A. Wise

From: jeffaltamari@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Please do not separate Saratoga Springs into the 21st district. We are an integral part of the Capital District community. We work, shop and leisure in Albany, Schenectady and Troy. We have virtually no shared interests with the north country. Where is the logic in this? There is none.

Jeff Altamari
Saratoga Springs, NY
518-428-6235 iPhone
Jeffaltamari@gmail.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ann DC <anndc119@fastmail.fm>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY20

I was born in the city of Amsterdam, NY, and live here today. Through most of my career, I worked in Albany. I went to college at SUNY Albany. I shop in the Capital District. I go to restaurants in the Capital District. I go to theaters in the Capital District. My children and grandchildren live in the Capital District.

I am strongly opposed to the draft Congressional map that would remove my community from a Congressional district in New York's Capital Region. I (and all of Amsterdam) strongly identify with the greater Capital Region as we have strong historical, economic and cultural ties to our sister communities in Scotia, Schenectady and Albany. I urge you to include Amsterdam in the proposed 20th Congressional District.

Ann DiCaterino

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Caitlin Monjeau <cmonjeau@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Dear friend of the 20th congressional district,

I understand that the State of New York congressional map for the 20th district may change, and I'm writing to ask that you consider keeping NY-20 in the configuration it has today. As you may know, especially if you live near here, our small metropolitan areas (Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Saratoga Springs, and Amsterdam) are really part of a medium-to-large sized community. People who live and work here tend to live and work in proximity to these five micro-areas, and these areas are notably different from those even just a bit north (quite a bit more rural) and south (also rural). The large employers in our area, including the State of New York, create a cohesive community with similar needs up and down the Northway.

I hope you will consider that having a single congressperson for this community has reflected a small-d democratic win. These communities have a range of races and income levels, education levels and status as newcomers versus long-time residents. A representative of this district meets all of these needs, and I feel strongly that this community is one that deserves to be thought of together, not split apart.

Thank you for your work on this issue. I appreciate that this is not an easy task.

Very truly yours,

--

Caitlin Monjeau
cmonjeau@gmail.com
518.727.2838

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jay DeDapper <dedapper@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County + Ithaca = Failure

Sir

While I very much appreciate your academic approach to the challenging task of drawing new lines in NYS and believe you've done an excellent job at increasing compactness and competitiveness, your CD 19 is a travesty.

This long, snaking district strips Columbia and Greene Counties from the rest of the Hudson Valley and splits Ulster County in two. The Hudson Valley is as much a region as the Capital District, Long Island, or Manhattan (East Side + West Side) yet you've failed to incorporate regional coherence in this case.

While you've corrected the pathetic attempt to join Westchester and Nassau Counties and various Orthodox Jewish Brooklyn neighborhoods with (for instance) the West Village in Manhattan, you've created a monstrous inequity in CD 19.

Ithaca and Valatie are as removed from one another regionally as one could imagine. Our Hudson Valley counties deserve representation in Congress that is not diluted by needs of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions. And they deserve the same.

While I recognize your maps are final, I would hope you would report to the judge in this case, the ways in which these maps treat Columbia and Greene Counties (in particular) in such an unfair and biased manner.

Thank you.

Jay DeDapper
Hillsdale, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jeri Jannicelli <jerijannicelli@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Please keep Saratoga in the Capital Region.

Thanks,
Jeri Jannicelli

Sent from my iPad

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Pam Lorenc <palinny@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I'm shocked that anyone would ever consider breaking apart the Capital District. We are a family and always have been and, yes, always should be. I hope you reconsider what is truly a wrong decision. Losing both Amsterdam and Saratoga Springs would be like losing an arm or leg, and there is no sufficient justification to tear apart our body politic. Saratoga Performing Arts Center and the Saratoga Race and Harness Tracks are as much a part of the Capital Region as are the NYS Museum in downtown Albany, Troy Music Hall in Troy and Proctor's Theater in Schenectady--and all should share the same representation!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Pam Lorenc

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Brenda A. Wise

From: farukh chaudhry <farukhc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Amsterdam NY

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 it's service into Amsterdam. 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.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Susan Weber <susanweber2106@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:32 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Dear Special Master Wise:

I write as a concerned active member of the electorate in the Capital District, to ask that your proposed electoral map be amended to keep the larger Albany/Troy/Schenectady Region together in one election district.

These local communities view themselves as a unit in many ways, and have been together as a district for many years. Our issues are similar, more similar than disparate.

Please consider these comments when putting out your final map.

Susan F. Weber
Albany

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Amy Martelle <amylmartelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY20

Good afternoon,

As a resident of the town of Amsterdam in 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 ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, and Troy. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities. 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.

Thank you, Amy Martelle

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Sandy Steubing <ssteub@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: The newest map is best

Dear Special Master,

It's past time to get rid of gerrymandering in NYS. The map issued yesterday, May 16th, is the best I've seen to do just that. Please make it final.

Thank you and regards,

Sandy Steubing,
Albany, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marcilla Taylor <cillataylor45@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Subject: Keep Amsterdam 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 it's service into Amsterdam. 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.

Marina Taylor 62 James Street, Amsterdam NY 12010



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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kathy Martin <herbladyca@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

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.

Please preserve our heritage when so much else is being taken away!

Kathy Martin

Life long resident of Columbia County.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marilyn Quatrini <mquatrini@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:37 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional district 20

To whom it may concern, Congressional District 20 has included the Capital Region and has been kept together historically for many good reasons. To change this does not include a single good reason. Let's keep our eyes on what works for our population and unifies us and NOT what would tear us apart. Sincerely, MQuatrini Sent from my iPhone

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