

Brenda A. Wise

From: Scott Erickson <scott_erickson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:39 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional Redistricting - Saratoga Springs should not be changed

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.

Thank you,
Scott Erickson
18 Granite St
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Maria Bryce <mariariccibryce@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:40 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: KEEP AMSTERDAM IN NY20.....PLEASE!

To THE SPECIAL MASTER:

I am writing to voice my strenuous opposition to the possibility of removing AMSTERDAM, NY from Congressional District 20, and attaching it to District 21.

This move would not uphold and preserve the history, the identity, or the needs of Amsterdam.

I am a native daughter of Amsterdam NY. I have lived here for most of my adult life. I am a homeowner: I raised my three sons on Guy Park Avenue, in the same house in which I have lived since 1984.

I make my living as a musician. I work throughout the Capital District. I love having my home here in Amsterdam, but I feel very much a "citizen" of the Capital Region, and I know I'm not alone in this. I have many friends in Amsterdam who are residents here. Our HOMES are here...our families are here...we are happily and completely committed to our community, but we work in the larger neighboring communities of Schenectady, Albany, and Saratoga.

Amsterdam strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region. I don't believe our population has the same sort of connection with District 21 - not at all.

Just this month, it was announced that the Capital District Transportation Authority would be expanding its service into Amsterdam. What a boon that would be! I am so excited by all the wonderful things happening to my beloved Amsterdam lately, with Mayor Michael Cinquanti at the helm. And Congressman Tonko's lifetime of service to our community has reaped untold dividends, and continues to do so. You can actually feel the hopefulness in the air.

Placing Amsterdam into a district that stretches to the Canadian border.... with communities that have such very different needs than our ownwould seriously alter our sense of who we are, as residents of Upstate NY.

To be blunt, it would be an extremely disrespectful move, because it shows a lack of regard for our identity. It would be detrimental to our current progress. Most of all, it would be a completely wrong "fit" for our community.

I urge you to include Amsterdam in the proposed 20th Congressional District, as you finalize the Congressional maps. That is where Amsterdam unequivocally belongs.

Sincerely,
MARIA RICCIO BRYCE
218 Guy Park Avenue
Amsterdam, NY 12010
518-339-3519

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Jeff Wood <raggstein@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:40 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & New York State Redistricting

Please do not place Columbia county with a vast span of very rural districts west of the Hudson. Columbia county belongs with similar districts forming part of the mid-Hudson Valley.

Very truly yours

Jeffrey S. Wood
136 Sly Farm Road
Copake, NY 12516

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Mary Suda <mesuda@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:41 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

In the name of truly avoiding political gerrymandering, I ask you to keep the Capital Region together in the same Congressional District. Indeed, it is strange and contrary to the purported reasoning behind the latest maps, that – in response to accusations of gerrymandering – the newly released draft maps of New York’s Congressional Districts would do the opposite, by splitting apart the historic Capital Region. The cities of Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy have shared communities and common services (including through the CDTA and SUNY systems), along with deep and historic roots. Allowing the ‘Special Master’s’ final map to split apart the 20th Congressional District would be the worst gerrymander of all.

In the name of fair representation,
Mary Suda
Clifton Park, NY

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Gina DaBiere-Gibbs <gmdabieregibbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:41 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY 20

Good afternoon,

As a resident of Amsterdam, NY and as an individual who works in the City of Amsterdam, 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, further their education, and have families in these communities that enhance our relationship to the Capital Region. This month it was announced that the Capital District Transportation Authority would be expanding its service into Amsterdam allowing for economic expansion into Amsterdam and vice versa into the Capital Region. Capital Region partnerships have been valuable to our growth and success for decades.

Placing Amsterdam into a vast district that stretches to the Canadian border with communities that have much different needs than our own will ultimately be detrimental to our community. Our business, education, and economic development initiatives are very different from the traditional "North Country". Our leadership is very knowledgeable in the needs of Amsterdam continually assisting in its growth. Our identity will be lost in the proposed district due to its size and having no commonality with the other communities.

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

Thank you,

Gina DaBiere-Gibbs

616 Millers Corners Road
Amsterdam NY 12010
(315)945-3010

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: aconway9@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:40 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Yes, Saratoga Springs and Amsterdam should not be placed in a new Congressional district. They should remain in District 20!! Those communities are part of the Capital Region. They have deep roots in 20 and do not share the same concerns as voters in District 21, a much more rural area. If Saratoga Springs and Amsterdam are cut off from their representation in District 20 it would be a blow to our shared future and ability to speak with one voice.

Anne

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: carolyn lawrence <clawrence12534@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: carolyn lawrence
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Please consider the following:

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, Carolyn

Carolyn Lawrence
Hudson B&B
136 Union Street
Hudson, NY 12534

carolyn@hudsonbandb.com
518-929-6199



HUDSON B&B

Elegant Comfort

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: sharon babala <sharonbabala@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New congressional districts

The new maps of congressional districts(especially the 20th!) Are not in line with constitutional and fair representation guidelines. The need to be withdrawn. The districts were redrawn by a supermajority of the NYS legislature who are the voice of NY voters. Please reconsider and listen to the voice of the electorate not the dictatorial position of the Steuben court.

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: RICHARD GODLEWSKI <rich.godlewski@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY@)

Please reconsider the city of Amsterdam staying in the 20th district. A large number of our workforce work in Albany and Schenectady. We are also getting the CDTA bus system here. Putting us into the 21st with Glens falls, Plattsburg, Massena , etc. would not benefit our city in any way.

Thank you

Rich Godlewski

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: katskill@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is in response to the proposed redistricting of Columbia County. I am a long-time resident of Columbia County and the proposed changes would have disastrous consequences for our county. If allowed to stand, Columbia County would be separated from both the Capital District and the Hudson Valley regions as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. It would instead group a Hudson Valley county with southern tier and Finger Lakes areas, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in dire consequences for our county when it comes to identity, representation and allocation of resources.

Columbia County is located along the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley, and should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties. 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. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined population of the 5 counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average Congressional district.

Our proximity to New York City has created a rich year-round arts community, with many artists, painters, dancers, musicians and actors, galleries and antique stores, that all create a destination for tourism. A growing population of NYC dual homeowners and new residents who moved northward to escape the Coronavirus has accelerated the trend. Newer residents are starting local small businesses adding to the economic diversity in their county. Throughout the Hudson Valley, there are small to medium sized cities with diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, socio-economic and gender/sexual orientation. The city of Hudson's diversity is a dynamic source of Columbia County's cultural pride.

The five County Seat Cities of Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Troy, Kingston and Catskill had a similar rise as major industrial cities that suffered steep economic declines in the first half of the 20th century, but are now experiencing a great resurgence. These cities have higher poverty levels than the surrounding countryside, and have similar challenges to meet the need for infrastructure, broadband, workforce housing, and healthcare throughout the counties.

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. There is no such common history with counties located in the middle of New York State.

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 seriously impact the residents who want to share our rich heritage and build for the future. It would be a gross miscarriage of justice that will have long-term adverse consequences for our residents and our region if these district lines are allowed to stand. We urge you to correct this grave mistake.

Very truly yours,

Karen Feldman
38 Pleasant View Drive
Hudson, NY 12534



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Vicki Colello <vixcolello@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please do not split our district up. No one understands why this would be a wise move.

How can this be explained? It doesn't make sense, so please do not approve this new configuration.

Sincerely,

Vicki Colello
Watervliet, NY

Sent from my iPhone

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

May 17, 2022

The Honorable Patrick McCallister
Acting State Supreme Court Justice
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 13810

Dr. Jonathan Cervas
Institute for Politics & Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University
Posner Hall 388
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

RE: Redistricting of Westchester County and Rockland County

Dear Justice McCallister and Dr. Cervas,

As a 22 year resident of Tarrytown, NY and community volunteer, I write to passionately 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**.”

The 17th Congressional District as presently drawn satisfies **each of these criteria** and need not be altered in any way other than to add population to meet the new federal population standard. We consider it essential that the court maintain the core of the current NY-17.

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 stating 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.

By contrast, the petitioners propose to sever our community to create an arbitrary and unfamiliar district that stretches to encompass fragments of four counties: eastern Putnam County, eastern Dutchess County, northern Westchester County, and Rockland County. The map proposed by the petitioners separates our Rivertowns community of interest by excluding Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, and Tarrytown from the Rockland Rivertowns. In fact, the petitioners' map even separates Tarrytown and Nyack, which are directly connected by the Mario Cuomo (Tappan Zee) Bridge. The petitioners' complete disregard for both the Commission's maps and the testimony underlying them strikes us as a brazen and indefensible attempt to draw a partisan gerrymander.

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.

There is a wide consensus, as noted in the testimony before the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission, that the Westchester Rivertowns should be kept together in a single congressional district,¹ the Rockland Rivertowns should be with the Westchester Rivertowns,² that Westchester should be split on an east/west orientation rather than north/south,³ and that White Plains should be 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 I feel would accurately respect the communities of interest in our region (though I prefer Map A, which does not sever Peekskill or bisect the Town of Cortlandt as Map B does).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tamar Bauer

206 Crest Drive

Tarrytown, NY 10591

tabtamar@gmail.com

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.

Brenda A. Wise

From: John Cady <kadini@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 1:49 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.

Sincerely,
John Cady
106 Underhill Rd
Hillsdale, NY 12529

--

John Cady
646-642-9981
@kadini374

"We're all supposed to be here." - Tony Bennett

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