

Jodi Wood

From: Steven Siebert <ssiebert@notabene.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:49 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Proposed district threatens diversity and representation

Hello,

I have been following the redistricting in NY State from almost the beginning. I was concerned about the seeming gerrymandering of the maps originally adopted, and looked forward to a less partisan map from the special master.

But now that I have seen the proposed map, I must say that I am quite disturbed by the changes to my congressional district, NYCD 16. One of the major virtues of the existing map is that it brings together communities who need to talk together, namely Black communities in the northeast Bronx and more affluent white communities in southern Westchester, with Yonkers bridging those divides. This has led to discussions and policies that have made us all stronger.

As best I can tell, the proposed redistricting that moves Co-Op City out of NYCD 16 diminishes the Black vote, by up to perhaps a bit over 15%, and thus threatens the unique configuration where diverse communities learn to shape a common future. But beyond that, it risks marginalizing Black people more broadly, by making it more difficult for them (and those who share a commitment to enabling Black voices) to elect candidates that represent their interests. As America continues to grapple with its long history of failing to give Black communities a say in America's future, reducing Black representation, something that might happen if Co-Op City is split off into NYCD 14, is a disturbing step backward.

I very much hope that you can act on this concern – it is vital that we strengthen Black interests, not diminish them.

Sincerely,

Steven Siebert

113 Hamilton Ave.

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY

(917) 612-2150

P.S. Other friends of mine who are a bit more familiar with the northeast Bronx argue that Edenwald and Williamsbridge properly belong with Co-Op City, and that they should all continue to be included in NYCD 16. From what I know, that makes sense to me.

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.avg.com%2Femail-signature%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dlink%26utm_campaign%3Dsig-email%26utm_content%3Demailclient&data=05%7C01%7Csteuben_superior%40nycourts.gov%7Ced65c1f2cdfb4daeee9308da38709f9b%7C3456fe92cbd1406db5a35364bec0a833%7C0%7C0%7C637884353632170368%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JaDF4aFRWMWRPLOWnpwRhOQyPnd0jRbnpx7dpK10gs%3D&reserved=0> Virus-free. www.avg.com

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.avg.com%2Femail-signature%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_source%3Dlink%26utm_campaign%3Dsig-email%26utm_content%3Demailclient&data=05%7C01%7Csteuben_superior%40nycourts.gov%7Ced65c1f2cdfb4daeee9308da38709f9b%7C3456fe92cbd1406db5a35364bec0a833%7C0%7C0%7C637884353632170368%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JaDF4aFRWMWRPLOWnpwRhOQyPnd0jRbnpx7dpK10gs%3D&reserved=0>

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Jodi Wood

From: Ann Lane <ann.lane@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:34 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: NY16

Hello,

I am a resident of the Bronx and am writing to express my concerns about the redistricting in my district. NY16 must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-op City, Edenwald, Williamsbridge, with lower Westchester. The special master's proposed map decreases the Black voter population by about 17%. This dilutes the voting power of Black people in NY16, further marginalizing them.

The northeast Bronx predominantly Black community was splintered into three congressional districts: Co-op City is mapped into NY14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY15 and Edenwald kept in NY16.

Please retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-op City, Edenwald, Williamsbridge, with lower Westchester in NY16.

Thank you,
Ann Lane
5410 Netherland Ave., Apt A33
Bronx, NY 10471
646-856-7107

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Jodi Wood

From: Linda Collins <lindab9apres@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:07 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: KEEP NY-16 IN TACT

Dear Sir/Madam:

I wholeheartedly support retaining the current NY-16 District in tact with lower Westchester County, Co-Op City, Baychester, Williamsbridge, and Edenwald as we are communities of common and shared interests from our houses of worship to our educational institutions to our cultural institutions.

It appears that the currently formulated and drawn re-districting map hints of gerrymandering with the express intent of diluting and laying vulnerable the voting power of the predominantly Black voting bloc of Co-Op City, Baychester, Williamsbridge, and Edenwald. It also tears at the fabric of our co-existence with our geographical backyard neighbor and community of shared interest, lower Westchester County.

I am a long time resident and, now, a senior citizen of NY-16 which trends heavily toward voting in its own best interest. The resultant 17% reduction in Black voting power, will create a community that is unable to elect representatives who will act in their best interests. It is a direct assault on the voting power of the Northeast Bronx as a voting bloc and as a black community and on the voting power of our alignment with lower Westchester County is an attack on voting rights and our democracy.

This re-districting map as drawn by the Special Master is not in line with our best interest and only serves to weaken the voting power of our communities making it difficult for them to elect candidates that best represent their interests. This current re-districting map for NY-16 must not stand.

There is a just demand for a fairer re-districting map that will promote and protect the voting bloc of the Black community in the Northeast Bronx of NY-16.

I ask that you to allow the power of the Black community's voting Bloc to prevail.

Respectfully,

Michael Collins
Co-Op City

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Jodi Wood

From: Betsy Todd <betsytoddrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 7:49 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: New redistricting proposal is unfair to the communities that are now part of NY-16

NY-16 needs to retain northeast Bronx communities within the district - specifically, Co-Op City, Edenwald, and Williamsbridge. It makes no sense to split these THREE northeast Bronx communities of interest into three separate districts. And I understand that the special master's proposed map decreases the Black voter population in NY-16 by about 17 percent.

NY-16 has long married the northern Bronx with lower Westchester county. This has kept these communities with many overlapping interests in one district. To separate out a large segment of the black population - not simply out of the district, but now divvied up among three different districts - seems a baldly political move. Please don't allow this proposal to go forward.

Respectfully,

Mary E. Todd

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Jodi Wood

From: Margaret Coleman <mdfcoleman46@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 7:42 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Fairer Maps

Greetings:

NY-16 must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-Op City, Edenwald and Williamsbridge with lower Westchester. The special master's proposed map decreases the Black voter population by about 17%, this dilutes the voting power of Black people in NY-16, further marginalizing them and making it difficult for them to elect candidates that best represent their interests.

The northeast Bronx's predominantly Black community was splintered into three congressional districts: Co-Op City is mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY-15 and Edenwald kept in NY-16.

As a Black woman and resident of NY-16 this directly dropped the Black voter population in NY-16 and split these communities of interest. Our community has been heavily impacted by multiple systems and the pandemic has helped highlight all the problems. By splitting our district into 3 different districts and removing it from NY-16 does not help and it puts our Black community in a vulnerable position. We need a fairer map that will continue to best represent the Black community.

Regards-

Honorable Rev. Margaret Fountain Coleman Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus- Chaplain Yonkers Political Caucus NAACP Unit 2188- Chair Education Ctm.

Sent from my iPhone

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Jodi Wood

From: Michael Collins <michaelbx2@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 7:42 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Keep Congressional District NY-16 In Tact

Dear Sir/Madam:

I write in support of retaining the current NY-16 District in tact with lower Westchester County as we are communities of common and shared interests from our houses of worship to our educational institutions to our cultural institutions.

It appears that the currently formulated and drawn re-districting map hints of gerrymandering with the express intent of diluting and laying vulnerable the voting power of the predominantly Black voting bloc of Co-Op City, Baychester, Williamsbridge, and Edenwald. It also tears at the fabric of our co-existence with our geographical backyard neighbor and community of shared interest, lower Westchester County.

I am a long time resident and, now, a senior citizen of NY-16 which trends heavily toward voting in its own best interest. This direct assault on the voting power of the Northeast Bronx as a voting bloc and as a black community and on the voting power of our alignment with lower Westchester County is an attack on voting rights and our democracy.

This re-districting map as drawn by the Special Master is not in line with our best interest and only serves to weaken the voting power of our communities the 17% reduction in black voting power will make it difficult for Our Black Community to elect candidates that best represent their interests. This current re-districting map for NY-16 must not stand.

There is a just demand for a fairer re-districting map that will promote and protect the voting bloc of the Black community in the Northeast Bronx of NY-16.
I implore you to allow the just power of the vote to prevail.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Collins
Resident
Co-Op City
100 Dreiser Loop
Northeast Bronx, New York
NY-16

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Jodi Wood

From: lynne horton <lilhoney54@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:15 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: CD 16. Co Op City

Co-op City is being redistricted out of CD16.

As you know. there is a law in place to prevent the effect of this redistricting of Co-op City from CD16 to CD14 : Vote Dilution.

'Section 2 of the VRA, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1973 prohibits drawing election districts in ways that improperly dilute minorities' voting power.

As a Co-op City resident I urge you to rethink and redraw our district.

Thank you
Lynne Horton
900 Co Op City Blvd 5A
Bronx, NY 10475

Sent from my iPhone

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Jodi Wood

From: Aaron Kornblum <akorn718@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:52 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: District change

As you know, there is a law in place to prevent the "Vote Dilution" effect of this planned redistricting of Co-op City from CD16 to CD14 :

"Section 2 of the VRA, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1973 prohibits drawing election districts in ways that improperly dilute minorities' voting power."

As a Co-op City resident, I urge you to rethink and redraw our district.

Thank you

Aaron Kornblum

100 Alcott Place
BRONX N.Y. 10475
COOP CITY

Sent from the all new AOL app for Android

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Jodi Wood

From: Merle McJunkin <revmerlemcj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:49 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: unfair congressional map

I write to request a fairer and more just congressional district map. I raise the following issues with the map proposed by Jonathan Cervas:

-The proposed map separates the predominately black community in the Northeast Bronx. It will decrease the black voter population in the NY-16 district by 17%. This will make it harder for residents to elect representatives from that community which best share their interests.

-In the proposed map, Co-Op City is mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY-15 and Edenwald kept in NY-16. The map splits these communities of interest that have voted as a block for the best interest of their community. A more fair map would keep the Northeast Bronx community with lower Westchester. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Merle D. McJunkin, pastor
Antioch Baptist Church

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Jodi Wood

From: Cecilia Santana <proudgramie2014@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:00 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: STOP Redistricting NY-16

To Whom it May Concern:

Please do not allow the redistricting of NY-16. This will take away the voting power of our people of color. We need to be effectively represented by our leaders. The chances of that happening if redistricting occurs will be greatly diminished.

Please do not allow blatant attempts to silence people of color and further tip the scales against our favor.

Thank you for your role in ensuring the fair representation of all Americans.

Sincerely
Cecilia Santana

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Jodi Wood

From: T Whittaker <tsw127@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:46 AM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: northeast Bronx needs to be retained with lower Westchester and the Black voter population cannot be diluted.

Good Afternoon,

NY-16 must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-Op City, Edenwald and Williamsbridge with lower Westchester.

- o The special master's proposed map decreases the Black voter population by about 17%, this dilutes the voting power of Black people in NY-16, further marginalizing them and making it difficult for them to elect candidates that best represent their interests.
- o
- o The northeast Bronx's predominantly Black community was splintered into three congressional districts: Co-Op City is mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY-15 and Edenwald kept in NY-16. This directly dropped the Black voter population in NY-16 and split these communities of interest.

Thank you,

Tracey Whittaker

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Jodi Wood

From: Terry Joyner <JazzyK06@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:43 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Redistricting

- NY-16 must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-Op City, Edenwald and Williamsbridge with lower Westchester
- The special master's proposed map decreases the Black voter population by about 17%, this dilutes the voting power of Black people in NY-16, further marginalizing them and making it difficult for them to elect candidates that best represent their interests.
- The northeast Bronx's predominantly Black community was splintered into three congressional districts: Co-Op City is mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY-15 and Edenwald kept in NY-16. This directly dropped the Black voter population in NY-16 and split these communities of interest.

"Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it nothing is impossible". Mary McLeod Bethune

Terry A. Joyner

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Jodi Wood

From: Janet A. Yarrell <anu1951@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 9:09 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Redistricting NY-16

Please do not redistrict NY-16.

Thank You,

Janet A. Yarrell

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Jodi Wood

From: Theresa Land Latta <telandlatta@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 8:56 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Hands off D-16

Dear Court Official-

I hope you are well. I'm not doing as well as you are because I just found out that there is a proposal to break up the NY-16 map into 3 new districts, when we this tight knit community has lived as one for all of these years. If you allow this to happen, it significantly reduces the votes of hardworking African American families who currently reside in the Northeast Bronx. This divisive tactic by the Redistricting committee does not serve this community, but instead diminishes our voices. If you allow this to happen, it will have the following implications:

- NY-16 must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-Op City, Edenwald and Williamsbridge with lower Westchester. This African American community is purposely being cracked in order to reduce our voting power. This is unfair and should not be done.
- The special master's proposed map decreases the Black voter population by almost 20%; this dilutes the voting power of Black people in NY-16, further marginalizing them and making it difficult for them to elect candidates that best represent their interests. These communities are now well represented by our chosen candidate.
- The Northeast Bronx's predominantly Black community was splintered into three congressional districts: Co-Op City is mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY-15 and Edenwald kept in NY-16. This directly dropped the Black voter population in NY-16 and split these communities of interest.

Please consider that NY-16 should not be splintered like many areas have been across this country as a way to take away the power of our vote. This is an attempt to change the face of the elected officials around us, thereby reducing the power of our community as it is today. Please consider this as you deliberate about redrawing the lines.

Sincerely,
Theresa Land Latta

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Andrea Scott <ascott8@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY20

As a friend of many residents of the city of Amsterdam, NY, I am strongly opposed to the draft Congressional map that would remove my neighboring 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 the 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. 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,
Andrea Scott

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Katiri <katirih@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:33 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Re-structuring

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I am very upset about the newly defined redistricting map. Separating Columbia and Greene Counties is very inefficient, and neglects the history of our twin counties working together. Currently we share a hospital, community college, mental health resources, addiction recovery resources, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, to name a few. We are already a low income and high addiction county, historically in the low ranking numbers of the state in poverty. Though we are rapidly growing due to the increased influx into the Hudson Valley of Upstate NY, of which Greene County is a vital part. Please reconsider this map.

Greene County is also included in the description of the Capital Region - <https://esd.ny.gov/regionaloverviews/capital/insideregion.html> - which includes Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington Counties. Multiple organizations exemplify this connection, including ACE Collective - Alliance for the Creative Economy (ACE), a project of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG). ACE is dedicated to promoting and growing the Creative Industries in the 8-county Capital Region - <https://www.upstatecreative.org>.

Our economic, social and tourist interaction with our longstanding partner, Columbia County, is exemplified by the name of our local Community College, Columbia-Greene Community College. This partnership is further emphasized by how many organizations are shared by the "Twin Counties", Columbia County and Greene County.

While we are divided by the Hudson River, we share the responsibility for the estuaries and other environmental aspects of the shores of the Hudson River, even though we may not be on the same side of the Hudson.

Separating Greene County from Columbia County, the Hudson River, and Capital Region, in any capacity, is unthinkable for Greene County residents. This is a community element, as well as something distinguished in many publications, now and throughout the past. The Hudson Valley is a part of the Catskill Mountains, which is the heart of Greene County.

We understand that this process to redraw maps has had to happen quickly, please do not discount the vital relationship between Columbia and Greene County, nor our relationship to the Hudson Valley and the Capital Region. This is our home.

Best
Katiri Hart DTR

Best Regards, Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Lenny Moore <lennymoore14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:34 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New York State Maps

Hello,

Simply put, I do not agree with the description I'm hearing of proposed voting district maps, as it seems to pit some well-known and established representatives against one another. This does not serve the public.

Personally, I despise gerrymandering and believe that districts across the entire country should be drawn in a non-partisan fashion in full respect for the democratic process, and recognize that the democrat's attempt in New York to counterbalance the behavior of republican actions nationwide along these lines went too far.

Nevertheless, I believe the maps as proposed - as I understand it - will severely harm both communities and their relationships with well-established representatives. A proper and fair re-drawing of maps should come to pass, but in a more thoughtful and considerate manner and not so close to an upcoming election.

To make these drastic changes now does not benefit the public, nor does it give the public time to digest and prepare for the changes.

Kindly reconsider the decision to implement these proposed maps.

Thank you.

Have a good day!

--

Lenny Moore
Administrative Assistant

Haven Manor Health Care Center
1441 Gateway Boulevard
Far Rockaway, New York 11691

Telephone # 718-471-1500 ext. 2202

Fax # 718-471-3636

"Patience..."

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Philip G (Phil) Meeks <philmeeks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:34 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a 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 Mid-Hudson Valley regions, as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map groups our county with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in a poor outcome 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 the Department of Economic Development has placed Columbia County in the Capital District. Under the proposed map, Columbia County would be isolated from both regions and be the only county in CD19 on the east side of the Hudson River. Columbia County should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined populations of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average congressional district.

Columbia County has been excised from its peers and placed in a congressional district that shares little in common administratively. Our judicial, assembly, and senate districts have little, if any, overlap with other counties included in the proposed CD19. Effective government requires coordination and collaboration. The proposed map diminishes Columbia County's political power.

Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties 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 and western portions of New York State.

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 small to medium sized cities have diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, socio-economic, and gender/sexual orientation populations. 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. Columbia County should be in a congressional district with its neighbors who face the same challenges and concerns.

Our proximity to New York City has created a rich, year-round arts community, with many artists, painters, dancers, musicians, actors, galleries, and antique stores that all create a destination for tourism. There is a significant and growing population of New York City dual homeowners. Newer residents are starting local small businesses, adding to the economic diversity in our county. Columbia County is also home to many exurban communities of Albany, not Ithaca or Binghamton. Columbia County is tethered economically, culturally and socially to its neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map ignores these connections, and in doing so, denied our county of effective representation.

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 the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Dividing Columbia County, or separating us from the Mid-Hudson Valley region, would seriously impact the residents who want to build for the future and be fairly represented in Congress. 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,

Philip G. Meeks
Concerned Resident of Ghent NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Amanda <amandarouse@pm.me>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Public Comment

These boundary changes in Brooklyn serve to further distance people from the reality of our relationships of connection with the waterway and economic interchange.

This effort to influence elections by rearranging districts is not thoughtful or helpful towards caring for these constituencies.

I am opposed to these changes.

The public should have ample time to make comment on this issue and bring to the wider attention of the public.

Best,
Amanda Rouse (Park slope and Gowanus resident)

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Lisa Wade <lisawade16@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: 2 Senators for City of Syracuse

Please keep 2 Senators in the City of Syracuse.

Lisa Wade
111 Menlo Dr
Syracuse, NY 13205

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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Brenda A. Wise

From: James Murray <jmurraylaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

As a 26 year resident of Columbia County, I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a 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 Mid-Hudson Valley regions, as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map groups our county with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in a poor outcome 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 the Department of Economic Development has placed Columbia County in the Capital District. Under the proposed map, Columbia County would be isolated from both regions and be the only county in CD19 on the east side of the Hudson River. Columbia County should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined populations of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average congressional district.

Columbia County has been excised from its peers and placed in a congressional district that shares little in common administratively. Our judicial, assembly, and senate districts have little, if any, overlap with other counties included in the proposed CD19. Effective government requires coordination and collaboration. The proposed map diminishes Columbia County's political power.

Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties 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 and western portions of New York State.

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 small to medium sized cities have diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, socio-economic, and gender/sexual orientation populations. 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. Columbia County should be in a congressional district with its neighbors who face the same challenges and concerns.

Our proximity to New York City has created a rich, year-round arts community, with many artists, painters, dancers, musicians, actors, galleries, and antique stores that all create a destination for tourism. There is a significant and growing population of New York City dual homeowners. Newer residents are starting local small businesses, adding to the economic diversity in our county. Columbia County is also home to many exurban communities of Albany, not Ithaca or Binghamton. Columbia County is tethered economically, culturally and socially to its neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map ignores these connections, and in doing so, denied our county of effective representation.

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 the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Dividing Columbia County, or separating us from the Mid-Hudson Valley region, would seriously impact the residents who want to build for the future and be fairly represented in Congress. 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,

James Murray, Esq.
28 Upper Hollow Rd.
Hillsdale, NY 12529

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ROD SAUNDERS

**120-20L Benchley Place
Bronx, New York 10475
(718) 671-6409
Rodeb96@aol.com**

May 18, 2022

Re: Proposed New Redistricting Map(s) of the New York – 14th, 15th, & 16th Congressional District

New York's 16th Congressional District must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-op City, Baychester/Williamsbridge, and the Edenwald, combined with lower Westchester County.

The most recently redrawn special master's proposed map, decreases the Black and Brown voter population by about 17%, which ultimately dilutes the voting power of Black and Brown people in the New York -16th Congressional District.

The proposed map will only further marginalize our community, and in the process, make it difficult to elect candidates that best represent our interests.

The newly proposed map will splinter the northeast Bronx's predominantly Black and Brown community into three congressional districts: Co-op City would be mapped into New York's -14th Congressional District, Williamsbridge and Baychester communities will be mapped into the New York's -15th Congressional District, and only the Edenwald community will be kept in the New York -16th Congressional District.

This redistricting map only serves to divided and diminish the Black and Brown voter population in New York's 16th Congressional District, all of which have very similar Congressional representative needs.

The separation of these four (4) communities, combined with a portion of lower Westchester County, is NOT in the best interest of those constituents that are currently served by the existing 16th Congressional District map, and therefore it is respectfully requested that the Court not further consider the current proposal to sub-divide the aforementioned 16th Congressional District communities into three separate Congressional Districts (NY-14th & NY-15th).

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Saunders

Brenda A. Wise

From: Judith S. Kaufman <Judith.S.Kaufman@hofstra.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:38 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: redistricting

To whom it may concern,

Our congressional district is about to pit Jamal Bowman against Mondaire Jones in the upcoming election, and 17% of the Black vote has been proposed to be cut in ours and surrounding districts. This is nothing less than a strategic effort to dilute and disenfranchise the Black vote and minimize the representation of voices of color in Congress (representatives and voters alike) at a time when White supremacists are murdering people of color in places like Buffalo. We need people in Congress who will fight for people of color, and not force two Black members of Congress to spar against each other for a seat.

Sincerely,

Judith Kaufman (New Rochelle)

Judith S. Kaufman, Ph.D.
Professor of Human Development
Director, Doctoral Program in Learning and Teaching
Department of Teaching, Learning and Technology
School of Education Hofstra University
253 Hagedorn Hall
Hempstead, New York 11549
516-463-6566

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Judy Griffin <griffinj@nyassembly.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:38 PM
To: Lewis, Lorna, Dr.
Cc: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu; Malverne BOE; DORIS HICKS; flournoyconsult@aol.com; kaminsky@nysenate.gov; Jeanne D'Esposito; Avvinti, Laura (External); Bottitta, Josephine (External)
Subject: Re: Lakeview Representation in the new maps

This is an excellent and impactful letter Dr. Lorna. I appreciate you sending it to State Supreme Court Justice Patrick McAllister.

From: "Lewis, Lorna, Dr." <llewis@malverneschools.org>
To: bwise@nycourts.gov, cervas@cmu.edu
Cc: "Malverne BOE" <malverneboard@malverne.k12.ny.us>, "DORIS HICKS" <dlorhi66@gmail.com>, flournoyconsult@aol.com, "kaminsky" <kaminsky@nysenate.gov>, "Judy Griffin" <griffinj@nyassembly.gov>, "Jeanne D'Esposito" <jdesposito@gmail.com>, "Avvinti, Laura (External)" <lavvinti@msn.com>, "Bottitta, Josephine (External)" <bottittaconsulting@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:05:18 PM
Subject: Lakeview Representation in the new maps

Dear State Supreme Court Justice Patrick McAllister;

I write to you as the Superintendent of the Malverne UFSD with concerns over the impact the new congressional maps will have on the students of Lakeview and our entire school community. We are a high performing district of color that may be one of New York's best hopes for understanding how setting high expectations for students and supporting them to achieve can be accomplished. We have been able to do this because we can call on our local legislators to support us in numerous efforts that our state aid can not cover. Such aid has come consistently from legislators like Judy Griffin, Tom Kaminsky and Taylor Darling, who know and support our community.

While we are still mourning with the families and citizens of Buffalo over the recent racially motivated shooting deaths, the maps were released for the Congressional and Senate areas. These maps are devastating for our African American communities all over the state and it directly impacts our local community of Lakeview. Woodfield Road is a symbol to Lakeview and our entire school community. It is there that our Woodfield Road Elementary school was located when we received our order to desegregate in 1965. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King visited there to help us in these efforts. The new maps seek to split the residents of Woodfield Road into two districts. This one act would cause this historic African American community to lose their collective voice in choosing their state representatives. Our well-known legislators will be lost and the voting power of the residents of Lakeview will be drastically diluted and diminished. As such, the current map violates the New York State Constitution, Article III, Section 4(c)(1), which specifically prohibits the creation of political districts that abridge the voting rights of racial minority voting rights.

There does not appear to be any valid reason why the small cohesive community of Lakeview should suddenly be divided into two election districts. If this map is accepted, Lakeview and the Malverne School District will be weakened while the focus from our elected officials will be diffused between

two senators. All of Lakeview is in one school district, has the same utilities and faces common challenges. Lakeview's representation cannot be as effective if it is not unified. Moreover, if Lakeview remains in two separate election districts, election materials such as political pamphlets, flyers, petitions, and ballots, would have to be split up into multiple campaigns. This would make it much more difficult and expensive to reach voters.

The current state of affairs in New York, and indeed our nation, is pointing in a direction that threatens to take away the hard gains that residents like the people of Lakeview fought for and won over the years. These maps will dilute African American voting strengths and disenfranchise people of color all over the state. Please reconsider the map as currently drawn and instead place all of Lakeview in one state senate election district.

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis
Superintendent
Malverne UFSD
301 Wicks Lane
Malverne NY 11565
516-887-6405



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Brenda A. Wise

From: Bob Stromberg <bob.stromberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:38 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Saratoga Springs has many common interests with the Capital District

Dear Sir,

I am strongly opposed to the draft Congressional map that would remove the City of Saratoga Springs from its current Congressional district, which is centered in New York's Capital District. Saratoga Springs strongly identifies with the greater Capital District and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Amsterdam. Many of the residents work and have families in these communities. Placing Saratoga Springs in a district that stretches to the Canadian border with communities that have much different needs will be detrimental to our community. I urge you to include Saratoga Springs in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize Congressional maps.

Bob Stromberg
Round Lake, NY
Cell: (518) 791-9708

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**Hazel "Scottie" Coads**

393 Rose Avenue
West Hempstead, NY 11552
516.763.5609/516/516.567.5433
hcoads@aol.com

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY
Hon. Patrick McAllister
Acting Supreme Court Justice
4 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

As a lifelong resident of Lakeview, a Black Community, which shares a zip code with the village of Rockville Centre's, Black Community, I am horrified by the proposed Senate map that divides Lakeview and Rockville Centre between SD-6 and SD-9.

Lakeview is a small but historically significant African American community. We were at the forefront of the civil rights movement on Long Island -- Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in Lakeview in 1965, and our community led the fight for school desegregation on Long Island. Today, Lakeview is neglected by our elected officials, and this neglect will only be made worse by the decision to crack Lakeview along Woodfield Road into two separate State Senate districts. We desperately need to be fully maintained in SD-6 to ensure that our voices will not be silenced.

Rockville Centre also has a substantial African American population south of Sunrise Highway, but those voters were also left out of SD-6. Rockville Centre and Lakeview not only share a zip code, but these communities are closely intertwined. Lakeview residents do most of their shopping in Rockville Centre, and numerous civic organizations, community groups, and churches serve both communities, including the MLK Community Center in Rockville Centre. Including all of Rockville Centre in SD-6 will increase our community's clout and will be helpful to African American voters in both Rockville Centre and Lakeview.

It is imperative that you correct this unacceptable decision and unite all of Lakeview and Rockville Centre into SD-6.

Sincerely,
H. Scottie Coads
Chair, Civic Engagement, NAACP NYS

**Hazel "Scottie" Coads**

393 Rose Avenue
West Hempstead, NY 11552
516.763.5609/516/516.567.5433
hcoads@aol.com

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY
Dr. Jonathan Cervas
Carnegie Mellon University
Posner Hall 388
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

As a lifelong resident of Lakeview, a Black Community, which shares a zip code with the village of Rockville Centre's, Black Community, I am horrified by the proposed Senate map that divides Lakeview and Rockville Centre between SD-6 and SD-9.

Lakeview is a small but historically significant African American community. We were at the forefront of the civil rights movement on Long Island -- Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in Lakeview in 1965, and our community led the fight for school desegregation on Long Island. Today, Lakeview is neglected by our elected officials, and this neglect will only be made worse by the decision to crack Lakeview along Woodfield Road into two separate State Senate districts. We desperately need to be fully maintained in SD-6 to ensure that our voices will not be silenced.

Rockville Centre also has a substantial African American population south of Sunrise Highway, but those voters were also left out of SD-6. Rockville Centre and Lakeview not only share a zip code, but these communities are closely intertwined. Lakeview residents do most of their shopping in Rockville Centre, and numerous civic organizations, community groups, and churches serve both communities, including the MLK Community Center in Rockville Centre. Including all of Rockville Centre in SD-6 will increase our community's clout and will be helpful to African American voters in both Rockville Centre and Lakeview.

It is imperative that you correct this unacceptable decision and unite all of Lakeview and Rockville Centre into SD-6.

Sincerely,
H. Scottie Coads
Chair, Civic Engagement, NAACP NYS

Brenda A. Wise

From: Kathleen O'Connor <kmosaratoga@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:40 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Do Not Break Up the Capital Region

Dear Special Master -

As a resident of the city of Saratoga Springs, 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.

My family has strong ties to the greater Capital Region; while we now live in Saratoga Springs, we formerly lived in Albany, our son spent five years at the RPI childcare facility located in Troy, and my husband and I work in Troy and Albany, respectively. More broadly, the city of Saratoga Springs has deep roots binding us together with our sister communities and cities of Albany, Amsterdam, Schenectady, and Troy, including but not limited to strong economic and transportation ties.

Please do not split apart the Capital Region. Please do not move the cities of Saratoga Springs and Amsterdam from the 20th Congressional District. Such a move would be a devastating blow to the Capital Region's shared future and ability to speak with a unified voice in Washington DC.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Connor, PE

54 White Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Elizabeth DiPalma <e48dipalma@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:41 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: CD19 Congressional Map proposal

Dear Special Master,

As a voter in NYS CD-19, I was dismayed and upset to see the new proposed district. It takes Columbia County out of our cohort of Hudson River Valley neighbors, with whom we have much in common, and tosses us in with the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier counties with whom we have little in common. Such a map would essentially DISENFRANCHISE Columbia County!!

Please don't do this to us.

Statewise, our judicial, assembly, and senate districts have little, if any, overlap with the other counties we'd be grouped with in the proposed CD19. You would be greatly reducing our political power with this change, as well as separating us from our natural partners in the HRV and Capital District.

Finally, dividing Columbia County, or separating us

from the Mid-Hudson Valley region, would adversely affect those of us who want to build for the future and be fairly represented in Congress. 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.

Sincerely
Elizabeth DiPalma
Chatham NY

"Creativity is intelligence having fun." Einstein

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Andrew Urtz <crunkykid@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:41 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I am very upset about the newly defined redistricting map. Separating Columbia and Greene Counties is very inefficient, and neglects the history of our twin counties working together. Currently we share a hospital, community college, mental health resources, addiction recovery resources, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, to name a few. We are already a low income and high addiction county, historically in the low ranking numbers of the state in poverty. Though we are rapidly growing due to the increased influx into the Hudson Valley of Upstate NY, of which Greene County is a vital part. Please reconsider this map.

Greene County is also included in the description of the Capital Region - <https://esd.ny.gov/regionaloverviews/capital/insideregion.html> - which includes Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington Counties. Multiple organizations exemplify this connection, including ACE Collective - Alliance for the Creative Economy (ACE), a project of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG). ACE is dedicated to promoting and growing the Creative Industries in the 8-county Capital Region - <https://www.upstatecreative.org>.

Our economic, social and tourist interaction with our longstanding partner, Columbia County, is exemplified by the name of our local Community College, Columbia-Greene Community College. This partnership is further emphasized by how many organizations are shared by the "Twin Counties", Columbia County and Greene County.

While we are divided by the Hudson River, we share the responsibility for the estuaries and other environmental aspects of the shores of the Hudson River, even though we may not be on the same side of the Hudson.

Separating Greene County from Columbia County, the Hudson River, and Capital Region, in any capacity, is unthinkable for Greene County residents. This is a community element, as well as something distinguished in many publications, now and throughout the past. The Hudson Valley is a part of the Catskill Mountains, which is the heart of Greene County.

We understand that this process to redraw maps has had to happen quickly, please do not discount the vital relationship between Columbia and Greene County, nor our relationship to the Hudson Valley and the Capital Region. This is our home.

Yours
Andrew W Urtz
Catskill

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Anne De Groff <anne.degroff@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:43 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY20

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. 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,
Anne H DeGroff
105 Evelyn Avenue
Amsterdam, NY 12010-1325

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Carl <golanguages@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:43 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Reject "Special Masters" plan.

Please reject the "Special Masters" plan to break up Schenectady, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs and Troy from CD 20. This is gerrymandering at its worst!

Carl Kinlan

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jennifer Moore <jenmoore767@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New York State Maps

Hello,

Simply put, I do not agree with the description I'm hearing of proposed voting district maps, as it seems to pit some well-known and established representatives against one another. This does not serve the public.

Personally, I despise gerrymandering and believe that districts across the entire country should be drawn in a non-partisan fashion in full respect for the democratic process, and recognize that the democrat's attempt in New York to counterbalance the behavior of republican actions nationwide along these lines went too far.

Nevertheless, I believe the maps as proposed - as I understand it - will severely harm both communities and their relationships with well-established representatives. A proper and fair re-drawing of maps should come to pass, but in a more thoughtful and considerate manner and not so close to an upcoming election.

To make these drastic changes now does not benefit the public, nor does it give the public time to digest and prepare for the changes.

Kindly reconsider the decision to implement these proposed maps.

Thank you.

Have a good day!

Jennifer Sellers-Moore

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Madelyn Thorne <mthorne53@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:45 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYS District 20 and 21

With respect, please keep Saratoga Springs within Congressional District 20. We share many similar concerns and have similar points of interest.

Thank you

--

Madelyn Thorne

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Melissa Sorvillo <mekipp@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:46 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: NYS Senate Districts

Hello,

I write in response to the redistricting proposition. I oppose this decision, as it is not in RVC residents' best interest to have our community split between two representatives. To engage more of the community in civic endeavors, we need to make things less confusing, not more. People need to easily know who their representatives are and be able to talk to neighbors in town when out and about, or at community events/initiatives about things that matter. If we're all split between two representatives, it is a huge disservice where we can no longer work together towards a common goal, but need to approach double the representatives with half of the voice.

Thank you.

Melissa Sorvillo
Rockville Centre resident

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kathy Mattes <kamattes58@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:47 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Proposed Redistricting.

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.

Kathleen Mattes

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Laura Goodwin <lagoody2shoes123@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: SPECIAL MASTER - NYS Redistricting

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I am very upset about the newly defined redistricting map. Separating Columbia and Greene Counties is inefficient, and neglects the history of our twin counties working together. Currently we share a hospital and physical and mental health care system, a community college, addiction recovery resources, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and, to a large extent, an economy. The growth that is beginning is tied to the overall revitalization of the Hudson Valley in Upstate NY, and like many others I moved from Columbia to Greene county. Please reconsider this map which identifies common cause with the Southern Tier of New York, which simply is not our lived reality.

Greene County is included in the description of the Capital Region which includes Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, and Washington Counties. Multiple organizations exemplify this connection, including ACE Collective - Alliance for the Creative Economy (ACE), a project of the Center for Economic Growth (CEG). ACE is dedicated to promoting and growing the Creative Industries in the 8-county Capital Region - <https://www.upstatecreative.org>.

Our economic, social and tourist interaction with our longstanding partner, Columbia County, is exemplified by the name of our local Community College, Columbia-Greene Community College. This partnership is further emphasized by how many organizations are shared by the "Twin Counties", Columbia County and Greene County.

While we are divided by the Hudson River, we share the responsibility for the estuaries and other environmental aspects of the shores of the Hudson River, even though we may not be on the same side of the Hudson.

Separating Greene County from Columbia County, the Hudson River, and Capital Region, in any capacity, is unthinkable for Greene County residents. This is a community element, as well as something distinguished in many publications, now and throughout the past. The Hudson Valley is a part of the Catskill Mountains, which is the heart of Greene County.

We understand that this process to redraw maps has had to happen quickly, please do not discount the vital relationship between Columbia and Greene County, nor our relationship to the Hudson Valley and the Capital Region. This is our home.

Best Regards,
Laura Goodwin
214 Red Rock Road
Leeds NY 12451

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THE COUNCIL *of* THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER CARLINA L. RIVERA

May 18, 2022

The Honorable Patrick McAllister
Acting Supreme Court Justice
Seventh Judicial District of New York
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Dear Judge McAllister:

I write to express my urgent concerns regarding the most recent proposed congressional redistricting map – drawn by Jonathan R. Cervas, the court-appointed special master, and released publicly on Monday, May 16, 2022 – given your current judicial oversight of New York’s redistricting process. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment.

As a lifelong New Yorker hailing from the Lower East Side and as a proud Latina, I am honored to represent New York City’s 2nd Council District.

For far too long, the redistricting process has advanced the interests of the most powerful while seeing the electoral power of marginalized communities as incidental, including New York’s large and diverse Latino population. Generally speaking, Latinos now make up 19% of the state’s population and represent a range of ethnic and racial backgrounds. By reducing the current congressional representation of neighborhoods central to our communities to just three districts, Latino New Yorkers fall short of their due representation in the federal delegation.

Above all, I believe the current map fails to consider the devastating impact of fracturing longstanding Latino neighborhood partnerships. Among the most concerning distinctions between the New York Independent Redistricting Commission maps and the map drawn by the court-appointed special master is New York’s 7th Congressional District, whose current community of interest has been reduced by approximately 50%, threatening to dilute and disregard Latino electoral power. For the past three decades, the 7th District has included culturally-linked and physically-similar neighborhoods such as the Lower East Side, Sunset Park, and Red Hook, that collectively produce a majority of minority groups. The draft congressional maps still provide an opportunity to reconnect at least some of these neighborhoods, particularly by adjusting Brooklyn district lines.

I recognize that we share a common goal to ensure that the New York State redistricting process strengthens our representative democracy. Considering the significant growth of the Latino population in New York and of the contributions of Latinos statewide, I urge the Court and Special Master to consider revisions which better reflect links between long-standing communities of interest in both our city and state. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlina Rivera".

Brenda A. Wise

From: Sara Wiest <sara.wiest@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:48 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Dear Special Master:

We were surprised and concerned to see the proposed alterations to the 20th Congressional District. Breaking Amsterdam and Saratoga away from a district that has traditionally represented all of the Greater Capital Region seems counterproductive to us.

The Greater Capital Region has long worked together to coordinate major projects beneficial to the entire 20th CD at every level -- local, state, and, perhaps most important, federal.

Both Amsterdam and Saratoga share strong bonds with the Capital District. Many of their residents regularly travel to the Albany area for employment or entertainment. The presence of coordinated transportation infrastructure is essential to all our communities, whether through highways, public ground transportation (now regionally coordinated through CDTA), or rail.

As but a couple of examples: First, planning for greater access to and service from Albany International Airport is critical to Saratoga's high-tech and entertainment industries. Second, planning for more efficient rail travel from Albany west is of paramount importance to a small city such as Amsterdam. How would these critical infrastructure needs, which require federal funding, be better met by placing these communities in a North Country District, which has vastly different priorities and fewer resources?

We respectfully request therefore that Amsterdam and Saratoga remain in the 20th CD, where they can best receive the regional representation they deserve and which will strengthen the Capital Region as a whole.

Respectfully,

Lawrence Wiest
Sara Wiest

40 Patroon Place
Loudonville, New York
20th Congressional District

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Diane Patrick <deepeedub@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:49 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; SteubenSuperior@nycourts.gov; Cervas@CMU.edu
Subject: PROTESTING your planned redistricting: Co-op City 10475 from CD16 into CD14

Dear All:

As you know, there is a law in place to prevent the "Vote Dilution" effect of this planned redistricting of Co-op City from CD16 to CD14:

"Section 2 of the VRA, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1973 prohibits drawing election districts in ways that improperly dilute minorities' voting power."

As a Co-op City resident, I urge you to rethink and redraw our district... and with input from the human residents rather than from software!!

With thanks,
Diane Patrick
140 Carver Loop, #21A
Bronx, NY 10475

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Merle McJunkin <revmerlemcj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:49 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: unfair congressional map

I write to request a fairer and more just congressional district map. I raise the following issues with the map proposed by Jonathan Cervas:

-The proposed map separates the predominately black community in the Northeast Bronx. It will decrease the black voter population in the NY-16 district by 17%. This will make it harder for residents to elect representatives from that community which best share their interests.

-In the proposed map, Co-Op City is mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY-15 and Edenwald kept in NY-16. The map splits these communities of interest that have voted as a block for the best interest of their community. A more fair map would keep the Northeast Bronx community with lower Westchester. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Merle D. McJunkin, pastor
Antioch Baptist Church

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Brenda A. Wise

From: melissa evans <msevens63@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:49 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Two Senators Needed

Hello,

I'm a resident of the city of Syracuse and wanted to share my concern about the possibility of losing a Senator for our city. It is important that, in Syracuse, we be allowed two senators and not be reduced to one. Please do all you can to ensure that Syracuse has two Senators representing our city.

Thanks,

Melissa Evans

Sent from my iPhone

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Jeanette Thompson <j.nettie77@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Redistricting Lakeview Community 2020

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you in regard to Lakeview Maps Zone change for this surrounding community. I lived in this community during 2019 -2021. I have been a member of St Paul AME Church in Rockville Centre, NY for 19 years. This is a beautiful community with loving friends and families. We are actively involved with the school, teachers, firefighters' policemen and our local government parties for years. This is proud community.

There is strong rich history in this community's working well together with our joining communities. Such as West Hempstead, Malverne, Lynbrook, and more. It is our pray that you will **not reconsider changing the redistricting for this community.**

Thank you for your time on this matter.

Blessings
Jeanette Thompson
2000 Bellmore Ave, Apt# 4x
Bellmore, NY 11570

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