

Brenda A. Wise

From: Mia T <miavox1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:03 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Resident of the East Village, NYC

Hello Bwise—please forward these comments to the judge.

Our representative, Carolyn Maloney, was called recently by our affordable co op to come and speak at our summer block party this year. We were told she no longer, or will no longer, represent us soon.

Personally, I adore Jerry Nadler, but he probably has no longtime connection to this neighborhood. And as a man very immersed in many committees, will we get proper representation? My other, rhetorical, question is: will we, as a community, need to vote one of these long-standing representatives out?

It's troubling.

Thank you for listening.

Mia Tuttavilla
East 4th Street Resident, NYC

Sent from a handheld device.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Bonnie Walmsley <bwalmsley@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: 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.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Brown Walmsley

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ada Egloff <ada.egloff@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistributing Columbia County - a big mistake

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,

Ada Egloff

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Brenda A. Wise

From: lynne horton <lilhoney54@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Fwd: CD 16 Co Op City

Subject: CD 16 Co Op City

Co-op City is being redistricted out of CD16 and into CD14.

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
Lynne Horton

900 Co Op City Blvd.
Bronx, NY 10475

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Nicky Sacco-Brown <docnsacco@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:02 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.

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Columbia County has been excised from its peers and placed in a congressional district that shares little in common administratively. O

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Terry Robinson <virtual.diva@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:05 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting Concerns
Attachments: Redistricting Letter TR.docx; Redistricting Letter.docx; Redistricting Letter TJ.docx

Terry Robinson
Dorothy Robinson
Tyrique Barton

265 Langdon Blvd
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Terry Robinson
virtual.diva@aol.com

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May 18, 2022

As a Member of the historic Lakeview, NY (11570) community I am making a plea that Lakeview be kept in one district. We are a predominantly black community with a rich history that needs to be respected and maintained. I feel the newly drawn lines are intended to divide us and our votes. This will have catastrophic effects on our community during elections. I demand immediate action. Please reconsider the lines immediately!

Sincerely,

Terry Robinson

Terry Robinson

May 18, 2022

As a Member of the historic Lakeview, NY (11570) community I am making a plea that Lakeview be kept in one district. We are a predominantly black community with a rich history that needs to be respected and maintained. I feel the newly drawn lines are intended to divide us and our votes. This will have catastrophic effects on our community during elections. I demand immediate action. Please reconsider the lines immediately!

Sincerely,

Dorothy Robinson

Dorothy Robinson

May 18, 2022

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Sincerely,

Tyrique Barton

Tyrique Barton

Brenda A. Wise

From: Brenda Allen <bdallen54@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@CMU.edu
Subject: Redistricting the 16th

I am a shareholder at Co-Op City and I am against the redistricting. It would dilute the power that this district has.

In today's atmosphere this would unduly burden the people of Co-Op and surrounding districts.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Brenda D. Allen
140 Benchley Place Apt. 23E
Bronx, NY 10475
bdallen54@yahoo.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kathleen Hulley <kh3@nyu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Fwd: New Voter Redistricting Maps

Subject: New Voter Redistricting Maps

I strongly protest the ways the Court has redistricted the voter maps.

I urge the Court to postpone the vote on it until more New York State voters have the chance to be informed and send their comments.

These maps are destructive to voters for at least 4 reasons:

1. The new map automatically eliminates 3 Democratic House seats, which is even worse than gerrymandering.
2. It splits the Primary into two different dates over the summer, which is very confusing for voters and makes it less likely that many of them will vote in either these important Primaries.
3. It splits minority communities from other voters with shared political concerns.
4. It dilutes minority power by reducing their percentages compared to whites in several districts.

There seems to be nothing impartial about the way these districts have been set up by the Court; yet we will have to live with their consequences for many years.

1. POSTPONE THE VOTE ON THE NEW REDISTRICTING MAPS.
2. PROVIDE MUCH MORE LOCAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS REDISTRICTING FOR EACH DISTRICT.
3. SOLICIT MORE COMMENTS FROM THE MORE INFORMED VOTERS
4. HAVE PUBLIC HEARINGS

STOP GOVERNING AND JUDGING THROUGH THE IGNORANCE OF VOTERS. MAKE SURE VOTERS ARE FULLY INFORMED

Thank you for doing your job properly,
- Prof. Kathleen Hulley

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Katharine Wood <katharine_wood@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@CMU.edu
Subject: Re: IMPORTANT: Redistricting Co-op City 10475 out of CD16 into CD14 !

Co-op City is being redistricted out of CD16 and into CD14.

PLEASE do not dilute our POC voting power---do not redistrict Co-op City 10475 from CD16 into CD14

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!

Katharine Wood

4200 Hutchinson River Parkway East

Bronx, NY 10475

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Alfredo Gomez <afgg121@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:09 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Two senators

We, the constituents of the city of Syracuse cannot afford to lose a senator!

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Leo Quigley <leo.quigley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:10 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New maps CD10 - support!

I live in the new CD10 on Washington Avenue on the border of Crown Heights and Prospect Heights. By placing me in CD10 with Park Slope and Lower Manhattan, the new map better represents my community of interest than the current district where I am a minority in Crown Heights. I live, work and play in a small geographic area along this border. I support the new map.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: cfarrell <cfarrellmoms@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

We are residents and taxpayers of Greene County, NY, and I am appalled 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 Regards,

Catherine and John Farrell

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Susan Yung <susanyung2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:11 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: RE: Congressional Map cutting Red Hook and Gowanus environs out of Nydia's district

Dear Sir,

I protest this "gerrymandering" of separating/dividing Nydia Velazquez's district constituencies in half. She has been a great supporter serving and alleviating the many ethnic issues that plague various poor neighborhoods. This new version of separation only endangers and hides endangered policies rather than the needed rectifications.

Thank you,
Susan Yung

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kathi Bassett <kathibassett@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY 20

To: bwise@nycourts.gov
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 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,
Mary Kathleen Bassett
63 Stewart St
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: tinamarie6647 <tinamarie6647@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: 2nd Congressional District plea

> To Whom it May Concern,

>

> As the Special Master's plan is currently drafted, my community of (Massapequa, Massapequa Park, North Massapequa, Farmingdale, Levittown, Bethpage, etc) would be removed from its current South Shore Congressional District of NY-2 and placed in the North Shore Congressional District of NY-3. I urge you to reconsider this misguided plan and keep the South Shore communities of Long Island together as in the current 2nd Congressional District.

>

> Long Island's North Shore and South Shore communities are different in almost every way. Residents of the South Shore experience the same flooding issues, share highways and public transportation infrastructure, and have a community connection that we do not share with North Shore residents. After our South Shore communities were devastated by Superstorm Sandy, we rebuilt them together and are stronger because of it. Please do not split us up. The interests of my community align with my South Shore neighbors in the 2nd Congressional District. We do not want to be part of a North Shore district.

>

> I urge you to put my town back in the 2nd Congressional District and keep the South Shore communities together. This district was redrawn by a special master a decade ago, and it has had effective representation since. Please reverse the draft map so our communities can continue to work together.

>

> Many thanks,

> Tina Flynn

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Victoria Hoyt <vhoyt@hvc.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: City of Kingston

Please consider redrawing the Congressional district lines in the City of Kingston. The city should Not be divided. It makes no sense on many levels.

Thank you.

Victoria Hoyt
100 Maiden Lane
Kingston NY

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Marc Jampole <mjampole@nyc.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: The new redistricting plan is absurd

I currently live in Rep. Maloney's district, and am very disappointed the district map has been redrawn to a square that takes in a large piece of Rep. Nadler's district on the West Side.

I have two concerns about the shape of this district. First, the East Side and the West Side have very different cultures, concerns and perspectives. Second, the map pits two experienced and capable representatives against each other. How is that useful for voters?

I am appalled at the new maps, especially now that I know that the current districts were created by an impartial body and, while ungainly looking, were not gerrymandered.

The new districts break up ethnic constituencies and cohesive neighborhoods, diminishing their voices. The map is not going to increase public trust in our political process, already low after the 2020 election. And, if held in August, they will reduce already-dismal voting turnout. This process has diminished my trust in the system.

The person who created this map obviously knows nothing about New York and for some reason seems to be fixated on neat tidy shapes to the detriment of our communities.

Marc Jampole
750 Park Ave., 3C
New York, NY 10021

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Doreen Davis <doreendavis3@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:15 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Greene County

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.

Thank you for your consideration,

Doreen Davis

Doreen Davis
doreendavis3@gmail.com
H:(518) 678-0317
C:(267) 218-6827

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Yitzy Lisker <yitzy.lisker@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Senate Map Redistricting Opposition

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Yitzchak Lisker.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: diverdanno <diverdanno@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Comment on new redistricting maps

To Whom it May Concern:

As a lifelong resident of New York City, I'm confounded and upset by the proposed redistricting maps. I vote in every election and take pride in that right, but I feel the changes this redistricting map will incite will be incredibly detrimental to my power in deciding who represents me and my city. These new maps seem designed to eliminate senior members of Congress by pitting them against one another, causing a Sophie's Choice in who gets my vote.

I take pride in being in a district where my vote is in commune with my neighbors to elect someone *like us*, who comes from our backgrounds and understands so can address the needs of our particular and unique district. The new map will dilute my/our voices, and rob us of that. Black and brown communities especially will suffer under these new maps, exactly at a time they need as much equity and empowerment as possible.

Being forced to choose between two long time elected reps is a choice will only prove to be damaging not just to our city and state, but to the entire democratic process and in the end disempowers my vote and me as a voter.

Please find a more equitable map that empower my voice, not erases it.

Sincerely,
Daniel Fink

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Wayne <wholmen55@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting of NYS political district maps

To Jonathan Cervas, Special Master

Dear Mr. Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I am very concerned about the redistricting map. Separating Columbia and Greene Counties 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. I am asking you to please reconsider this map.

Greene County is an intrinsic part of the Hudson Valley and 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>.

As a registered nurse working in both the Hudson Valley and the Capital District, I have seen how fragmentation is a real disservice to the population. Connection is key to our ultimate success as a community. 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.

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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,

Wayne Holmen, RN, MBA, NE-BC
former Director, Cancer Care Services, St. Peter's Health Partners
67 William Street
Catskill, NY 12414
(518) 755-2198

Brenda A. Wise

From: Victoria Masters <vicmasters@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

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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,
Victoria Masters

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Michel <ciecplee@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Public Comment on Redistricting Issue (May 18 2022): Keep current set up

I write as a citizen to urge that the current districts be retained this year to allow intelligent address of the gerrymandering issue be done **after the 2022 election season**. I note that the election season and the body politic is fraught enough without New York descending into chaos and voters becoming even more disgusted with politics.

As a downstate resident, it is clear to me that the Master may have done his best to create something that looks rational on paper, but the map reflects little to no understanding of New York's communities. Accordingly it is not at all fair.

While I am a life-long registered Republican, I believe that good governance and basic preservation of democracy are the overarching principles to which public officials – elected and appointed – must adhere. There is simply no way the common voter can possibly follow what is happening. And holding a primary in August when most people are involved in recreation, meeting up with family and friends, and many are away of vacation would be an egregious violation of voter rights that will be seen as being politically motivated. It is certainly not good governance.

Right now many people do not even know who their "new" representatives are. Having everything shuffled around with more chaos to surely follow is not good governance. As a lawyer, I would add that it would also set extraordinarily poor legal precedent.

The current situation is problematic, but rushing forward with an improvident 'solution' is not a judicious approach.

Doing so would also undercut the power of New York, by making it seem (accurately) to be in a state of unholy mess. This is not good for any party and would be very bad for the state's residents and businesses.

For goodness sake, keep the districts as is.

Michel

Michel Lee, Esq.
 Chairman
 Council on Intelligent Energy & Conservation Policy (CIECP)
 (914) 420-5624
Lee2CouncilEnergy@gmail.com

Senior Analyst
 Promoting Health and Sustainable Energy (PHASE)

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Alisa Roost <flahooley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Reject Redistricting maps

These maps completely break up communities of interest. I'm deeply concerned that various communities, like the Asian American community, will not have any representation being broken into rather random groups that don't represent the community. It seems to me that this was developed by someone who doesn't know NYC. Can't we have a New Yorker design maps to represent NY?

Thank you
Alisa Roost
302 Convent Ave, #67
NY NY 10031

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Brenda A. Wise

From: melanie weston <mw51900@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:19 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 be terrible for our county. 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. It would result in a poor outcome for our identity, representation, and allocation of resources.

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. The proposed map diminishes Columbia County's political power.

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties and a part of the Mid-Hudson Valley region. We urge you to correct this grave mistake.

Very truly yours,

melanie weston

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Leah Archibald <larchibald@evergreenexchange.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:18 PM
To: cervas@cmu.edu; Brenda A. Wise
Subject: comment on draft lines for NY-7

Hello!

My name is Leah Archibald, and I manage a local development corporation called Evergreen, which works to help small manufacturers grow in North Brooklyn. I am dismayed that Red Hook was cleaved from Gowanus in the draft NY-7 district. Not only does this divide the cohesive adjacent communities of Red Hook and Gowanus, it dilutes the waterfront industrial business community in NY-7.

NY-7 has traditionally had a large swath of Brooklyn's industrial waterfront. My colleagues and I believe that maintaining this in the new map is very important. I understand that you are examining residential demographics. However, one of the reasons that the industrial business communities in NY-7 continue to thrive in challenging economic times is our consolidated representation.

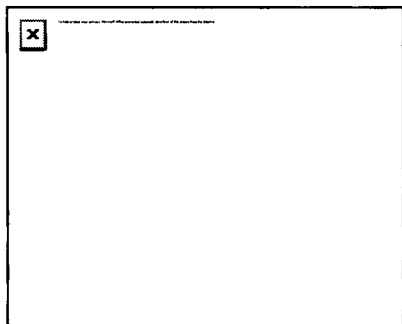
The economic health of the industrial business community is inextricably linked to the economic health of the residential community--particularly in working class neighborhoods. The area's industrial businesses, which provide 22% of local jobs, pay 29% more on average than local retail establishments; or \$55,984 versus \$43,271 annually. Additionally, nearly 70% of industrial workers in the area have health insurance through their employer or a union, compared with 43.8% of accommodation and food service jobs. Also, these jobs frequently do not require English proficiency or advanced education. Twenty-eight percent of the local industrial workforce is foreign born and 31.4% is non-white. Considering 22.5% of our local residents have limited English proficiency and 25.5% live below the poverty line, these jobs offer the best path to self-sufficiency and economic security for our community residents.

On a personal note, I have lived within 3 blocks of the Gowanus Canal for the past 25 years. I can tell you first hand that despite Robert Moses's best efforts there is cohesion on both sides of Hamilton Avenue in both the residential and business community. For this and many other reasons I urge you to reconsider the draft NY-7 lines and rectify the bifurcation of Brooklyn's industrial waterfront by restoring Red Hook to NY-7.

Leah Archibald

Leah Archibald, Executive Director

EVERGREEN
2 Kingsland Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211
P 718-388-7287 x168
F 718-963-1905
www.evergreenexchange.org



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Brenda A. Wise

From: Margaret Davidson <margaretharedavidson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:20 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am outraged that Columbia County has been separated from the rest of the Hudson Valley where it belongs for all the reasons listed below.

I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a resident of Columbia County, in the town of Livingston, 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,

Margaret Davidson
1095 Blue Hill Road
Germantown, NY 12526

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Milana S. <msinalaw@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: objection

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Milana Sinaniyeva

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Robin Bolewski <rbolewski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Auburn is not part of the Finger Lakes?

The new State Senate District that draws the City of Auburn and Cayuga County OUT of CNY and the Finger Lakes District is a disgrace. Cayuga County has NOTHING in common with the North Country; it makes zero sense.

I live in the township of Marcellus and do all of my grocery/errand shopping in Auburn as it is an easy 12 miles from my home.

Please reconsider this egregious error and do right by the citizens of Cayuga County by re-drawing them into the Central New York/Finger Lakes District.

Sincerely.

Robin Browning-Bolewski

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Amy Scheibe <amy.scheibe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: REDISTRICTING - KEEP GREENE COUNTY IN THE CAPITAL REGION FOR SENATE & CONGRESSIONAL MAPS

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 Regards,

Amy Scheibe
 Resident, Hunter Township

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Michael Marquard <marquard@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional Redistricting.

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,

Michael Marquard

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Brenda A. Wise

From: sbroemmelsiek@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: District Lines, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn

To whom it may concern:

I'm a resident of Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, and I have serious concerns about the new NY district maps. For a long time, Bay Ridge has had to tolerate split representation in the State Assembly— we've been carved up between two Assembly Districts, one that runs east to Coney Island and the other that stretches across the bridge into Staten Island. The silver lining has been Bay Ridge's unified district in the State Senate, ensuring our neighborhood has a single representative to champion our needs and shared interests, at least in that body of the legislature. Under these new lines, we would lose that too: the proposal would cleave Bay Ridge into not one, not two, but **three different State Senate districts**. By dividing Bay Ridge into districts anchored by other neighborhoods around us, these maps would further dilute the power we have to advocate for our community-specific, shared needs and goals.

In broader state-wide terms, I see these new lines, that will be in place for **10 years**, as **not** conforming to NY's state constitution. These new districts are not preserving "communities of interests," nor are they about preserving "cores of prior districts." Instead this seems to be another Republican tactic for diluting the power of the Democratic majority and imposing their minority rule under the guise of reform.

Sincerely,
Susan Broemmelsiek

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Susan Denton <susanf.denton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: MaCallister Deadline

Dear Judge McCallister,

I write to request that you reconsider splitting the City of Kingston, NY, in Ulster County, into two separate Congressional Districts. Kingston has a poverty rate of 19.24%, one of the highest in the Hudson Valley.

Please don't pit the residents of Kingston against each other by making them compete with each other. And since members of Congress don't even have to live in the district they represent, this means that not only could Kingston residents have to compete with each other, they could be represented by two people who don't even live in their district.

Please put the City of Kingston back together again by putting all of it into District 18.

Sincerely,
Susan F. Denton
susanf.denton@gmail.com
509 Plutarch Rd, Highland, NY 12528 (Town of New Paltz)
846-256 1114

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Michael Budabin McQuown <mikebudabin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Potential NY Congressional Redistricting Concerns

Good Afternoon,

I am writing you as a resident of Bayside, Queens in current Congressional District 6. Congresswoman Meng is my current Congressional representative.

My family and I have lived in Bayside since 2007, and I am deeply concerned with the new proposed NY State congressional map as it relates to Bayside. It does not make any sense to me to remove Bayside from CD6. In many ways, Bayside's community is connected to Oakland Gardens and Bayside Hills. We share the same New York City community board, police precinct, etc.

This is in contrast to the current CD3 (of which I understand Bayside would become a part under your new redistricting), which is made up primarily of Long Island residents who have completely different governmental institutions as compared to Bayside, and of course different civic issues and concerns than we do since we are part of NYC.

I write you today in hopes that you will reconsider this change and that Bayside will remain a part of CD6. Thank you.

Yours Truly,

Michael Budabin

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Robert Ribar <rob.ribar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Special Master | Comments on Green County Redistricting

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I severely disagree with the proposed redistricting, specifically separating Greene County from Columbia County.

While Greene County and Columbia County are separated by the Hudson River, we are known as the "Twin Counties". We share a hospital, a community college (Columbia-Greene Community College), health resources and tourism. Many people live in one county and work in another, including the restaurateurs just down the block from my home in Catskill who live in Hudson. In fact, it is just about a 12 minute car ride from Catskill, the county seat of Greene County, to Hudson, the county seat of Columbia County. If you are coming to Catskill by Amtrak you in fact need to even take the train to Hudson.

Given our proximity and shared interest with Columbia County, it would be extremely harmful to Greene County to be in a different district from its neighbor.

Under the new map, Catskill would now be aligned in the same district as Ithaca, a city that is three and a half hours away from us. Why should we be connected with Ithaca, which we do not share resources or tourism with when Columbia, Ulster and Albany counties are between ten and forty-five minutes away? In fact, Catskill is physically closer to New York City than it is to Ithaca.

I appreciate the efforts to redraw the maps in a more democratic fashion and that this has been a fast process however, I believe separating Green County from Columbia County, the Hudson River and the Hudson Valley as a whole would lead to nothing but negative outcomes.

Best Regards,

Rob Ribar
33 Allen Street
Catskill, NY 12414

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Brenda A. Wise

From: John Assini <john.assini@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I would encourage you to reconsider changes to the 20th Congressional District. The urban areas of the Capital Region often act "as one" and splitting them could make certain projects and planning more difficult. The cities of Amsterdam and Saratoga Springs are better served if they remain in the 20th Congressional District.

Thanks for your consideration,
John Assini
Schenectady

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Laura Shapiro <tenants2324@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: judge-ordered redistricting map is the worst yet

To Whom it May Concern,

This map is an on-the-ground travesty of New York State law. To alter districts so drastically so close to primary and general elections is a slap in the face to New York State voters as well as to candidates. It needs to be redrawn again so that incumbents are not forced to run against each other and so that neighborhoods are not divided amongst three or four districts. What may have looked equitable on a computer is an IRL disaster. I urge the judge to reject it.

Sincerely,
Laura Shapiro

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Paul K. Kim <pkk@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:25 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Paul K. Kim" <pkk@mac.com>
Date: May 18, 2022 at 6:42:45 PM GMT+2
To: cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: New York 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 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.

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,

Paul Kim
Athens, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Charlene <moneycoach@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:26 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

To whom it may concern,

I currently live in Rep. Nadler's district, and was very disturbed to learn that the district map has been redrawn to a square that takes in a large piece of Rep. Maloney's district on the Eastside. I have lived on the Upper Westside in some variation of my Congressional district for 28 years and owned my coop here for 40 years. Never have I experienced such a bizarre redistricting on that level.

I have two concerns about the shape of this district. First, the Eastside and the Westside have very different cultures, concerns and perspectives. Secondly, the map pits two experienced and capable representatives against each other. How is that useful for our democracy?

I am frankly appalled at the new maps. I have since learned that in many other districts, the same effect of having current representatives needing to run against each other for a seat. In addition, districts with similar concerns have been chopped up. It is absurd and cannot support our communities, public trust or political participation.

I have not located a map that shows the State Senate map. So I don't have a comment on that, except to say, why isn't that more available? It would be hard to come up with a State Senate district map any odder than the one in which I currently reside. Senator Serrano=East Bronx, East Harlem, Roosevelt Island and a chunk of the Upper Westside. I do hope that at least will be improved.

Sincerely,

Charlene Ray

44 West 62nd Street

New York, NY 10023

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May 18, 2022

Honorable Patrick McAllister
Acting Supreme Court Justice
Steuben County Supreme & County Court
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, New York 14810

Special Master Jonathan Cervas
Institute for Politics and Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University
Posner Hall 386
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

My name is Dr. Kim Best and I serve as the appointed Chief Apostle of the Chaplaincy in the Northern eastern part of the United States. I am also a longtime resident of the Bedford Stuyvesant community and have been an advocate there for 53 years.

I am writing to express my utter dismay and strong opposition to the draft congressional map as released by the Special Master. Like many of my fellow Bed-Stuy residents and civic leaders, I submitted testimony to the court on the importance of maintaining the neighborhood in a single congressional district. However, it seems that these statements, along with the historical roots of the neighborhoods and potential devastating impacts, were ignored. Breaking up this community is simply unconscionable, and I urge the Court to reject the proposal and reconsider.

Bed-Stuy as it's fondly known is a historic neighborhood nestled in New York-08 with one of the largest known brownstone communities; attracting people from across the country and the world as newcomers to our district. Bed-Stuy has always been thought of as a village, big enough to welcome all newcomers and small enough to work with everybody from one block to another. As a result of this small community feeling; white and Asian parents send their children to the local schools that are predominately Black without fear or consequence. These parents also shop in the nearby supermarkets and utilize the mass transit systems, like the B25 bus and the #2 and #3 trains religiously. Yes, we even share the same transit problems which has helped to bind us politically.

Christian and Asian parents, Jews from both Israel and Russia have been appointed to Community Board #3 by the local Councilman and the Borough President on a regular basis, demonstrating that race, religion, or gender is not a concern for the community or the local politicians. Newcomers to the Bed-Stuy community are also diligently attending Block Association meetings and Precinct Council meetings at the 79th Precincts, bordering the communities of Bedford Stuyvesant and Fort Green/Clinton Hill. Attending meetings are crucial

to many issues related to gun violence and safety demonstrating that people who live in a community together understand the value of working and voting together, in order to politically strengthen their voice, one neighborhood at a time.

In addition, neighborhoods in the southern end of NY-08 like Mill Basin, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Plumb Beach, Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach and Coney Island have all been struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Major problems along its costal region is due in part to climate change and Hurricane Sandy. Heavy flooding continues to persist in most of these neighborhoods because their common enemy has been the water and the lack of real services from government at the local and federal levels. These neighborhoods have the same problems, fighting to save lives, homes, and financial stability in their respective neighborhoods. Heavy flooding continues to persist which means these community leaders will continue to fight this issue with support from people who live next door to them.

Redistricting Commission's purpose is to balance power, giving no advantage to nongroup party. In other words, balancing power without favoritism is extremely important to this process. It seems, however, that the Special Master failed to follow this mandate, which was supported by the voters of New York. Instead of keeping NY-08 intact, so that many of the ongoing problems will continue to receive support, the draft map weakens our voice and robs us of the opportunity to elect someone who we want. Instead, we will be fractured and face greater challenges in bringing closure to many of the problems that we have worked with our elected congressional Representative to fix.

Furthermore, the draft map unfairly and unreasonably draws two longstanding elected officials in the same district. As I, and a number of my fellow New Yorkers testified, this should be avoided at all costs. This is further unsupported by New York voters who deserve the ability to be represented in one continuous district by the elected Representative of our choice.

The proposed map is gravely concerning as it will have very real consequences on our community. I therefore urge you to reject the Special Master's draft map and instead look to alternatives that preserve our historic multicultural community, instead of silencing our voices and tearing us apart.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Best

Brenda A. Wise

From: Sam Sutton <Sam.Sutton@aeny.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Request on behalf of the Sephardic Community reemphasizing our Previous request

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas:

I am writing to you as a active member of the Sephardic Jewish community of southern Brooklyn to respectfully request that the court revise the congressional district lines for New York's 11th Congressional District submitted by the Special Master in the final map ordered by the court.

During the Independent Redistricting Commission's public hearing process, members of Brooklyn's Sephardic Jewish community encouraged the commission to keep our neighborhoods within the 11th Congressional District. The Sephardic Jewish community has shared conservative values with Staten Island, as well as that borough's growing Jewish population, and we have mutually benefited from our shared representation in the U.S. House of Representatives for decades. Previously, from Ave N southward, large swaths of our community have been voting with the 11th C.D.

These points of consideration are important to the future of the members of our community and they are amply reflected in the public record.

Respectfully, I encourage you to restore the Brooklyn Sephardic Jewish Community's longstanding place within New York's 11th Congressional District in the final court-ordered district maps.

Thank you,

Sam Sutton

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Lisa Wilson <lisapizza2602@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master for Redistricting Jonathan Cervas

I would like to take a brief moment to urge you to reconsider your decision to divide Jefferson County into two Congressional districts.

I cannot tell you enough how crucial it is for Jefferson County to be one cohesive region within the Congressional boundaries of our neighboring counties St. Lawrence and Lewis. Dividing the county would not be responsible as many residents of Jefferson County work and commute north to St. Lawrence and even Franklin county, as well as the Adirondacks.

Dividing Jefferson County places all of our residents at a severe disadvantage within the county as well. Thousands and thousands of people everyday from South Jefferson County commute north to Fort Drum or Alex Bay and those in North Jefferson County commute south to Watertown or Sackets Harbor. Cutting Jefferson into two will be an organizational nightmare for our community.

Please consider keeping Jefferson County as one county under one Congressional District as we have been for decades. We must be together within NY-21 for the sake of our community!

Thank you!

Lisa Wilson
Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kathleen Gartner <kategartner@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:28 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,
Kathleen Gartner
Columbia County resident

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Laura Brignull <laurabrignull@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: new congressional maps

Dear Special Master:

The five areas of Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady and Troy have deep roots and are connected through shared educational and cultural institutions, as well as CDTA transportation systems. Putting these cities in different congressional districts will decrease the Capital Region's ability to share its unified voice in Congress.

Thank you for all of your hard work. Creating new maps has to be a difficult task, but please reconsider breaking up the Capital Region.

~Laura Brignull

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Claire Wasser <clairewasser@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Don't Fracture Kingston!

Hon. Patrick J. McAllister, Justice
New York State Supreme Court, 7th Judicial District
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, New York 14810

For decades, Ulster County residents have been served by a single representative in Congress. Please don't break us in two. From the Hudson River to the Catskill mountains and fertile valleys in between, our local governments are working together to ensure everyone in Ulster has the opportunity to thrive. We need one voice to speak for us in Congress, who will act on our behalf to meet the needs of our county as a whole.

--
Claire Wasser^{man}

"Resist the urge to disregard the facts"- Claire Wasser

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Judith E. Klein <judithk2006@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Judith E. Klein; Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney;
CongressmanNadler@mail.house.gov
Subject: New York City Redistricting

Wednesday, May 18th, 2022

Dear Sir or Ms.:

I am currently in Congressional District 12 with Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney as my representative. Years ago, when I lived in Chelsea, Congressman Jerrold Nadler was my representative. I VALUE them BOTH!

I understand that the way the district lines are being redrawn, that Congressman Jerrold Nadler and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney will now be running against each other in the SAME DISTRICT for the Democratic nomination! I OBJECT! I do NOT want to have to choose between Congressman Jerrold Nadler and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. They are BOTH IMPORTANT members of Congress. They should be able to run independently from each other in SEPARATE DISTRICTS!

Please do what you can to REDRESS this incipient INJUSTICE!

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Judith E. Klein

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Laura Nordstrom <lauran.conklin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Proposed Congressional lines and Ulster County

The City of Kingston, Ulster County's only city and the seat of our county government, should not be divided between two Congressional districts. Kingston is one community, a small and diverse city that has been wholly represented in Congress for its entire 250 year history. Dividing our representation into two will diminish our ability to impact national policies that concern our community, confuse our voters, and make it harder for residents to get the federal resources and services we need.

Splitting the northwest section of Kingston off into the proposed District 19 will also have the effect of diluting Ulster County's minority voices, which appears to be a clear violation of voter rights and constitutional protections. Our communities of color in the City of Kingston and the southern part of the county in the proposed District 18 must not be separated.

Further, for decades, Ulster County residents have been served by a single representative in Congress. Please don't break us in two. From the Hudson River to the Catskill mountains and fertile valleys in between, our local governments are working together to ensure everyone in Ulster has the opportunity to thrive. We need one voice to speak for us in Congress, who will act on our behalf to meet the needs of our County as a whole.

Thank you,
Laura Nordstrom
11 Hanratty Street
Kingston, NY 12401

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: carlosatanas45@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Letter to Court

Dear Special Master Dr. Cervas and Judge McAllister,

The new maps look great. They actually for once appear geometrically coherent and logical, as opposed to the gerrymandered maps of decades past. Stick to them!! Do not be swayed by Paul Tonko sending his droves of minions at you to harass you about Amsterdam!! BUT THESE DISTRICTS ARE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS DISTRICTS. **That is a good thing, but it means new contenders for primaries!! How can you possibly legally require these people to collect over a thousand signatures (three times that actually due to the usual need to over collect) in only 20 days???** You need to cut the designating petition signature requirement the same way you cut the signature collection period!!! MAKE THIS CHANGE ASAP, but please keep the maps as Dr. Cervas published them on the 16th. Candidates have already geared up with those districts for their campaigns. They can't change everything yet again. And the districts Dr. Cervas came up with are REASONABLE, LEGAL, AND COHERENT. Don't let the angry mob sent by the Democratic Party establishment sway you!!

Sincerely Yours,

Carlos

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: David Culver <culdavsac@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting maps for CD-19

To Special Master -- Redistricting:

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,
 Gayle Group and David Culver

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: DianeOA <oda8590@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Pending Approval of the NY Redistricting Map

May 17, 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to respectfully request that the Judge before whom the New York redistricting map is before, **please NOT** approve it.

For many, many years, **Co-Op City** in **Bronx, NY** has been very well represented by being part of the current **16th Congressional District**. We are a very large, closely knit, hard working middle to upper middle class neighborhood with a consistently meaningful, productive and strong voice. A voice that the current 16th Congressional District representatives have stood up for and brought countless improvements to. They know us and are most equipped to address our concerns.

Redistricting us will **unfairly and negatively** impact us, squelch our unified voices and greatly diminish the many advances

forward that the residents of **Co-Op City** have benefitted from as part of the current district.

Thank you for your consideration.

O. D. Adebowale

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Stephanie Ellis <stephellis1024@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Please keep Ulster County together in new map

Dear Justice McAllister,

The City of Kingston, Ulster County's only city and the seat of our county government, should not be divided between two Congressional districts. Kingston is one community, a small and diverse city that has been wholly represented in Congress for its entire 250 year history. Dividing our representation into two will diminish our ability to impact national policies that concern our community, confuse our voters, and make it harder for residents to get the federal resources and services we need.

Splitting the northwest section of Kingston off into the proposed District 19 will also have the effect of diluting Ulster County's minority voices, which appears to be a clear violation of voter rights and constitutional protections. Our communities of color in the City of Kingston and the southern part of the county in the proposed District 18 must not be separated.

For decades, Ulster County residents have been served by a single representative in Congress. Please don't break us in two. From the Hudson River to the Catskill mountains and fertile valleys in between, our local governments are working together to ensure everyone in Ulster has the opportunity to thrive. We need one voice to speak for us in Congress, who will act on our behalf to meet the needs of our county as a whole.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Ellis
7 Keller Lane
Tillson, NY 12486

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Aleah Dacey <aleahdacey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Map comment

Hello,

I live in Hurley, NY.

For decades, Ulster County residents have been served by a single representative in Congress. Please don't break us in two. From the Hudson River to the Catskill mountains and fertile valleys in between, our local governments are working together to ensure everyone in Ulster has the opportunity to thrive. We need one voice to speak for us in Congress, who will act on our behalf to meet the needs of our county as a whole.

Thank you,
Aleah Dacey

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Frances Spark <fraspark@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:31 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master Greene County Redistricting

Dear Mr. Cervas,

As a voter in Catskill and Greene County, NY, I am distressed to discover that Greene and Columbia Counties have been placed in separate voting districts in the new district maps. Greene and Columbia are so deeply connected that we are often called the "twin counties." With a major highway bridge joining Catskill with Columbia County's main population center, the City of Hudson, we are much more joined than divided by the Hudson River, both counties identifying as part of the Hudson River Valley. In contrast, the mountain range of the Catskills serves as a significant barrier dividing Greene in both character and ease of travel from the counties to its west.

Greene and Columbia Counties share numerous crucial local services:

- Greene County has no hospital; the closest hospital for Greene residents is Columbia Memorial, in Hudson.
- Greene and Columbia Counties share a community college, Columbia-Greene Community College, located in Hudson.
- The local branch of the Cornell University Extension program serves both Greene and Columbia Counties.
- The nonprofit organization Mental Health Association of Columbia-Greene Counties, Inc., serves both counties and plays a major role in providing mental health services to residents of both counties.
- The nonprofit organization Twin County Recovery Services serves both counties, providing clinics in both counties for substance abuse recovery and rehabilitation services.

- The closest train station for the line providing passenger rail service to New York City for Greene County residents is located in Hudson, a five-minute drive from Catskill.

Greene and Columbia Counties essentially form a single community, with Greene County residents dependent upon many services located in Columbia County that serve Greene County residents. I urge you to adjust the district maps to keep Greene and Columbia Counties in the same district, as we have been in the past. To separate these twin counties into different districts would violate the principle of keeping communities intact when setting district boundaries.

Thank you.

Frances Spark
Catskill, Greene County, NY

Frances Spark
Cell #: 917-754-6073
E-mail: fraspark@gmail.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ronald Lehrer <ronaldlehrer@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting Plan

The plan as recently presented reads like a concerted attack state-wide and nationally on the Democratic Party. It is a disgrace and is in great news of sane modification.

Ronald Lehrer
Brooklyn, NU

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Eve Walter <evenwalter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Reapportionment Plan

I write regarding the proposed New York State reapportionment plan released by Special Master Dr. Jonathan R. Cervas on May 16, 2022 related to the City of Kingston.

Dividing the City of Kingston between the 18th and 19th congressional districts, and the division of Ulster County weakens the electoral voice of the city and the county. I request that the proposed reapportionment plan be modified to include the City of Kingston in a single congressional district and that Ulster County is kept whole.

Regards,
Eve Walter, PhD
Village of New Paltz, Ulster County NY

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May 18, 2022

Honorable Patrick McAllister
Acting Supreme Court Justice
Steuben County Supreme & County Court
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, New York 14810

Special Master Jonathan Cervas
Institute for Politics and Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University
Posner Hall 386
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

My name is Dr. Kim Best and I serve as the appointed Chief Apostle of the Chaplaincy in the Northern eastern part of the United States. I am also a longtime resident of the Bedford Stuyvesant community and have been an advocate there for 53 years.

I am writing to express my utter dismay and strong opposition to the draft congressional map as released by the Special Master. Like many of my fellow Bed-Stuy residents and civic leaders, I submitted testimony to the court on the importance of maintaining the neighborhood in a single congressional district. However, it seems that these statements, along with the historical roots of the neighborhoods and potential devastating impacts, were ignored. Breaking up this community is simply unconscionable, and I urge the Court to reject the proposal and reconsider.

Bed-Stuy as it's fondly known is a historic neighborhood nestled in New York-08 with one of the largest known brownstone communities; attracting people from across the country and the world as newcomers to our district. Bed-Stuy has always been thought of as a village, big enough to welcome all newcomers and small enough to work with everybody from one block to another. As a result of this small community feeling; white and Asian parents send their children to the local schools that are predominately Black without fear or consequence. These parents also shop in the nearby supermarkets and utilize the mass transit systems, like the B25 bus and the #2 and #3 trains religiously. Yes, we even share the same transit problems which has helped to bind us politically.

Christian and Asian parents, Jews from both Israel and Russia have been appointed to Community Board #3 by the local Councilman and the Borough President on a regular basis, demonstrating that race, religion, or gender is not a concern for the community or the local politicians. Newcomers to the Bed-Stuy community are also diligently attending Block Association meetings and Precinct Council meetings at the 79th Precincts, bordering the communities of Bedford Stuyvesant and Fort Green/Clinton Hill. Attending meetings are crucial

to many issues related to gun violence and safety demonstrating that people who live in a community together understand the value of working and voting together, in order to politically strengthen their voice, one neighborhood at a time.

In addition, neighborhoods in the southern end of NY-08 like Mill Basin, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Plumb Beach, Manhattan Beach, Brighton Beach and Coney Island have all been struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Major problems along its costal region is due in part to climate change and Hurricane Sandy. Heavy flooding continues to persist in most of these neighborhoods because their common enemy has been the water and the lack of real services from government at the local and federal levels. These neighborhoods have the same problems, fighting to save lives, homes, and financial stability in their respective neighborhoods. Heavy flooding continues to persist which means these community leaders will continue to fight this issue with support from people who live next door to them.

Redistricting Commission's purpose is to balance power, giving no advantage to nongroup party. In other words, balancing power without favoritism is extremely important to this process. It seems, however, that the Special Master failed to follow this mandate, which was supported by the voters of New York. Instead of keeping NY-08 intact, so that many of the ongoing problems will continue to receive support, the draft map weakens our voice and robs us of the opportunity to elect someone who we want. Instead, we will be fractured and face greater challenges in bringing closure to many of the problems that we have worked with our elected congressional Representative to fix.

Furthermore, the draft map unfairly and unreasonably draws two longstanding elected officials in the same district. As I, and a number of my fellow New Yorkers testified, this should be avoided at all costs. This is further unsupported by New York voters who deserve the ability to be represented in one continuous district by the elected Representative of our choice.

The proposed map is gravely concerning as it will have very real consequences on our community. I therefore urge you to reject the Special Master's draft map and instead look to alternatives that preserve our historic multicultural community, instead of silencing our voices and tearing us apart.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kim Best

Brenda A. Wise

From: Elisa Tinti <elisatinti26.2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:34 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the City of Kingston whole

Dear Honorable Judge Wise,
Please reconsider your newly proposed congressional maps and keep the City of Kingston whole. We are one city and we need one voice.
Thank you for your time,
Elisa Tinti

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Cherry Chassan <cherrychassan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Don't fracture the city of Kingston

The City of Kingston, Ulster County's only city, should not be divided between two Congressional districts. Kingston is one community, a small and diverse city that has been wholly represented in Congress for its entire 250 year history. Dividing our representation into two will diminish our ability to impact national policies that concern our community, confuse our voters, and make it harder for residents to get the federal resources and services we need.

Splitting the northwest section of Kingston off into the proposed District 19 will also have the effect of diluting Ulster County's minority voices, which appears to be a clear violation of voter rights and constitutional protections. Our communities of color in the City of Kingston and the southern part of the county in the proposed District 18 must not be separated.

Keep Ulster County whole!! We need one voice to speak for us in Congress!!

Respectfully,
Cherry Chassan
Woodstock, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Janine Thomas Smith <psalm91jpa@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Bronx District 16 Concern

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your attention. My concern is community representation, in a way that makes an effective way of ensuring and enriching quality of life. This move seems to harm this very important need, especially in times such as these. Many oppose this division. Please reconsider.

Janine Thomas
Community Activist

Always ready to serve him.

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Jerry Armer <jjarmer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New Congressional Lines

By splitting the Brooklyn communities of Red Hook and Gowanus into multiple congressional districts you are hurting these minority communities and doing exactly the southern states have doing for year. Making sure that black & brown have no voting power, can not stand up for their communities. The special master has made a mistake. These communities must be kept whole as they have been for over 30 years.

Jerry Armer

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Seth Masters <masterssny@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a Columbia County voter, in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week.

The proposed map groups Columbia County with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, which is unprecedented and would be terrible for Columbia County. Columbia County has little in common with the other counties included in the proposed CD19 which are in the middle and western portions of New York State.

As you may know, Columbia County is tethered economically, culturally and socially to its Hudson Valley neighbors to the north and south: Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties. The proposed map ignores these connections, and in doing so, denies our county of effective representation.

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with 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. Please correct this grave mistake.

Very truly yours,

Seth Masters
PO Box 1008
Canaan NY 12029

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Cynthia Timmel <Victor5M@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYS voter district maps

May 17, 2022

Re: Support for redrawn NYS voter district maps

Dear Honorable McAllister:

Please be advised that I support the newly redrawn NYS voter district maps in order to provide a better distribution of fair representation of both the Democratic and Republican parties. The gerrymandered maps are completely unacceptable, regardless of favored party affiliation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the representation of all New York State voters as the Empire State encompasses a vast majority of values and views that need to be uniquely addressed in each individual region.

Sincerely,

Cynthia E. Timmel
East Aurora, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Casey Kurtti <ckurtti@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Kingston / ulster map

I was alarmed by the dramatic change that cuts Kingston into two districts. Our county is in a period of transition in so many ways - influx of new residents re Covid, economic pressure, serious mental health and addiction issues etc etc and citizens are struggling to keep it all together . We do not need a cleaver taken to our county especially at this point in time .

Sincerely Casey Kurtti

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Brenda A. Wise

From: dinorosie@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional map draft - Please do NOT split the city of Kingston

The City of Kingston, Ulster County's only city and the seat of our county government, should NOT be divided between two Congressional districts. Kingston is one community, a small and diverse city that has been wholly represented in Congress for its entire 250 year history. Dividing our representation into two will diminish our ability to impact national policies that concern our community, confuse our voters, and make it harder for residents to get the federal resources and services we need.

Splitting the northwest section of Kingston off into the proposed District 19 will also have the chilling effect of diluting Ulster County's minority voices, which is a clear violation of voter rights and constitutional protections. Our communities of color in the City of Kingston and the southern part of the county in the proposed District 18 must NOT be separated.

Sincerely,

Rose Bonczek
76 Clifton Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401
www.roseburnettbonczek.com
Director, Consultant, Educator, Author
Artistic Director, *Gi60 International One Minute Theatre Festival - U.S. Live*

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Melanie Taylor <melaniestarrtaylor@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:36 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.

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,
Melanie Taylor
Athens, NY

Sent from Mail for Windows