

Brenda A. Wise

From: Hal Brodie <halbrodie1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master

Dear Mr. Cervas:

I am a long time resident of Greene County. I am writing to ask you to reconsider the congressional boundaries that you have drawn for Greene County. As drawn, the boundaries separate Greene County from our Twin County across the river, Columbia. We share a long history and many services with Columbia. In addition, the boundaries separate Greene County from other counties along the Hudson River. Greene County's economy is inextricably tied to Columbia and the other counties along the river. We should have common representation.

Sincerely,

Hal Brodie

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Manette Berlinger <manette@nyc.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYC maps

Dear Judge McAllister, Jonathan Cervas and all relevant parties to the new maps,

Please know that disenfranchising people who have been oppressed is not only deeply, morally wrong. It always engenders future discord from which everyone suffers.

Please do not link your names, reputations and legacies to a decision that dishonors the most fundamental values of our nation. Think of what your children and grandchildren will have to confront in a future of strife, and how they will see your part in this critical decision.

Read history, look around the world, and do what. Is fair and honorable: draw maps that give all people a voice.

Manette Berlinger

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Barry Baz Nisman <barry.nisman@mindspring.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: redistrcting outrage

My wife and I are writing to implore a revised plan to what is an outrageous roadmap to eliminate Democrats from their districts, or to have incumbents vie against each other.

Again, we implore the Judge who will make final decision to see how this is eliminating African American districts, it, the plan, is fraught with unfair manipulations of populations.

Thank you

Barry and Barbara Nisman
22 Sherman Ave
Plainview NY 11803

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Slack, Suzanne <SSlack@scsd.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Two Senators for the City of Syracuse

Good afternoon,

I am the CFO for the Syracuse City School District and I have spent most of my career working with our local senate and assembly to ensure that they understand the needs of our community via public education. I can say hands-down that without their voice in Albany, the SCSD would not be in the position it is today to offer a robust PreK-12 education. We are the 5th largest City school district in NYS and we need appropriate representation and support at the State Capital. Former Senator John DeFrancisco, in conjunction with Assemblyman Magnarelli, invested a lot of time and effort not only understanding our needs and requests for legislation and funding, but they ensure that we are accountable for results. Senators May and Mannion are continuing this great democratic process and we rely on both of them regularly for assistance.

I am writing today to ask you to kindly reconsider any redistricting measure that would lessen the number of senators representing our great City of Syracuse. This community is on the cusp of a tremendous turn-around and losing representation in Albany will surely slow our progress for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration. Suzanne

Suzanne Slack
Chief Financial Officer
Syracuse City School District
725 Harrison Street
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315)435-4826
sslack@scsd.us

Building Our
Future

The Syracuse City School District's mission is to build, support, and sustain school communities that provide all students with a high-quality education that prepares them to graduate as responsible, active citizens ready for success in college and careers and prepared to compete in a global economy.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Penny Coleman <ppcoleman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: PLEASE keep the City of Kingston and Ulster County whole!

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.

Patricia Coleman
Kingston NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Pat Chesterfield <pcaldwel@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:45 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

As a lifelong capital region resident, it is very important to me that my congressional district continues to represent all of the people with shared concerns. It is my hope that the 20th congressional district is not split apart as is currently being entertained in the new redistricting maps. Please keep Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga, Schenectady and Troy together!

Pat Chesterfield
Sent from my iPad

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Brenda A. Wise

From: keydancer1128@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:46 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: news@ulstercountymocrats.com
Subject: new draft Congressional maps

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 for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Susanne Herl
796 Murray Road
Kingston NY 12401

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Brenda A. Wise

From: barwass@optonline.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:48 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New district maps

As a born and bred New Yorker, I was appalled to see the new maps drawn for our state. I am opposed to this new redistricting and would beg the Special Master to rethink his map and really give great thought to the many neighborhoods that exist in our state.

Please do not impose this travesty on citizens of our state.

Most sincerely,

Barbara Wasserman

3777 Independence Ave.

Bronx, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: sarah katherine bleibtreu <bleibtreu@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

I am a resident and a Greene County, NY, taxpayer.

The newly defined redistricting map is extremely upsetting.

Separating Columbia and Greene Counties is alienating,

This realignment could potentially hinder access to local health services , and could dissolve the newly resurgent cultural and economic growth

And I fear will drive a larger wedge into this community creating a fulcrum that would set the newly thriving communities in this county adrift.

It's a very precarious time, Greene and Dutchess counties were the highest earning counties in all New York state during the Covid crisis, and surely this twined prosperity speaks of our cultural interconnectedness .

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. Our mutual growth and development is because of our crossover interests and concerns, divide us and you let that vine wither further.

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,
Sarah Katherine Bleibtreu
Athens, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Shelley E Smith <shelleyesmitharchitect@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:49 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYS redistricting

I beg reconsideration of this last minute, extremely disruptive, and what seems to be very ill-informed redistricting plan by a single individual.

Please, please reconsider and listen to the non-partisan, long-standing, thoroughly knowledgeable bodies dedicated to fair elections in this state.

Respectfully,

--

Shelley E Smith Architect
100 Haines Road, Suite 1001
Bedford Hills NY 10507
914.263.3405
ShelleyESmithArchitect@gmail.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Greg Lubow <gdlubow@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:47 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: SPECIAL MASSTER SENATE REDISTRICTING
Attachments: Senate redistricting letter.docx

GREG D. LUBOW
Attorney at Law

45 Years of Quality Representation
1977-2022

6026 MAIN STREET
PO BOX 839

PHONE: 518-589-5723
FAX: 518-589-6015

TANNERSVILLE, NY 12485

E-MAIL: gdlubow@gmail.com

May 18, 2022

Via Email Only

Re: New York State Senate 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.

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Greene County has historically been a second home destination for people living downstate. Eventually, many move to Greene County on a year round basis, and make Greene County their primary, and voting, residence. There is little connection to the farming communities to the west, which your new district would put us in.

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.

Very truly yours,
Greg D. Lubow, Esq.

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Greg D. Lubow, Esq.
6026 Main St. PO Box 839
Tannersville, NY 12485
518-589-5723 -ph
518-589-6015 - fx

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Attorney at Law

45 Years of Quality Representation
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PO BOX 839
TANNERSVILLE, NY 12485

PHONE: 518-589-5723
FAX: 518-589-6015
E-MAIL: gdlubow@gmail.com

May 18, 2022

Via Email Only

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Very truly yours,
Greg D. Lubow, Esq.

Brenda A. Wise

From: arielle kane <arielle_kane@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:51 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Redistricting SD9

To whom it concerns:

I write in strong opposition to the proposal to split Rockville Centre (presently part of SD9 in its entirety) across more than one Senate district. We are a small Village unit and can best be represented by a single Senator who can know and understand us as a Village. Cracking our Village for gerrymandering purposes would needlessly interfere with our Village's ability to have consistent, coherent representation in Albany.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Arielle Kane

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Adelle McElveen <adelle.mcelveen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:50 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Objection to Draft Congressional Plan

**To Hon. Justice Patrick McAllister and Special Master Jonathan Cervas:
 re: Objection to Draft Congressional Plan**

I am a resident of the 56th Assembly District, residing at 409 Decatur St, in Bedford Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, New York.

I strongly object to the draft Congressional redistricting plan recently proposed by the Special Master.

In his plan, my community Bedford Stuyvesant is split between two congressional seats, thereby cracking the Voting strength of the residents of this historic community.

Bedford Stuyvesant was the first community of black residents to elect a black person to the political office over 60 years ago. It is a cohesive block of black voters with a history of advocating for the voting rights of Black people and other civil and human rights.

Within the 56th Assembly District, we are a community of interest with common roots that advocates for our collective needs and institutions. (Boys & Girls High School, Interfaith Hospital, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp., Magnolia Earth Tree Center, etc.)

We respectfully request that the entire 56th Assembly District be included in the 8th Congressional District.

**Adelle McElveen
 409 Decatur St, #2
 Brooklyn, NY 11233**

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 Editor, [FashionistaLab.com](https://fashionistalab.com)
 Insta: [@FashionistaLab](https://www.instagram.com/fashionistalab)
 Twitter: [@FashionistaLab](https://twitter.com/fashionistalab)

"For yesterday is but a memory and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well lived makes every yesterday a memory of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope."

The Sufi

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Carm Basile <CarmB@CDTA.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:51 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!


Hello – historically, the Capital Region has been within the same Congressional District in recognition of the shared communities of Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga Springs, Troy and Amsterdam. Our services operate throughout these communities, and we will soon add Amsterdam to our service network. This also provides for appropriate funding and congressional support for CDTA projects and initiatives. We strongly encourage that the “Special Master’s” final map keeps the 20th Congressional District in place so that we can continue to develop our mobility options throughout the broader Capital Region. Thank you.

Carm Basile

Carm Basile
Chief Executive Officer



Capital District Transportation Authority
110 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, NY 12206

 Phone: 518.437.6840

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Brenda A. Wise

From: rhonnie70@optimum.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:52 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Subject: Map of Northeast Bronx District

Good afternoon,

Please retain the map of the 16th congressional district, which covers large areas of the northeast bronx. I am a resident of co-op city and want to be able to keep elected representatives who will address all of our needs and concerns.

Thank you

Rhonda Petway

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Brenda A. Wise

From: K Mc Lane <kxmclane@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:52 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NY Redistricting

Dear Mr. Wise,
The maps drawn by the special master cannot stand.

I understand the previous maps were found unconstitutional, but the special master's maps **also violate our state constitution**, which requires that the core of existing congressional districts be maintained.

The special master appointed to this task doesn't know our cities and towns. These new maps leave way too many of our black and latino residents, particularly, without a voice. We fought long and hard to get equal representation, and these maps not only destroy that progress but again, they also violate our state constitution

There has to be a better way. I hope that you and the state of NY will find a fairer redistricting solution.
Sincerely,
Kathleen McLane, lifetime NY resident

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Wendy Wolfenson <wwolfenson@hvc.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New Redistricting Map—Strongly Oppose

With respect, I strongly oppose the new Congressional redistricting map.

I live in the Town of Olive in Ulster County. You are cutting me off from my nearest city and County Seat (Kingston) and places where I routinely shop and socialize (Rhinebeck, Dutchess County). I have no connection at all to the central and western areas of the State where you have stuck us.

Please redraw the map so that it makes better sense, does not split my county and matches life.

Thank you.
Wendy Wolfenson

Sent from my iPad

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Wayne <spanierwayne@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:53 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Dividing Ulster county

Please Don't mess with our districts here!
It works well the way it is...you can only do damage by breaking us apart.
Wayne Spanier
Town of Ulster Resident

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: susan gross <susanegross@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:54 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting maps -- STOP!!!

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.

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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,

Susan Gross

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marjorie Sachs <ms4worldpeace@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:54 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Retaining the Northeast Bronx communities with Lower Westchester

I am a 33 year resident of New Rochelle, NY and I am writing to urge you to take action on the following:

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

And this is why:

o The special master's proposed map decreases the Black voter population by about 17%, this dilutes the voting power of Black people in NY-16, further marginalizing them and making it difficult for them to elect candidates that best represent their interests.

o The northeast Bronx's predominantly Black community was splintered into three congressional districts: Co-Op City is mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY-15 and Edenwald kept in NY-16. This directly dropped the Black voter population in NY-16 and split these communities of interest.

It is your responsibility to make this right and to do whatever it takes to make sure that NY -16 retains the Bronx communities of Coop City, Edenwald and Williamsbridge with lower Westchester.

Wishing you all the best,

Marjorie Sachs

R

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Leah Lasher <llasher80@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:54 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
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Best Regards,
 Leah Lasher
 Athens, NY

Sent from my iPhone

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Cynthia Richards <cynthia.richards@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting - Columbia County

CYNTHIA R. RICHARDS
256 Mt. Merino Rd.
Hudson, NY 12534
Cynthia.richards@hotmail.com

May 18, 2022

To the Special Master - Redistricting

Please revise the map released earlier this week for the 19th Congressional District to include Columbia County with its neighboring, Hudson River-centered communities.

I am a resident of **Hudson** in **Columbia County**. The proposed draft Congressional map would have terrible consequences for our citizens and our county because it combines our River-based community with those in Western New York. (While the maps for the Senate and State Assembly are not ideal, these recognize the connections of Columbia County to surrounding River areas). The draft redistricting means I would no longer have a voice in the United States House of Representatives.

My county works closely with other counties and cities along the Hudson River. We share common concerns about our river-centered communities – bridges, economic and environmental matters immediately spring to mind. We cross-pollinate on cultural programs and work together to provide housing, employment, healthcare and education. We work as a group to promote tourism. In fact travel brochures from every source refer to our area as the mid-Hudson Valley.

Making Columbia County part of areas in western New York, which are so far away from us and the River, will destroy those relationships we have worked so hard to build. I believe you recognize this as important because the Senate and State Assembly maps, though not ideal, largely unite our River-based areas.

Please revise the map so that the Mid-Hudson Valley can speak as one in Congress and enable *me* to be represented in the United States House of Representatives. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia R. Richards

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Mary Finneran <msfinn123@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

Please forgive my duplicating a letter sent to me. I normally write my own, but time is of the essence and I believe the electoral democratic process is at risk.

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,

Ain't no power like the power of the people 'cause the power of the people don't stop!

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Mary Habib <marylinkhabib@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: City of Syracuse

I am writing to ask that you NOT reduce the two senators providing representation for the City of Syracuse during the redistricting process. Our city is one of the five largest in the state and as such should have commensurate representation in the State Senate. I look forward to your support of this request.

Mary Habib
612 Glenwood Ave
Syracuse, NY 13207

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Maxine Kamin <maxmpk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Kelleigh McKenzie
Subject: Redistricting maps

Regarding the new maps, they are very disturbing. I have lived in Ulster County since 1973 I am very concerned about the division of the county and the city of Kingston as well. It will be very confusing. It will diminish the voice of Ulster County voters. It will make it very difficult to campaign. As for the city of Kingston, I worked there as an educator for over 20 years and I am currently a founding board member of the AJ Williams Myers African roots Community center. It seems to me that once again people of color are getting the raw end of the deal. Splitting the city of Kingston into two parts will obviously dilute the influence of the minority population, for as you know, one voice speaks loudest. Do we want to go back to the days of Jim Crow?

With all the growth and new residents moving in to Ulster County, more change is not helpful. We need to continue to build community. We need one voice to represent us in Congress.

Thank you-

Maxine Kamin

Port Ewen, NY

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Josh Mehlman FJCC <Josh@flatbushjewish.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Redistricting Proposal Concern

Good afternoon.

Thank you for your efforts to draw fair lines for the upcoming election.

Our organization represents one of the largest and most diverse Jewish populations in N.Y.

We appeal to you to consider Congressional lines that will not divide our like minded community in three parts, instead please combine Boro Park/Kensington Flatbush/Midwood/Marine Park/Madison into one district.

We are disenfranchised by being divided. We have never had a congressional office in an orthodox area, despite our growth and expansion. We have hundreds of synagogues and yeshivas but no representative who feels obligated to address our concerns.

Thank you.

We are available for any questions.

Take care,

Josh

Josh Mehlman
Chairman
Flatbush Jewish Community Coalition, FJCC
917-328-5674 Cell
Josh@FlatbushJewish.com
www.FlatbushJewish.com
@FlatbushJCC
@JoshMehlman

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Shane Doughty <nekwa08@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; Cervas@CMU.edu
Subject: Keep Co op City in CD16

Hello,

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

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

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

Thank you,

[Shane D., sec 4]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Caroline Angoorly (Home) <caroline.angoorly@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:56 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: URGENT:: Special Master | NYS Redistricting | Greene County - Part of Hudson Valley and Capital Region

Dear Special Master Cervas,

I am a long-time resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, and I am very upset and deeply concerned about the newly defined redistricting map and urge you to reconsider any outcome that does not group Greene with its fellow counties in both the Mid-Hudson Valley and Capital Region.

Separating Columbia and Greene Counties in particular 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 to properly reflect Greene County as part of its inherent functional and cultural community with Columbia County.

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 me and for my fellow 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.

I understand that this process to redraw maps has had to happen quickly, but in the required haste, I respectfully urge you not to discount the vital relationship between Columbia and Greene County, nor our relationship to the Hudson Valley and the Capital Region. These connections are foundational to our communities and our sense of home.

Please contact me if you wish to follow-up on any aspects of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Angoorly
 Catskill, NY

caroline.angoorly@gmail.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Adam Chanler-Berat <adamchanlerberat@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NY State Maps

Dear Judge McAllister,

The new congressional and state Senate map drawn by the court-appointed expert may look pretty but greatly disadvantages communities of color and tears apart communities of similar interests. It is undemocratic. In addition, this last minute map change and split primary will have the impact of confusing voters, furthering the damage already done by the proposed map. All of this would add up to a shameful miscarriage of democracy and negatively impact the people most important in an election, the VOTERS.

Please find another way,

Adam Chanler-Berat

Brooklyn, NY
Zip Code: 11222

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Peter Aaron <paaron64@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: E2022-0116CV Harkenrider v. Hochul: Proposed Kingston Redistricting

Dear Ms. Wise,

As a resident of Kingston since 2016, I am upset and alarmed about the proposed redistricting plans contained in E2022-0116CV *Harkenrider v. Hochul* .

Dividing our city and district in such a way would misrepresent the people who live here — especially our minority communities — and would eclipse the voices of Kingston residents with those of residents in the Southern Tier and South Central New York.

The plan makes no sense and should not be implemented.

Best,
Peter A. Wegele
15 Hewitt Place
Kingston, NY
12401

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Teo Camporeale <teocamporeale@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:00 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Proposed Green County Redistricting Map

Dear Mr. Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I am writing to tell how upset and confused I am about the newly defined redistricting map. Separating Columbia and Greene Counties does not make sense, on so many levels!

It goes against so much that has been worked on in the past years, to make our area of the Hudson Valley a particularly unique and greater community than just the smaller local communities within.

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.

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!

All the best,
Teo Camporeale
Athens, NY

Teo Camporeale
718-744-4729

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Bernell Grier <bernell_grier@impacctbk.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:58 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@cmu.edu
Cc: Naila Moore; Theresa Marshman
Subject: NYS Redistricting --- Opposition to Proposed Mapping
Attachments: IB Against Redistrict Map.docx; IB Against Redistrict Map.pdf

Importance: High

I hereby submit testimony on behalf of IMPACCT Brooklyn in regards to the NYS Re Districting (PDF and Word Document)



Bernell K. Grier
Executive Director
IMPACCT Brooklyn

Theresa Marshman
Executive Assistant to Executive Director
(Phone) 347-482-0576
(Cell) 917-828-6321
Email: theresa_marshallman@impacctbk.org

1000 Dean Street, Suite 420
Brooklyn, New York 11238
Email: Bernell_grier@impacctbk.org
Office # 718.522.2613 x 130

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**IMPACCT
BROOKLYN**

**Strengthening communities through housing,
economic opportunity and advocacy**

May 18, 2022

Honorable Patrick McAllister
Acting Supreme Court Justice
Steuben County Supreme & County Court
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, New York 14810
Sent Via email to:
Steuben_superior@nycourts.gov
Bwise@nycourts.gov

Special Master Jonathan Cervas
Institute for Politics and Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University
Posner Hall 386
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
Sent Via email to:
Cervas@cmu.edu

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas:

By way of introduction, I am Bernell Grier, Executive Director of Pratt Area Community Council, Inc. d/b/a IMPACCT Brooklyn (IMPACCT Brooklyn). IMPACCT Brooklyn is the premier community development corporation serving Brooklyn, New York with a focus on Central Brooklyn. Central Brooklyn includes the neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Bedford Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, Ocean Hill Brownsville, Prospect Heights, and Lefferts Gardens. These areas have historically been occupied by families descending from the Black African diaspora.

We at IMPACCT Brooklyn worked diligently to have members of the community complete the census. Our area did better in count than in the past: nevertheless, the census still resulted in there being a lessening of one Congressional seat within New York State. New York State currently comprises 27 congressional districts. The state was redistricted in 2013, following the 2010 U.S. Census; it lost two seats in Congress. Starting in the 2022 mid-term elections, per the 2020 United States census, New York will lose a congressional seat. The loss was decided by a remarkably close margin; it was believed that if 89 more people were counted in the census results and all other state populations remained stagnant, New York would have kept its lost seat.

Most recently we have been following the news on how district maps are being re-classified. We believe there is an equitable solution to redesigning the districts. However, the current map as

IMPACCT Brooklyn (Main Office)
1000 Dean Street, Suite 420 · Brooklyn New York 11238 · 718-522-2613 x 110
www.impacctbrooklyn.org | pacc@impacctbk.org


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presented by Jonathan Cervas, the court-appointed "special master," is unfair to the community that IMPACCT Brooklyn has long served (as well as other areas within the New York State).

We agree with House Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries that the draft redistricting map viciously targets historic Black representation in NY. Unfortunately, at this time in United States history, racism as evidenced by the constant attacks (as recent as in Buffalo New York) resulting in the death of Black people leaves the community at large skeptical. A close examination of the redesigned map dilutes the Black population in the 8th and 9th congressional districts in a manner wildly inconsistent with the constitutional mandate that communities of color should be put into a position to elect the candidate of their choice. We still celebrate the Late Shirley Chisholm whose district was created in 1968 pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, with the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood at its core. This proposed map now breaks up this majority Black and historic neighborhood of Bedford Stuyvesant. The work of redistricting cannot be done without a racial equity lens.

Brooklyn residents, civic leaders, and stakeholders made clear that the communities of interest that presently constitute the 8th and 9th congressional districts should be kept together, as was the case in maps submitted by good government groups like Common Cause, civil rights groups like the Unity Coalition and even the Independent Redistricting Commission. The Court needs to review and accept the recommendations made under the comprehensive testimony of the voices of the community. IMPACCT Brooklyn serves the areas within these Congressional Districts. Bedford Stuyvesant has been gerrymandered, ignored, discriminated and discounted in the past, but to see it happening now is unbelievable.

I am the Executive Director of IMPACCT Brooklyn and I reside in the community we serve. The community has long been a predominantly black community, and throughout history, we have fought to be able to organize and vote together in order to fight for our shared needs in our community. We call for further discussion and equity within as redistricting moves ahead.

Sincerely,

Bernell K. Grier

IMPACCT Brooklyn (Main Office)
1000 Dean Street, Suite 420 · Brooklyn New York 11238 · 718-522-2613 x 110
www.impacctbrooklyn.org | pacc@impacctbk.org

Brenda A. Wise

From: Mak <moe.a.keegan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:01 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Election district 18/19

Are you kidding me! This is the worst made plan of man!! Cutting a city into 2 districts !
BAD MOVE.... Put us back into 1 district. Please Maureen Keegan
55 river road
Ulster Park
Ny 12487

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Diane Reiser <dianereiser@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Unfair maps

I wish to register my opposition to the proposed redistricting map. The map drawn by an unelected person ignores input from communities of color and is a blatant attempt to give conservative elements more power in a state which is overwhelmingly Democratic.

Sent from my iPad

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Andrea Smyth <andrea@andreasmyth.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:02 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Senate District 43 and 44

ATTN: Special Master and Judge Wise -

The Special Master failed to recognize the pre-existing shared community interests of the Towns of Colonie and Niskayuna when preparing the maps for Senate Districts 43 and 44 as the Independent Redistricting Commission did after it was explained to them.

As the Commission recommended for the Assembly maps, the two communities belong in a single state Senate district. The justification for this claim includes the following points:

- .the communities share a single New York State Assembly district;
- .the communities have school districts in common;
- .the communities share community and recreational facilities;
- .the communities share economic interests, employers; businesses and shopping options;
- .the communities share health care resources; and
- .the communities are interconnected by bike paths and roadways.

For these reasons, I believe the Special Master's maps should be revised to resolve the inadvertent splitting of these communities of interest and urge that the Towns of Colonie and Niskayuna be united into a single New York State Senate district.

Andrea Smyth

Candidate for SD 43 (518) 795-5270

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Cathy Kaufman <cathykkaufman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: redistricting maps

To the special master in charge of developing redistricting maps:

I need to voice strong concerns and objections to the proposed maps you have drawn; while they appear “compact,” the practical effect will be to eliminate representation of New York’s less-well-off population groups. The different issues within diverse communities of color have effectively been silenced, all for a “pretty” map that appears, but only on the surface, to be equitable. Shame of you for your lack of sensitivity to groups already under-represented historically: if your map is adopted, you have moved NY backwards, tantamount to the evisceration of the Voting Rights Act by the Supreme Court.

Cathy Kaufman

cathykkaufman@gmail.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Heiman, Megan J <mjheiman@cityofbinghamton.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:03 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting letter from Mayor Kraham
Attachments: Redistricting.docx

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find attached a letter from Mayor Jared M. Kraham to Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas regarding the redistricting process for New York State.

My contact information is below if there are any questions, etc.

Sincerely,
Megan Heiman

Megan J. Heiman
Deputy Mayor

Binghamton City Hall
38 Hawley Street, 4th Floor
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 772-7001

mjheiman@cityofbinghamton.com
www.binghamton-ny.gov

Twitter: @MayorKraham

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Mayor Jared M. Kraham

Office of the Mayor

May 5, 2022

Hon. Patrick F. McAllister
Steuben County Supreme & County Court
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Special Master Jonathan Cervas
c/o The Institute for Politics and Strategy
Carnegie Mellon University, Posner Hall 386
5000 Forbes Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

As you draft New York State's final legislative maps, I am writing to respectfully urge you to consider keeping Broome County and the Binghamton metropolitan area together and intact in our new Congressional and State Senate districts.

From a regional planning and economic development perspective, it is imperative that Broome County and the Greater Binghamton area have one, unified voice in Congress and the New York State Senate.

It is also critical that we keep cohesion in our area's school systems, which work together now as Broome-Tioga BOCES. These school systems define our metropolitan area and are, collectively, the places where our youth matriculate. With so many decisions regarding our schools happening at the state and federal level, it simply does not make sense to separate the municipalities that make up Broome-Tioga BOCES into different legislative maps.

The municipalities that make up Broome County and the Binghamton metropolitan area are not just geographically contiguous, but also communities of common interest. We face the same challenges and share many of the same characteristics, resources and opportunities. It is critical our communities are represented in Congress and the State Senate by one voice that understands our history, demographics, needs and potential.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to contact me at (607) 772-7001 or jmkraham@cityofbinghamton.com.

Sincerely,

Jared M. Kraham
Mayor

Brenda A. Wise

From: Vicki Chesler <vachesler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional District 19 map redrawing

We are very concerned about the complete SNAFU regarding the redrawing of the Congressional District 19 map. The splitting up of the City of Kingston and of Ulster County fractures our communities. We have lived in this district for over 35 years, and have been so happy to have first Maurice Hinchey and then Antonio Delgado as our elected representatives in Washington.

Don't fall prey to petty politicizing of our electorate. Please keep our district whole and fair, and representative of what it has been for decades.

Thank you.

Vicki Chesler
Olivebridge NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Martin Zubrzycki <mpz74@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: I am writing to ask that you NOT reduce the two senators providing representation for the City of Syracuse during the redistricting process. Our city is one of the five largest in the state and as such should have commensurate representation in the...

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: crew kicks1 <pdlranger89@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: REDUCTION IS STATE SENATORS

Hello,

I am writing to ask that you NOT reduce the two senators providing representation for the City of Syracuse during the redistricting process. Our city is one of the five largest in the state and as such should have commensurate representation in the State Senate. I look forward to your support of this request.

Paul Darmody-Latham
210 Strathmore Drive
Syracuse, NY 13207

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Gladys Gottlieb <gladys05151942@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Splitting the City if Kingston is devastating!

The map looks like even our historical Academy Green— which is our Central Park—has been separated out!

Kingston the hub of Ulster county. We are a small city with a strong sense of community. Kingston is our center of gravity.

Please reunite us!

Gladys and Donald Gottlieb
95 Beth Dr.
Kingston, NY 12401

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Chip Kilduff <kilduff@rpi.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Kathleen OConnor
Subject: 20th Congressional District - Keep the Capital Region Together

Dear 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 the 20th Congressional District centered in New York's Capital Region. As a Saratoga Springs resident, I strongly identify with the greater Capital Region. My family has strong ties to the greater Capital Region; while we now live in Saratoga Springs, we formerly lived in Albany, our son spent five years at the RPI childcare facility located in Troy. Currently, I work in Troy while my wife works in Albany. We both have business and personal relationships in Albany, Troy, Brunswick, Schodak, Bethlehem, and elsewhere.

More broadly, the city of Saratoga Springs has economic and transportation ties with communities and cities of Albany, Amsterdam, Schenectady, and Troy.

Removing Saratoga Springs from the 20th Congressional District Such a move would be a blow to the Capital Region's shared future and ability to speak with a unified voice in Washington DC. Furthermore, I have come to rely on Paul Tonko as an effective representative and I value his ability to communicate legislative priorities, funding opportunities, and other legislative matters.

Sincerely,

James Kilduff, PE

54 White Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

--

James (Chip) Kilduff, Associate Professor
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
4022 JEC Building
110 8th Street, Troy, NY 12180
Phone: 518.276.2042 Fax: 518.276.4833

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Maia Boswell-Penc <mboswellpenc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I am a constituent. And I believe the Capital Region, including Amsterdam and Saratoga should be kept together. It does not make sense to split these up.

Thank you,
Maia Boswell-Penc

--

Maia Boswell-Penc, Ph.D. mboswellpenc@gmail.com
Founder/Executive Director theEarthAlbany.org
Sustainability Educator [linkedin.com/pub/maia-boswell-penc-ph-d/15/531/ab](https://www.linkedin.com/pub/maia-boswell-penc-ph-d/15/531/ab)
Author/Speaker
GreenFaith Fellow
she/her/hers

We have to walk in a way that we only print peace and serenity on the Earth. Walk as if you are kissing the Earth with your feet.

Thich Nhat Hanh

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kevin Speer <kspeer87@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:05 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Syracuse State Senate Districts

Hello,

My name is Kevin Speer and I am a resident of the City of Syracuse. I recently learned of the new redistricting maps for State Senate and I am writing to advocate not reducing the City's representation from 2 Senators to one. As one of the big cities in NY, I feel it is very important for the City to maintain having districts drawn such that we have at least 2 Senators representing Syracuse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Speer
100 Iron Pier Drive, Syracuse NY 13204

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Irene Young <tirnahnogs@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Dear Special Master:

For God's sake, keep Columbia County as part of the Mid-Hudson Valley along with our contiguous neighbors. The redrawn map is poorly conceived and works against my beloved county.

Sincerely,
Irene Young
478 West End Rd
Hillsdale, NY 12529

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Laura Hartmann <laura@lvanhart.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Ulster County Congressional Map

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

Dear Hon. McAllister,

I am a resident of the Town of Ulster, NY, the town that is a necklace around the City of Kingston. I write regarding the proposed New York State reapportionment plan released by Special Master Dr. Jonathan R. Cervas on May 16, 2022 and the effect it will have in the communities in which I live, in the Mid-Hudson Valley, particularly related to 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 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.

Additionally, the map separates Ulster County. 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 for your consideration. Laura Hartmann

--

**Laura Hartmann, President
LVanHart Artist Productions
44 Catskill Ave
Kingston, NY 12401
Tel: 845-514-2079 SKYPE: laura.hartmann63
Cell: 917-301-1747
www.lvanhart.com**

REPRESENTING:

**Steve Wilson, Diane Monroe
Steve Wilson/Lewis Nash Duo
Steve Wilson & Wilsonian's Grain
Steve Wilson & The Analog Band
Wilson/Rosnes/Washington Trio
Diane Monroe: Violin Woman, African Dreams
Diane Monroe/Tony Miceli Duo
Diane Monroe Quartet and Sextet
Laura Hartmann, Clinician**

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Cynthia McKnight <cynthiamcknight@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:06 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Public Comment: Opposition to NY District Maps
Attachments: Mcknight letter (2).pdf

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

As the President of the Community Education Council for District 13 in Brooklyn, I write to express my strong opposition to the draft map released on Monday by the Special Master and urge you to reject it. This proposal fails to keep “communities of interest” together and will lead to inadequate representation on the federal level.

The primary goal of redistricting must be to draw maps that authentically reflect the communities that shape our state. Binding communities together allows each individual to maximize their voice in our democracy and elect leaders whose values are consistent with that voice. Today, I would like to talk about the communities of the New York 8th (NY-08) congressional district, where I live and raised my son as a single mom. Historically, the traditionally African-American neighborhoods of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill have been linked together as one “community of interest” within what is currently the NY-08 congressional district. They are served by the same community board, the same police precincts, the same school district, the same bus and subway lines, the same firehouses, and the same central commercial corridors on Fulton Street and Myrtle Avenue.

This “community of interest” is closely connected to the predominantly African-American community of Bedford-Stuyvesant, which is immediately adjacent to the east. These three neighborhoods are all linked by the same commercial corridor along Fulton Street and the same mass transportation along the A and C lines. School District 13 also includes the neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Prospect Heights, and parts of Bedford-Stuyvesant. From there, the district takes in Ocean-Hill Brownsville, East New York, and Canarsie in southeast Brooklyn. Once again, these are predominantly Black neighborhoods, protected by the Voting Rights Act. But equally important, these are working-class, blue-collar communities that share modes of transportation, public services, and issues with respect to affordable housing and public safety concerns such as rising gun violence. As “communities of interest,”

these six neighborhoods have benefited from existing within the same congressional district for approximately five decades. They should remain together. Preserving this connectivity would fulfill the legal objective of preserving “communities of interest” and continuity of representation.

The 8th district also includes the southern coast of Brooklyn, including Mill Basin, Brighton Beach, and Coney Island. These neighborhoods are very diverse, including a large number of Russian-speaking Jewish immigrants. These working-class New Yorkers face the same issues of housing, schools, transportation, and public safety that the rest of the NY-08 communities are confronting on a daily basis. Additionally, this "community of interest" faces the unique reality of a coastal community confronting issues of climate change and public transportation challenges. This coastal section of the district should be kept intact to lift up these issues with the fierce urgency that the community deserves.

Finally, it is essential for the proposed map to take into consideration the expressed concerns presented by prominent clergy members, civic leaders, community activists, and service providers from Fort Greene to Coney Island. These stakeholders, the shared needs of their members and constituents, and their shared values will undoubtedly lend powerful credence to what should be readily apparent: the neighborhoods of the NY-08 must remain intact.

The Special Master's draft map, however, does the opposite. It splits these communities apart, rendering some in wholly new districts, where it is unclear who will represent them. It would erase decades of progress these communities have made at the federal level while also weakening their voices in Congress. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia McKnight

President of Community Education Council (CEC) 13

(718) 757-6245 (cell)

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May 17, 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,

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Sincerely,

Cynthia McKnight

President of Community Education Council (CEC) 13

(718) 757-6245 (cell)

Brenda A. Wise

From: Marie Moore <mariebmoore@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:08 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting Maps.

1. This master map needs to be adjusted in order to respect the constitutional requirement that communities of interest be truly represented.

-cases in point - the district of JAMAL BOWMAN is now divided between Bronx and YOnkers. Other districts where family and friends live include Flushing, parts of Brooklyn and Ulster.

2. The resulting two dates will be a discouragement to full voter participation.

Sincerely,

Marie B Moore
Bronx, NY

Sent from my iPad

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marian Johnsen <marianandcraig@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I am concerned 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, Craig and Marian Johnsen, Hunter, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Maggie Perricone <magperri@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

Dear Special Master Jonathan Cervas & Justice Patrick McAllister,

I am writing to share my comment on the newly proposed State Senate district lines. I was dismayed to learn that my neighborhood is going to split between three different districts. I have been a lifelong resident of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn and understand that our community deserves a unified voice representing us in the State Senate. Reviewing the proposed maps it is obvious that the new districts will dilute the power we have to advocate for our community-specific, shared needs and goals. Further, it seems as though minority groups within our neighborhood will be further marginalized by having their voters split between multiple districts. I urge you to reconsider the proposal and keep all of Bay Ridge in one Senate district.

Thank you,

Margaret Perricone
Frank Dazzo

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Brenda A. Wise

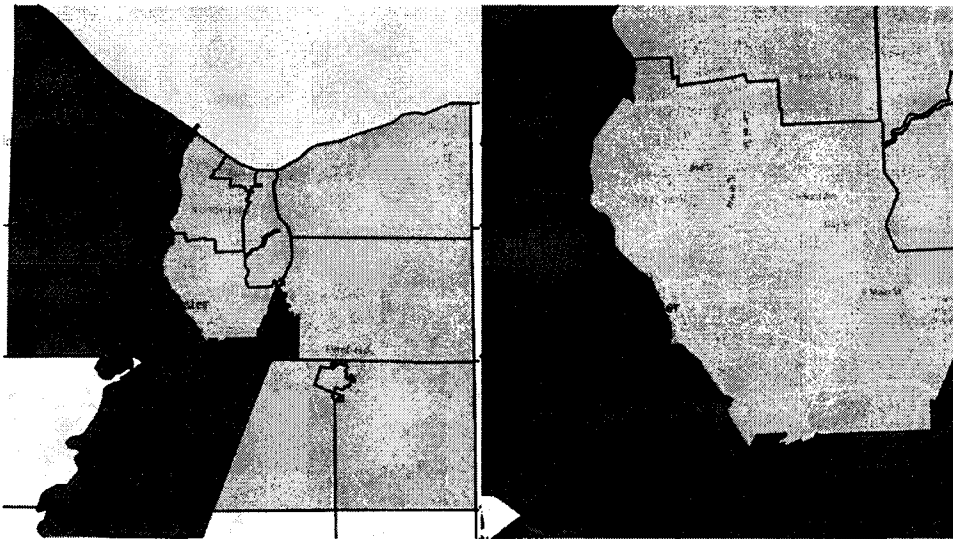
From: Dylan Dailor <ddailor11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Comment for Special Master

Hello,

Please accept the following as a comment on the NYS Senate maps proposed by the Special Master on Monday the 15th.

I appreciate the work that has been done to change these maps, but want to suggest that to combine communities of interest in Rochester, NY that the 55th and 56th Senate districts be slightly altered. Instead of following the arbitrary lines set in the last maps, my recommendation is to split the majority of the city along the Genesee river until you reach the South Wedge where the expressway would be used as a line of demarkation until you reach the Swillburger neighborhood. From there the line between district would go from South Goodman to South Clinton before turning southeast until it reaches the Brighton border.

Please see the attached images of thees changes to compare against the current map.



Not only would this create cleaner lines according to the Reock method of compactness, it would also unite neighborhoods and educational institutions. These new lines would also have minimal impacts on minority vote share.

Thank you for your work,
Dylan Dailor

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Brenda A. Wise

From: John Thompson <stjohnw@fairpoint.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:09 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Please keep Columbia and Green Counties together!

Hello,

Please keep Columbia and Green Counties together! There are friendly, familial, and professional relationships that regularly cross county lines. Moreover, the counties share a community college, a hospital, and numerous other organizations dedicated to serving the populations of both counties. Do not split Columbia and Greene Counties between two senate districts.

Thank you,
John

The Rev. John P. Thompson
Rector
Church of St. John in the Wilderness (Episcopal)
P.O. Box 180
Copake Falls, NY 12517
stjohnw@fairpoint.net

Truth and love must prevail over lies and hate
Vaclav Havel



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