

Brenda A. Wise

From: Yvette Dennis <YDennis@crescentconsult.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYS Senate Maps Public Comments

My name is Yvette Greene-Dennis,

I am submitting this testimony in protest of the new maps that were released for the New York State Senate. As currently proposed by the Special Master, in Southeast Queens, we would see a significant change in the black homeowner community which has been shifted to go from Laurelton, Queens Village, Rosedale, South Jamaica, Springfield Gardens and St. Albans to now include the majority of Flushing, Jamaica Estates, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens Hills and winds all the way up to Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

The resulting changes being proposed would remake the Southeast Queens Senate district's demographics making the district significantly less reflective of African-American and homeowner representation. For these reasons and many more, I am asking for changes in the final map including:

- 1. Keeping together Our Communities of Interest:** *Residents of Southeast Queens are New Yorkers who share common social, cultural, racial, economic, geographic, or other concerns and we should remain united in one district.*
- 2. Keeping our District Compact:** *The lines as proposed would prevent the opportunity for development of affordable and senior housing in southeast queens particularly in Downtown Jamaica where we have many projects under consideration.*
- 3. Protecting Access to Constituent Service Assistance:** *The district not having an identifiable "center" reasonably equidistant from any of its boundaries would not allow for quality service of constituents. A district that is spread from the Queens/Nassau border all the way up to Flushing Meadows Corona Park would be prohibitive from having adequate access given the transit desert that exists in Southeast Queens.*
- 4. Preventing Voting Power Dilution:** *The lines as currently proposed splits one of the oldest majority black homeowner communities or voting blocs into 4 senate districts diluting vote power of a minority-majority community which we have fought decades to maintain and cultivate.*

We ask that in your final draft, you restore the neighborhoods of Laurelton, Queens Village, Rosedale, South Jamaica, Springfield Gardens and St. Albans back into contiguity with Southeast Queens neighborhoods of Hollis, Hollis Hills, Queens Village and Jamaica.

Thank you,

Yvette Greene-Dennis

Queens Village

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Sheryl Goldberg <sgoldbergcroton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricted Maps

I am writing in objection to the redistricted maps that are under current consideration. By rejecting the maps put forth by the committee and placing the responsibility on one person, the court has made a grievous error. While I cannot defend the map that caused the redistricting to be called into question in the first place, a one person decision making body is unacceptable in a democracy. The map under consideration is seismic in the repercussions for communities, and will distort the value of individual votes for a decade.

There needs to be non-partisan federal guidelines and independent bodies that can demonstrate with statistical evidence the factors under consideration when drawing new lines. As a stakeholder in NYS and the USA, It is imperative that representation in the state and federal governments be determined by free and fair elections.

Please ensure that any new map can make voters in NYS feel confident that their voices will count equally at ALL levels of government.

Sheryl Goldberg
11 Alexander Lane
Croton, NY 10520

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Marty Lupowitz <bones@hvi.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:10 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Proposed Congressional Map

Hello,

I join all my fellow concerned citizens in objection to the proposed maps' division of the City of Kingston and Ulster County into 2 different districts, CD 18 and CD 19. The split of Kingston will confuse people and make efforts to secure federal resources and services especially difficult. Kingston is a small city and should be treated as a whole, single entity.

Ulster County has been represented by a single CD for decades and should remain so for similar reasons.

Thank you,
Martin Lupowitz, DC

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Kelleigh McKenzie <kelleighmck@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: You don't have to fracture the City of Kingston
Attachments: 7,061 residents of Town of Deer Park.png

May 17, 2022

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

Dear Justice McAllister:

I implore you to have the Special Master adjust the district lines between the proposed District 18 and 19 to keep the City of Kingston whole and entirely in District 18.

Putting part of Kingston in District 19 dilutes Ulster County's minority voices—a violation of voting rights and constitutional protections. The communities of color in the City of Kingston and the southern parts of our county must not be split in two.

Here's one possible remedy that would affect only the two proposed districts: Move the 7,060 Kingstonians from the proposed District 19 back with their community in District 18, and move most of Orange County's Town of Deer Park (pop. 7,508) from District 18 into 19. The attached map shows census blocks totalling 7,061 residents of Deer Park that could become part of District 19.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelleigh McKenzie
Chair, Ulster County Democratic Committee
791 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Gabrielle Congalton <gabrielle.congalton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master Request

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,
Gabrielle Fisk

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jeffrey Cizma <jeffreycizma@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYS Senate Maps

My name is Jeffrey Cizma. 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,

Jeffrey Cizma

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Al Vann <dr.al.vann.brooklyn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:14 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR
Subject: Redistricting Comments
Attachments: Dr Vann Testimony.docx

Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas:

I would like to submit the attached document for your consideration and would like the attached document to be added to the court's record in *Harkenrider v. Hochul*.

Thank you,

Dr. Al Vann

Former New York City Councilmember, 36th District

Former New York State Assemblymember, 56th District

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Gary Slutzky <gslutzky@hvc.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:14 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Gslutzky@hvc.rr.com
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>.

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On top of all this, Senator Hinchey has been a wonderful asset to Greene County and the towns that lie within. Senator Hinchey has developed relationships with all types of community based organizations such as fire departments, emergency medical service providers, historical groups, libraries and much more. This redistricting map as drawn is an insult to those of us who live here, as I have, all my life. I have no idea who would be our State Senator if this stands and I'm sure whomever it is, won't know me or the people of Greene County. I strongly urge you to reconsider this plan and do what's right for the people of the 46th NYS Senate District.

Best Regards,

Gary Slutzky

**82 Dolans Lane
Hunter, NY 12442**

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Brenda A. Wise

From: jsmith2675@optimum.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Remapping of Co Op City

To Whom It May Concern

As a voter in Co Op City I was disturbed to hear that my voting district was being re mapped. Let's face it! This is gerrymandering and gerrymandering has always been a racist event. No one ever remaps white districts. Leave Co op City in District 16.

Thank you

Joyce E Smith

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Emily Amarnick <mrspleasant.net@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:15 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Attn: Special Master Jonathan Cervas

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,
 Emily Amarnick
 Athens, NY

Emily Amarnick, HHC
 Holistic Health Coach + Personal Chef
<http://mrspleasant.net>
 646-623-3175

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Brenda A. Wise

From: seth hillinger <geekinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Cervas@cmu.edu; Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Comment on Congressional District NY-7

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

I am a resident of Congressional District NY-7. While the proposed map does keep the Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, and Gowanus area together, it excludes Red Hook which should also be included as we share schools, libraries, a post office, recreational facilities, a community board, and a navigable superfund site (the Gowanus Canal). Many residents in the adjoining neighborhoods frequently shop, dine, and attend performances in Red Hook, and vice versa. NY-7's representative has chosen Red Hook as her home.

NY-7 is a Latino plurality VRA district and much of the district will lose this vital representation as the proposed maps cut the current NY-7 in half while unnecessarily creating a new and unrepresented NY-10. NY-7 should be drawn to include Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, along with Sunset Park (which shares communities of interest with other NY-7 neighborhoods of Bushwick and the Manhattan Chinatown) which shares a school district (15). Gowanus and its neighbors share communities of interest with the other NY-7 neighborhoods. These neighborhoods and their communities of interest should stay unified in the NY7 Congressional district.

Sincerely,

Seth Hillinger

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Robert Tomlinson <artist.rt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 1:32 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Re: redistricting 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

R o b e r t

Robert Tomlinson
Catskill, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Star Karmel <shamaracox@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: ATTN: NY-16 NEW ZONING SHOULD NOT BE CHANGED

Hello,

I am writing to you because I am truly concerned about the new mapping for the BRONX which directly dilutes the Black voter population in NY-16.

I have been a resident of the North East Bronx all my life and have felt marginalized even when I exercise my voting rights. Now I'm concerned with the new changes that my, and my families/neighbors will not be heard with the new changes.

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

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.

My request is that the zoning remains the same with Co-op City, Williamsbridge, Baychester, and Edenwald in NY-16.

Thank you!

~ Mahalo ~

Shamara Cox
 Director/Producer

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shamaracox>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/KarmelRose>

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Anne Rhoads <cedarmaple97@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:18 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master - Comments

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

As a resident and taxpayer of Greenville in 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,

Anne Rhoads
1168 Hillcrest Road, Hannacroix, NY 12087

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Brenda A. Wise

From: joyce26@localnet.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:19 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Draft Congressional Maps

The way congressional districts are drawn is absolutely crazy. To avoid charges of gerrymandering, why not just lay a grid on the map and let the lines fall where they may--no more of these crazy convoluted irregular borders.

Joyce Greenberg

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Congressional District 7 has been, for the past 3 decades, a district where Latino and Asian voters can elect a candidate of choice, empowering communities that in the past were divided and whose voices were diluted. These communities of interest, while not compact, were united to reflect the requirements of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) to keep these neighborhoods and communities of interest together. The special master's map as drawn completely disregards and disempowers these communities—a shocking insult in the face of the incredible growth of Latino and Asian New Yorkers, and a startling threat to these communities in the face of a VRA that remains on the books as federal law.

This Congressional District's cohesion has been noted by court after court after court—not for partisan purposes, but for legal necessities that are underscored by civil rights principles.

The district was drawn to connect the largest Latino communities from North Brooklyn to the Lower East Side across the bridge and Sunset Park to the south. Additionally, the court upheld the Asian community of interest between the two Chinatowns linked from Manhattan to Southwest Brooklyn along the N/R subway lines. Based on the maps as they are drawn, Southwest Brooklyn is completely cut off. Further, the areas of Sunset Park and Red Hook are no longer connected to adjacent neighborhoods and communities to the north and placed in a district that shares no commonality. Already marginalized from transit and split in political districts, Red Hook and Sunset Park are divided and not united in the current proposal. The maps also unfairly chop up and pit neighboring Black voting rights district Representatives both in Brooklyn and in the Bronx and Westchester.

The definition of a community of interest as specified on the NY Independent Redistricting Committee is as follows:

A community of interest is a population which shares enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation. These might include similar standards of living, shared methods and patterns of transportation, or similar economic and societal concerns.

That definition encompasses exactly what community groups and individuals have raised during testimony and comments throughout this entire process. This is NOT partisanship at play, it's common sense and civil rights. Communities of color share cultural and social dynamics and have worked to empower their respective communities, protect their members from a rise in hate, embrace the immigrant experience, and promote climate and environmental justice. During the entire years-long process, community members from across the 7th Congressional District urged the commission to keep these neighborhoods united.

Yet, the Special Master has sacrificed the empowerment of minority communities – whether Latino, Black, or Asian – that are culturally linked in favor of compactness and competitiveness. Compactness has less weight in an urban area built on islands connected by bridges and transit lines. While the maps may look “clean”, they exacerbate the historical disenfranchisement of communities of color. The proposed map is a product of a racially flawed interpretation of prioritizing compactness over voting rights. The consideration for compactness is to do it as

“practicable” and shouldn’t override the primary consideration of drawing lines fair to minority voting rights.

Let’s be clear—this proposed map is unconstitutional on a state and federal level. It degrades the Latino population, depriving voters of fair representation by ripping apart 5 neighborhoods that have been a core part of the district for nearly 30 years. It ignores the coalition of communities that have been recognized by courts and placed in the same congressional districts. And it ignores the hundreds of people who took time out of their busy schedules to testify.

Continuing to keep the Chinatowns of Lower Manhattan and Sunset Park, and their surrounding Latino communities united with North Brooklyn is especially important. In fact, keeping Sunset Park tied to its roots and that of its communities of interest together was one item that had bipartisan support within the commission. To see that changed by the Special Master is shameful. The map as drawn will have dire impacts on the communities, particularly Latinos who represent nearly 1 in 5 New Yorkers but lack meaningful representation across the entire state. The map should reflect their right to ensure access to candidates that represent their community’s interests and needs. Fairness, not compactness, should be at the heart of this redistricting process.

Therefore, I sincerely urge the map to be redrawn to keep these communities together.

Julio Peña III
District Leader, Assembly District 51
Community Board 7 member
Sunset Park resident

Brenda A. Wise

From: Pamela Hudson <heelerhighway@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: District maps

Your Honor,

I am writing to vigorously protest the current New York Congressional district map configuration that you will be considering. It does not take into account the federally mandated voting rights of minorities and language groups and the rights of New Yorkers to choose their representation. I strongly request that you reject the most recent maps drawn by the special Master and take into consideration the will of the people of the state of New York. An outrageous injustice and disenfranchisement will would result if these districts are approved and would persist for many years to come. Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Pamela Hudson
District 17

“Truth never damages a cause that is just.”
— **Mahatma Gandhi**

Pamela Hudson
South of the Mountain Tileworks
Unique handmade installations/murals
<https://m.facebook.com/huddytileworks/>
phudson938@aol.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ted Millar <tedmillar0908@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting map

Good afternoon,

For decades, a single representative in Congress has served Ulster County. I urge you to reconsider splitting the county in two, as Special Master Cervas's recently redrawn congressional maps achieve. 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 and meet the needs of our entire county.

A particularly egregious change to the map is the bifurcation of the city of Kingston, the most diverse community in Ulster County with a population of almost 25,000 people of recent immigrants from Central America and the Caribbean, African Americans, and those who can trace their family stories back to the Dutch settlement of Wiltwyck in the 17th Century. Splitting Kingston up then separating part of it from other nearby diverse municipalities such as Ellenville, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, and Middletown, will dilute minority voices throughout the Hudson Valley in direct violation of the 2014 constitutional amendment requiring districts to be mindful of disenfranchising minority populations. This recent revision represents a prohibited violation of voter and civil rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Millar,
Marlborough Democratic Committee Chair
Ulster County Democratic Committee Marlborough ED 5 Representative

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Betty Braton
159-54 95 St.
Howard Beach, NY 11414

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:

On behalf of the community members of Howard Beach, Queens, we are writing to urge you to protect the future of our community and swiftly reconsider the proposed redistricting maps. The residents of Howard Beach are inextricably connected through proximity, common values, mutual challenges, and shared lived experiences.

One of those things that unite all of our residents is our concern for the very existence of our community in the future. Our community was devastated in 2012 by Superstorm Sandy. Prior to 2012 our community was split between 2 Congressional Districts. In the reapportionment that followed the 2010 census all of our community was united again in one Congressional District. While at the time we would have preferred it to be a district wholly within Queens rather than one that straddled parts of 2 counties the Congressional representative we have had since Sandy devastated us has worked with us diligently on the myriad issues caused. It is disconcerting to see how the maps proposed this week have in effect decimated that district.

In a letter sent to you earlier today regarding proposed State Senate lines I argued that putting Howard Beach into a Brooklyn district on the state legislative level would be harmful to our work on resiliency issues on the State level because of the way the State level Sandy NY Rising program was structured. That is not the case on the federal level. Far more of Brooklyn is on the north shore of Jamaica Bay than other parts of the Queens mainland.

Howard Beach is a vital piece of the bay front region of New York's Eighth Congressional District. This area has unique needs which can't be adequately represented federally on climate and flooding issues if torn apart. As it stands, we benefit so much from unified representation designed to uplift our community. Separating the communities in the southern end of NY-08 will cause our families to regress on the advancements that we have already made, creating greater financial instability and pressures for us all.

Separating our communities will create disarray and dampen our collective power to advocate for change. The future of our community depends on this proposed map. We strongly urge the commission to redraw a map that is reflective of the expressed concerns presented by community members, keeping Howard Beach unified federally with our neighbors along the coast of Jamaica Bay and the oceanfront and river fronts in Coney Island, and other Brooklyn locations.

Therefore, I urge you to keep the waterfront areas of the current NY08 intact Congressionally.

Very truly yours,
Betty Braton

Brenda A. Wise

From: Becca Blackmore <becca@beccawrites.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Fractured maps

Hi,

I'm Becca in Ulster Park, just south of Kingston.

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 County 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,
Becca Blackmore

--
Becca Blackmore
She/her
347.912.5979
<http://www.beccawrites.com>
[New Play Exchange](#)
[Join my mailing list](#)

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Sherry Runk <sherrunk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Reconsideration of District 18

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,
Sherry Runk
New Paltz, NY 12561

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Rosemary Bailey <roseamon@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:23 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Redistricting on NY-16 District

I am a Co-Op City resident. I am OPPOSED to the he Special Masters plan to redistrict NY-16 District in the Northeast Bronx which currently includes Co-op City, lower Westchester, Edenwald, Baychester, and Westchester.

This redistricting will effectively Destroy Congressman Bowman's NY-16 district. I believe it will be detrimental to the residents in this area.

Thank you,
Rosemary Bailey

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Pamela Clisizis <pclisizis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Opposition to proposed redistricting of RVC

To whom it may concern -

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the proposed redistricting of SD9. As a Rockville Centre resident, I'm concerned about the negative impact that splitting our town into two separate districts will have. We are one community, regardless of what side of Sunrise Highway we may live on - same school district, same utilities, same taxes - same issues/concerns. If our town is divided into two separate districts, we will no longer have effective representation for our community. Please please please keep our beloved town of Rockville Centre WHOLE in SD9.

Thank you for your time & attention to this matter.

Best,
Pam Clisizis
45 Broadway, RVC

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Phillipa Soo <soo.phillipa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: From a NY voter: NY State Congressional Map

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 adds up to a shameful miscarriage of democracy and negatively impacts the people most important in an election, the VOTERS.

Please find another way,
Phillipa Soo
Brooklyn, NY
Zip Code: 11222

Sent from my iPhone

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Michelle Crafton <michellearroyo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Map redistricting

To whom it may concern,

I am an Ulster county resident and I am writing to voice express my dissatisfaction with the new mapping of kingston and Ulster County!

Michelle

Sent from my iPhone

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Mici Simonofsky <micipo@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Reconsideration of districting lines

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.

Keep Ulster County whole!

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.

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: n graham <nanograham14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Fwd: Two Kingstons

Nancy Oarneire Graham
m. 845-706-1432 a: 165 Cornell Street, Apt. 118, Kingston, NY 12401
e. nanograham14@gmail.com
she | they

May 18, 2022

Dear Judge McCallister,

I am writing about the bizarrely drawn and plainly unjust redistricting of the City of Kingston, NY, in Ulster County, into two separate Congressional districts.

One representative to serve us all, please. We should not be forced to compete against one another for resources, especially given the financial and other burdens of so many of our residents.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and swift resolution of this troubling matter.

Sincerely,

Nancy Graham
Currently in The Lace Mill, former resident of the Stockade District
165 Cornell Street, Apt. 118

Kingston, NY 12401



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Brenda A. Wise

From: Teresa Solomita <tsolomita@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYS Redistricting Map

I am a white citizen from Brooklyn, NY and I am here to comment on the new congressional district map. This map unfairly marginalizes both black and latinx minorities and provides Republican voters with more power. In addition, we are now forced to have two primaries, one of which will take place in August, shrinking considerably the percentage of available voters to participate.

Please consider revoking this change.

Sincerely,
Teresa Solomita
336 Saint Marks Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11238

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Lucy Koteen <lucy.koteen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting map is all wrong

I am repeating here what someone else wrote in but also why would you pit Nadler against Mahoney? To remove Velazquez from a largely Latino district makes no sense-one that she has been an advocate for for many years. Why would you make Jeffrie's and Clark's district not include where they live?

The new lines make no sense.

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

I am not a resident of Congressional District NY-7, however, while the proposed map does keep the Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, and Gowanus area together, it excludes Red Hook which should also be included as we share a navigable superfund site (the Gowanus Canal), schools, libraries, a post office, recreational facilities, a community board, etc. Many residents in the adjoining neighborhoods frequently shop, dine, and attend performances in Red Hook, and vice versa. NY-7's representative has chosen Red Hook as her home.

NY-7 is a Latino plurality VRA district and much of the district will lose this vital representation as the proposed maps cut the current NY-7 in half while unnecessarily creating a new and unrepresented NY-10. NY-7 should be drawn to include Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, along with Sunset Park (which shares communities of interest with other NY-7 neighborhoods of Bushwick and the Manhattan Chinatown) which shares a school district (15). Gowanus and its neighbors share communities of interest with the other NY-7 neighborhoods. These neighborhoods and their communities of interest should stay unified in the NY7 Congressional district.

--

Lucy Koteen
cell: 718-938-3935

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Rocco Rella <chefrocco@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NYS Redistricting Map

I am a white citizen from Brooklyn, NY and I am here to comment on the new congressional district map.

This map unfairly marginalizes both black and latinx minorities and provides Republican voters with more power. In addition, we are now forced to have two primaries, one of which will take place in August, shrinking considerably the percentage of available voters to participate.

Please consider revoking this change.

Sincerely,
Rocco Rella
336 Saint Marks Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11238

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Thomas Brown <tcbrown350@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: One Error

Dear Dr. Cervas,

I am a resident of Ulster County, NY.

There is much to admire about the Congressional map you have proposed. It has a wonderfully non-partisan look to it.

As an Ulster County resident, I note one exception: the division of Kingston into two different Congressional Districts. The first Constitution of New York State was debated and written in Kingston in 1777. Since the ratification of the Federal Constiution, eleven years later, Kingston, the seed-bed of our state, has never been split into multiple Congressional Districts. Never.

Your map divides our County seat between two Districts. Please do not split the community that centuries of statesmen, policians, and technical experts have always maintained as a single point of light.

I trust that you, a contributor to *Wright v. Sumter County Board of Elections*, can do better than that. Please do. History has placed a treasure in your hands.

Sincerely Yours,

Thomas Brown, *Retired History Teacher*
(845) 798-9939

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Robert Lapiner <roblapiner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Grave concerns about the Proposed Revision (by Special Master Cervas) of NY Congressional Voting Districts

As a New York resident—and retired academic and former U.S. diplomat in the arena of public diplomacy—I am deeply disturbed by the new proposed voting districts for the state. While the finding that the Legislature-generated voting maps was irregular may have merit, the current proposal is even more problematic. It appears to have been designed in violation of the State Constitution and the protections provided therein, most especially because it appears to have imposed a mechanistic approach to district lines rather than incorporating—as required by law—keen sensitivity toward the strength (and history) of the composition of the communities residing within and across its proposed district boundaries. Federal law (the Voting Rights Acts) and the State Constitution provide guidelines on this issue:

I cite this excerpt from Article III, Section 4, of the NY State Constitution:

“ (c) Subject to the requirements of the federal constitution and statutes and in compliance with state constitutional requirements, the following principles shall be used in the creation of state senate and state assembly districts and congressional districts:

“ (1) When drawing district lines, the commission shall consider whether such lines would result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights. Districts shall be drawn so that, based on the totality of the circumstances, racial or minority language groups do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice.”

It is easy to predict that the egregious violations to the principles enumerated above that the current proposal will engender—if enacted—will likely lead to vigorous legal challenges, and whatever the outcome, will further erode public confidence in our electoral system and weaken our democracy. We already suffer from deplorably low levels of voter turnout. Our system of government is imperiled when citizens fail to vote, because they feel (and in this case, might truly be) disenfranchised, or simply when avoidable disruption to the established calendar, inexplicable decision-making, and altered processes create significant confusion in the understanding of the voting public.

In all due respect, the Cervas-proposal is grievously flawed.

For the upcoming elections, it would be preferable to return to the district maps that were in place before the census, with a simpler approach to the necessary suppression of one district, suppressing a single district and one seat, rather than destabilizing the whole map and generating multiple primary battles. Wouldn't it be more prudent (for example) to redistribute ONE district in ONE region whose population decline is measurably most conspicuous as a factor in NY's loss of a congressional seat, and strive to reassign those portions of that single district to others being maintained, whose communities' characters present themselves (after objective and sensitive study) as being in greatest alignment with their new districts?

In any case, given how close we are to the scheduled election dates, the better course of action would be to reject the Cervas-plan and find the least disruptive approach in the short term--and commit absolutely to coming up with a more evidence-based, fair, and to the extent possible, non-partisan revised proposal that could be put in place for the 2024 election cycle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours,

Robert Lapiner
125 Cabrini Blvd., Apt. A31-33
New York City, NY 10033

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jonathan Lipe <lipe.jonathan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Location of Kirkland, NY in proposed State Senate maps

Good afternoon,

Thank you for allowing the public to submit comments on the proposed New York State Senate maps before they are finalized. I am requesting that you move Kirkland — and Hamilton College — to the 53rd Senate District.

I am a resident of Oneida County and a former resident of Kirkland. I also previously served as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Anthony Brindisi, focusing on Higher Education issues.

During the pandemic, I saw firsthand how beneficial it was to have local centers of higher education included in the same legislative district. Convening meetings between multiple college and university presidents during times of crisis, and enacting policy changes to serve those communities, is far easier when these facilities are located in the same legislative district.

The current proposed State Senate District 53 includes several prominent colleges and universities, including Le Moyne, Onondaga Community College, Cazenovia College, SUNY Morrisville, Colgate University, Mohawk Valley Community College, and Utica University. Syracuse University also has a heavy impact on the district, as many SU students and employees live in the 53rd district.

Not including SU, total college student enrollment in the proposed district is nearly 30,000.

Sadly, the district cuts off Hamilton College from its sister schools. The district includes the neighboring towns of Bridgewater, Sangerfield, Paris, and New Hartford, but curls around to exclude Kirkland. Hamilton College serves approximately 2000 students and is the major employer in the town of Kirkland. The community would greatly benefit from being able to join its voice with other nearby college towns in matters of state policymaking.

Please make the changes necessary to include Kirkland and Hamilton College in Senate District 53, so it may share a State Senator with Colgate, Utica University, and other jewels of Central New York.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Lipe
Utica, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Bella Wang <voting.reform@lwnyc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: cervas@cmu.edu; Laura Quigg; Diane Burrows; Natalie Silverman
Subject: League of Women Voters of the City of New York Redistricting Feedback
Attachments: Response to Special Master Maps.docx

To the Clerk of Justice Patrick McAllister and Jonathan Cervas, the Special Master:

The League of Women Voters of New York City is a grassroots, non-partisan organization of 103 years whose purpose is to promote informed and active citizen participation in government. Our mission is to expand our outreach and increase all New Yorkers' participation in local communities and government through civics education, the vote, and issue advocacy. As part of our Census and Redistricting capacity, we have asked our members and volunteers on short notice to review the new maps and provide us with comments.

The League of Women Voters of New York State filed an amicus brief with the court with concerns about the failure to use the 2014 voter-approved redistricting process properly in this redistricting cycle, so the League shares the concern of the court about the Legislature's failure to follow the intent of the IRC to have accountability, deliberation, and some independence from the worst of the partisan political process. However, as the New York City chapter, we are not certain that accountability and deliberation have been part of this process either.

There was not much time for a thorough review of the maps, but short-notice feedback from our members and volunteers suggests that communities of interest may not have been well-considered during the drawing of the maps. If the Special Master wishes a map reference that tends to take communities of interest better into effect, on a time frame that does not allow for public comment, we suggest looking at the NYC community board map.

Please see the attached for individual testimonies that members and volunteers wished to share.

Sincerely,

Laura Quigg, Census & Redistricting Chair
Bella Wang, Voting Reform Chair
League of Women Voters of the City of New York

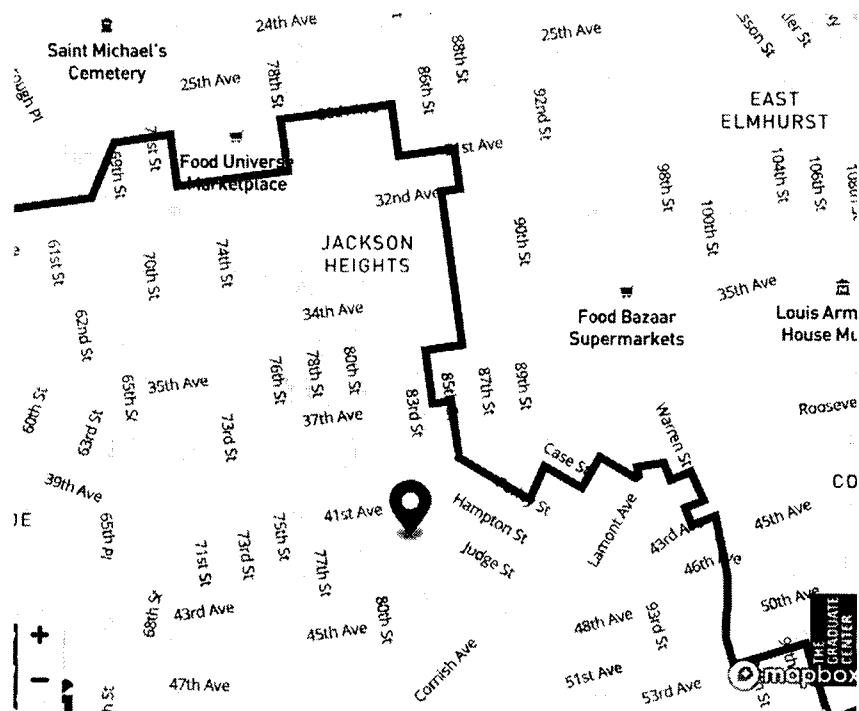
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To the Special Master in charge of redistricting:

I would like to share my concern about the district mapping shown below (it's Congressional, but the Senate map has the same problem). Jackson Heights is a majority Hispanic neighborhood with an incredibly cohesive community culture that I had never seen even when living previously in Manhattan, and these maps simply cut the area in half. The sections between 76th street and 86th street north of Roosevelt are clearly in the same community as the rest of Jackson Heights/East Elmhurst. Around 74th to 76th street, the neighborhood becomes increasingly Bengali, so I do understand that, but this is drastically cutting out Hispanic representation. I also believe that the old maps include some of the portion south of Roosevelt in the non-numbered-streets block, which is somewhat less clean visually but does make sense because 82nd street south of the Roosevelt intersection is still largely Hispanic. I would know as I live in said non-numbered-streets block.

As further anecdotes for why Jackson Heights should be held together, they literally have a neighborhood group centered on maintaining the 34th Avenue open street (no cars during the daytime and on weekends), which is cut in half on 86th street. The parents have shared Whatsapp and Google Groups for sharing information and baby clothes. 37th Avenue between 95th and 75th runs multiple annual community parades. This map simply makes no sense for the neighborhood.

Best,
Bella Wang
4222 Ketcham St
Elmhurst, NY 11373



May 17, 2022

Redistricting in New York City

We live on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In looking at the new voting districting map for the Upper West Side I see that it has been redrawn without taking into effect the distinction between the west and east sides of Manhattan.

There was much discussion, at the beginning of the redistricting process, of taking into consideration the idea of Communities of Interest. For anyone who lives in NYC there is a strong awareness of the distinction between the east and west sides of the city. One would only have to walk the streets of each of these sections of the City to become aware of the differences: the types of businesses, restaurants, schools, even the ways that people dress. There are also cultural differences. To lump the east and west sides of Manhattan together without acknowledging and taking these differences in to account would be a big mistake and limit effective leadership by political representatives.

Mary-Jo Amatruda
15 W 81st St
NY 10024
203-214-8217
Jamatruda01@snet.net

With regard to the Manhattan maps:

I live in midtown East and have been well represented in Congress in the district that generally covers the East side of Manhattan in NYC. The Manhattan maps were drawn to combine east and west parts of town that share little. The East side is a community of interest. It is a community of interest much more than east and west midtown or the upper east and upper west sides of Manhattan are a community of interest. My representation will be compromised with this new map. The east and west sides of Manhattan should not be combined. I was really disappointed that the Special Master seemed not to take the time to understand the dynamics of the districts, but instead leaned heavily on the competing interest of having lines drawn contiguously. We are being disenfranchised by these maps.

Laura Quigg

With regard to Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights:

I always feel that districts should encompass one county- I know that's not always possible- so, the proposal, if it has to include two counties, is not crazy combining lower Manhattan with the downtown Brooklyn area. There are certain similarities- especially as that area of Brooklyn becomes more and more expensive and attracting more Manhattanites. Makes more sense than combining it with Queens or Staten Island. This way, Brooklyn and its particular needs can get subsumed in Manhattan's. The person elected if from Manhattan would see that area as paramount- perhaps know it better, and Brooklyn's interests(all of Brooklyn) would take a back seat . And, this way, we stand to lose our Hispanic, long-term Congresswoman.

That said, downtown Brooklyn could be helpful to other areas of Brooklyn- that would now be a lost opportunity. Also, while DUMBO is included, the Navy Yard is not- that makes no sense- since they abut each other and they are so connected. Indeed, they both are in Community Board 2.

Barbara Zahler

I live and have lived for 40 years at 6 WEST 77TH Street across from the Museum of Natural History. I am shocked, confused and appalled that the Museum is designated part of the EAST SIDE. We are their neighbors, those of us who live next door and across the street from the Museum. What we do support them and what they do supports and affects us. The entire width of Central Park separates us. WHY SHOULD THE MUSEUM BE INCLUDED IN AN EAST SIDE DISTRICT?

It ignores the community in which it functions. It ignores an essential part of our community.

Sydney McIlhenny
6 West 77th Street

With regard to the Congressional map:

I don't think my districts (CD13, AD 70, SD 30) have been radically altered. The districts of Representatives Maloney and Nadler were redrawn weirdly. It makes more sense to divide east and west in that area.

Karen Hughes

Brenda A. Wise

From: Peter Samuel <petersberman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: RVC in SD 9

Please keep RVC in SD 9. Don't split the town. Thank you for your time.

-Peter Berman

--

Peter S. Berman

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Lee Ilan <leeilan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NY Redistricted Maps

Hello,

I'm writing to express concerns about the new maps proposed by the special master. The Congressional district boundaries in particular seem to be driven by the aesthetics of having pretty lines and with no respect for keeping historically marginalized communities together, e.g. across Brooklyn neighborhoods like Bedford-Stuyvesant and Fort Greene. The boundaries also ignore the imperative to maintain existing districts as practicable. Being compact in form should not trump all the other requirements that New Yorkers should expect to see in new district lines. I hope you will revise them to be more fair.

Sincerely,
Lee Ilan

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ally Bonino <allybonino89@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:32 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NY State Congressional Map

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 adds up to a shameful miscarriage of democracy and negatively impacts the people most important in an election, the VOTERS.

Please find another way,
Ally Bonino
Harlem, NY
Zip Code: 10027

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ivette Aguirre <ivetteag@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:33 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New district lines in Brooklyn

To whom it may concern,

As a life long constituent of the Sunset Park community, I am opposed to having my community disregarded and having to be forced to be aligned to communities that we have little in common. Our community deserves the opportunity to be heard and considered. The Hispanic and Asian community of Sunset Park is a needy community deserving of congressional representation aligned to the needs of our immediate neighbors. We have a history of struggles and working together for the good of all.

I feel this decision will set us back 30 years in our struggle to support our shared needs, hopes and dreams. We are being disfranchised of our right to be connected to our immediate neighbors and our opportunity to empower each other.

I believe this proposal will not pass of test of justice and fairness for all.

Sincerely,
Yvette Aguirre. 559 47 st, Brooklyn. 11220

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jessica Bailey <aaceojb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:33 PM
To: STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: African American Clergy & Elected Officials
Attachments: African American Clergy & Elected Officials.pdf

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

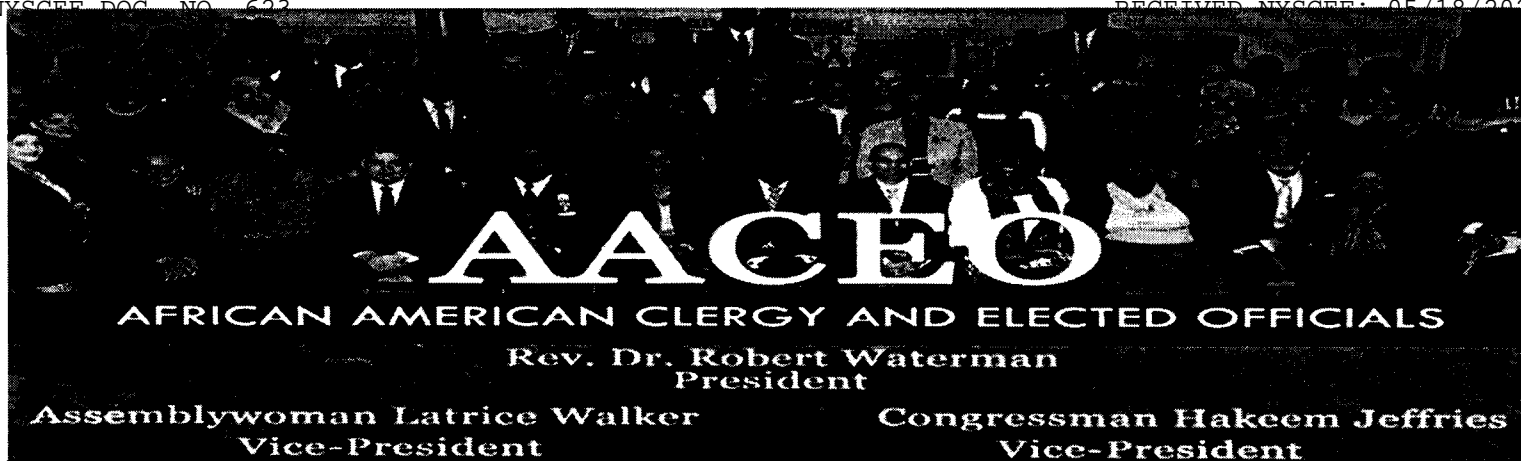
The African American Clergy & Elected Officials (AACEO) was started in 1989 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry. Today, led by President Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, AACEO meets monthly at Antioch Baptist Church in Brooklyn.

We serve as a conduit for networking and information sharing between all levels of governments and faith-based institutions to address issues important to African Americans and communities of color. There is no issue more important to our communities of color than the right to vote and preserving the right to have members of a racial minority group vote without dilution.

We cannot stand by and watch as our community is maliciously torn apart for political purposes without regard for our shared history, needs, struggles, and goals. It is impossible to ignore the fact that our neighborhood has been targeted in a way that echoes the pre-civil rights era attacks and that once again we are being forced to forfeit our voices and power in a way that other, non-minority communities would never be forced.

Please see the letter attached.

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

**Executive Board**

Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman
President

Assemblywoman Latrice Walker
Vice President

U.S. Congressman Hakeem Jeffries
Vice President

Divinah "Dee" Bailey
Chief Operating Officer

Bishop Ayana Ajanaku-Vason
Chair, Faith Leaders Programming

Honorable Robin K. Sheares
Parliamentarian

Reverend Dr. Gwendolyn Hadley-
Hall
Secretary

Pastor Vivian Donaldson
Treasurer

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,

The African American Clergy & Elected Officials (AACEO) was started in 1989 under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry. Today, led by President Rev. Dr. Robert Waterman, AACEO meets monthly at Antioch Baptist Church in Brooklyn. We serve as a conduit for networking and information sharing between all levels of governments and faith-based institutions to address issues important to African Americans and communities of color. There is no issue more important to our communities of color than the right to vote and preserving the right to have members of a racial minority group vote without dilution.

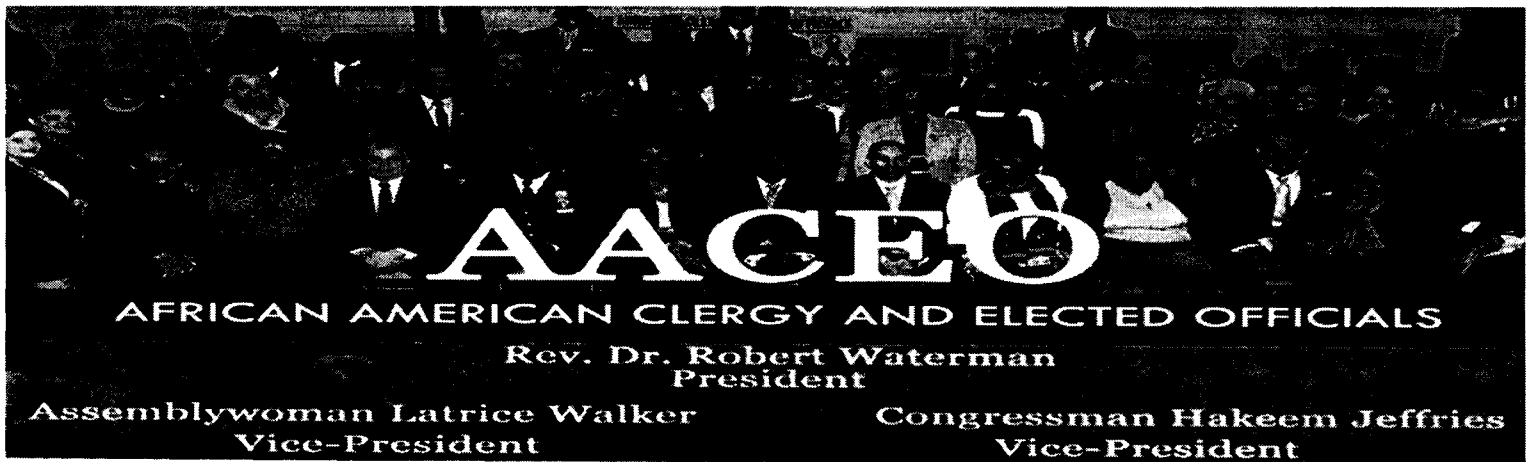
We cannot stand by and watch as our community is maliciously torn apart for political purposes without regard for our shared history, needs, struggles, and goals. It is impossible to ignore the fact that our neighborhood has been targeted in a way that echoes the pre-civil rights era attacks and that once again we are being forced to forfeit our voices and power in a way that other, non-minority communities would never be forced.

Founded in 1989, with its mission for Clergy and Elected Officials to serve, strengthen and empower the parishioners and constituents of Brooklyn, through advocacy and participation in areas that we determine that social and economic injustice exists.

Today, the African American Clergy and Elected Officials Organization is the only organization in the state of New York where pastors, priests, ministers, elected officials and community stakeholders meet monthly to exchange information on community issues on all levels of government.

Founders

Rev. Dr. Herbert Daughtry * Rev. Dr. Gardner C. Taylor * Honorable Annette Robinson * Honorable Al Vann



Back in the 1960s, Bedford-Stuyvesant was a vibrant, predominantly black community that was split apart into 5 congressional districts in order to rob African Americans of the power of voting as a group in order to pick representatives to Congress that shared our values and knew the issues we were facing. Now, almost 60 years later, we see a draft Congressional map that once again targets the people of Bed-Stuy. Once again, we are living through an attempt to dilute our power and voice by splitting up our historic district and robbing us of the possibility of acting as a community to pick a Congressman who can represent all of us.

If this draft map is allowed to stand, it is a declaration that minority communities with shared goals, a shared identity, and that can only have political power by acting together, can be destroyed by the decisions of 2 unelected officials with no accountability to voters.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

God's Peace,

Rev. Dr. Robert M. Waterman
President

Brenda A. Wise

From: Paul Ross <childgrove@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Strongly Oppose Master's Redistricting Maps

Hi, I wish to record my opposition to any Congressional redistricting map that targets the incumbents who can best serve this state, and that certainly includes Hakeem Jeffries Jerry Nadler, and Carolyn Maloney. These leaders protect our well being and should not be pitted against each other.

Paul Ross
New York, NY 10040
Sent from my iPhone

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Ronee Hoade <ronee390@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:37 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: keep hoylman

and our present district
around peter cooper village
otherwise makes no sense
and undermines us in
important ways
pay attention to us
rather than score points
with each other
pcv resident and proud of it
we need to continue
with hoylman

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Luke Weeks <luke.p.weeks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:38 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Stuyvasent town state senate

Stuy town is manhattan - 'nuff said.

Luke Weeks
Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Nicole Doliner <doliner.nicole@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:38 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NY Congressional Map

Your Honor,

I am writing to vigorously protest the current New York Congressional district map configuration that you will be considering. It does not take into account the federally mandated voting rights of minorities and language groups and the rights of New Yorkers to choose their representation. I strongly request that you reject the most recent maps drawn by the special Master and take into consideration the will of the people of the state of New York. An outrageous injustice and disenfranchisement will result if these districts are approved and would persist for many years to come. Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,
Nicole Doliner
District 17

--

I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional territory and homelands of the Munsee Lenapi

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Peter Haywood <phaywoodnyc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:38 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Comment on Redistricting Maps

To Special Master Cervas and any whom it may concern,

I wish to comment in strong support of the proposed 12th congressional district. As a lifelong resident of the Upper West Side, I do agree with other commenters that the west and east sides of Manhattan are very different and sometimes don't like to be associated with each other. And yes, this district does put two longtime incumbents together, but I strongly believe that incumbency should be ignored when drawing districts. The alternatives to putting the west and east sides together are much worse.

The 10th district of the 2010s put the Upper West Side all the way with South Brooklyn, an area we have little in common with (We UWS Jews have very different interests from Brooklyn's Orthodox Jews, and I believe that they lacked representation by having a congressman from the UWS). Likewise, the Upper East Side had previously been put with parts of Queens, which also have very different interests. Putting Lower Manhattan with Brownstone Brooklyn as the proposed 10th district does makes a lot more sense.

Putting the west and east sides together may not be a perfect marriage, but it's the only feasible option considering the alternatives. Our close proximity also means that we have a lot in common, even if we don't care to admit it. Central Park is a gathering place for almost everyone in the proposed 12th district. If we can walk our dogs in the same park, we can be in the same district.

Thank you for your time and your service to New York State.

Peter Haywood
Upper West Side

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Nancy Fuller <nancyannfuller@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise

We need to be in a district with our neighbors that we can walk to. Our concerns are very different than what you are proposing.

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: David Galin <dgalin@albanyny.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Alex Sutherland; 'John.Salka'; Michelle Jackson; Mayor Ron Kim; David Galin
Subject: Letter from Mayors of Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady and Troy
Attachments: Letter from Mayors re Redistricting - May 18, 2022 - Final.pdf

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Amsterdam Mayor Michael Cinquanti, Saratoga Springs Mayor Ron Kim, Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, and Troy Mayor Patrick Madden, attached please find a letter from the five mayors regarding their request to ensure all five of their respective cities remain in the same Congressional district.

Sincerely,
David

David Galin
Chief of Staff to Mayor Kathy Sheehan
Albany City Hall
24 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207
518-434-5105
dgalin@albanyny.gov

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May 18, 2022

Dr. Jonathan Cervas

Transmitted via email to bwise@nycourts.gov

Dear Dr. Cervas,

As the Mayors of Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy, we once again write to urge you to ensure our five cities remain in the same Congressional district.

The New York State Constitution requires the redistricting process consider existing districts and communities of interest that share “enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation.”

As we stated in our letter dated May 4, 2022, Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy are the largest cities in our contiguous counties and share many of the same opportunities and challenges. Our cities are home to the largest communities of color in our respective counties and as well as some of the poorest census tracts. These communities share social and economic interests that must not be diluted. As mayors, we continuously work alongside one-another to ensure we are advocating for those interests with a common regional approach in mind.

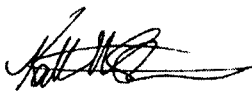
Our cities have partnered numerous times to combat vacant and abandoned buildings, advocate for vital water, sewer, street, sidewalk, and broadband infrastructure funding, and secure the necessary revenue replacement to not only overcome the challenges of the ongoing pandemic but also make transformative investments to reverse decades of disinvestment in our cities. Our cities are also part of the same public transportation district - Capital District Transportation Authority.

That is why it was not surprising that in the final maps submitted by both sets of IRC Commission Members, ‘Congressional Plan A’ and ‘Congressional Plan B,’ and the maps drawn by the legislature all had our five cities in the same Congressional District.

Being divided into two districts and represented by two different Congressional members as reflected in the draft maps released on Monday, May 16, 2022, would not only fly in the face of the charge issued to the Commission by the New York State Legislature and the maps previously submitted, but it would have a directly negative impact on some of the most historically challenged Census tracts in our region.

We once again implore you to ensure our five cities remain in the same Congressional district and provide our residents with the most effective form of federal representation possible.

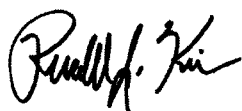
Sincerely,



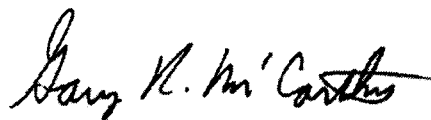
Kathy Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany



Michael Cinquanti
Mayor, City of Amsterdam



Ronald Kim
Mayor, City of Saratoga Springs



Gary McCarthy
Mayor, City of Schenectady



Patrick Madden
Mayor, City of Troy

Brenda A. Wise

From: Lynn Johnson <lhjohnson47@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:40 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Kingston Whole

Please change the newly drawn congressional maps to Keep Kingston Whole. You are disenfranchising a historic and racially diverse city by cutting it in two arbitrarily! Put the whole city into the new District 18! Thank you.
Lynn Johnson, City of Kingston Resident.

Sent from my iPhone

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