

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Carlos Yepes <carloseyepes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:54 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Fwd: New District Map

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Carlos Yepes <[carloseyepes@gmail.com](mailto:carloseyepes@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, May 18, 2022 at 3:43 PM  
**Subject:** New District Map  
**To:** <[cervas@cmu.edu](mailto:cervas@cmu.edu)>

Dear Dr. Cervas,

As a longtime resident of Sunset Park Brooklyn, I am deeply concerned that my formally majority Latinx district is now majority white because of our joining with Staten Island and Bay Ridge. This is not right and is moving our state in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,

Carlos Yepes

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May 17, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

For 20 years, MoCADA has empowered vulnerable communities, uplifted artists whose voices have gone largely ignored, all while instilling a sense of pride in our community through representation and access to the arts. Though we are a community-based organization with a global mission, we emphasize serving the diverse communities of Brooklyn, with specific outreach to and investment in the following neighborhoods: Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Bedford Stuyvesant, East New York, Brownsville, Crown Heights, Flatbush, Prospect Heights, Ocean Hill, Gowanus, Flatbush, East Flatbush, Downtown Brooklyn and more. MoCADA takes pride in welcoming Black people, most especially, children, women, immigrants, elders, LGBTQIAP+, people living with disabilities, Hispanic/LatinX, low-income residents, and artists/creators.

We recently became aware of the draft map from the Special Master, which greatly impacts our community in ways that are insurmountable. As such, please accept this letter which we submit with comments that strongly urge you to reject the draft map and instead maintain the current representation for Downtown Brooklyn.

As you may be aware, MoCADA centers art as a vehicle for social change, while celebrating the shared history, values, and futures of Africa and the diaspora. We work with our federal representatives in Congress on issues that impact the Black communities in these neighborhoods. Through exhibitions, community programming and educational initiatives centered in social justice, MoCADA incites dialogue on pressing social and political issues facing the African Diaspora and fosters a dynamic space for the creation and continuous evolution of culture. MoCADA was founded in 1999 by Laurie Angela Cumbo in a brownstone owned by the Bridge Street AWME Church in the Bedford-Stuyvesant community.

As proposed, the draft map removes our longtime representative, drawing the Museum into a new district, splitting out our neighborhood and community into multiple pieces. This will significantly impact our ability to work with the federal government and secure federal representation. Further, it fails to consider the disparate impacts of breaking up such neighborhoods including Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Downtown Brooklyn, which have been jointly represented for decades.

The lines as drawn are unjust and unfair to our community. By breaking up historic neighborhoods into multiple districts, the map weakens the voices of Black Brooklynites who have worked for many, many years to establish relationships with our representatives. We are deeply concerned about the lack of consideration for these neighborhoods and the impact that the map will have.

We are therefore in strong opposition to the congressional map as drawn and instead urge you to maintain the current district lines.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Andrieux".

Amy Andrieux

Executive Director + Chief Curator

W: [MoCADA.org](https://mocada.org) | P: 718.230.0492x702 | E: [amy@mocada.org](mailto:amy@mocada.org)

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** kerry apicella <kerryapicella1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:55 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Districting

I definitely do not agree with the new redistricting changes for our area -Peter Cooper/Stuyvesant Town. This makes no sense and should be reconsidered.

Kerry Apicella  
510 East 23rd St  
NY, NY 10010

Sent from my iPhone

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Betty Braton  
159-54 95 St.  
Howard Beach, NY 11414  
(917 566 5592)  
EBraton@aol.com

May 18, 2022

Hon. Justice Patrick McAllister  
Special Master Jonathan Cervas  
Dear Justice McAllister & Special Master Cervas:

I am writing to you in an effort to point out to you some of my community's concerns about the draft State Senate District maps that were released on Monday, May 16, 2022. It is my understanding that they are to be finalized on May 20, 2022. I am and have been a registered voter at the above address since 1966. I have experienced the negative impact reapportionment can have on a community when its representation is diluted by dividing communities at various times during the years since. Residents of Howard Beach have been split between different Congressional Districts and different State Senate Districts at various times.

Although I am writing this letter as an individual and am expressing my own views, I do believe most of my neighbors in Howard Beach would agree with the points I am expressing. To put that statement into a context for you I am the Chairperson of NYC Queens Community Board 10. I have chaired that Board since 1990. I have been an active community resident in Howard Beach for over a half century and have served in various capacities in many community organizations all throughout that time on a myriad of civic concerns and issues. I have considerable experience in gathering then understanding and evaluating the views and opinions of my 25,000+ neighbors.

The version of the maps that I have been able to view online are very difficult to read from a geographical perspective although there is considerable information with them from a demographic perspective. My comments that follow are based on geography and how geography creates communities of interest and defines communities beyond their racial, ethnic, religious, partisan, and other demographic indicators.

I am respectfully requesting that you look at the map for State Senate District 15 that was in effect following the 2010 Census until now and the proposed map for Senate District 15 released yesterday and make some changes to it that will undo what will cause a disservice to the people who reside in the geographical area defined by the postal geographical zip code area known as 11414. This zip code area is located in Southwest Queens and encompasses in full the NYC Queens community known as Howard Beach. **Specifically, I request that you return all of the census blocks located within Census Tracts 62.01, 62.02, 884, and 892 that now appear to be being removed from SD 15 to it so that our entire community is kept intact and whole in the same district with communities to our north with which we have shared interests and community connections.**

All of NYC is, in a general sense, a collection of communities each with their own identities and shared interests. While community boundaries may not be always legally defined within NYC as they are in the rest of the state, all NYC residents also live in individual geographical communities with shared interests.

In NYS there appear to be 1,782 zip code geographies, about 1,580 of them are outside of NYC. About 200 of them are within NYC. All of the zip codes outside of NYC are identified by their community post office names. That is not the case within NYC. In NYC, mail going to anywhere in New York County is addressed to Manhattan, NY zip code whatever. Mail going to Bronx County is addressed to Bronx, NY zipcode whatever. Kings County and Richmond County mail addresses follow suit addressed to Brooklyn, NY and Staten Island, NY.

That is not the case in Queens County. Here in Queens our people identify their communities by their individual community names for the purposes of addresses and mail. That is how we in Queens identify our neighborhoods. Historically, from the time zip codes first came in to use there have been some pitched community battles over the ensuing years with the Post Office anytime any efforts were made to alter how we identify where we live and define our neighborhoods. The chart below shows how the Queens zip codes identify our communities.

Zip Code	City	County	Population	Zip Code	City	County	Population
11368	Corona	Queens County	112088	11101	Long Island City	Queens County	31366
11385	Ridgewood	Queens County	107796	11417	Ozone Park	Queens County	31321
11373	Elmhurst	Queens County	94437	11423	Hollis	Queens County	30104
11377	Woodside	Queens County	83825	11102	Astoria	Queens County	29747
11355	Flushing	Queens County	80987	11414	Howard Beach	Queens County	28313
11375	Forest Hills	Queens County	73034	11429	Queens Village	Queens County	27454
11691	Far Rockaway	Queens County	68543	11361	Bayside	Queens County	27201
11434	Jamaica	Queens County	64304	11416	Ozone Park	Queens County	26744
11437	Jamaica	Queens County	64299	11104	Sunnyside	Queens County	25114
11372	Jackson Heights	Queens County	62854	11427	Queens Village	Queens County	24560
11435	Jamaica	Queens County	59605	11356	College Point	Queens County	23494
11354	Flushing	Queens County	53684	11692	Arverne	Queens County	22074
11419	South Richmond Hill	Queens County	48369	11694	Rockaway Park	Queens County	21202
11420	South Ozone Park	Queens County	47470	11411	Cambria Heights	Queens County	20719
11365	Fresh Meadows	Queens County	44738	11426	Bellerose	Queens County	20574
11374	Rego Park	Queens County	43507	11436	Jamaica	Queens County	19167
11413	Springfield Gardens	Queens County	41650	11360	Bayside	Queens County	18954
11421	Woodhaven	Queens County	41251	11415	Kew Gardens	Queens County	18891
11367	Flushing	Queens County	41207	11428	Queens Village	Queens County	18836
11357	Whitestone	Queens County	39407	11362	Little Neck	Queens County	18343
11378	Maspeth	Queens County	38524	11004	Glen Oaks	Queens County	15098
11418	Richmond Hill	Queens County	38405	11366	Fresh Meadows	Queens County	14360
11379	Middle Village	Queens County	37991	11693	Far Rockaway	Queens County	12944
11417	Saint Albans	Queens County	37857	11363	Little Neck	Queens County	7096
11106	Astoria	Queens County	37690	11109	Long Island City	Queens County	5980
11433	Jamaica	Queens County	37021	11697	Breezy Point	Queens County	3674
11105	Astoria	Queens County	36983	11005	Floral Park	Queens County	1759
11358	Flushing	Queens County	36515	11430	Jamaica	Queens County	206
11364	Oakland Gardens	Queens County	36215	11451	Jamaica	Queens County	no pop
11103	Astoria	Queens County	35995	11425	Jamaica	Queens County	no pop
11422	Rosedale	Queens County	32761	11424	Jamaica	Queens County	no pop
11370	East Elmhurst	Queens County	31580	11371	Flushing	Queens County	no pop
11369	East Elmhurst	Queens County	31481	11359	Bayside	Queens County	no pop
				11351	Flushing	Queens County	no pop



The chart below shows the Queens zip code community names.

Howard Beach 11414 has some very clear geographic boundaries that clearly define our community. If you were to look at a

larger map of our zip code you would see that our eastern boundary is a rail line (that continues on to our north in a virtually straight line) and to the east of that rail line in Howard Beach is JFK Airport. The airport's western boundary is that same rail line. That rail line and the airport separate us geographically from other southern Queens communities to the east. Our southern boundary is the north shore of Jamaica Bay. Our western boundary is the Queens/Kings County line. Between our western boundary and any populated Brooklyn neighborhood located in Brooklyn zip codes 11239 and 11236 are many hundreds of acres of land that formerly were landfills and are now essentially undeveloped parkland. Some are part of Brooklyn's Shirley Chisholm State Park and some are under federal jurisdiction as part of Gateway National Recreation area. Our northern boundary is an arterial highway. Within those boundaries

there are roadways and waterways. We are a peninsula of sorts.

Our unique geography shapes who and what we are as a community. We are a "town" with a population that the 2020 Census shows to be 27,320 living in about 11,400 housing units. In a sense, we are insular because our geography tends to separate us from areas near us, especially to the east, west, and south. Our unique geography strengthens our ties with each other within our community as all of our community institutions function in a much more "small town" manner than other neighborhoods. There are similarities from that perspective between our "town" here in NYC and other towns and villages in the rest of the state. I wonder how many, if any, of the 40 non-NYC zip code areas in NYS that have populations ranging between 25,000-30,000 residents are similarly chopped up to be put into 3 different senate districts.

We are much more connected to the areas to our north with the 2 Ozone Park zip codes (11417 and 11416) and the Woodhaven zip code (11421). We share the same eastern boundary with the majority of both Ozone Park zip codes (rail line) and with the majority of Woodhaven (11421) (rail line) Only a small part of Ozone Park and Woodhaven is located east of the rail line and those portions are more connected in a community sense to areas to the east. We also share the same western boundary with the 3 zip codes to our north.. North of Woodhaven 11421 is the Forest Park corridor which forms a geographical boundary between the northern segment of the 15th Senate District and the southern segment of it.

Those 2 segments (northern SD15 and southern SD15) combined make a sensible and workable political district that is diverse. Putting all of 11414 back in that district is also sensible and workable for whomever represents it. The housing stock is similar, the people in all of those areas share community ties within organizations, schools, police precincts, sports groups etc.

All 4 zip codes, 11414, 11417, 11416, and 11421, are in the same school district, 11414 and 11417 are unified within the same Assembly District, and 11416 and 11421 are unified together in another Assembly District.

It makes no sense to remove almost all of 11414 from SD15. It makes no sense to place parts of one community of 27,000 people into 3 different Senate Districts without any understanding of the impact on the people who live in those pieces that have been divided one from another.

I offer the following information to help you understand what I mean. Next month our Howard Beach community comprised of all of 11414 will be celebrating our community's 125th Anniversary. It is geography that has shaped us since our community's very beginnings.

The origins of Howard Beach can be traced to four key 19th century ingredients that converged in 1897.

1. The attractiveness of Hawtree Creek and its environs.
2. Construction of the Long Island Railroad line across the creek and Jamaica Bay to Rockaway.
3. The arrival of William J. Howard, the founder and namesake of Howard Beach.
4. The incorporation of Queens towns and villages into NYC.

Howard Beach is a middle class suburban neighborhood in Southwestern Queens. Howard Beach was established in the 1890's by William J. Howard. Howard was a Brooklyn glove manufacturer who had goat farms in Queens. He formed the Howard Estates Development Company in 1909, and by 1914 Howard transformed a farm into a small neighborhood (on land presently part of the airport). That area was east of present-day Crossbay Blvd. and Shellbank Basin and Hawtree Basin. East of Hawtree Basin was Hamilton Beach, a current-day small subsection of Howard Beach which had its beginnings also as a fishing community.

Mr. Howard operated a 150 acre goat farm on meadow land near current-day Aqueduct Racetrack/Resorts World Casino. In 1897, he bought more land west of what today is the rail line and filled it in. The following year he built 18 cottages and opened a hotel near the water, which he operated until it was destroyed by fire in October 1907. He gradually bought more land and formed the Howard Estates Development Company in 1909. He then dredged and with the material dredged to create Shellbank Basin and Cross Bay Blvd. filled the land until he was able to accumulate 500 acres by 1914. He laid out several streets, water mains and gas mains, and built houses.

The Long Island Rail Road established a station named Ramblersville in 1905 and a Post Office by the same name opened soon thereafter. A casino, beach, and fishing pier were added in 1915 and the name of the neighborhood was changed to Howard Beach on April 6, 1916.

Entity Details	
ENTITY NAME: HOWARD BEACH ASSOCIATION, INC.	DOS ID: 13515
FOREIGN LEGAL NAME:	FICTITIOUS NAME:
ENTITY TYPE: DOMESTIC, NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION	DURATION DATE/LATEST DATE OF DISSOLUTION:
SECTION OF LAW:	ENTITY STATUS: ACTIVE
DATE OF INITIAL DOS FILING: 02/08/1916	REASON FOR STATUS:
EFFECTIVE DATE INITIAL FILING: 02/08/1916	INACTIVE DATE:
FOREIGN FORMATION DATE:	STATEMENT STATUS: NOT REQUIRED
COUNTY: NEW YORK	NEXT STATEMENT DUE DATE:
JURISDICTION: NEW YORK, UNITED STATES	NFP CATEGORY: NON-CHARITABLE

On February 8, 1916 this corporation was formed. To my understanding from records of it I have seen and read, it was formed to manage some of the aspects of Howard Estates which was at its inception a private community. After that ended the organization morphed into the community's civic

association. It functioned as such until the mid 1990s when it ceased meeting as there were other organizations all involved in the same public civic activity. I am the last person who served as its elected president. I was its president from the mid 1970s until the mid 1990s.

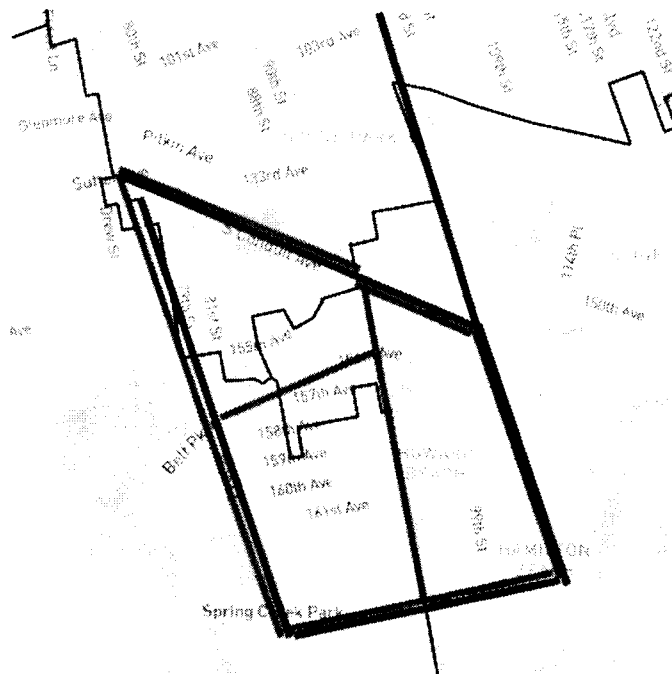
Howard Beach's development continued through the early 1900s, but was limited to the areas east of Cross Bay Boulevard near the LIRR station that is today a subway station. Collectively, that area and Hamilton Beach are commonly referred to as "old" Howard Beach. The rest of what is today's Howard Beach consisted mostly of empty marsh land.

After World War II, Queens went through a major suburban building boom leading to the marsh land west of Cross Bay Boulevard to be filled in. This led to the development of many more homes. This area is now known collectively as "new" Howard Beach." In the early 1950s, farm land to its north was developed with the building of more homes. The area continued to be developed through the 1960s and 1970s as Cross Bay Boulevard became the area's main shopping district.

The distinctions between "Hamilton", "Old" or "New", or Lindenwood within our should lead no one to conclude Howard Beach as a whole is not one community with a shared history, shared interests and a strong sense of community identity. Those distinctions are in their essence nothing more than our community vernacular to tell each other and those from other neighborhoods where our home is geographically located.

There are 3 public schools and 1 parochial school in Howard Beach along with various pre-schools. There are children in each of them from all parts of the community. There are 2 Catholic Parishes that serve us. Parts of their geographies crisscross the whole area. There are 3 Jewish congregations and they all have congregants from all parts of the community as do the 2 Protestant churches located with our community. Currently we have a small but growing Muslim population served by mosques in neighboring Ozone Park. It would not surprise me that sometime in the near future our faith community will grow to accomodate it here.

I mention our homes, schools and churches as they are together one of the major factors that unite all of us in Howard Beach as one community with one very major shared interest to stay as a whole zip code within the same borough, the same state legislative districts, and the same NYC council district. Virtually all of the zip code 11414 area was devastated in 2012 by Superstorm Sandy. Almost all of our homes, all of our schools, and churches and most importantly about 20,000 of our people were severely impacted. There are numerous needs still unmet as we work together as a community with our representatives on all of the necessary resiliency efforts to insure our community's very existence in the future. Chopping our community up in a manner that requires us to deal on very complicated matters with additional public offices and officials will complicate further our efforts. Chopping our community up between districts impacted us badly on many less serious issues in the years before 2012 when a prior redistricting put portions of it in different districts and even different boroughs. We do understand that the size of Congressional Districts may at times neccessitate that. However, the size of a State Senate district in our view does not neccessitate chopping up our community. In the case of the proposed SD15 even the nature of that chopping shows no regard for our community and our people's sense of history, place, and community and our needs.



This is what the special master's map has generated for us. The red line is the outline of zip code 11414. The blue line just represents the rail line as it goes north of us. The 3 polygons outlined in green show how our community situated fully within a single zip code with a population of less than 30,000 people is chopped up to be in 3 different State Senate districts, 1 which is in a different county.

**It is unconscionable and wrong, I respectfully ask that you do not approve the proposed SD15 unless adjustments are made that keep all of our community intact and within the 15th SD together with the communities to our north with which we have long-standing ties and numerous shared interests rather than to put most of our people into differing districts to our east and west where we have not shared interests or community ties and where there are significant geographical barriers.**

**I urge you to ensure that all blocks and block groups within the following 31 Census Tracts all located in Queens that have all been in SD15 for the last decade remain in SD15. The**

**4 tract numbers in red are the 4 populated Howard Beach tracts.**

**Tracts 12, 44.01, 62.02, 884, 6, 18, 40.02, 2, 4, 14, 16, 8, 10, 20, 22, 30, 32, 34, 36, 50, 38, 40.01, 42, 52, 54, 58, 62.01, 86, 88, 641.01, 892.01.**



The map below depicts them and clearly shows they are geographically compact and contiguous. Any look at the collective demographic data for them will show that it is a diverse area in keeping with the overall diversity found in Queens and it would comprise a very sensible southern segment for SD15.

The total Population of the census blocks shown within these 31 Tracts is approximately 113,700  
 White 25.7% Black 7.7%  
 Asian 19.8% Hispanic 43.5%  
 All Other 6.3%

Total Minority Population 74.3%  
 Approximately 38.5 thousand housing units  
 46.5% of which are 1 & 2 family homes

59.2% of which are 4 family or less units with the majority of the total housing units having been constructed pre-1950

All are within 4 zip codes (Howard Beach 11414; Ozone Park 11417; Ozone Park North 11416; Woodhaven 11421)

The northern boundary is the Forest Park corridor, the eastern boundary is the rail line, the southern boundary is the north shore of Jamaica Bay, and the western boundary is the Queens/Kings County line.

Any population adjustments necessary would be possible by reexamining the outlying edges of the

northern segment of SD15.

I realize this letter is lengthy and I urge you most strongly to consider favorably the various points I have tried to make as sufficient grounds to alter what is proposed to be the new SD15 to include all of Howard Beach 11414 into it.

Very truly yours,  
*Betty Braton*

Betty Braton

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Kristen Rego <kristenrego@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:41 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Proposal for Re-drawn Districts - 18 & 19  
**Attachments:** Assemblymember Cahill - Harkenrider v. Hochul Public Comment.pdf

Greetings,

Please see attached the letter from Assembly member, Cahil **and** the following message below:

## **Don't fracture 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.

## **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.

Truly,  
Kristen (concerned citizen of Ulster County)

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KEVIN A. CAHILL  
Assemblymember 103<sup>rd</sup> District  
CHAIR  
Assembly Insurance Committee

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES

Ways and Means  
Economic Development, Job Creation,  
Commerce & Industry  
Health  
Higher Education

May 17, 2022

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

Dear Justice McAllister:

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 I serve in the Mid-Hudson Valley, particularly related to the City of Kingston.

Under the proposed plan the City of Kingston is fractured between the 18th and 19th congressional districts, with some neighbors included in a constituency that spans from Massachusetts to the Finger Lakes while the remainder of the City is connected with Poughkeepsie and Newburgh, a drive of less than one hour. The bifurcation of this municipality and its separation from sister Hudson Valley cities will dilute voter effectiveness and the subsequent representation needed in our nation's capital. It is difficult to discern how our voice would not be drown out by regional needs and concerns of residents of the Southern Tier and Central New York in the proposed 19th Congressional District, places with vastly different demographics, economic underpinnings and social concerns.

The City of Kingston is the most diverse community in Ulster County. Its population of almost 25,000 people draws from recent immigrants from Central America and the Caribbean, Black Americans as well as those who can trace their family story to the Dutch settlement of Wiltwyck in the 17th Century. Splitting Kingston up and then separating part of it from other nearby diverse municipalities such as Ellenville, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Middletown will in effect dilute minority voices throughout the Hudson Valley in direct violation of the 2014 constitutional amendment requiring districts to be mindful of disenfranchising minority populations and clearly represents a prohibited violation of voter and civil rights.

In its 250 year history, Kingston has been well represented wholly by New Yorkers of both parties who recognized the unique needs and voice of our community and brought that advocacy to Washington. Among them include names such as Charles DeWitt, George Clinton, Hamilton

Hon. Patrick J. McAllister

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May 17, 2022

Fish, Jr., Matthew F. McHugh, Maurice D. Hinchey, Christopher Gibson and Antonio Delgado. These individuals, some of whom lived far from this community, were strong voices for Kingston. However, that representation balanced distance against the concentration of residents in and near this County Seat. If Kingston's congressional representation is divided and diluted into separate districts, it significantly diminishes that balance and it is a real possibility that neither will adequately bring needed national services, resources and attention to our community.

Kingston is a diverse and dynamic place that is constantly evolving and welcoming new families and neighbors. This draft plan disregards this most basic aspect of the American Experience, its diversity, balance and opportunity for all. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the proposed reapportionment plan be modified to include the City of Kingston in a single congressional district that uplifts, and does not suppress, our voices, adequately representing our regional, ethnic and historic character. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Cahill  
Member of Assembly

KAC:mt

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** lbrookes@optonline.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise; SteubenSuperior@nycourts.gov; Cervas@CMU.edu  
**Subject:** Fwd: Remapping Congressional Districts of Co-op City, et al.

Please address your emails to:

[BWise@nycourts.gov](mailto:BWise@nycourts.gov)

[SteubenSuperior@nycourts.gov](mailto:SteubenSuperior@nycourts.gov)

And

[Cervas@CMU.edu](mailto:Cervas@CMU.edu)

----- Original Message -----

From: lbrookes@optonline.net  
To: bewise@nycourts.gov; stipinsuper@courts.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 2:32 PM  
Subject: Remapping Congressional Districts of Co-op City, et al.

We do not wish to allow the 16th district composed of Co-op City, Edenwald, Williamsbridge, and Lower Westchester to be remapped to the 14th District. This will marginalize our communities ability to elect individuals which are supportive of people of color, and who will best represent our interests.

While we are late in recognizing and being alerted of these mapping plans, we are completely against such remapping as a community are large.

Please consider our request for maintenance of the 16th District and the composition thereof, before deciding against the people's voting rights!

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Carol O <xuniversalqueenx@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Fw: 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CHANGE TO 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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**From:** Carol O  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 7:35 PM  
**To:** Cervas@CMU.EDU <Cervas@CMU.EDU>  
**Subject:** 16TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CHANGE TO 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Coop City is the largest Cooperative in the Nation and we are home to one of the largest Retirement Communities. We have specific issues in regard to the aforementioned information, forcing us into another district will dilute our voting power and have one person overseeing complex issues that affect this community, and we need to have representation that is not spread thin to us by crowding us into the 14th district. Please leave us in the 16<sup>th</sup> District so we can continue being represented by Mr. Bowman who works with us closely and recognizes issues specific to my Community.

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Jacole Mills <jacole.mills@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** No Redistricting for District 16

To whom it May Concern,

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

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

Please do not allow blatant attempts to silence the people of color and further tip the scales against our favor. Instead I ask that you consider that NY-16 should not be splintered like many other areas have been across this country as a way to take away the power of our vote. This is an attempt to change the face of the elected officials around us, thereby reducing the power of our community as it is today. Please include these concerns as you deliberate on redrawing the district lines.

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

Sincerely,

Jacole E Mills

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

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** grunblattesq@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:43 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu  
**Subject:** Harm posed by splitting Kingston into 2 congressional districts

Your Honor and Special Master:

I have practiced law in Kingston since 1986. My practice includes immigration law, which I have provided pro bono and at reduced rates for most of that time, in honor of my father who was barred from escaping France before World War 2 by Roosevelt's restrictions. He survived and I was born and raised in North Creek, Warren County, in the Adirondacks. I point this out to remind you that immigration law is not only a matter for New York City residents, but is important statewide. I have used congressional inquiries to expedite cases before USCIS, formerly USINS, from Reps. Hinchey, Gibson, Faso and Delgado's offices in Kingston. I have sometimes trained congressional staff to help applicants. Personal contact is important to calm clients terrified of any government official, a common legacy of people fleeing gangs in Central America, religious persecution in Nigeria, China or India, civil war in Yemen, Colombia or Ethiopia and authoritarian regimes worldwide.

Splitting Kingston will reduce or remove access to help for my immigration clients. Becoming numerically unimportant to both districts makes it likely that no congressional office will open here. Many of my clients have no car, and commercial transport is difficult for them to use due to language barriers and fear of becoming lost in a new city. Alternatively, if one representative locates an office here, neighbors will be treated differently by the Federal government, creating confusion and animosity toward Congress. The proposed line makes it difficult for me to determine which district any of my present immigration clients fall into. It follows no major thoroughfare, no natural boundary and even appears to split blocks and individual houses. Will you have me inspect in which bedroom a client sleeps to guess at his or her congressional representative?

The proposed split of Kingston will likely result in unequal access to immigration and other vital government services requiring Congressional help. Some examples from my practice include the Vietnam vet who came to the US as a child from a Hungarian concentration camp unaware that he was eligible for citizenship without application fees due to his service, the Yemeni families stymied by the frequent closure of the US embassy in Sana'a, orphans without documents, young witnesses to their parents' executions, and a young man whipped by Iranian religious police. Immigration is now a political battleground, but it remains an important and uniquely Federal responsibility. Please keep Kingston together so that this Congressional service remains available to my clients.

Mark Grunblatt  
Counselor at Law  
185 Fair St.  
Kingston, NY 12401

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** AMY SLUTZKY <aslutzky@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:43 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Cc:** Slutzky Gary  
**Subject:** Redistricting Map

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

Attached is a letter authored by my brother in law Gary Slutzky. I'm sure you have a copy. I have no shame in copying his words as I know of no person who advocates for or has a passion for the local town and surrounding community as much as Gary. He is basically our family historian as well as the town's. He takes great pride in understanding the issues surround our communities and has great compassion for our fellow residents and others in the surrounding communities. I'm sure others share his viewpoint including myself. Thanks for taking the time to read this!

"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."

Sincerely

Amy J Slutzky  
213 Botti Dr  
Hunter NY 12442

Sent from my iPhone

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

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Julia Gaber <julia.gaber@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:43 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Stuytown District

Hello,

I am writing to express my surprise about adding Stuytown to the 59th district and request to reconsider this decision. Stuytown belongs to a district that makes sense geographically and this is not the case there at all.

Thank you,  
Julia

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

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** janice williams <jw10janice@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:44 PM  
**To:** STEUBEN\_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@cmu.edu  
**Subject:** Objection to Draft Congressional Plan

**Dear Hon. Justice Patrick McAllister and Special Master Jonathan Cervas:**

**I, Janice Williams, am a resident of the 56th Assembly District, residing at 105 Utica Avenue, 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.)**

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

**Thank you.**

**Janice Williams  
105 Utica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213**

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*"History's Hometown"*

## CITY OF AUBURN

Office of the City Council  
Terry Cuddy, City Councilor

May 18, 2022

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

RE: Redistricting of the City of Auburn

Dear Judge McAllister,

I am writing to urgently request that you reject special master Dr. Jonathan Cervas' proposed congressional and state senate maps, released publicly on May 16, 2022.

The special master's proposed maps are devastating for the city of Auburn. In a letter to you on May 5, 2022 our Mayor, Michael D. Quill respectfully requested that the City of Auburn be included in central New York oriented districts, as that best represents our government and cultural interests. Issues such as transportation, economic development, infrastructure and the environment all deal with state and federal government district offices based in Syracuse. When we submit state grants they are reviewed by our Central New York Regional Economic Development Council and the process is closely aligned with the state and federal representatives from central New York districts. The special master's proposed maps places Auburn at a significant disadvantage.

If the State Legislature's maps were rejected these new proposed maps should also be rejected for the same reasons. There is nothing gained with the special master's proposal and it should be rejected.

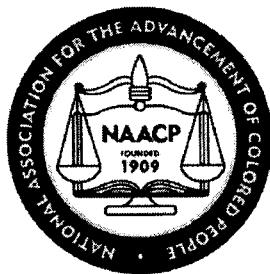
Thank you for your immediate consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Cuddy", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Cuddy

City Councilor



# NAACP

## *Brooklyn Branch*

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 members of the Brooklyn branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, I write to express our strong opposition to the draft maps proposed by the Special Master. The proposal cracks the communities of interest within the neighborhoods of Bedford Stuyvesant, Crown Heights and Clinton Hill and whether intentional or not disenfranchises our voting power and hampers our ability to seek fair representation.

The Court in Steuben County, which is more than 250 miles from Brooklyn, should have taken into account the comprehensive testimony of Brooklyn residents, civic leaders and stakeholders who made clear that the communities of interest that presently constitute the 8th and 9th congressional districts should be kept together. Our members, along with members of the greater Brooklyn community participated in the lengthy redistricting process executed by the New York Independent Redistricting Commission and adopted and submitted testimony in favor of the maps submitted by the Unity Map Coalition. Additional, maps submitted by Common Cause also more align with what is in the best interest of our communities than what was proposed by the Special Master.

Cracking the communities of interest in the community of Bedford Stuyvesant is very alarming along with the splitting of Crown Heights. It is clear that the Special Master was unaware of the history of this community although expansive testimony and draft maps were submitted to the IRC from members and leaders in these communities.

Brooklyn Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People  
147 Prince Street, Suite 64B . Brooklyn, NY 11201 . Office: (347) 836-9025

***www.BrooklynNAACP.org***

The New York State Constitution emphasizes prioritizing communities of interest and voting rights over compactness and these proposed maps ignore that priority. These maps are a slap in the face not only to the Black and Brown people within these communities, but to all the leaders and stakeholders, whose residents have fought long and hard to bring equity to our communities; fighting for schools, jobs, programs, infrastructure and so much more.

We vehemently oppose these draft maps and urge that in your final draft, the communities of Bedford Stuyvesant, Crown Heights and Clinton Hill are once again made whole. For reference, I have included links to the maps drafted by the Unity Map Coalition of which we publicly supported and more accurately reflect how the final maps should be redrawn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L. Joy Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "L. Joy" and the last name "Williams" clearly legible.

L Joy Williams  
President

Enclosure: 2022 Unity Map Congressional Districts

2022 Unity Map Senatorial Districts

SUBJECT: PROTEST Redistricting Co-op City 10475 from CD16 into CD14

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

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

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

Thank you

Evelyn Brown

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Tom Hoffay <thoffay160@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:46 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep Kingston and Ulster whole!

Dear Judge McAllister:

For the entire history of the Congress of the United States, the City of Kingston has been represented with a member elected by the whole body.

As the original capital of New York State, for which it suffered utter destruction at the hands of the British Army - Kingston has always been in a single Congressional seat.

But this isn't merely historical reminiscing, Kingston is also a diverse community representing many cultures, races, religions and lifestyles. Kingston is a community with a sense of purpose and planning. The proposed Congressional map will have the same impact as the fires of the British Army, leaving destruction and division in its wake, setting back the future growth and prosperity of our city. Please place the entire city in one congressional district.

-Tom Hoffay  
160 Tremper Ave  
Kingston, NY 12401

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

Dear Justice McAllister:

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 I serve in the Mid-Hudson Valley, particularly related to the City of Kingston.

Under the proposed plan the City of Kingston is fractured between the 18th and 19th congressional districts, with some neighbors included in a constituency that spans from Massachusetts to the Finger Lakes while the remainder of the City is connected with Poughkeepsie and Newburgh, a drive of less than one hour. The bifurcation of this municipality and its separation from sister Hudson Valley cities will dilute voter effectiveness and the subsequent representation needed in our nation's capital. It is difficult to discern how our voice would not be drowned out by regional needs and concerns of residents of the Southern Tier

and Central New York in the proposed 19th Congressional District, places with vastly different demographics, economic underpinnings and social concerns.

The City of Kingston is the most diverse community in Ulster County. Its population of almost 25,000 people draws from recent immigrants from Central America and the Caribbean, Black Americans as well as those who can trace their family story to the Dutch settlement of Wiltwyck in the 17th Century. Splitting Kingston up and then separating part of it from other nearby diverse municipalities such as Ellenville, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Middletown will in effect dilute minority voices throughout the Hudson Valley in direct violation of the 2014 constitutional amendment requiring districts to be mindful of disenfranchising minority populations and clearly represents a prohibited violation of voter and civil rights.

In its 250 year history, Kingston has been well represented wholly by New Yorkers of both parties who recognized the unique needs and voice of our community and brought that advocacy to Washington. Among them include names such as Charles DeWitt, George Clinton, Hamilton Hon. Patrick J. McAllister -2- May 17, 2022

Fish, Jr., Matthew F. McHugh, Maurice D. Hinchey, Christopher Gibson and Antonio Delgado. These individuals, some of whom lived far from this community, were strong voices for Kingston. However, that representation balanced distance against the concentration of residents in and near this County Seat. If Kingston's congressional representation is divided and diluted into separate districts, it significantly diminishes that balance and it is a real possibility that neither will adequately bring needed national services, resources and attention to our community.

Kingston is a diverse and dynamic place that is constantly evolving and welcoming new families and neighbors. This draft plan disregards this most basic aspect of the American Experience, its diversity, balance and opportunity for all. Accordingly, I respectfully request that the proposed reapportionment plan be modified to include the City of Kingston in a single congressional district that uplifts, and does not suppress, our voices, adequately representing our regional, ethnic and historic character. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Kevin A. Cahill  
Member of Assembly

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** David Zimmer <davidnzimmer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:46 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redrawing the State Senate lines. My wife and I live in Stuyvesant Town and we want to stay as part of Manhattan. Please don't redistrict us. Thank you, David N. Zimmer

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

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Pat Skold <plskold13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:47 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a resident of Columbia County, and the proposed changes would have disastrous consequences for our county. If allowed to stand, Columbia County would be separated from both the Capital District and the Mid-Hudson Valley regions, as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map groups our county with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in a poor outcome for our county when it comes to identity, representation, and allocation of resources.

Columbia County is located along the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley, and the Department of Economic Development has placed Columbia County in the Capital District. Under the proposed map, Columbia County would be isolated from both regions and be the only county in CD19 on the east side of the Hudson River. Columbia County should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined populations of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average congressional district.

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

Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties have a common history, developing major agricultural and industrial centers because of their proximity to the Hudson River. There is no such common history with counties located in the middle and western portions of New York State.

The five County Seat Cities of Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Troy, Kingston, and Catskill had a similar rise as major industrial cities that suffered steep economic declines in the first half of the 20th century but are now experiencing a great resurgence. These small to medium sized cities have diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, socio-economic, and gender/sexual orientation populations. These cities have higher poverty levels than the surrounding countryside and have similar challenges to meet the need for infrastructure, broadband, workforce housing, and healthcare throughout the counties. Columbia County should be in a congressional district with its neighbors who face the same challenges and concerns.

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

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. We share similar agricultural, historic, artistic, and economic challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Rensselaer, and Greene

Counties as part of the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Dividing Columbia County, or separating us from the Mid-Hudson Valley region, would seriously impact the residents who want to build for the future and be fairly represented in Congress. It would be a gross miscarriage of justice that will have long-term adverse consequences for our residents and our region if these district lines are allowed to stand. We urge you to correct this grave mistake.

Very truly yours,  
Brian Johnston

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

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Tina Fallon <tina.fallon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:55 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Cc:** cervas@cmu.edu  
**Subject:** Nydia Velazquez and Red Hook

Nydia Velazquez has fought for our community for years. I have lived in Red Hook for 15 years and can't imagine our neighborhood without our fierce advocate!

Red Hook depends on Nydia and her staffer Dan Wiley to represent our (often overlooked) community and its idiosyncratic needs. Please don't take her away from us.

All the best,

Tina

Tina Fallon  
Founding Producer  
The 24 Hour Plays®  
Real estate inquiries at  
[tina@realtycollective.com](mailto:tina@realtycollective.com)  
917.379.7903  
[www.24hourplays.com](http://www.24hourplays.com)

On Wed, May 18, 2022, 3:49 PM Tina Fallon <[tina.fallon@gmail.com](mailto:tina.fallon@gmail.com)> wrote:

Tina Fallon  
Founding Producer  
The 24 Hour Plays®  
Real estate inquiries at  
[tina@realtycollective.com](mailto:tina@realtycollective.com)  
917.379.7903  
[www.24hourplays.com](http://www.24hourplays.com)

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Rowintiya <3waterfalls@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:55 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep Ulstery county in one district

Good afternoon,

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, 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. The City of Kingston 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.

Sincerely,  
Tiya Madden-Cotter  
A Gardiner NY resident

Sent from my iPhone

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** andrea sansom <andreacsansom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:55 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Congressperson Velazquez - Red Hook, Brooklyn - Redistricting

Dear Mr Wise,

Please relay the following to Justice McAllister – thank you:

Dear Justice McAllister,

Thank you for receiving comments on congressional redistricting. I am deeply concerned about this matter for two reasons:

Firstly, my community of Red Hook, Brooklyn needs and deserves the cohesive representation of our longstanding, much respected and well known representative, Nydia Velazquez. Please do not support such a sudden and rash change in districts; it can only add more chaos to an already unstable and fragile cultural and political landscape.

Secondly, constituents are not being given enough time and notice of the need to submit these critical comments in support of OUR representative. This is reckless and irresponsible decision making. Please do what is in your power to halt this deeply unsettling and needless upheaval.

Respectfully,

Andrea Sansom  
Red Hook, Brooklyn

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** SUSAN TANNER <hl2smt@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:56 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a resident of Columbia County, and the proposed changes would have disastrous consequences for our county. If allowed to stand, Columbia County would be separated from both the Capital District and the Mid-Hudson Valley regions, as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map groups our county with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in a poor outcome for our county when it comes to identity, representation, and allocation of resources.

Columbia County is located along the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley, and the Department of Economic Development has placed Columbia County in the Capital District. Under the proposed map, Columbia County would be isolated from both regions and be the only county in CD19 on the east side of the Hudson River. Columbia County should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined populations of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average congressional district.

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

Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties have a common history, developing major agricultural and industrial centers because of their proximity to the Hudson River. There is no such common history with counties located in the middle and western portions of New York State.

The five County Seat Cities of Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Troy, Kingston, and Catskill had a similar rise as major industrial cities that suffered steep economic declines in the first half of the 20th century but are now experiencing a great resurgence. These small to medium sized cities have diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, socio-economic, and gender/sexual orientation populations. These cities have higher poverty levels than the surrounding countryside and have similar challenges to meet the need for infrastructure, broadband, workforce housing, and healthcare throughout the counties. Columbia County should be in a congressional district with its neighbors who face the same challenges and concerns.

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

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. We share similar agricultural, historic, artistic, and economic challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Rensselaer, and Greene Counties as part of the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Dividing Columbia County, or separating us from the Mid-Hudson

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

Very truly yours,  
SusanTanner, Malden Bridge, NY

Sent from my iPad

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Eileen Kramer <erknyc21@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:56 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting StuyTown

Hello,

The plan to redistrict StuyTown makes no sense. The current district lines should be kept. Please reconsider.

Thank you,  
Sheila Ryan  
StuyTown tenant of 35 years

Sent from my iPad

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

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Jo Cicale <cicalejo64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:56 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Cc:** Jo Cicale  
**Subject:** Keep the City of Kingston and 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.

In addition, this holds true for the city of Kingston. We have a unique, unifying culture and it makes absolutely no sense to fracture us.

Best, Jo Galante Cicale, Saugerties NY

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Sarah Berger <sarah.ari.berger@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:57 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Public comment on proposed NY maps

Hello,

My name is Sarah Berger. I am a lifelong New Yorker. I am very concerned that the maps drawn by the special master divides communities of interest and will be confusing for voters. They ignore the core of current congressional districts. These maps were created without any concern for voters--those who should be of primary concern. There is precedent for leaving maps as they are if it would be better for the voter and I think that is what should be done in this case. Please do not allow these maps to stand.

Thank you!

Sarah Berger  
Brooklyn, New York  
Currently in Congressional District 9

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Rowintiya <3waterfalls@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:57 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep Ulster county in one district

Good afternoon,

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, 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. The City of Kingston 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.

Sincerely,  
Tiya Madden-Cotter  
A Gardiner NY resident

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**TOWN OF MONTGOMERY**

110 BRACKEN ROAD  
MONTGOMERY, NEW YORK 12549

Tel: (845) 457-2600 • Fax (845) 457-7558  
email: bmaher@townofmontgomery.com

**Brian Maher Town Supervisor**

May 18, 2022

Dr. Jonathan Cervas  
Special Master  
New York State Redistricting

Dear Dr. Cervas,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the greater Town of Montgomery community. The new New York State Senate maps have the Town of Montgomery sharing a district with Dutchess and Putnam Counties. While we understand many issues facing Hudson Valley communities can be similar, we strongly prefer being placed into the newly established 42<sup>nd</sup> Senate District which encompasses all of Orange County.

Over the last few days, speaking with local residents, it is our belief that a representative from Orange County would be best suited to represent us and advocate for the issues we are facing here in the Town of Montgomery.

There currently are letters being submitted that will swap the Town of Montgomery for the Town of New Windsor. This makes sense since both of those communities share the same school district, infrastructure and water sources.

We can appreciate the hard work you and your team have put into this process and hope you will consider this request as you make final changes to these lines. Thank you for all you are doing to see that all New Yorkers are represented as appropriately as possible.

Sincerely,

Brian Maher  
Supervisor, Town of Montgomery  
92 Browns Road  
Walden, NY 12586





JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
OF GREATER CONEY ISLAND

Community-Based | Citywide Impact

#### SENIOR SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Homecare  
Transportation  
Homebound Visitation  
Connect 2  
Citymeals Friendly Visiting  
Telephone Reassurance  
Case Management  
Home Delivered Meals  
Holocaust Survivor Support Systems  
Senior Center Services  
Coney Island Seaside Innovative Senior Center  
Haber House Senior Center  
Jay Hama Senior Center  
Marlboro Senior Center  
Ocean Parkway Senior Center  
Sunday Senior Center  
Health Insurance Counseling Center

#### VOCATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Internship Placement Service Program  
Ladders for Leaders  
Adult Literacy  
Career Pathways  
SNAP Employment and Training  
Crown Heights Career Assistance  
Workforce Development Project  
Parnossah Employment Services  
Crown Heights Career Hub

#### EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS

21st Century Community Learning Center  
Advantage After School Program  
Horizons Academy College and Career Prep  
Comprehensive After School System  
(Compass NYC)  
ExpandedED After School Program

#### MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

The Non-Profit Help Desk  
Technical Assistance to Nonprofits  
Fiscal Management  
Information Technology  
Resource Development  
Board Development

#### COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Housing Preservation Initiative  
School Based Conflict Resolution  
Domestic Violence & Empowerment  
(DoVE) Initiative  
Therapeutic Services Program  
NY Rising Community Center  
Coney Island Cure Violence Initiative  
Southern Brooklyn Community Shuttle Bus  
Urban Neighborhood Services Multi Service  
Center



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:

I am writing to express profound concern regarding the draft Congressional District map for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional districts released by Special Master Jonathan Cervas, a Judicial Overseer in Steuben County.

The draft map blatantly ignores the comprehensive testimony of Brooklyn residents, civic leaders and stakeholders who 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.

This draft map dilutes the Black population in the 8th and 9th congressional districts in a manner totally inconsistent with the constitutional mandate that communities of color should be put into position to elect the candidate of their choice.

The draft map divides the majority Black and historic neighborhood of Bedford Stuyvesant, a district created in 1968 pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, with the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood at its core. It also removes the Fort Greene and the Clinton Hill neighborhoods from the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

We respectfully request that the Congressional District map for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional districts be reconsidered and redrawn to be responsive to the mandate that communities of interest remain united so that they are in a position to protect and defend and assure their common destiny.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Moshe Wiener  
Executive Director

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,

**Brenda A. Wise**

---

**From:** Nicole Palame <nicolepalame@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Support Maps.

Courts,

I'm messaging in support of the court-appointed special master's drawing of New York's new Congressional and state Senate maps.

Many New Yorkers approve and are thankful that the previous attempt at gerrymandering was stopped.

Sincerely,

**Nicole Palamé**

iPhone = typos on the go!

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Danny Pearl <dna604@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise

To Whom it May Concern,

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

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

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

Many thanks,  
Daniel Pearl  
363 Philadelphia Ave  
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Lois Lowenstein <leahlois6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise

W in Peter Cooper should remain in a district with our closest neighbors. This redistricting makes no sense!  
Dr. Jerome and Lois Lowenstein

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## CATTARAUGUS COUNTY LEGISLATURE

M. Andrew Burr, District #1 Legislator

26 Maltbie Road

Gowanda, New York 14070

Business: 716.938.2386

Cell: 716.713.9398

May 18, 2022

By E-Filing

Hon. Patrick F. McAllister  
Special Master Dr. Jonathan Cervas  
Supreme Court, Steuben County  
3 East Puteney Square  
Bath, NY 14810

Dear Justice McAllister:

The NYS 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District has historically been in effect for many decades. It is my strong opinion that Erie County be removed and counties like Cattaraugus County to be added to the district which are similar communities of interest and share rural characteristics.

There has been a longstanding precedent in historical NYS maps that have demonstrated this in previous redistricting processes. It is my hope that the court will appreciate the fact that the current maps have accomplished this well and as little change as possible would be the best outcome.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

M. Andrew Burr  
Vice Chair

MAB/dkg

**Brenda A. Wise**

---

**From:** Emily Johnson <emily@hartlandbrooklyn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:01 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Greene County redistricting

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

As a resident, business owner, and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I do not agree with the new district map. The influx of voters and the changing demographics has only been a positive impact in our district 19. Adding the southwestern NY area to our map is a little suspect, since they do not share the Hudson river border or have the same geography. This means our way of living is just different. As a native WNYer, this is part of the reason I chose this area.

When people already cannot seem to work together, it is a very bad time to change maps and not allow organic changes to happen. This new map looks very gerrymandered compared to the previous one. **Districts should not be separated by voters, but by regions.** With the work-from-home model, more people are headed into rural areas, and that's okay. Their tax money will come with them and they should also have a voice. I see that the cities (especially in WNY) are separated, and the rural spaces have more congressional seats. This is giving a seat back to the republicans, not being non-partisan.

Best Regards,  
Emily

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*\*please consider going plastic-sleeve free!*

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Tony Lopresti <tony@tonylopresti.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:03 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Cc:** cervas@cmu.edu  
**Subject:** NYS Redistricting Map

The Honorable Justice Patrick McAllister  
c/o Clerk B. Wise  
New York State Unified Court System

Re: Proposed NYS District Maps

Dear Justice McAllister:

I am writing to add my voice to the public comments regarding the proposed district maps prepared by Special Master Jonathan Cervas.

I oppose this draft of the New York State Congressional District Maps. Some of the proposed districts ignore the previous district lines that were drawn by a Special Master ten years ago and that were considered fair. Many of these new, proposed districts would split up communities and dilute the representation of millions of New York State citizens, especially our state's minority communities such as Asian-American, Latin American and Black American voters.

The proposed map discards long-standing district lines and ignores communities of interest. For example, the proposed map combines the Upper West Side of Manhattan, where I live, and the Upper East Side of Manhattan. We are two distinctly different communities with different needs.

Other communities such as Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights are split apart with parts of those districts placed into three or four other districts. The result of that is a radical dilution of the votes of those communities. Clearly we need someone who better understands the communities of New York City, and New York State overall, to prepare a new state map.

I urge you to reject the proposed New York State Congressional District Map.

Sincerely,

Anthony (Tony) Lopresti  
801 West End Avenue, 3-C  
New York, NY 10025

cc: Special Master Jonathan Cervas

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 [TonyLopresti.com](https://tonylopresti.com)

US IT [MuMo.international](https://mu-mo.com)

[REDACTED]

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Barbara Slutzky <bslutzky@hvc.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:03 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Cc:** 'Carolyn Riggs'; 'Gary Slutzky'  
**Subject:** Please consider my concerns

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

Please reconsider the map that puts Greene County, NY, in a different election district. I have lived in Greene County most of my 73 years. I taught at Hunter-Tannersville Central School from 1976 until I retired in 2013. I have worked and paid taxes in Greene County most of my life. I have served as a trustee on the Board of Columbia-Greene Community College for six years. It is located in Columbia County; there is no college located in Greene County. There is no hospital in Greene County, so many residents use Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, NY, which is where our three children were born. Separating Columbia and Greene Counties is inefficient, and neglects the history of our twin counties working together. In addition to sharing a hospital and community college, we share mental health resources, addiction recovery resources, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, to name a few. We are a low income and high addiction county, historically in the low ranking numbers of the state in poverty.

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. Our three adult children live in Albany County with our grandchildren. We all depend on our connection with the Capital Region for many resources that are available there. These include professional organizations and institutions of higher learning, such as many colleges in the area. 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>.

Separating Greene County from Columbia County, the Hudson River, and Capital Region, 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, but

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.

Sincerely yours,  
Barbara Slutzky

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** brant weil <brantweil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:05 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu  
**Subject:** Re: Comment today on Congressional Map cutting Red Hook and Gowanus environs out of Nydia's district

Please don't separate Red Hook. We need Nydia representing us. Otherwise, it's going to continue to be Last Miles and developments run amok.

Thank you.

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

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Jennifer Bossuot <jennbossuot@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:06 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Jefferson County District lines

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master for Redistricting Jonathan Cervas

I am writing to you today to implore you to please reconsider the current proposed congressional maps through the redistricting process and include Jefferson County in the North Country where it belongs.

Jefferson County must, above all else, be placed where it belongs in the North Country within the boundaries of NY-21. I and most of the residents of Jefferson can tell you that we have close ties with Lewis or Saint Lawrence, and even Franklin county. That's where our friends and families live, they share our values and beliefs as well as our interests. Splitting Jefferson County into two will disrupt our community and hurt our representation at the federal level.<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> I ask you with a heavy heart to please reconsider your decision. Put us back with the North Country in the 21st district.

Jennifer Bossuot  
24411 State Rte 971V, Felts Mills, NY 13638  
315-778-8609

Ps- I have served in the Village of Black River Board, Town of Leray Board and now currently Town of Rutland. You are cutting our communities in half.

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** J R <joyatianjali@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:08 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** New redistricting maps

Hello

I live in lower westchester and my representative is Mr. Jamal Bowman

I am very pleased with him as my representative.

Mr. Mondair Jones is not my representative but I feel he is a excellent representative also.

The new maps pit these two representatives against each other meaning one must lose their seat.

I am not at all happy with this outcome.

In addition the NY State courts have responsibility under the NY State constitution to ensure that minority groups are in districts where their voice is not diluted. These new maps seem to very severely undercut the ability of minority groups to vote for individuals that represent their interests as a group.

Finally the way these new maps are being rushed in before the midterm elections is very unfair to voters.

Many people will be very confused as to when their primaries are and the second primary being at the end of August insures very low voter participation.

Please do not force this unfair rushed redistricting map on the people of NY.

Joyati RayChaudhuri

96 Chittenden Avenue  
Tuckahoe NY 10708

Sent from my iPhone

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Wally Rubin <wallyjayrubin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:08 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** 19th Congressional District

Dear Special Master -

I've read many wonderful things about your work on the art of mapping election districts, and sure enough it was a treat to see districts that didn't resemble strange serpentine creatures.

However, as a resident of Columbia County, I am concerned about the map you created for the 19th Congressional District. The Upper Hudson Valley, though it contains five separate counties - **Columbia, Dutchess, Ulster, Greene and Rensselaer** - is really, for many of us, one unit, one rural community with similar traits, similar populations, similar needs and similar concerns.

The proposed map you created would not allow us to be understood and represented that way. Whoever is elected under the map you proposed, would be serving a vast territory that patches together residents who are unconnected in multiple ways and the terrain is so large that traveling across it, as any representative must, would be daunting. I know this first hand. In 2006, when I was volunteering on a congressional campaign, the (then gerrymandered) district reached all the way up to the Adirondacks, it required a full day just to drive up and back. That was a north and south trek. Under your currently proposed map, it would be east to west, but the unfortunate result would be the same.

As it happens, there is a perfect solution to this problem. The five counties that make up the Upper Hudson Valley are roughly equivalent in population to the population needed for one congressional district. Therefore, I strongly urge you to consider tweaking your map so that, at long last, all of the Upper Hudson Valley can be seen and REPRESENTED as one.

Thanks so much for your attention to this matter.

Wally Rubin  
39 Westview Drive  
Ghent, NY 12075

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Marsha Richards <mrichards554@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:08 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise; steubensuperior@nycourts.gov; cervas@cmu.edu  
**Subject:** redistricting - cause for concern

please do not allow redistricting in the northeast bronx  
would like to remain in 16th district

M.Richards  
coop-city

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Karin Fredrickson <karinhff3@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:09 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** New Senate District

I live in Manhattan, zip code 10009. Why are we now lumped into Brooklyn and Queens?

This redistricting does not make sense.

Karin Fredrickson

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Paula Edme <pbedme@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:09 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** MAPS SOUTHEAST QUEENS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Subject Line: NYS Senate Maps Public Comment

My name is Paula Brown Edmé,


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,



Paula Brown Edmé  
Laurelton, Queens, NY

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Joshua Gomez <josh.n.gomez@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Re-districting of RVC schools

Good afternoon,

**A proposed re-districting will split Rockville Centre between two senators if the proposal is submitted over the next few days.**

If this map is accepted, Rockville Centre will be weakened while the focus from our elected officials will be diffused between two senators.

Rockville Centre is built around a unified school system, has the same utilities, and faces common challenges. Our representation cannot be as effective if it is not unified.

Please consider striking down the proposed re-districting.

Sincerely a Rockville Centre resident and constituent,

Josh Gomez-Bružas (he/him)

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Zo Halton <zhalton4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Cervas@cmu.edu; steuben~superior@nycourts.gov; Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting of CD 16

**Greetings:**

As you know, there is a law in place to prevent the "Vote Dilution" effect of this planned redistricting of Co-op City from CD 16 to CD 14; 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.

Sincerely,

Trezoro Halton  
140 DeKruif Pl. #17B  
Bronx, NY10475

Sent from my iPhone g

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**Brenda A. Wise**

---

**From:** rgordon1@nycap.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** FW: Draft map for NY Congressional Districts

**From:** rgordon1@nycap.rr.com <rgordon1@nycap.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 3:00 PM  
**To:** 'bwise@nycourts.gov.' <bwise@nycourts.gov.>  
**Subject:** Draft map for NY Congressional Districts

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in favor of keeping the communities of Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy in the 20th Congressional District.

This is imperative to have a cohesive region. There are many shared services and considerations for actions that effect the all of these areas. It's important to consider the results of programs and legislation as a whole for the this region.

Lois Gordon  
Albany, NY

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Aaron Kopelowitz <akopelowitz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:10 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** District Maps

My name is Aaron Kopelowitz,

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,

Aaron Kopelowitz

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**Brenda A. Wise**

---

**From:** Diana Abadie <diana.abadie@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:11 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Special Master

Re: NYS Redistricting Map, Columbia-Greene

Dear Mr. Cervas,

I respectfully implore you not to separate Columbia and Greene counties in the newly revised New York State redistricting map. Separating the twin counties of Columbia and Greene counties could prove inefficient and even detrimental to the well-being of citizens in both counties.

I have made Athens, Greene County my home for more than 20 years. To this end, I understand the necessary symbiotic relationship forged between these two rural counties. Historically, the twin counties have operated as one county in the following key resource areas: health, education, agriculture, the Hudson River watershed and media information. For health care resources, we share our regional hospital, Columbia Memorial Hospital; mental health services and addiction recovery resources. The Columbia-Greene Community College continues to grow and support both counties. We share Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Hudson River. Together, advocates from both counties work together to protect estuaries and other environmental aspects of the shores of the Hudson River. Finally, the Columbia –Greene news media publishes a newspaper that primarily focuses on the local news of both counties.

Both counties-but particularly Greene County-are saddled with lower income and education levels, as well as a high addiction and suicide rates. Rural counties must share resources to thrive for the greater benefit of the residents. Columbia and Greene counties have forged an effective partnership that continues to grow as the NYC demographic population shifts upstate. Coupling of the two counties in the map is paramount to the health, social well-being and the quality of life for residents of both counties. Please revise the redistricting map.

Respectfully yours,

Diana Fabacher Abadie

Greene County, NY

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Kathie Mock <mockk@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Special Master

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

I respectfully want to let you know that I have lived in Greene County since 2005 and lived in Columbia County for 13 years before that. I have volunteered with RiverKeeper for many summers, monitoring and cleaning up the Hudson River, and have studied to get my certificate in Computers at Columbia Greene Community College. I've also been a patient in the emergency room of the only nearby hospital and that is shared by both counties. We also share the Amtrack Railroad station and we share the entrance to Interstate 87, which are the economic life blood connections going north to Albany and south to New York City.

As a resident, volunteer, student, patient, taxpayer, I've seen how intertwined these counties are. I believe we would all be hurt by having Greene and Columbia split up under two separate NYS government representatives.

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,

Kathleen H. Mock

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** ruth sharma <ny-s@live.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 16- CO-OP CITY BRONX

Good afternoon,

The purpose of this email is to address the proposed redistricting of Co-op City in the Bronx from Congressional District 16 to Congressional District 14.

I have been a resident of Co-op City for nineteen years (19). I enjoy residing in my community. Our community will be disenfranchised if we are removed from Congressional District 16 to Congressional District 14. The Court must safeguard our Constitutional rights. Our community has an active, strong relationship with our Congressman and we do not need nor request to be moved into a different Congressional District. Our voices will not be adequately heard if our community is moved from Congressional District 16 to Congressional District 14. Co-op City is unique community with common interests with the current communities within District 16. We have issues in common with the current communities in Congressional District 16 and not with those in Queens. We need to remain in our current district to have the appropriate level of representation. It is stressful to think that our community is on the chopping block and we are in the line of fire to lose our voice. How can this be fair and equitable? Our community needs to be preserved and not split nor removed from our current district. I respectfully hope our collective concerns are heard and we remain in Congressional District 16 without any changes to the current communities. The proposed change would devastate our progress, hopes and dreams to maintain the level of representation we are accustomed to and maintain the quality of life we enjoy in our community. Please reconsider these life changing decisions, the viability of our community is in the balance.

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

Ruth Sharma  
2400 Hunter Ave Apt 15C  
Bronx, NY 10475

Sent from Mail for Windows

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** vi39832@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting SD 15  
**Attachments:** Letter re proposed SD15 (1).pdf

Good Afternoon, Hon. Justice Patrick McAllister and Special Mater Cervus,

I am a Vice President of the Howard Beach Lindenwood Civic. I have many concerns with regard to the new redistricting maps that have been proposed, and the effect they will have on the community as a whole. The attached letter written by Betty Braton who is the president of Queens Community Board 10 for 30+ years speaks volumes as to how it will affect us as well as representing how our members feel about said redistricting. As a civic leader I fully support all the points presented in that letter. I strongly urge you to reconsider the redistricting and include all of zip code 11414 in SD 15. Splitting our area is just not good for any of us living here

--

Best regards,

*Cathy Harrison*

*Long time resident and*

*Vice President*

*Howard Beach Lindenwood Civic Association*

*89-35 155<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 6J*

*Howard Beach, NY 11414*

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Betty Braton  
159-54 95 St.  
Howard Beach, NY 11414  
(917 566 5592)  
EBraton@aol.com

May 18, 2022

Hon. Justice Patrick McAllister  
Special Master Jonathan Cervas  
Dear Justice McAllister & Special Master Cervas:

I am writing to you in an effort to point out to you some of my community's concerns about the draft State Senate District maps that were released on Monday, May 16, 2022. It is my understanding that they are to be finalized on May 20, 2022. I am and have been a registered voter at the above address since 1966. I have experienced the negative impact reapportionment can have on a community when its representation is diluted by dividing communities at various times during the years since. Residents of Howard Beach have been split between different Congressional Districts and different State Senate Districts at various times.

Although I am writing this letter as an individual and am expressing my own views, I do believe most of my neighbors in Howard Beach would agree with the points I am expressing. To put that statement into a context for you I am the Chairperson of NYC Queens Community Board 10. I have chaired that Board since 1990. I have been an active community resident in Howard Beach for over a half century and have served in various capacities in many community organizations all throughout that time on a myriad of civic concerns and issues. I have considerable experience in gathering then understanding and evaluating the views and opinions of my 25,000+ neighbors.

The version of the maps that I have been able to view online are very difficult to read from a geographical perspective although there is considerable information with them from a demographic perspective. My comments that follow are based on geography and how geography creates communities of interest and defines communities beyond their racial, ethnic, religious, partisan, and other demographic indicators.

I am respectfully requesting that you look at the map for State Senate District 15 that was in effect following the 2010 Census until now and the proposed map for Senate District 15 released yesterday and make some changes to it that will undo what will cause a disservice to the people who reside in the geographical area defined by the postal geographical zip code area known as 11414. This zip code area is located in Southwest Queens and encompasses in full the NYC Queens community known as Howard Beach. **Specifically, I request that you return all of the census blocks located within Census Tracts 62.01, 62.02, 884, and 892 that now appear to be being removed from SD 15 to it** so that our entire community is kept intact and whole in the same district with communities to our north with which we have shared interests and community connections.

All of NYC is, in a general sense, a collection of communities each with their own identities and shared interests. While community boundaries may not be always legally defined within NYC as they are in the rest of the state, all NYC residents also live in individual geographical communities with shared interests.

In NYS there appear to be 1,782 zip code geographies, about 1,580 of them are outside of NYC. About 200 of them are within NYC. All of the zip codes outside of NYC are identified by their community post office names. That is not the case within NYC. In NYC, mail going to anywhere in New York County is addressed to Manhattan, NY zip code whatever. Mail going to Bronx County is addressed to Bronx, NY zipcode whatever. Kings County and Richmond County mail addresses follow suit addressed to Brooklyn, NY and Staten Island, NY.

That is not the case in Queens County. Here in Queens our people identify their communities by their individual community names for the purposes of addresses and mail. That is how we in Queens identify our neighborhoods. Historically, from the time zip codes first came in to use there have been some pitched community battles over the ensuing years with the Post Office anytime any efforts were made to alter how we identify where we live and define our neighborhoods. The chart below shows how the Queens zip codes identify our communities.

Zip Code	City	County	Population	Zip Code	City	County	Population
11368	Corona	Queens County	112088	11101	Long Island City	Queens County	31366
11385	Ridgewood	Queens County	107796	11417	Ozone Park	Queens County	31321
11373	Elmhurst	Queens County	94437	11423	Hollis	Queens County	30104
11377	Woodside	Queens County	83825	11102	Astoria	Queens County	29747
11355	Flushing	Queens County	80967	11414	Howard Beach	Queens County	28313
11375	Forest Hills	Queens County	73034	11429	Queens Village	Queens County	27454
11691	Far Rockaway	Queens County	68543	11361	Bayside	Queens County	27201
11434	Jamaica	Queens County	64304	11416	Ozone Park	Queens County	26744
11432	Jamaica	Queens County	64299	11104	Sunnyside	Queens County	25114
11372	Jackson Heights	Queens County	62854	11427	Queens Village	Queens County	24560
11435	Jamaica	Queens County	59605	11356	College Point	Queens County	23494
11354	Flushing	Queens County	53684	11692	Arverne	Queens County	22074
11419	South Richmond Hill	Queens County	48369	11694	Rockaway Park	Queens County	21202
11420	South Ozone Park	Queens County	47470	11411	Cambria Heights	Queens County	20739
11365	Fresh Meadows	Queens County	44738	11426	Bellerose	Queens County	20524
11374	Rego Park	Queens County	43507	11436	Jamaica	Queens County	19167
11413	Springfield Gardens	Queens County	41650	11360	Bayside	Queens County	18954
11421	Woodhaven	Queens County	41251	11415	Kew Gardens	Queens County	18891
11367	Flushing	Queens County	41207	11428	Queens Village	Queens County	18836
11357	Whitestone	Queens County	39407	11362	Little Neck	Queens County	18343
11378	Maspeth	Queens County	38524	11004	Glen Oaks	Queens County	15098
11418	Richmond Hill	Queens County	38405	11366	Fresh Meadows	Queens County	14360
11379	Middle Village	Queens County	37991	11693	Far Rockaway	Queens County	12944
11412	Saint Albans	Queens County	37857	11363	Little Neck	Queens County	7096
11106	Astoria	Queens County	37690	11109	Long Island City	Queens County	5980
11433	Jamaica	Queens County	37021	11697	Breezy Point	Queens County	3674
11105	Astoria	Queens County	36963	11005	Floral Park	Queens County	1759
11358	Flushing	Queens County	36515	11430	Jamaica	Queens County	206
11364	Oakland Gardens	Queens County	36215	11451	Jamaica	Queens County	no pop
11109	Astoria	Queens County	35995	11425	Jamaica	Queens County	no pop
11422	Rosedale	Queens County	32761	11424	Jamaica	Queens County	no pop
11370	East Elmhurst	Queens County	31580	11371	Flushing	Queens County	no pop
11369	East Elmhurst	Queens County	31481	11359	Bayside	Queens County	no pop
				11351	Flushing	Queens County	no pop



The chart below shows the Queens zip code community names.

Howard Beach 11414 has some very clear geographic boundaries that clearly define our community. If you were to look at a

larger map of our zip code you would see that our eastern boundary is a rail line (that continues on to our north in a virtually straight line) and to the east of that rail line in Howard Beach is JFK Airport. The airport's western boundary is that same rail line. That rail line and the airport separate us geographically from other southern Queens communities to the east. Our southern boundary is the north shore of Jamaica Bay. Our western boundary is the Queens/Kings County line. Between our western boundary and any populated Brooklyn neighborhood located in Brooklyn zip codes 11239 and 11236 are many hundreds of acres of land that formerly were landfills and are now essentially undeveloped parkland. Some are part of Brooklyn's Shirley Chisholm State Park and some are under federal jurisdiction as part of Gateway National Recreation area. Our northern boundary is an arterial highway. Within those boundaries

there are roadways and waterways. We are a peninsula of sorts.

Our unique geography shapes who and what we are as a community. We are a "town" with a population that the 2020 Census shows to be 27,320 living in about 11,400 housing units. In a sense, we are insular because our geography tends to separate us from areas near us, especially to the east, west, and south. Our unique geography strengthens our ties with each other within our community as all of our community institutions function in a much more "small town" manner than other neighborhoods. There are similarities from that perspective between our "town" here in NYC and other towns and villages in the rest of the state. I wonder how many, if any, of the 40 non-NYC zip code areas in NYS that have populations ranging between 25,000-30,000 residents are similarly chopped up to be put into 3 different senate districts.

We are much more connected to the areas to our north with the 2 Ozone Park zip codes (11417 and 11416) and the Woodhaven zip code (11421). We share the same eastern boundary with the majority of both Ozone Park zip codes (rail line) and with the majority of Woodhaven (11421) (rail line) Only a small part of Ozone Park and Woodhaven is located east of the rail line and those portions are more connected in a community sense to areas to the east. We also share the same western boundary with the 3 zip codes to our north.. North of Woodhaven 11421 is the Forest Park corridor which forms a geographical boundary between the northern segment of the 15th Senate District and the southern segment of it.

Those 2 segments (northern SD15 and southern SD15) combined make a sensible and workable political district that is diverse. Putting all of 11414 back in that district is also sensible and workable for whomever represents it. The housing stock is similar, the people in all of those areas share community ties within organizations, schools, police precincts, sports groups etc.

All 4 zip codes, 11414, 11417, 11416, and 11421, are in the same school district, 11414 and 11417 are unified within the same Assembly District, and 11416 and 11421 are unified together in another Assembly District.

It makes no sense to remove almost all of 11414 from SD15. It makes no sense to place parts of one community of 27,000 people into 3 different Senate Districts without any understanding of the impact on the people who live in those pieces that have been divided one from another.

I offer the following information to help you understand what I mean. Next month our Howard Beach community comprised of all of 11414 will be celebrating our community's 125th Anniversary. It is geography that has shaped us since our community's very beginnings.

The origins of Howard Beach can be traced to four key 19th century ingredients that converged in 1897.

1. The attractiveness of Hawtree Creek and its environs.
2. Construction of the Long Island Railroad line across the creek and Jamaica Bay to Rockaway.
3. The arrival of William J. Howard, the founder and namesake of Howard Beach.
4. The incorporation of Queens towns and villages into NYC.

Howard Beach is a middle class suburban neighborhood in Southwestern Queens. Howard Beach was established in the 1890's by William J. Howard. Howard was a Brooklyn glove manufacturer who had goat farms in Queens. He formed the Howard Estates Development Company in 1909, and by 1914 Howard transformed a farm into a small neighborhood (on land presently part of the airport). That area was east of present-day Crossbay Blvd. and Shellbank Basin and Hawtree Basin. East of Hawtree Basin was Hamilton Beach, a current-day small subsection of Howard Beach which had its beginnings also as a fishing community.

Mr. Howard operated a 150 acre goat farm on meadow land near current-day Aqueduct Racetrack/Resorts World Casino. In 1897, he bought more land west of what today is the rail line and filled it in. The following year he built 18 cottages and opened a hotel near the water, which he operated until it was destroyed by fire in October 1907. He gradually bought more land and formed the Howard Estates Development Company in 1909. He then dredged and with the material dredged to create Shellbank Basin and Cross Bay Blvd. filled the land until he was able to accumulate 500 acres by 1914. He laid out several streets, water mains and gas mains, and built houses.

The Long Island Rail Road established a station named Ramblersville in 1905 and a Post Office by the same name opened soon thereafter. A casino, beach, and fishing pier were added in 1915 and the name of the neighborhood was changed to Howard Beach on April 6, 1916.

#### Entity Details

ENTITY NAME: HOWARD BEACH ASSOCIATION, INC.	DOS ID: 13515
FOREIGN LEGAL NAME:	FICTITIOUS NAME:
ENTITY TYPE: DOMESTIC NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION	DURATION DATE/LATEST DATE OF DISSOLUTION:
SECTION OF LAW:	ENTITY STATUS: ACTIVE
DATE OF INITIAL DOS FILING: 02/08/1916	REASON FOR STATUS:
EFFECTIVE DATE INITIAL FILING: 02/08/1916	INACTIVE DATE:
FOREIGN FORMATION DATE:	STATEMENT STATUS: NOT REQUIRED
COUNTY: NEW YORK	NEXT STATEMENT DUE DATE:
JURISDICTION: NEW YORK, UNITED STATES	NFP CATEGORY: NON-CHARITABLE

On February 8, 1916 this corporation was formed. To my understanding from records of it I have seen and read, it was formed to manage some of the aspects of Howard Estates which was at its inception a private community. After that ended the organization morphed into the community's civic

association. It functioned as such until the mid 1990s when it ceased meeting as there were other organizations all involved in the same public civic activity. I am the last person who served as its elected president. I was its president from the mid 1970s until the mid 1990s.

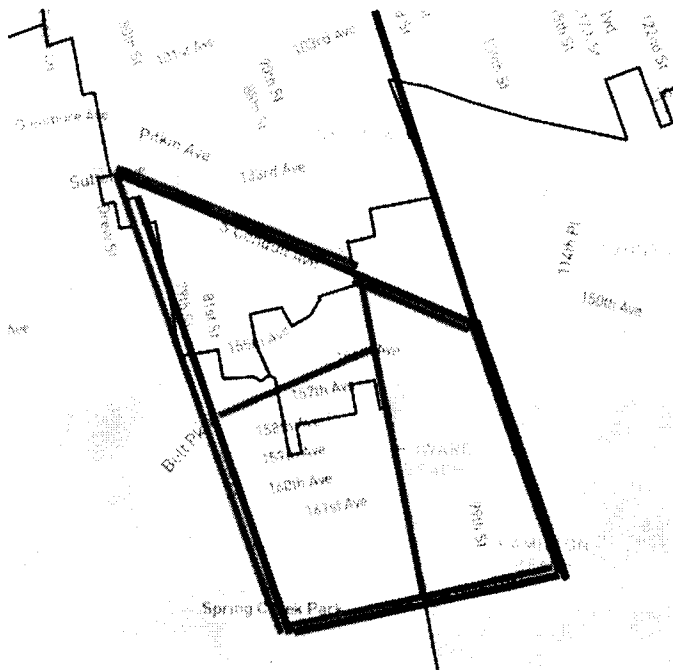
Howard Beach's development continued through the early 1900s, but was limited to the areas east of Cross Bay Boulevard near the LIRR station that is today a subway station. Collectively, that area and Hamilton Beach are commonly referred to as "old" Howard Beach. The rest of what is today's Howard Beach consisted mostly of empty marsh land.

After World War II, Queens went through a major suburban building boom leading to the marsh land west of Cross Bay Boulevard to be filled in. This led to the development of many more homes. This area is now known collectively as "new" Howard Beach." In the early 1950s, farm land to its north was developed with the building of more homes. The area continued to be developed through the 1960s and 1970s as Cross Bay Boulevard became the area's main shopping district.

The distinctions between "Hamilton", "Old" or "New", or Lindenwood within our should lead no one to conclude Howard Beach as a whole is not one community with a shared history, shared interests and a strong sense of community identity, Those distinctions are in their essence nothing more than our community vernacular to tell each other and those from other neighborhoods where our home is geographically located.

There are 3 public schools and 1 parochial school in Howard Beach along with various pre-schools. There are children in each of them from all parts of the community. There are 2 Catholic Parishes that serve us. Parts of their geographies crisscross the whole area. There are 3 Jewish congregations and they all have congregants from all parts of the community as do the 2 Protestant churches located with our community. Currently we have a small but growing Muslim population served by mosques in neighboring Ozone Park, It would not surprise me that sometime in the near future our faith community will grow to accomodate it here.

I mention our homes, schools and churches as they are together one of the major factors that unite all of us in Howard Beach as one community with one very major shared interest to stay as a whole zip code within the same borough, the same state legislative districts, and the same NYC council district. Virtually all of the zip code 11414 area was devastated in 2012 by Superstorm Sandy. Almost all of our homes, all of our schools, and churches and most importantly about 20,000 of our people were severely impacted. There are numerous needs still unmet as we work together as a community with our representatives on all of the necessary resiliency efforts to insure our community's very existence in the future. Chopping our community up in a manner that requires us to deal on very complicated matters with additional public offices and officials will complicate further our efforts. Chopping our community up between districts impacted us badly on many less serious issues in the years before 2012 when a prior redistricting put portions of it in different districts and even different boroughs. We do understand that the size of Congressional Districts may at times neccessitate that. However, the size of a State Senate district in our view does not neccessitate chopping up our community. In the case of the proposed SD15 even the nature of that chopping shows no regard for our community and our people's sense of history, place, and community and our needs.



This is what the special master's map has generated for us. The red line is the outline of zip code 11414. The blue line just represents the rail line as it goes north of us. The 3 polygons outlined in green show how our community situated fully within a single zip code with a population of less than 30,000 people is chopped up to be in 3 different State Senate districts, 1 which is in a different county.

**It is unconscionable and wrong, I respectfully ask that you do not approve the proposed SD15 unless adjustments are made that keep all of our community intact and within the 15th SD together with the communities to our north with which we have long-standing ties and numerous shared interests rather than to put most of our people into differing districts to our east and west where we have not shared interests or community ties and where there are significant geographical barriers.**

**I urge you to ensure that all blocks and block groups within the following 31 Census Tracts all located in Queens that have all been in SD15 for the last decade remain in SD15. The**

**4 tract numbers in red are the 4 populated Howard Beach tracts.**

**Tracts 12, 44.01, 62.02, 884, 6, 18, 40.02, 2, 4, 14, 16, 8, 10, 20, 22, 30, 32, 34, 36, 50, 38, 40.01, 42, 52, 54, 58, 62.01, 86, 88, 641.01, 892.01.**



northern segment of SD15.

I realize this letter is lengthy and I urge you most strongly to consider favorably the various points I have tried to make as sufficient grounds to alter what is proposed to be the new SD15 to include all of Howard Beach 11414 into it.

Very truly yours,  
*Betty Braton*

Betty Braton

The map below depicts them and clearly shows they are geographically compact and contiguous. Any look at the collective demographic data for them will show that it is a diverse area in keeping with the overall diversity found in Queens and it would comprise a very sensible southern segment for SD15.

The total Population of the census blocks shown within these 31 Tracts is approximately 113,700  
 White 25.7%      Black 7.7%  
 Asian 19.8%      Hispanic 43.5%  
 All Other 6.3%

Total Minority Population 74.3%  
 Approximately 38.5 thousand housing units  
 46.5% of which are 1 & 2 family homes

59.2% of which are 4 family or less units with the majority of the total housing units having been constructed pre-1950

All are within 4 zip codes (Howard Beach 11414; Ozone Park 11417; Ozone Park North 11416; Woodhaven 11421)

The northern boundary is the Forest Park corridor, the eastern boundary is the rail line, the southern boundary is the north shore of Jamaica Bay, and the western boundary is the Queens/Kings County line.

Any population adjustments necessary would be possible by reexamining the outlying edges of the

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Andrew R. Marietta <mariettaa@otsegocounty.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:12 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Special Master

To whom it may concern:

The newly proposed legislative maps will negatively impact Otsego County economically and impede job creation by breaking our county into new districts that run contrary to longstanding municipal relationships and partnerships. I understand the goal of creating competitive districts, but when it will be to the detriment of Otsego County, these proposed legislative maps need more consideration and due diligence. This fast-paced decision-making process will create longstanding problems for Otsego County, and I urge more time be given to this process and proposed maps.

Sincerely,

Andrew Marietta

Otsego County Representative, District 8 (Cooperstown and Town of Otsego)

607-435-0672

6400 State Highway 28

Fly Creek, NY 13337

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Carla <carlaashbooks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:14 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Re-districting - Stuyvesant Town

Dear Madam/Sir,

For anyone who knows anything about NYC, he/she knows that each of our five boroughs is completely different from the other, and those that live in one borough have a special loyalty to it.

It makes absolutely NO sense to join parts of three boroughs together for representation from one person who only lives in one of them. No borough should be joined with another in terms of true representation. That person should have first-hand knowledge of the area and the specific issues that matter most to the occupants. They should be readily available to their constituency, not a bridge or tunnel away.

Please, do something about this situation. We are far enough removed from our government. Do not allow it to become much worse.

Carla Caccamise  
8 Stuyvesant Oval  
NYC, NY 10009

Sent from my iPad

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Samuel R. Hodge <srhodge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:14 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a resident of Columbia County, and the proposed changes would have disastrous consequences for our county. If allowed to stand, Columbia County would be separated from both the Capital District and the Mid-Hudson Valley regions, as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map groups our county with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in a poor outcome for our county when it comes to identity, representation, and allocation of resources.

Columbia County is located along the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley, and the Department of Economic Development has placed Columbia County in the Capital District. Under the proposed map, Columbia County would be isolated from both regions and be the only county in CD19 on the east side of the Hudson River. Columbia County should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined populations of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average congressional district.

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

Best,  
Sam Hodge  
Claverack, NY

Sent from my iPhone

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Bill Sproat <billsproat.1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:15 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Against Greene County being included with Southern Tier District

I am against Greene County being included with Southern Tier District . I regularly fish on the Hudson River and have close friends in Columbia County as do most people I know that live in Greene County. Our shared values both social and economic are very dissimilar to needs in the Southern Tier. A very significant part of our labor force is connected to Albany and even New York City. I believe you are going against the very fabric of our community and pushing us in a direction most of us are against. Please place our community in a district that it belongs in. This is not political but more an issue of proper representation. We have little in common economically with the Southern Tier and Western Catskills.

- William Sproat

3 Brick Row , Athens, N.Y.

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Susan Steinberg <srsteinberg@stpcvta.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:15 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Senatorial Redistricting

Dear Mr. Wise:

The revision of the redrawn senatorial districts is most unfortunate and, frankly, makes little sense in some instances.

I am the president of the Stuyvesant Town—Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association. Our community comprises 80 acres on the East Side of Manhattan, contiguous with the East Village, Kips Bay and Gramercy Park. We have been well served by Senator Brad Hoylman for many years.

As part of Cervas's plan, we have been added to a district that includes Brooklyn and Queens and excised from our Manhattan neighbors to the north and south, with whom we have issues in common.

How are our disparate interests to be aligned? For example, congestion pricing, or the Second Avenue Subway and other state-controlled issues, or vastly different types of residential communities?

The way in which the lines have been drawn looks at numbers, but not at neighborhoods. This does not serve voters well.

Sincerely,

Susan Steinberg, President

Stuyvesant Town—Peter Cooper Village Tenants Association

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Lisa Binder <ffaslisa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:09 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** re-districting

Hello,

I have just become aware that my state senate district is being changed. I live in Stuy Town on the East Side of Manhattan and my state senator is Brad Hoylman.

I understand that our area will no longer have Mr. Hoylman as our representative.

I am extremely upset by this - he has done a great job for our area of Manhattan. We have unique needs as a community and have little in common with the districts we are now going to be combined with.

I strongly oppose this re-districting. I hope it is not too late to appeal this decision.

Sincerely,

Lisa Binder  
309 Avenue C #7B  
NY NY 10009

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Alyssa sherman <alyssaconcept@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:16 PM  
**To:** STEUBEN\_SUPERIOR  
**Cc:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** New York's new maps

I'm messaging in support of the court-vappointed special master's drawing of New York's new Congressional and state Senate maps. And yes I'm a democrat.

Many New Yorkers approve and are thankful that the previous attempt at gerrymandering was stopped.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Sherman,  
Manhattan, 10022

Sent from my iPhone

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Mark Vian <vian.mark@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:15 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Inappropriate district boundaries in the new maps

Dear Jonathan Cervas,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best Regards,

Mark Vian

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Anne Rosenfeld <annemrosenfeld@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:16 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** New York 2nd Congressional District

To Whom it May Concern,

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

Long Island's North Shore and South Shore communities are different in almost every way. Residents of the South Shore experience the same flooding issues, share highways and public transportation infrastructure, and have a community connection that we do not share with North Shore residents. After our South Shore communities were devastated by Superstorm Sandy, we rebuilt them together and are stronger because of it. Please do not split us up. The interests of my community align with my South Shore neighbors in the 2nd Congressional District. We do not want to be part of a North Shore district. The last time the maps were redrawn in 2012 it was determined that the South Shore and North Shore should be in separate districts so the representation can concentrate on the matters important to each the North and South Shore. Please continue this very important precedent.

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

Many thanks,  
Anne Rosenfeld  
94 Michigan Avenue  
Massapequa, NY 11758  
516 509 6039

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Amy Werbel <amywerbel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:16 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Complaining about special master maps

Dear New York Courts,

I am deeply distressed about the map drawn by the special master. It would be okay if he tweaked a few things to adhere to the one-person one-vote rule. This redrawing however, destroys the power of too many communities of interest, including here in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

I also believe it is too late to make such drastic changes and that the maps drawn by the legislature, which community organizers have been using to educate voters, should be retained for this summer's primaries. It's just too late and too confusing to voters to change things now.

Sincerely,

Amy Werbel  
823 Classon Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11238

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Anne <annegreenberg@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** New State Senate district

To B. Wise:

As a lifelong resident of Stuyvesant Town–Peter Cooper Village, on Manhattan’s east side, I am alarmed that a so-called master would cut me off from my contiguous neighbors and redistrict me with parts of two other boroughs. While we may have some issues in common, the nature of our neighborhoods is vastly different and therefore so are our concerns. This is not a reflection on Senator Michael Gianaris; I have met him in conjunction with tenants’ rights issues and value him as an important ally. But the east side of Manhattan is not Astoria, and it is not that part of Brooklyn that’s included in the new district. Our residents enjoy restaurants and nightlife in the East Village, to the south of us, and in Chelsea, to the west of us. We travel on a north-south axis, not necessarily across the East River for dining and entertainment. Congestion pricing concerns us. Crime in the areas around us but beyond the lines of the new district concern us.

I hope the judge in charge of this radical surgery will consider the interests of my district and reunite us more logically with our neighbors, instead of looking only at the numbers.

Sincerely,  
Anne Greenberg

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Monica Bitar <bitarmonica@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** STEUBEN\_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Support for new congressional and state senate maps

To Whom It May Concern;

I'm messaging in support of the court-appointed special master's drawing of New York's new Congressional and state Senate maps.

Many New Yorkers approve and are thankful that the previous attempt at gerrymandering was stopped.

Sincerely,  
Monica Bitar

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Suzana Bartimole <suzanabartimole@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** 23rd Congressional District

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas:

Thank you for reading this. I am urging you to excise Erie County from the proposed 23rd Congressional District and restore the district to its original, rural nature. Bringing that slice of Erie County into this district is not beneficial for those residents or our rural citizens.

Thank you for considering this.

Suzana Bartimole

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Sent from Gmail Mobile

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Sally Hess <shess1@swarthmore.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:19 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting comment --

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a resident of the Upper West Side in Manhattan, zip code #10025.

Kindly revise the proposed redistricted areas to allow the Upper West Side to remain District 10. The proposed division cuts across neighborhoods and does not reflect community identity. This is true for other NYC and State areas as well. Mr. Cervas' plan will not work for us.

Thank you for your attention,  
Sally Hess

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** judith riven <rivenja@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:20 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting by Special Master

I'm writing to protest the redistricting presented by the Special Master. It appears to violate NY's constitutional requirement that districts be drawn so that racial or minority language groups do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice. in the Special Master's proposed redistricting plan, citizens of several districts in NYC are deprived of representation of their community, specifically Black communities, Asian communities, and Latina communities. This is antithetical to the Voting Rights Act, also. It is essential that the map be redrawn to assure fair and equal representation for all communities, particularly for minority communities.

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Yiatin Chu <yiatin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:20 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Fwd: I support the Special Masters Maps

I am writing to share my support for the Special Master's maps for congressional and senate districts. We must not allow gerrymandered political maps to bias our democracy for the next 10 years. Don't change the revised maps.

Yiatin Chu  
162-50 14th Ave  
Whitestone, NY 11357  
NYC Queens

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** MARY OMAHONEY <gracehub@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:20 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I am a Greene county resident who is opposed to separating Greene county from the Hudson Valley area and the Capitol districts this is not what this area is about and the issues we have in the great north east. Respectfully Marybeth Omahoney

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Lina Lee <llee@communitiesresist.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:19 PM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Cc:** cervas@cmu.edu  
**Subject:** Communities Resist Comment Re Harkenrider v. Hochul  
**Attachments:** Communities Resist Re Harkenrider v. Hochul (1).pdf

Dear Special Master,

Please see attached comment regarding the redistricting of the 7th Congressional District in NYC on behalf of Communities Resist. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we appreciate your review.

Thank you,

Lina

--

Lina Lee, Esq.  
*Executive Director*  
Communities Resist  
Project of Southside United HDFO  
434 South 5th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11211  
646-974-8762  
Pronouns: She/Hers/Ella

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434 South 5th Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11211  
(646) 974-8761  
[communitiesresist.org](http://communitiesresist.org)

May 18, 2022

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

Dear Judge McAllister:

We write to express our urgent concerns regarding the most recent congressional redistricting map - drawn by Jonathan R. Cervas, the court-appointed special master, and released publicly on Monday, May 17, 2022 - given your current judicial oversight of New York's redistricting process.

Communities Resist is an organizing and community-based legal services serving tenants from the most vulnerable and low-income communities of color across New York's 7th Congressional District. We serve primarily the long-standing, large, and diverse Latino, black and Asian communities to empower, unite, and protect these communities against a drastic rise in gentrification, predatory landlords that displace these tenants, and atrocious landlord harassment and discrimination that continues to segregate and displace low-income immigrant families across the 7th Congressional District. We have worked hand-in-hand with partner organizations across North and South Brooklyn and the Lower East Side to collaboratively serve the majority-minority communities that have been interconnected through generations and decades of common economic, social, cultural, and language basis.

Irrevocably cutting off and further segregating the 7th Congressional District will only adversely affect the Latino, black and Asian communities and their community power and voice that they have spent generations building despite challenges, worse than this decision, against them. Given the exacerbation of rising challenges that the Lower East Side and Brooklyn districts face together, especially in housing and larger economic needs, it is imperative that their unity is ensured and their power is protected through their voting interests by having the ability to select leaders who represent them and their common needs.

This redistricting is the prime example of undoing decades of advocacy by these communities and will only further unjustly hurt, disempower, and disregard our communities of color. We urge the Court and Special Master to consider revisions which protect and reflects the long-standing and interconnected communities of color and interests in both our city and state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lina Lee'.

Lina Lee, Executive Director