

Brenda A. Wise

From: Brian H. <surferguy75@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 12:00 AM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Opposition to NYS Redistricting Special Master Plan

I have to say, I am deeply concerned and I think I have to vehemently disagree with this map you've developed, at least insofar as it affects the Long Island region and the districts in which I live (CD3, SD 5). It seems to have been drawn without any consideration or knowledge of the communities, communities of interest, their needs, and the general constitution of our area. (And not be punny about it, there may be issues, constitutionally-speaking.) The North and South shores of Long Island, especially around Nassau County, have two distinct cultures, historical communities, and face a different common set of collective problems. It further needs to be said that sometimes, perhaps even often as of late (not to put too fine a point on it), a very vocal (as in, extremist), organized (as in machine politics), and well-funded voting bloc on the south shore, centered in Massapequa seeks specifically to oppose the interests and needs of voters and residents of the central and north shore areas. By explicitly adding that group to CD3 and its areas of influence to SD 5, you effectively deny any meaningful representation of the entire North Shore and northern-central-island area, and as a matter of fact, you deny representation to the South Shore communities (Massapequa) and their bordering areas as well, as any elected representative would only be able to serve one, not both communities. (Not to mention what you've done to the minority communities that used to be in the districts, divided into other districts where they could not be fully heard--but I'll let others speak on that). If you'd like a preview of this is going to turn out, my districts as you've drawn them seem to mirror the outlines of the town of Oyster Bay, which, I think belies the issue--the town's borders have never really represented the community's borders, and the results have been predictably disastrous (unresponsive town representatives, two polarized voting blocs (the one not in power, fragmented and split by borders) unable to hold demonstrably corrupt (as in, federally charged) and punitive politicians accountable and acting in the interest of residents. I beg you not to make the same mistake, to draw borders in any way resembling that. Redraw it so that we all have a fair voice. (In this case, Massapequa with the rest of the south shore, shift the senate district northward and expand East-west slightly--or just do something).

Please.

We're not bad, you're just drawing us that way,

Brian Horowitz

Long time Resident CD3 SD5

Oh, also, I formally enter all local news coverage on this subject into the record. Really, you should review it.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Laurie Stricks <lstricks101@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 12:00 AM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Please Reconsider your plan for Redistricting in Manhattan

To the Special Master,

I live on the Upper Westside of Manhattan and the newly announced changes based on your review of the proposed redistricting maps are combining areas that are extremely distinct. Further, these plans would cause several longtime dedicated and essential public servants to either lose their districts or be forced to run against each other. This has caused chaos and makes no local sense.

Further to make a primary in nyc at the end of August will depress turnout. Many new yorkers are away.

Please reconsider. The new plan will depress voter turnout, lose excellent political leaders and disenfranchise already marginalized communities.

Sincerely,

Laurie Stricks
140 Riverside Drive
Apt 5D
New York, NY 10024

> Laurie Stricks, Ph.D
> 7 West 30th Street
> 11th Floor, # 11
> New York, NY. 10001
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Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Alexcia Foster <alxc64@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:57 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

May 18, 2022

Dear Special Master Cervas,

As a member of the community, I am writing in opposition to your rough draft map of New York's 16th Congressional District. I find the map to be unfair and a bit racist.

First, it would cut off a predominately black Bronx neighborhood of Co-op City, with the wealthiest county in New York. Taking away much-needed resources that the Black community needs and has historically shared.

Secondly, With the changes in the map, the Black population would have less representation by pinning two black Congressmen against each other.

Your maps further isolate the Bronx and take away resources from a community in need. For those reasons, I strongly urge you to incorporate Co-op City back into New York's 16th Congressional District in the final draft of your map.

Yours Truly,

Alexcia Foster

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Rena Schklowsky <renasch@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:56 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

Dear Sir,

I have been a resident of Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Brooklyn since 1979. I have had the honor of meeting and voting for Rep. Hakim Jeffries since he first ran for NYS senate. I have also had the honor of voting for Yvette Clark. Both have represented me honestly and with integrity.

This new map forces me into making an impossible choice. This map pits two amazing politicians, both with a long history of living and serving my diverse neighborhood against each other. This is shameful.

Please consider redoing the map.

Sincerely,
Rena Schklowsky

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Fulvia Vargas-De Leon <fvargasdeleon@latinojustice.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:52 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Jerry Vattamala; Lurie Daniel Favors (Charter)
Subject: Objections on Behalf of Unity Map Coalition to Proposed Senate Plans
Attachments: Unity Map Coalition Objections to NYS Special Master Proposed Maps.pdf; Senate Districts 2022-05-18.zip

Good Evening,

On behalf of the Unity Map Coalition attached are our written objections to the proposed maps as well as the correlating Senate shapefiles. The written objections were also filed to the case docket on NYCEF – Docket Number 651.

Thank you,

Fulvia Vargas-De Leon | Associate Counsel

D: 212.739.7580



Charity Navigator Four Star Charity 2021



Guidestar Platinum Transparency Seal 2021

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Asian American
Legal Defense and
Education Fund

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

May 18, 2022

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

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

Re: Objections on Proposed Congressional and State Senate Maps Index # E2022 - 0116CV

We, the Unity Map Coalition, submit the following objections to the New York State proposed Senate and Congressional maps submitted by Dr. Jonathan Cervas on May 16, 2022. The Unity Map Coalition ("Coalition"), is a coalition of the leading legal voting rights advocacy organizations representing people of color in New York City. The Unity Map Coalition is composed of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College; and LatinoJustice PRLDEF. As detailed below, the proposed maps disregard hard-fought efforts to preserve and enhance electoral power among historically disenfranchised communities.

The currently proposed redistricting plans create electoral districts without much, if any, regard to existing neighborhoods and communities of interest. Preserving communities of interest is essential to protecting the voting rights and electoral power of New York City's Black, Latino and Asian communities. While the Court's order emphasized the need for non-partisan maps, it is equally important for these maps to preserve communities of interest, as required by New York State's Constitution. In fact, as demonstrated by our Unity Maps, it is possible to draw equitable maps that (a) adhere to the U.S. Constitution's principles of "one person, one vote"; (b) comply with the Voting Rights Act; (c) protect communities of interest as required by the New York State Constitution; and (d) preserve traditional and emerging neighborhoods. Special Master Cervas' maps fall short of meeting all of these requirements: they unnecessarily split

communities and neighborhoods without regard to the impact on voters of color or the protections of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Objections to Proposed Senate Plan

Across New York City, the proposed Senate map fails to account for the need to ensure historically disenfranchised communities do not suffer from further vote dilution. For example, Special Master Cervas' plan fails to remedy decades of disenfranchisement of Latino voters in Upper Manhattan and the Bronx. We oppose combining current Senate Districts 31 and 33, both of which have high concentrations of Latino voters. Instead, we recommend keeping these dense hubs separate and have demonstrated how to do so while keeping communities of interest intact.

While the Special Master continues the unnecessary racial gerrymander of white voters by cutting through the Bronx and combining parts of the Bronx with Westchester in District 34, we propose minimizing the impact on neighboring districts 32 and 33. As a note, we originally proposed only one Bronx district should stretch into Westchester, District 36. Our original Unity Senate plans demonstrate the feasibility of limiting the number of districts that combine the Bronx and Westchester to just that one, District 36.

Nevertheless, to further minimize the cracking of communities of interest, we propose making District 32 more compact by avoiding the division of several communities stretching into the Western portions of the Bronx. The Special Master's proposed District 32 crosses both the Bronx River & Hutchinson Parkway, creating a Senatorial district that would disenfranchise the electorate by creating a truly impossible district to service with their proposed 57% Latino population. Once again, the Unity Plan can create an additional Latino majority seat that is compact and follows neighborhood boundaries. An empowered electorate cannot exist where maps simply pack Latino voters into districts without regard to how communities are structured and organized.

Similarly, the plan ignores attempts at preserving electoral power among Asian communities. Multiple plans (Unity Map, legislature and both IRC plans) drew a new senate district in Brooklyn which united the Asian American communities of interest of Sunset Park and Bensonhurst. This court should likewise correct for last cycle's radical malapportionment and preserve the Asian American plurality senate district in Brooklyn which was adopted in *all* of the plans mentioned above. The Unity Map was able to draw a Senate District as a majority Asian district. But while the Special Master Plan substantially maintains SD 17 and keeps most of Bensonhurst whole within the district, it divides Sunset Park between SD 26 and SD 17. We propose including more of Sunset Park with Bensonhurst, which are similar communities of interest, and including more of Bay Ridge in SD 26. Our plan is better at keeping that community more whole.

We also note that SD 11 and SD 16 in Queens divide several Asian American communities of interest, mainly Oakland Gardens, Bayside/Auburndale, Briarwood and Jamaica Hills. Briarwood and Jamaica Hills are part of the "Hillside Avenue Corridor" that includes Briarwood, Jamaica Hills and continues along Hillside Avenue to include Queens Village/Bellerose/Floral Park/Glen Oaks. We propose keeping these communities of interest together in SD 11 and including more of Oakland Gardens and Auburndale/Bayside in SD 16.

The northwest portion of SD 11 does not share much commonality with the rest of the district and should be placed in another district, if possible. The Asian American growth in Queens was 29% between 2010 and 2020, the largest of any racial group, and the new lines should reflect this growth, and not decrease the Asian American percentage in this district.

The Special Master's plan keeps most of Ozone Park whole and includes a portion of Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park in SD 15. We propose increasing more of Richmond Hill/South Ozone Park in SD 15, and adding more of Kew Gardens into SD 14. The enclosed Exhibit A further highlights Asian communities of interest as superimposed over the Special Master's Senate map.

Objections to Proposed Congressional Plan

Similar to the proposed Senate plans, the proposed Congressional map needlessly cuts through neighborhoods without acknowledging where communities of interest exist and must be preserved. For example, proposed Congressional District 7 removes the Lower East Side ("LES") and now includes it with Manhattan's Chinatown in a district with Dumbo, Gowanus, Park Slope and Borough Park, Brooklyn neighborhoods. The LES has historically been combined in a district with Chinatown, but removing Williamsburg, Bushwick, Red Hood, Sunset Park from its Congressional district and substituting Park Slope and Borough Park does not create a coherent community of interest and appears inexplicable.

The Lower East Side shares the Williamsburg crossing with the neighborhood of Williamsburg, both historically traditional Puerto Rican neighborhoods that have been gentrified through the years. Nevertheless this entry point also allows the adjoining of Red Hook Houses, where their shared issues of waterfront resiliency, gentrification and NYCHA facilities ensures the communities of the Lower East Side, Williamsburg and Red Hook have the ability to elect a candidate that will address their concerns. Further, the Bushwick community is well known for its strong Williamsburg connection. Every single level of government currently combines these areas, as does the plan of the Special Master. The problem lies when adding the neighborhood of Glendale in Queens while removing Lower East Side, Red Hook and Sunset Park. Glendale is a much more residential community, similar to that of Ridgewood, but much less so demographically and economically. Ridgewood has historically been included in Congressional District 7 in the last few decades thanks to the gentrification of Williamsburg and Bushwick and the migration shift into the Queens boundary area of Ridgewood. We propose adding Lower East Side to the Special Master's proposal for CD 7 to ensure at a minimum that the communities of LES, Williamsburg and Bushwick are able to coalesce with the new included neighborhood of Sunnyside and more of Woodhaven.

The Special Master's plan splits Manhattan's Chinatown and Sunset Park, Brooklyn. We refer you to federal court decision in Diaz v. Silver, 978 F. Supp. 96 (E.D.N.Y.) (per curiam), aff'd, 522 U.S. 801 (1997), which recognized that Asian Americans in Manhattan's Chinatown and Brooklyn's Sunset Park were a community of interest that should be kept together within the 12th Congressional District. This judicial precedent has been followed in the last two redistricting cycles, including in the plan that was drawn by the independent Special Master in Favors v. Cuomo, 881 F. Supp. 2d 356 (E.D.N.Y. 2012), in the last redistricting cycle.

The court in Diaz specifically recognized the following factors and shared community concerns:

- Cultural background
- Economic status
- Common media markets
- Shared community services and organizations, including health clinics, stores, public transportation and workplaces
- Voting patterns
- Common languages and dialects
- Common country of origin

We propose restoring the Asian American communities in Chinatown and Sunset Park in CD 10, and including portions of Bensonhurst and Borough Park in CD 11. Bensonhurst is divided into multiple districts in the Special Master plan. The Unity Map configuration for these communities illustrates how these communities could best be configured.

The community of interest of Queens Village/Bellerose/Floral Park/Glen Oaks is mostly whole in CD 3. The portion of this community of interest that is in CD 6 should be kept together in CD 3, which would allow for more of Bayside/Auburndale to be returned to CD 6, which shares much more commonality with other communities of interest in CD 6. The enclosed Exhibit B highlights Asian communities of interest as superimposed over the Special Master's Congressional map.

As noted *supra*, one key principle of preserving communities of interest includes ensuring that traditional and emerging communities are kept whole. That principle was violated in several of the Special Master's congressional districts in communities with voters of African descent. As drawn in the Special Master map for CD 8, the historic neighborhood of Bedford Stuyvesant was cracked so severely that more than a quarter of its core district was removed. In the Special Master's map for CD 9, the historic community of Crown Heights was similarly cracked. The Crown Heights community contains a significant part of the community of interest of people of African descent that has comprised that district since its inception. The Brownsville section of Congressional District 9 was also removed and placed in CD 8. The Brownsville community is also a key community of interest of people of African descent within District 9.

We propose that the Special Master conduct equal population swaps of 106,867 between CDs 8 and 9, as noted in our map submission accompanying this letter. With this remedy, the communities of interest in each of these districts would be kept whole, and Black voters would not see their voting strength diluted.

As constituted in the Special Master's map, in CD 16, the historically recognized community of interest of people of African descent which includes Mount Vernon, Coop City

and Wakefield, is now split between three congressional districts. This proposal not only cracks these communities, but also decreases the Black voting age population and effectively decreases the voting strength of people of African Descent in the Northern Bronx.

As a solution, we propose that the Special Master conduct equal population swaps of 45,125 individuals between CDs 14 and 16 as reflected in our map submission. Co-op City was placed in CD 14 which is a significant community in the northern Bronx section and shares a community of interest with the Baychester area of the Bronx. This has been a COI in that district for decades. This area is one of the largest voting blocs in the country and removing it would significantly dilute CD 16's Black voting power.

In CD 17, the Special Master's map uproots the economic, social, and cultural life of the Westchester, Rivertown, Hudson, and Rockland County area. The lines for this district similarly cracks this area's community of interest of people of African descent, dilutes their voting strength, and disregards their common transportation and communications systems. Instead, we suggest keeping the Westchester Rivertowns together which would follow the Bipartisan Solution for Congressional District 17. Our suggestion includes keeping Dutchess and Greenburgh counties whole and within CD 17, as well as keeping White Plains whole and within CD 17.

We stress the importance of ensuring neighborhoods and communities of interest remain intact, especially when the cost of doing otherwise means the disenfranchisement of multiple communities and voters of color.

Conclusion

Black, Latino and Asian Americans are protected racial groups under the Voting Rights Act. These communities simply seek to be given equal opportunities as other communities to elect candidates of their choice. We urge this court to comply with New York State's constitutional requirements, to keep communities of interest together, and to ensure that racial minorities have a full and fair opportunity to elect candidates of their choice, as also required by the Voting Rights Act. Wherever possible, the Unity Map coalition respectfully offers its assistance in this redistricting process and encourages you to adopt the Unity Map for all legislative district levels. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Vattamala, Esq.
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Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
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EXHIBIT A

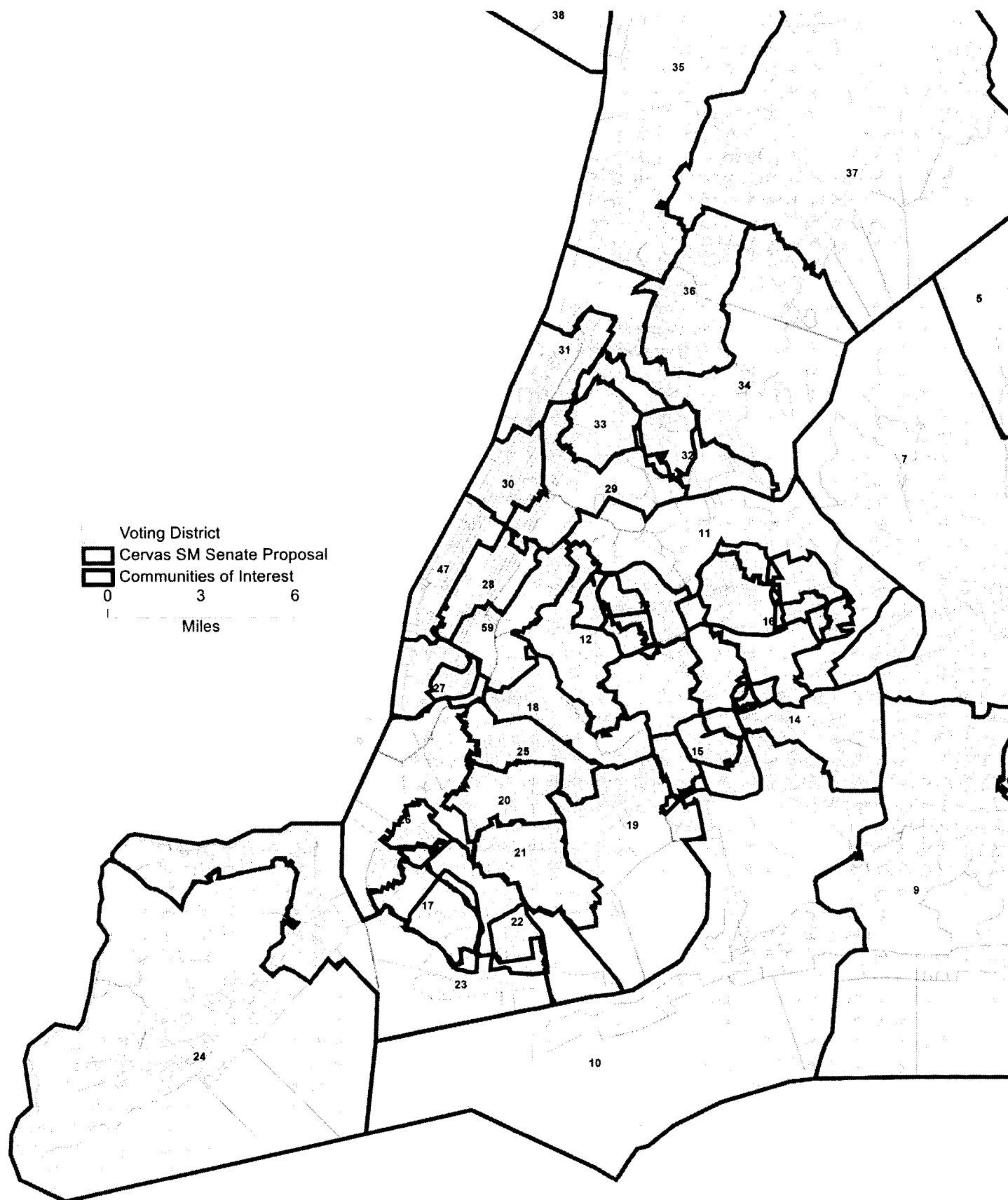
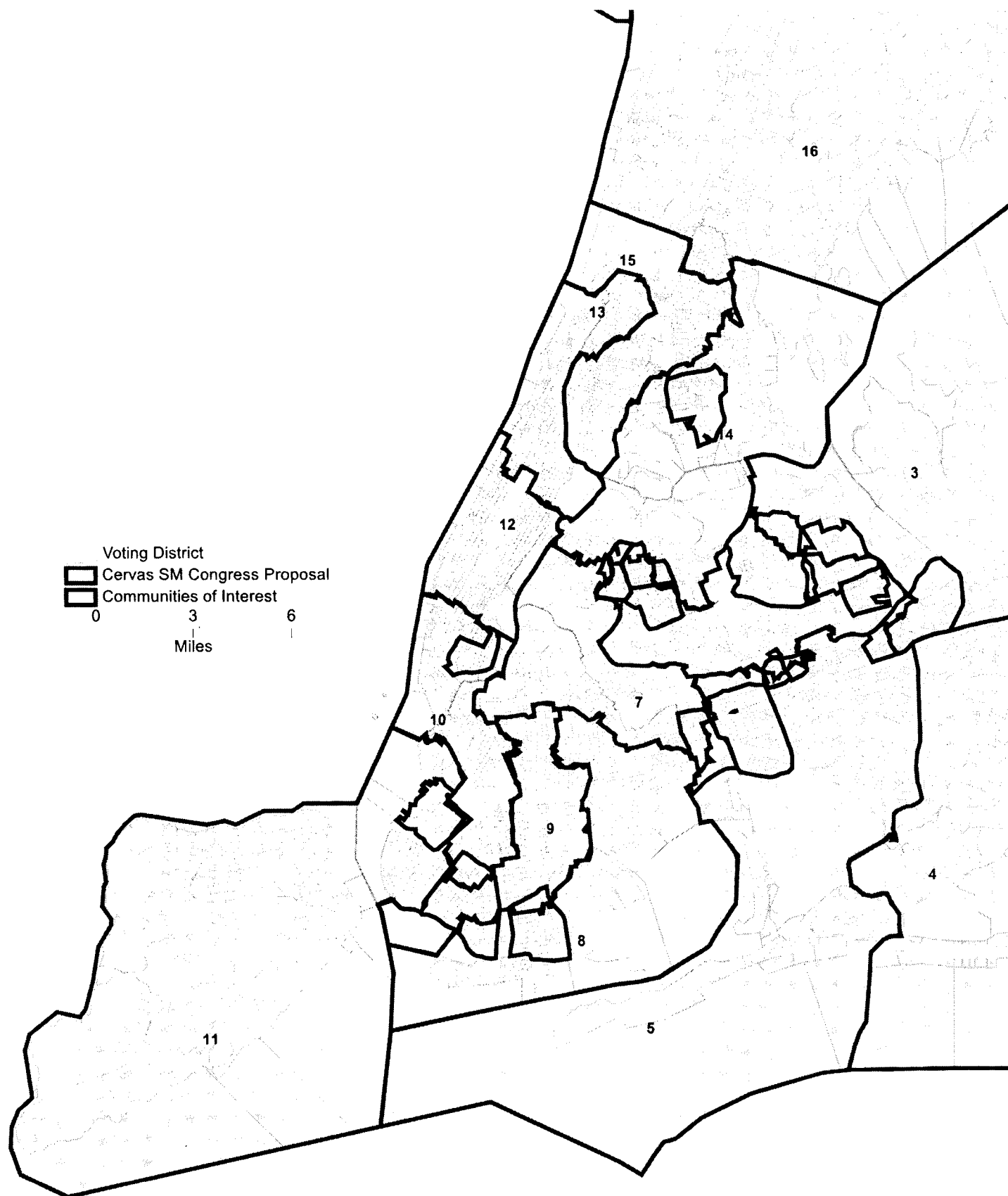


EXHIBIT B



Brenda A. Wise

From: Dan Andrews <dandrew6@nycap.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:54 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Please keep the city of Amsterdam in the 20th district.

Bwise,

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

Albany , Amsterdam , Saratoga Springs , Schenectady , and Troy are the largest cities in the respective contiguous counties and share many of the same opportunities and challenges . "

Amsterdam has for more in common with the Capital District, than the north country.

Dan Andrews
Amsterdam, NY
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Mary Cobb <marylanecobb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:52 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Proposed remapping of NY-16 and NY-17

I am a resident of Westchester County in the State of New York and home is situated within NY-17. I am writing in order to express my concern about the proposed rearrangements of the congressional district maps NY - 16 and NY - 17. Through proceedings such as splintering one district into three, large Black communities will be diluted. It is likely that those finding themselves in an unfamiliar voting district may find it difficult to elect candidates who best represent their interests.

Therefore, I fervently request that a fairer map be drawn. NY-16 must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-Op City, Edenwald and Williamsbridge with Lower Westchester ; and proposed changes to NY-17 be reconsidered, so as not to dilute the voting power of Black people.

Respectfully yours,

Mary E. Lane, M.D.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Laurie Druziak <lordendruz@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:52 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY20

Get Outlook for iOS as a resident my entire life, I am most concerned about the possible placement of Amsterdam in the NY21 district. We must remain as we are..please consider my request. We are a small city and town , and we belong in NY 20 with the capital region. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Lucas R Martinez <lmarti46@binghamton.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:48 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

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

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Regards,
Lucas Martinez

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Maya Sequeira <msequeira@elias.law>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:48 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; SteubenSuperior@nycourts.gov; cervas@cmu.edu
Cc: Andrew G. Celli; Aria Branch; Rachel Jacobs; Shanna Reulbach; Aaron Mukerjee
Subject: Harkenrider v. Hochul, Index No. E2022-0116CV, Letter Objection to Proposed Congressional Map
Attachments: 2022-05-18 - Letter Objection to Proposed Congressional Map.pdf

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

On behalf of DCCC and a group of diverse voters from different parts of New York, including Brooklyn, Manhattan, Long Island, Rochester, Syracuse, the Hudson River Valley, and the Utica area, attached please find a letter objection to the proposed congressional map.

Regards,

Maya Sequeira

Elias Law Group LLP

msequeira@elias.law

(202) 987-5019

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ELIAS

LAW
FIRM

10 G Street NE, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20002

May 18, 2022

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

Re: *Harkenrider v. Hochul*, Index No. E2022-0116CV – Letter on behalf of DCCC and New York Voters Lauren Foley, Belinda de Gaudemar, Lauren Furst, Courtney Gibbons, Seth Pearce, Leah Rosen, Susan Schoenfeld, Nancy Van Tassel, Verity Van Tassel Richards, and Ronnie White, Jr.

Dear Judge McAllister:

On behalf of DCCC, the national political party committee dedicated to electing Democrats to the U.S. House of Representatives, and a group of diverse voters from different parts of New York, including Brooklyn, Manhattan, Long Island, Rochester, Syracuse, the Hudson River Valley, and the Utica area, we write to express serious concerns about the congressional map proposed by Special Master Jonathan Cervas (the “Proposed Map”).

First, the Proposed Map pairs four Black incumbents in two districts, suggesting that they should run against each other. This would result in fewer Black members of Congress from New York, undoing decades of hard-fought racial progress that began with the creation of a majority-Black congressional district in Brooklyn represented by Shirley Chisolm following the enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (“VRA”). Second, the Proposed Map fractures important communities of interest throughout New York in contravention of the New York Constitution. The Proposed Map dismantles historic minority communities in New York City, including Brooklyn, Woodside, and the Bronx. It also splits communities of interest on Long Island and in the Hudson River Valley. The Proposed Map is the result of a flawed process that did not provide the public, including minority voters who live in historically marginalized communities, with an opportunity to provide input.

We urge the Special Master to uncouple Black incumbents and reunite communities of interest around New York City, on Long Island, and in the Hudson River Valley. Additionally, we urge this court to ensure that the map drawn by the Special Master only be used for the 2022 congressional election. The Court should then require the elected representatives of the people—who are best equipped to consider the interests of local populations and to weigh the specific equities involved—to enact a congressional map that complies with both the United States and New York Constitutions to be used for the rest of the decade.

I. The Proposed Map pairs four Black incumbents, which is likely to result in fewer Black members of the New York congressional delegation.

Harkenrider v Hochul, Civil Action No. E2022-0116CV

Letter objection to proposed congressional map on behalf of DCCC and New York Voters—2

New York's congressional delegation is currently comprised of 27 members. Of those, seven are Black: Rep. Jamaal Bowman, Rep. Yvette Clarke, Rep. Antonio Delgado, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, Rep. Mondaire Jones, Rep. Gregory Meeks, and Rep. Ritchie Torres, all of whom are Democrats. The Proposed Map pairs four of those members in two districts.¹ Rep. Yvette Clarke and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries are paired in NY-09, and Rep. Jamaal Bowman and Rep. Mondaire Jones are paired in NY-16. The Proposed Map appears to suggest that these Black Members should run against each other, which would result in a reduction in the number of Black members in New York's congressional delegation.

The Black members of the New York congressional delegation all represent minority opportunity districts. These districts are not comprised of a majority of Black voters, but Black voters in these districts nonetheless have the opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. In many ways, these districts embody the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which was enacted to “remedy 95 years of pervasive racial discrimination in voting” and “enable[] racial minorities to participate in the political life of the nation.” S. Rep. No. 109-925, at 2 (2006) (S. Rep. accompanying 2006 amendments to VRA). Black members of New York's congressional delegation have built diverse coalitions of support; they represent communities of Black, Brown, and White voters. The Proposed Map threatens to undo this significant progress.

After Illinois, New York voters have elected more African-American representatives to Congress than any other state—a total of 14.² But this is the result of hard-fought progress. New York has a history of discrimination in voting that deprived Black voters of the opportunity to elect their candidates of choice. The New York State Senate recently recognized that history in a 2021 report: “Although its record has significantly improved in recent years, New York has a long history of discrimination against racial, ethnic, and language minority groups in voting. The result is a persistent gap between white and non-white New Yorkers in political participation and elected representation.” Rep. and Findings of the N.Y. State S. Elections Comm. (Nov. 15, 2021), at 35, https://nysenate.gov/sites/default/files/press-release/attachment/elex1115_vfinal.pdf (emphasis added). Indeed, New York voters did not elect a Black member of Congress until 1944, and not again until after the passage of the VRA, which led to the creation of a majority-Black congressional district in Brooklyn represented by Shirley Chisholm, who was the first African-American woman elected to Congress. Prior to the enactment of the VRA—which was aimed at overcoming nearly 100 years of barriers at the state and local levels that prevented Black Americans from exercising their right to vote after the passage of the 15th Amendment—Black voters were divided among several predominantly white congressional districts.³

¹ Antonio Delgado is not running for Congress. Out of the six Black candidates who are running for re-election in 2022, four—a majority—are paired.

² See <https://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/BAIC/Historical-Data/Black-American-Representatives-and-Senators-by-State-and-Territory/>.

³ Debra Michaels, *Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005)*, National Women's History Museum (2015), <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/shirley-chisholm>; Voting Rights Act, Gotham Gazette, <https://www.gothamgazette.com/index.php/about/1856-voting-rights-act>.

Harkenrider v Hochul, Civil Action No. E2022-0116CV

Letter objection to proposed congressional map on behalf of DCCC and New York Voters—3

Not only do these pairings threaten to reduce Black representation, they also disfavor incumbents. Under the New York Constitution, maps cannot be drawn for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents, particular candidates, or political parties. *See* N.Y. Const. art. III, § 4 (c)(5). But the Special Master’s map does just that, bunking six Democratic incumbent representatives and pairing no Republican incumbents who are running for re-election. Courts have found far less to be compelling evidence of illicit intent to favor or disfavor particular incumbents. As the North Carolina trial court recently found in determining the plan to be an illegal Republican gerrymander, that map’s single instance of “double bunking” of incumbents that disadvantaged Democrats was evidence of “intentional, pro-Republican partisan redistricting.” *Harper v. Hall*, Nos. 21 CVS 015426 and 21 CVS 500085 ¶¶ 549, 551 (Wake Cnty. Sup. Ct.), *aff’d*, *Harper v. Hall*, 868 S.E.2d 499 (N.C. Feb. 14, 2022).

Whether these pairings were intended or not, their effect is real and threatens to harm New York’s voters and the diversity of representation in New York. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that avoiding contests between incumbents and preserving the relationship between an elected official and their constituents is a legitimate redistricting goal. *See Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725, 740 (1983); *White v. Weiser*, 412 U.S. 783, 797 (1973). In *Diaz v. Silver*, the Eastern District of New York explained why courts adopting redistricting plans should respect “the ability of representatives to maintain relationships they had already developed with their constituents.” 978 F. Supp. 96, 123 (E.D.N.Y. 1997). As that court and many others have recognized, this provides continuity to residents and helps ensure that their elected officials are familiar with their concerns. *See, e.g., Arizonans for Fair Representation v. Symington*, 828 F. Supp. 684, 688-89 (D. Ariz. 1992) (“The court [plan] also should avoid unnecessary or invidious outdistricting of incumbents. Unless outdistricting is required by the Constitution or the Voting Rights Act, the maintenance of incumbents provides the electorate with some continuity. The voting population within a particular district is able to maintain its relationship with its particular representative and avoids accusations of political gerrymandering.”) (citation omitted), *aff’d sub nom. Hisp. Chamber of Com. v. Arizonans for Fair Representation*, 507 U.S. 981 (1993).

These relationships are particularly critical in districts with a substantial number of minority voters, whose representatives are already acutely familiar with the needs of the voters in that district. The Special Master’s Proposed Map jeopardizes those relationships for millions of New York’s voters, including in particular for at least hundreds of thousands of New York’s Black voters.

II. The Proposed Map unnecessarily divides important communities of interest—particularly minority communities—across the state.

The Proposed Map needlessly fractures communities of interest across the state in direct contravention of the New York Constitution, which mandates the consideration of several different factors, including keeping together communities of interest. N.Y. Const. art. III, § 4(c)(5). Although the New York Constitution does not provide an explicit definition of what constitutes a “community of interest,” that term has a specialized meaning in the redistricting context. Other state constitutions, for instance, define a “community of interest” as a community of voters who

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are united by certain social, cultural, racial, economic, and historical issues and dynamics. *See, e.g.*, Mich. Const. art. IV, § 6(13)(c) (“Districts shall reflect the state’s diverse population and communities of interest. Communities of interest may include, but shall not be limited to, populations that share cultural or historical characteristics or economic interests.”); Cal. Const. art. XXI, § 2(d)(4) (“A community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Examples of such shared interests are those common to an urban area, a rural area, an industrial area, or an agricultural area, and those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process.”). Dividing communities of interest, in particular minority communities of interest, disregards and disturbs on-the-ground political, cultural, and social realities.

It is not surprising that that the Proposed Map dismantles communities that have long been united in one congressional district. The remedial map-drawing process has taken place in a vacuum, essentially closed off to the public. The Special Master has thus drawn a map based on what may look visually pleasing but that ignores the realities on the ground. Indeed, this Court explicitly prohibited anyone other than the Respondents from submitting a proposed remedial plan. *See* Second Am. Order (Apr. 29, 2022), NYSCEF Doc. No. 296. And once maps were submitted, there was no meaningful opportunity for the public to comment. The Court held only one hearing on a weekday in Bath, New York. It was nearly impossible for most voters, including minority voters, to attend that hearing because Bath is nearly five hours away from New York City and essentially inaccessible via public transportation. As a result, the voices of the richly diverse communities of New York have not been heard in the remedial map-drawing process. The consequence of that process is the deeply flawed Proposed Map. We urge the Special Master to unite the following communities in the final map.

a. New York City

First, the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Prospect Heights, Fort Greene, East New York, and Canarsie should be kept together in one congressional district. These communities have historically been grouped together in one congressional district, a seat once held by Shirley Chisholm, who, as noted above, was the first African-American woman elected to Congress. As discussed below, the Proposed Map instead needlessly fractures these communities between several districts when they should be united in one.

- Even though the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood has been kept together in the same congressional district for decades, the Proposed Map splits it between two districts—NY-8 and NY-9—fracturing a community that has been the center of Brooklyn’s Black community since the early 1800s.⁴ The Bedford-Stuyvesant

⁴ *See, e.g.*, Melanie Eversley, *Protecting black history from gentrification*, USA Today (Feb. 2, 2016), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/02/02/black-history-gentrification-new-york-brooklyn/78685354/>; Sam Roberts, *Striking Change in Bedford-Stuyvesant as the White Population Soars*, New

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communities have large Black populations with shared business districts, public safety concerns, transportation modalities, and education concerns, and their issues should be represented by one member of Congress.

- Prospect Heights is cracked between NY-9 and NY-10, which means that part of the predominantly working-class Black community in that area has been combined with the wealthy Manhattan residents in the Financial District and Tribeca.⁵ These communities have very few shared interests. Prospect Heights should be reunited with other Brooklyn neighborhoods with which its voters have shared interests.
- The neighborhood of Fort Greene alone is inexplicably split across *three* congressional districts—NY-7, NY-9, and NY-10.

The Proposed Map severely fractures these predominantly Black communities and should be revised to restore the congressional district lines that have housed these communities for so long.

Second, Woodside should remain whole. The predominantly South Asian community in Woodside is cracked between NY-6, NY-7, and NY-14, diluting that community's voting strength and voice. NY-7, for example, reaches into increasingly gentrified Williamsburg and Greenpoint, which are neighborhoods whose voters share few concerns with the South Asian community in Woodside.⁶

Third, Black voters in Northeast Bronx should be kept together in NY-16. In yet another example of cracking minority communities with shared interests across multiple districts, the predominantly Black voters of Northeast Bronx, including residents of Williamsbridge, Baychester, Wakefield, Edenwald, and Co-Op City, are split among NY-14, NY-15, and NY-16. Those communities were previously all residents of NY-16. Not only is this area predominantly

York Times (Aug. 4, 2011), <https://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/05/nyregion/in-bedford-stuyvesant-a-black-stronghold-a-growing-pool-of-whites.html> (noting that Bedford-Stuyvesant “traces its African-American roots to the early 19th century and has been the borough’s black cultural capital for decades”).

⁵ Compare NYC Health Community Health Profiles 2018: Crown Heights and Prospect Heights (noting that 64% of the population of Crown Heights and Prospect Heights is Black, and that its poverty rate is higher than New York City as a whole), with Shelly Hagan and Wei Lu, *NYC's Trendy Neighborhood Leaps Into Top Five Richest Zip Codes*, Bloomberg (Mar. 4, 2019), <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-04/nyc-s-trendy-neighborhood-leaps-into-top-five-richest-zip-codes>, and Katie Warren, *NYC's richest and most expensive ZIP code has an average income of \$879,000 and a median sale price of \$3.9 million*, Business Insider (Nov. 18, 2019, 5:18 PM), <https://www.businessinsider.com/tribeca-new-york-city-richest-neighborhood-photos-tour-2019-6> (noting that Tribeca contains one of the top five richest zip codes in America).

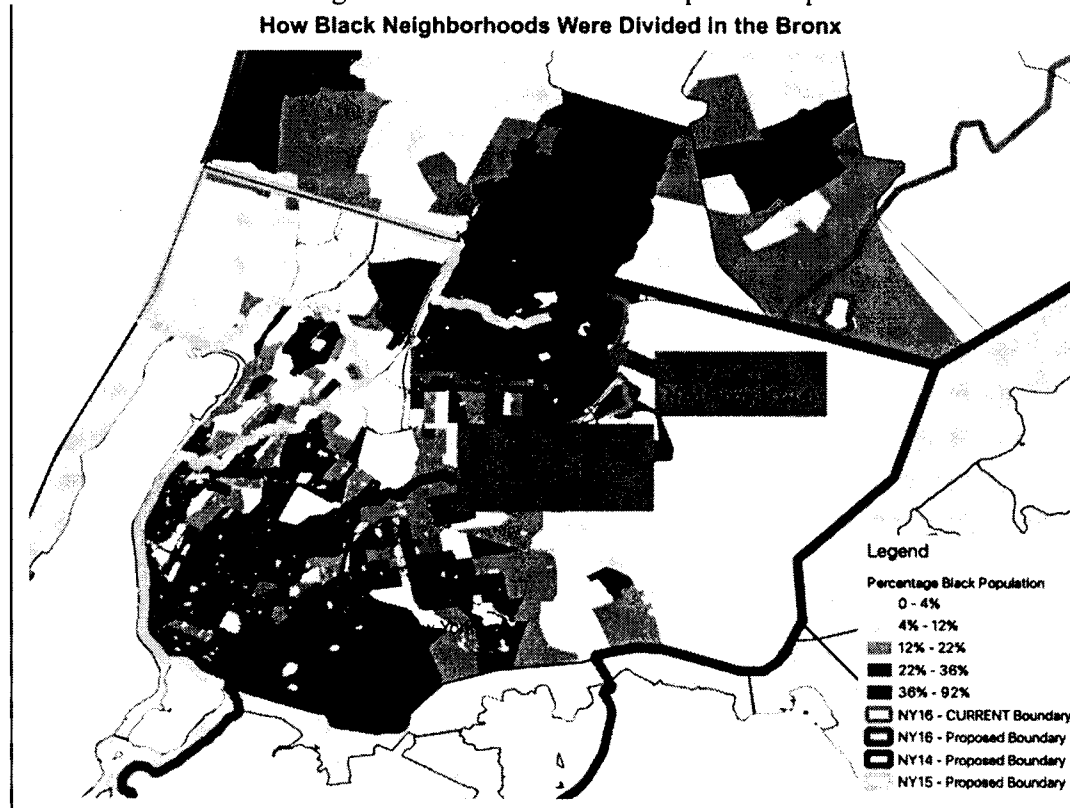
⁶ See, e.g., NYC Health Community Health Profiles 2018: Greenpoint and Williamsburg at 7, available at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/data/2018chp-bk1.pdf>; John V. Santore, *Study: Williamsburg and Greenpoint Are NYC's Gentrification Capitals*, Patch (May 11, 2016), <https://patch.com/new-york/williamsburg/study-williamsburg-greenpoint-are-nycs-gentrification-capitals>.

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Black in a part of the City that is predominantly Hispanic,⁷ but it includes Co-Op city, which is historically the largest housing cooperative in the world and an obvious and important community that should be represented by one Member of Congress. Under the Proposed Map, however, Co-Op City is split between two districts, including one—NY-15—that snakes around to group some of these residents of affordable housing with predominantly affluent, white Woodlawn and Riverdale. In the Proposed Map, the residents of public housing in Edenwald are separated from the other parts of the Bronx Black community. They should continue to be connected with the predominantly Black city of Mount Vernon, but also joined with other parts of the Bronx such as Co-Op City, Baychester and Williamsbridge. This area makes one connected community of interest as they share an interest in common issues such as affordable housing.

The figure below shows how the predominantly Black community in the Northeast Bronx is cracked between several congressional districts in the Proposed Map:



The Northeast Bronx community should remain united in NY-16. These residents send their children to the same public schools and are grappling with shared political interests and issues

⁷ See Co-Op City: History (last visited May 17, 2022), <https://coopcitynyc.com/aboutus>; NYC Housing Preservation and Development, City Secures Affordability and Prevents Displacement for Over 16,000 NYC Households (Apr. 3, 2020), <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/hpd/news/021-20/city-secures-affordability-prevents-displacement-over-16-000-nyc-households#/0>.

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including combatting the threat of gun violence in their neighborhoods.

b. Long Island

The New York Constitution requires the consideration of “pre-existing political subdivisions including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest,” making each criteria equally important. N.Y. Const. art. III, § 4(c)(5). The Proposed Map, however, seems to prioritize minimizing county splits in Long Island over all other criteria, including preserving existing communities of interest. The Special Master must correct this problem when finalizing the map by uniting communities of interest across Long Island.

Long Island should be divided using district lines that run from East to West instead of North to South. This would result in three districts across the majority of Long Island: a North Shore district, a South Shore district, and a Central Long Island district. East-to-West lines would allow voters with similar socio-economic interests to vote together, and shared economic interests is a traditional ground for recognizing a community of interest. *See Diaz*, 978 F. Supp. at 123 (“Courts will find the existence of a community of interest where residents share substantial cultural, economic, political and social ties.”).

In addition, the East-to-West division reflects common commuter patterns, which courts often consider as part of a community-of-interest analysis. *See Kelley v. Bennett*, 96 F. Supp. 2d 1301, 1321 (M.D. Ala. 2000), *vacated on other grounds by Sinkfield v. Kelley*, 531 U.S. 28 (2000); *Johnson v. Miller*, 864 F. Supp. 1354, 1389 (S.D. Ga. 1994); *see also Caster v. Merrill*, No. 2:21-cv-1536-AMM, 2022 WL 264819, at *20 (N.D. Ala. Jan. 24, 2022) (quoting *Johnson*, 864 F. Supp. at 1389-90). The commuter patterns on Long Island are divided between the North Shore, South Shore, and Central areas and would correspond to districts being drawn in those regions. The Babylon/Montauk branch of the Long Island Railroad runs all the way across the South Shore and is a thoroughfare for people commuting into New York City. The North Shore has the Port Washington, Oyster Bay, and Port Jefferson railroad branches, in addition to ferries that cross the Long Island Sound to bring passengers to Connecticut. Those in Central Long Island have access to the Long Island Expressway and the Ronkonkoma Branch of the Long Island Railroad.⁸

Creating districts using East-to-West lines also provides a greater opportunity for minority voters who have been historically marginalized on Long Island to have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Practices like redlining, restrictive zoning, blockbusting, discriminatory tax assessments, and racial steering have caused Long Island to be one of most segregated regions in the country.⁹ Just ten years ago, a 2012 report concluded that one in three Black Long Islanders have experienced housing discrimination first-hand or within their immediate family. And *Newsday*, a newspaper that serves Long Island, conducted a three-year investigation culminating

⁸ *See* Long Island Railroad Map, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, <http://web.mta.info/lirr/Timetable/SystemMap.pdf>.

⁹ The planned community of Levittown famously excluded people of color with a restrictive covenant and remains overwhelmingly white. Olivia Winslow, *Dividing Lines, Visible and Invisible*, *Newsday* (Nov. 17, 2019), <https://projects.newsday.com/long-island/segregation-real-estate-history/#nd-promo>.

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in 2019 that revealed that real estate agents continue to show Black residents houses in predominantly Black areas, and white people houses in predominantly white areas. This practice has had the effect of pushing people of color into a small number of communities towards Central Long Island. Census estimates from 2017, for example, showed that half of Long Island's black residents lived in just 11 communities, and 90% lived in 62 communities.¹⁰

These communities with large minority populations are currently split among Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. Cities with some of the highest minority populations are located relatively close to each other in West-Central Long Island—like Elmont, Roosevelt, Hempstead, Uniondale, Westbury, North Amityville, and Wyandanch—yet are split between districts. A map that unites these cities, and runs East-to-West in the center of the Island, would afford minority voters a greater chance to elect candidates who represent their interests. It seems particularly unjust that, after using discriminatory tactics to force people of color into these locations, we would also divide their political power in a part of the state that has highly racially polarized voting. While these voters would not currently make up a majority of any district, they would be well-positioned to build coalitions and, by the end of the decade, there could be a compact Central Long Island majority-minority district.

Finally, environmental factors favor building East-to-West districts. As Dr. Stephen Ansolabehere presented to this Court in his expert report, the North Shore of Long Island is a unique ecological zone. It is part of the Long Island Sound Watershed and is managed by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and under the oversight of the Long Island Sound Study. Expert Rep. of Dr. Stephen Ansolabehere ¶ 74 (Feb. 24, 2022), NYSCEF Doc. No. 92. Keeping the communities of the North Shore together in one district, rather than splitting them between several districts, would allow voters there to prioritize their environmental needs. Because the next decade is poised to have an increasing policy focus on climate change and clean energy, this court should put New York's residents in the best position possible to have a representative who can focus on their specific circumstances and resources. *See Diaz*, 978 F. Supp. at 123 (listing shared political interests as a factor that defines a community).

c. Hudson River Valley

The Congressional district lines along the Hudson River Valley should be drawn North-to-South to account for the communities of interest that live in this region. Under the Proposed Map, this region is divided East-to-West. New York's Hudson River towns in Greenburgh and Rockland should be united—across the river—in one district that includes White Plains, the urban and transit center of that part of the region. Instead, the Proposed Map divides the Hudson River towns between NY-16 and NY-17, a division that splits a community of interest and creates an arguably

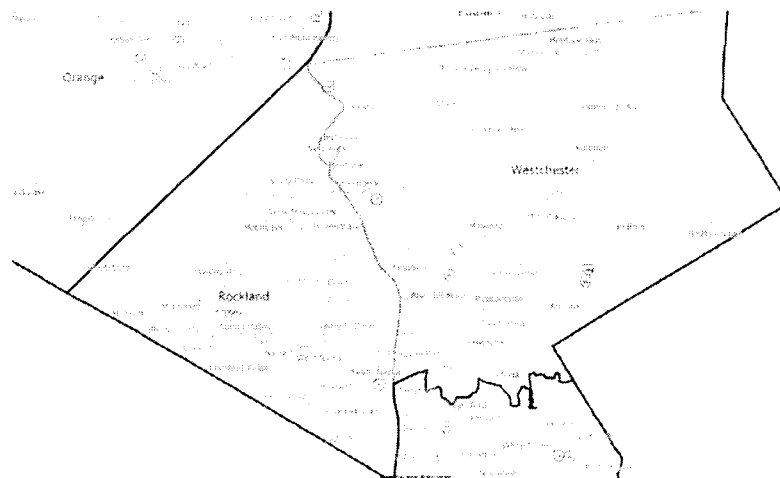
¹⁰ See Erase Racism, Housing and Neighborhood Preferences of African Americans on Long Island at 2 (Feb. 2012), http://www.eraseracismny.org/storage/documents/FINAL_ERASE_Racism_2012_Housing_Survey_Report_web_version.pdf; Winslow, *supra* note 8.

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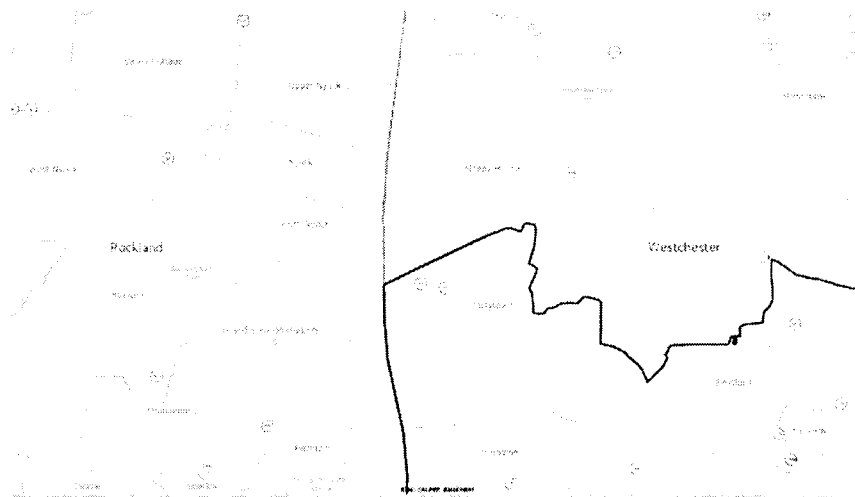
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not contiguous 17th district that cannot be traversed by bridge without entering another district, as shown in the maps below.¹¹

District 17



Governor Mario M. Cuomo (Tappan Zee) Bridge

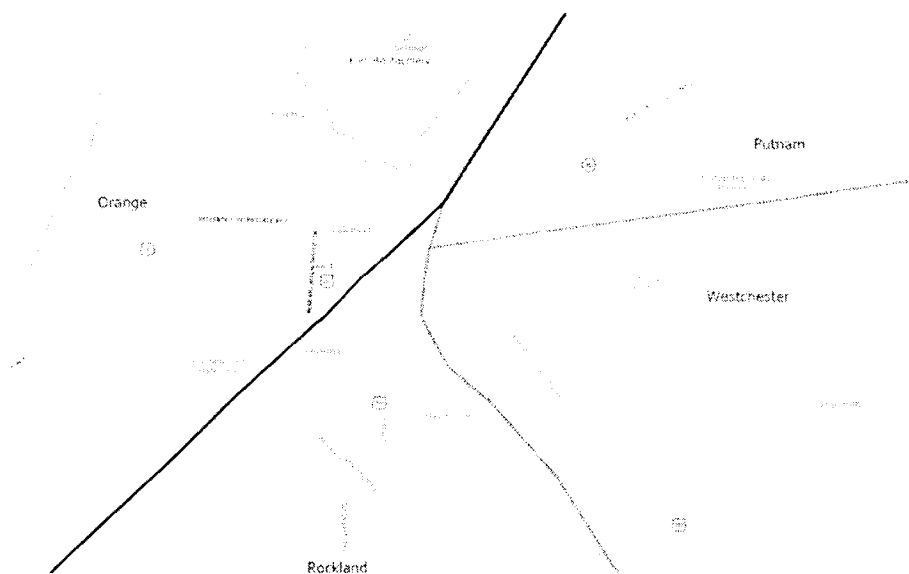


¹¹ No bridge directly connects both sides of the NY-17. The Governor Mario M. Cuomo (Tappan Zee) Bridge and the Bear Mountain Bridge are the only two options for crossing the Hudson in the area. However, once across a bridge, a person would have to cross through NY-16 or NY-18, respectively, to get back to NY-17, meaning the district cannot be traversed in whole without entering another district. See *Matter of Schneider v. Rockefeller*, 31 N.Y. 2d 420, 430 (1972) (finding contiguity when it is not “necessary to travel through an adjoining district to keep within the boundaries of the challenged district”); *Ince v. Rockefeller*, 290 F. Supp. 878, 883 (S.D.N.Y. 1968) (finding contiguity when “no part of any district separates the two sections of the ... District”). Further, the entrance and exit ramps off the Bear Mountain Bridge appear to be in NY-18, rather than NY-17, requiring residents to enter NY-18 in order to traverse back to NY-17.

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Bear Mountain Bridge



Residents of the Hudson River towns share a common identity. The villages (Hastings-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington, Tarrytown, Elmsford, and Ardsley) and unincorporated areas that comprise the town of Greenburgh share public services like a common police department and sanitation department. These Westchester River towns are connected by infrastructure and commuter lines including the Metro North’s Hudson Railroad line, the Old Croton Aqueduct, and U.S. Route 9. The towns spanning both sides of the Hudson River share significant environmental concerns—several were affected by Hurricane Sandy and other recent weather events. These towns, situated on the Hudson River floodplain are likely to experience flooding in the future, and having singular congressional representation is important for that interest. The court must not split this community of interest.

Additionally, White Plains should be part of any district that includes the Hudson River towns. White Plains is an important hub for the minority communities in the Hudson River valley; Hispanic residents along the towns of the Hudson River congregate in White Plains. Additionally, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) chapter in this region is headquartered in White Plains and is aptly called the “NAACP White Plains/Greenburgh” Branch because it serves the Black residents of both White Plains and Greenburgh.

Conclusion

For the reasons above, we urge the Court to recognize the limitations of the Proposed Map and to promptly direct the Special Master to make immediate changes to account for these problems. Additionally, the Court should allow the duly elected representatives of the people an

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opportunity to draw this state's electoral map consistent with both the United States and New York Constitutions to be used in this state the rest of the decade.

Dated: May 18, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

**EMERY CELLI BRINCKERHOFF
ABADY WARD & MAAZEL LLP**

By: /s/ Andrew G. Celli, Jr.

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amukerjee@elias.law

Brenda A. Wise

From: Alfred Lynch Jr <alynchjr54@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:47 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistributing 2022

As you know, there is a law in place to prevent the Vote Dilution effect of this planned redistributing of Co-op City from CD16 to CD14: Section 2 of the VRA 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, Alfred Lynch, Jr.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: leon anisowicz <leon_anisowicz@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:47 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Brooklyn Redisricting

Master of Redistricting,

The Master for redistricting Bay Ridge did a great job in making fair districts.

We've been gerrymandered by the Republicans and now the Democrats. We were glad to get an outsider to work on our community. Now both Republicans and Democrats will need to work to hold the district or run here. We appreciate the time you took in doing this.

Please keep the district lines you made.

Thank you.

Leon Anisowicz

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jennifer Hoppe <callmejenhoppe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:46 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: District Maps Public Commentary

Dear Clerk Wise and Judge McAllister,

I am the Female Democratic District Leader for the 66th Assembly District, Part A (lower Manhattan). While I am a proud and progressive Democrat, I was not in favor of the gerrymandering that our state legislature attempted. This was on principle, but also because I knew that if those maps were struck down in court, it would affect us, the grassroots people who work to get those legislators elected, greatly. We are the ones on the ground informing and engaging the voters.

As a District Leader, I also focus on and care deeply about our democracy and voting. I believed contested maps and the back-and-forth they would cause would only lead to voter confusion and disengagement. I've been on the streets already this cycle and have heard these sentiments first hand. To say that I am upset about what has already happened with these maps--and continues--is quite the understatement.

My first reaction to Mr. Cervus' maps was, aren't they neat and tidy? On closer look, I saw immediately the wrench in representation they stood to cause. This morning I heard Susan Lerner of Common Cause on The Brian Lehrer Show on our NPR-affiliate WNYC and I'm only now more convinced of the harm these maps can bring by breaking up communities of interest and forcing some communities to be divided into multiple districts. **I believe the 2010-drawn maps we had in place were far more fair and better kept communities of interest together.** It's clear to me that Mr. Cervus was not knowledgeable about New York City and our surrounding areas and their specific--and extremely important--dynamics. We are a city where great wealth and privilege meets great hopes and dreams. We have neighborhood after neighborhood that's made up of immigrants, mostly low-wage, working people. We have numerous historically Black communities. A Representative should be able to understand--and work darn hard to meet--the needs of their district without alienating another part of it.

I write not just as a District Leader. I also work in all five boroughs as part of Amplify Her, a group that has focused on representation for years. I know these neighborhoods well, and I know well that it's vital they have an advocate who understands their interests, whether affordable housing and gun control, or abortion care and clean energy infrastructure.

Another terrible result of accepting Mr. Cervus' maps would be that longterm incumbents would be pitted against each other. How on earth is most of Manhattan supposed to choose between a former City Council person who worked her way to lead an Oversight Committee that's holding drug companies and other bad actors to account and a former State Assembly Member who chairs the Judiciary Committee and led an impeachment trial with grace? Or between two Black Representatives who have worked tirelessly for their communities? How does this promote voting and a belief in a democracy that works?

Please hear my concerns and the concerns of others before acting on Mr. Cervus' maps. I thank you for this opportunity for public commentary.

Most sincerely,
Jennifer Hoppe

--
Jennifer Hoppe

Democratic District Leader,
66th Assembly District Part A
Call/text: 646/408.0048

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Brenda A. Wise

From: alanhicksalanh@aim.com <alanhicksalanh@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:46 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Retaining the 16th congressional district

As a Co-op City resident, I am against the remapping of the 16th congressional district.

Alan H. Hicks

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Carrie Seim <ckseim@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: don't move Stuyvesant Town to 59th District

Hello,

I'm a resident of Stuyvesant Town (7 Stuyvesant Oval, Apt. 8F, NY, NY 10009) and responsible voter and citizen of the East Village. I am writing with outrage that you're attempting to move us to the 59th District, lumping us in with parts of Brooklyn and Queens. It's absurd! We are a Manhattan district and we want to stay that way. I object and dissent strongly to this redistricting, it makes no sense and is offensive to longtime residents, and simply makes no common sense.

Thank you for listening to the many, many voters in Stuyvesant Town who object to this arbitrary redistricting — I urge you to stop it.

Sincerely,
Carrie Seim
323.852.1642
ckseim@gamil.com

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Carrie Seim <ckseim@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:44 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: don't move Stuyvesant Town to 59th District

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Sincerely,
Carrie Seim
323.852.1642
ckseim@gmail.com

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: anakosok@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:43 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: The re-districted map to be decided upon on Friday, 5/20/2022

Dear Justice McAllister,

I am writing to protest the new re-districted map, which is to be finalized by your decision in two days time.

This is my understanding:

In 2014, voters in New York State voted yes on Proposition 1, a constitutional amendment to make changes in a fair and transparent way to redraw the lines of state legislative and congressional districts. I was certainly one of those voters, but I certainly didn't vote for re-districting in this way.

Results of the 2020 Census were available on April 26, 2021, more than enough time, it would seem, to fairly draw a new map, that seems fair to most. But we are now be forced to accept whatever is approved at this eleventh hour, with urgency being an important factor.

There is also the following:

The City Charter requires the City Council and the mayor to appoint an independent Districting Commission every 10 years, following the decennial census. The process ensures council districts continue to reflect population and demographic changes.

After the commission is constituted, commission members and their staff will begin meeting to review all relevant laws, regulations, and the most recent census data. **After a series of public hearings and meetings, the commission will develop a final plan, which must be submitted to the City Council by the end of the year.**

There have been no public hearings and meetings and the time table is certainly not from inception to "end of year." Voting is supposed to be for us, the voters, not to fix a mess created by an assortment of politicians and judges.

There was apparently a public meeting on Jan 3, 2022 to discuss a Proposed Plan "to be sent to the legislature." How would voters have known about this meeting? And apparently, it wasn't about the current re-districting plan anyway.

My understanding is that the final map was submitted on Monday, 5/16/22 and the public has until today, Wednesday, 5/20/22 to give feed-back. Seriously??? I just luckily found out about this morning and it took me an hour just to find an email address to send feed-back to.

To repeat: The results of the 2020 Census were known on April 26, 2021. The 10 member Independent Redistricting Commission had from the release of the Census results until this spring to create a fair redistricting map. You know the saying "poor planning on your part does not create an emergency for me." No, we just get stuck with the results for the next 10 years. This is NOT RIGHT. They weren't able to figure out a bi-partisan map, so now the voters get stuck with whatever a geometrically compact map was drawn by a post-doctoral student, squabbled over by politicians, and then not approved by a judge--because of the lateness of the hour? Where do the voters fit into this plan?

The map we had before was drawn by a "court-appointed special master," so it should be left the way it is until there is proper time to give it appropriate consideration. The fact that it is being changed this way this close to an election is unconscionable, unfair, and just wrong.

Here are some problems:

2 elections. We have enough trouble getting decent turn-out for one primary, and now you want to have two elections? That's crazy. And the second one in August? Everyone knows that half of New York is out of town in August.

We have new districts? On top of everything else, people out of work, dying, stuck in the house, more crime than the Wild West, now we have to have new voting districts too?

Our elected officials may change over night and just before elections? We have come to know them, we have relationships with them. I understand some representatives will be forced to run against each other. Reps Carolyn Malony and Jerry Nadler—now Manhattan's Upper West Side is put together with the Upper East, when going across Central Park is like going into another country, so now we must lose one of these people who have been in Congress since the 90s? I understand that Brooklyn has been divided into two, where Black representation has long been consolidated, and that this may mean that Reps Hakeem Jeffries and Yvette Clarke will run against each other too. This is not right.

My suggestion is to leave the last map submitted, the one that is being disputed, leave it the way it is, leave the election dates the way that are, leave the districts and representatives in place, and figure out a new map in a considered way, with time for public feedback and in time for the 2024 election.

Sincerely,

Ana Kosok, Ed. D
875 W. 181st Street, 1H
NYC, NY 10033

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Brenda A. Wise

From: stepdl@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:43 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: redistricting

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

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Regards,

Diane Lachtrupp Martinez

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jeremy Kaplan <jeremy.kaplan.1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:42 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional District 11 map: Statement to revise map
Attachments: Jeremy Kaplan statement on Cong District 11.pdf

To Justice Patrick Mcallister and Associates:

I'm a Sunset Park, Brooklyn resident who would like to comment on the newly drawn Distrcit 11 map. I would have preferred to have been able to attend a public hearing on this matter but nonetheless felt the need to weigh in on these maps that will greatly affect my community. Attached is my statement on why to revise the map of District 11 to include more of south slope and windsor terrace to keep in line with historical lines that match community board, city council and assembly lines. I hope you have the opportunity to consider my words and reconsider the lines for congressional District 11.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Kaplan

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Dear Special Master Cervas:

I'm a Sunset Park, Brooklyn resident who is very involved in my community and wanted to reach out to address the Congressional District 11 maps. It's unfortunate that our political system put you in this predicament to decide maps that had years of discussion that you had to synthesize and create new ones in a few weeks. It's a tall task but I strongly urge you to reconsider your lines drawn for Congressional District 11 in South Brooklyn. The map that was submitted was not unconstitutional or particularly gerrymandered. Extending the district into park slope made lots of logical sense from a local resident as Park Slope and Sunset Park share a lot of similarities in transit, neighborhood look and feel.

The lawsuit that struck down the initial maps claimed that it was too partisan, in many ways your new map of congressional district 11 might be even more partisan. The assembly, city council lines that overlap in the area mostly go up to the highway of the BQE and into the adjacent neighborhood of Windsor Terrace around the BQE stretching over to at least 10th/11th avenue.. I noticed your map cuts those areas out and put them in district 10. South Slope up to 15th street has cultural connections to Sunset Park's growing Mexican and latino community. For many decades, Sunset Park was considered by locals to be starting at 15th street. It feels like a partisan move to make the district more favorable to the incumbent to cut off the district at 19th street and not include some of the adjacent parts of Windsor Terrace that are part of our Community board, city council and assembly.

Keeping as much continuity in representation is important for increasing participation and civic engagement. Sunset park has been growing in political engagement in the last decade but has been stifled a bit by splintering districts like dealing with 4 state senators. Your state senate maps help greatly to deal with that issue although I do have a small complaint about how Sunset Park's Chinatown is divided between Senate district 26 and 17. I would ask that before finalizing maps, that you make a small tweak to District 11 congressional map by extending the district to 15th street and keeping it very similar to Community board lines, city council and assembly lines. Thank you so much and I hope you have a chance to consider my perspective as a local resident and active member in my community.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Kaplan

Sunset Park Resident, Neighborhood Advisory Board Member, Member of Protect Sunset Park

Brenda A. Wise

From: Tiffany Capers <TeeTeeMoore@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:42 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Elmont Plea

Dear Judge McAllister,

On several occasions and at several locations, the Elmont community has shown up to speak out about our desire to be united within one State District. We are hurt and upset to see that the recently announced lines drawn by the Special Master leave our community divided once again.

For decades, the Elmont community was divided among different State Senate districts as a means of diluting our voice and power as a majority-minority community. Ten years ago, we made our voices heard in the last redistricting cycle to have our community united, and were ignored and left divided.

This time we showed up again in an attempt to undo this injustice committed against our community. I'm writing to you today in the hopes that you will hear my voice and make this situation right so that my community doesn't have to wait another 10 years to be united.

It would be wrong to slice our community in half and dilute our voice for another 10 years. I am asking you to reconsider the decision to divide Elmont at Hempstead Turnpike, and respectfully request that the boundaries of the Elmont Union Free School District and the Sewanhaka Central High School District be included in the 7th Senate District, so as to unite Elmont once and for all, and give us the voice that was robbed from us for generations.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Capers
Elmont Resident/Home Owner

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Brenda A. Wise

From: sgriffin110@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:38 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY 20

As a resident of the city of Amsterdam, NY, I am outraged and strongly opposed to the draft Congressional map that would remove my community from a Congressional district centered in New York's Capital Region. Amsterdam strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Saratoga Springs. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities, and just this month it was announced that the Capital District Transportation Authority would be expanding it's service into Amsterdam..

Our Representative, the honorable Paul Tonko, has dedicated his life to service not only his constituents of Amsterdam, but to his constituents in the current areas identified above. Over the years, Paul has not only worked hard in bringing much needed monies to our area, but he has crossed Party lines and co-sponsored Bipartisan Bills supporting unity on both sides which has benefited voters in both Parties. When Paul was our representative from Albany, he worked closely with Senator Hugh Farley on a Bill that enabled Amsterdam to take advantage of Magnet School funding, along with a Bill that enabled Amsterdam to join BOCES which then enabled BOCES in Fulton Montgomery County to enhance educational opportunities offered to many students seeking careers outside of the Regents programs. Paul was also very instrumental in bringing in millions of dollars to the Amsterdam community to build the beautiful Pedestrian Bridge which has attracted visitors around the Country and enable residents involved in the food business to offer great cultural tastes in their restaurants to many travelers who have dined in many of these establishments. These are just a few of the major highlights Representative Tonko has brought to our area. *I urge you to carefully review and reconsider this proposal to move our district out of NY20.* What purpose would be served by placing Amsterdam into a district that stretches to the Canadian border with communities that have much different needs than our own? Why upset something that has been working well for years? Is there an ulterior reason to move our district to NY21, perhaps political?

Sincerely,
Sandra L. Griffin
106 Princeton St
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Sandra L. Griffin

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Brenda A. Wise

From: R Wingate <rhwingate@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:36 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Cc: Joan Grangenois-Thomas; alisa kesten; Lynn; Vanessa SP; Tasha D Young; Lisa Hofflich; Maria Dautruche; Peter Bernstein; Stu Hackel; Christina Kharem; Verity Van Tassel Richards; Mechelle Brown; Alberta Jarane; jnicemom
Subject: Public Comment to NYS Special Court Master for Electoral Seat Redistricting
Attachments: Robert Wingate - Public Comment on NYS Special Master Electoral Seat Redistricting Process.pdf

To the court,

Please see the attached. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input in this matter.

Best regards,

Rob Wingate, Tarrytown
(914) 391-4594

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

**Robert H. Wingate
42 North Broadway #2
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 391-4594**

May 18, 2022

Jonathan Cervas, Special Master
Steuben County Supreme & County Court
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

bwise@nycourts.gov
cervas@cmu.edu

I am writing the special master under the open public comment period today to ask the master and all affiliated authorities with statutory and/or judicially-authorized or -appointed formal roles in leading or supporting this year's "third round" of state-level efforts to develop redistricting maps for state and federal offices based on recent U.S. Census results to please reconsider the process that the special master embarked upon in order to derive the new district draft maps that were made public this week, and for which I understand that today represents a deadline for public comment on these and on the process utilized.

It is my view that a three-week redistricting process does not allow for sufficient time for post-drafting review for statistical verification that disenfranchisement of communities of interest can be affirmatively ruled out. One presumes that, whether under the oversight requirements of the Voting Rights Act that have typically been in effect, and/or as a best practice for general safeguards, an extensive post-drafting statistical review process of the demographics of each proposed district would be carried out. Such customary practices and analogous and accompanying procedures can appear nowhere within the current three-week timeframe for the project that we understand the special master has adopted.

This is an omission, and a mis-timeframe planning and management flaw in this process, that exists at a deep enough level so that the risk for disenfranchisement and/or separation or degradation of important "communities of interest" cannot be ruled out to the extent it needs to be, to be in full compliance with the stipulations of the New York State Constitution and very possibly also with standards implemented under the Voting Rights Act; and therefore has not provided sufficient planning time for the development and substitution of newer state-driven standards and procedures to prevent disenfranchisement and separation of key demographic groupings intended to ensure equitable access to elected office by Black leaders in particular, or for fullest review of alternate proposal such as are also being submitted to you by leading interest organizations.

I am therefore writing in support in particular of the proposed Congressional district maps submitted to you by Common Cause New York, as accessible at <https://www.commoncause.org/page/redistricting-in-new-york-fighting-gerrymandering/> (as of 10 p.m. on 5/18/22), which, importantly, defines urban areas as being “communities of interest,” a key designation to prevent what Common Cause references as preventable and again presumably illegal and unconstitutional “intent or effect of denial/abridgement of voting rights or vote dilution because of race or membership in language minority group” from entering into the process.

I agree with Common Cause New York (interview with Susan Lerner, executive director, on WNYC radio, 5/18/22, accessible at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-brian-lehrer-show/id73331636?i=1000562280646>) that the maps you have proposed appear to de-prioritize this criterion to an extent that might even prove to represent a violation of the Voting Rights Act and might not withstand further judicial scrutiny, instead appearing to favor adherence to municipal boundaries as a higher priority when setting draft boundary lines.

Her statements about the proposed division of Congressional lines in Brooklyn are eminently reasonable (such as referencing a proposal to split Crown Heights across four separate new districts); and it would also stand to reason that consolidating two Congressional districts currently serving the Bronx and Westchester would almost irrevocably lead to the reduction in opportunities for local Black leaders to access Congressional seats, where Reps. Mondaire Jones and Jamaal Bowman currently hold two separate seats, both Black leaders.

I think the special master can do better than its draft set of maps and also in light of input prior provided to the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission, and the map proposal submitted to you by Common Cause New York, which in my view more centrally frames its proposal on the key, primary criterion in the New York State Constitution that, during any redistricting process, it must robustly steer clear of any “intent or effect of denial/abridgement of voting rights or vote dilution because of race or membership in language minority group.”

Westchester County residents like myself increasingly wish to ensure that this above-referenced criterion are at the heart of how we strengthen and celebrate the potential and extraordinary life experiences and skills of local Black leaders, and others from historically marginalized populations in the lower Hudson Valley, and cordially would ask that a more careful review of how our communities in and around the boundary between the Bronx and Westchester function, as to the vibrancy and connectivity of “communities of interest,” can and should be a more proximate definer of how new Congressional district lines are to be drawn in and around where I live.

Thank you for the work that you have been embarking on. I hope that another round of planning can take these concerns into account and additionally with a very careful reference to the prospect that the set of maps that your office has proposed might not, of certainty, prove to pass muster as part of any challenge under the Voting Rights Act.

I am writing this letter on my own behalf. I will describe separately, for identification and credential definition purposes solely, that I am recent past executive director of the Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center, an 11-county 501-c-3 organization, founded at initiative of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration in order to respond to healthcare workforce gaps in underserved communities and also as a grantee agency of the New York State Department of Health; and a past non-clinical grant reviewer for the Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine of the National Institutes of Health; and a past non-clinical steering committee member of the Blueprint for Health Equity health professionals training project for the Hudson Valley hosted by HealtheConnections under grant from the Population Health Improvement Project of the New York State Department of Health.

I also act as a non-clinical planning and training consultant to the Long-Term Care Emergency Preparedness Project of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene under grant from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, although again in this information I am in no way representing any views of those entities and these are mine alone.

Best regards,

Robert H. Wingate, BA

Brenda A. Wise

From: Samantha Moranville <samanmoran@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:33 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: City of Kingston must not be split

Please keep the city of Kingston whole so that we all have the same representative. We are a small, unified city and need to be represented as such.

I have lived here since 2007.

Thank you,
Samantha Moranville
107 2nd Ave.
Kingston, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Cheryl Pahaham <cpahaham@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:31 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master's Proposed Map for Senate District 31

To Whom It May Concern:

Please consider my comments on the Special Master's proposed map for New York State Senate District 31. I am a voter who resides in that district.

In New York State, pressure politics and back-door negotiations since the 1990s have led to a political consensus that Latino representation in elected office must increase, even to the demise of electoral districts where Black candidates have been competitive, districts where Black voters might still want to elect Black people, but no longer have the choice of a preferred candidate. This is a perverse outcome of Black people's historic struggles for equality and voting rights.

Latinos have also long been leaders in the fight for civil rights and justice. Latinos deserve equity and equality in redistricting, and the ability to elect their preferred candidates. Latino candidates also deserve the votes of Black people and other voters. To achieve those ideals, New York must establish a process that advances Asian, Latino, and Indigenous voting rights without reducing the ability of Black voters to elect their preferred candidates, and of Black people to run and win in races for elected office. The Special Master's plan for Senate District 31 does not accomplish this goal.

Instead, the Special Master's proposed map for Senate District 31 expands the district eastward into the Bronx and packs the district with Latinos. In the current Senate District 31, the Latino voting age population is the largest group of voters, at 49.3 percent. The rationale for increasing this segment of the voting age population to 65.3 percent is not clear, other than to eliminate racially diverse, competitive democratic elections. The shares of Asian and White voting age population are reduced, and the Black voting age population grows from 8.5 to 12.3 percent.

This proposal expressly benefits a specific Latino candidate now running against a specific Black incumbent in Senate District 31. This proposed lines also reflect the power and influence of Democratic political club Northern Manhattan Democrats for Change and Congressman Adriano Espaillat, who has steadily worked behind the scenes to create political districts that favor Latino candidates, and specifically Dominican candidates. For example, Congressman Espaillat was fully behind the redrawing of the old Council District 7 lines (pre-2012), a change which made it harder for a Black person to get elected, and which ultimately favored the preferences of White and Latino voters over those of Black voters.

It is clear that actual voters and their preferences are left out of New York's redistricting. Public analyses of population, voting age population, voting patterns, candidacies, and the impact of prior redistrictings by race and ethnicity must inform decisions about redistricting, rather than just maps that make clear only which incumbents are politically vulnerable to a challenge. Voters deserve a statement of the methodology applied explaining how the proposed maps comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in redistricting plans based on race, color, or membership in a protected language minority group.

Reducing opportunities to elect Black candidates in Senate District 31 pits Black voters against Latino voters socially and politically and is just wrong for Northern Manhattan. The expansion of Latino representation in elected office should not be a zero-sum game where Black voting rights are disregarded, and Black people are drawn out of office. We want a fair redistricting, supported by published analyses. The Special Master's proposal for Senate District 31 doesn't serve all voters in protected classes, its logic is not transparent, and must not be accepted by the Court.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Pahaham
cpahaham@gmail.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Judy Schoenberg <judy.schoenberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:25 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,

Judy Schoenberg

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Nate Adams <nadams@bgcny.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:25 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New Map Does Not Allow Equity

Greetings:

The news of the redistricting of NY-16 is very disturbing to the District and the state of New York. Removing Co-op City, Edenwald and Baychester from the lower Westchester/Bronx area does not make geographical sense and only weakens the black voter population. This in return allows for decreased representation and support to come a dense area most aligned with similar challenges and demographics in this area.

The northeast Bronx's predominately Black community was divided into three congressional districts: Co-op City is now mapped into NY-14, Williamsbridge and Baychester into NY 15 and Edenwald maintaining NY 16 representation.

As a black man from lower Westchester, still in NY16, this move seems intentional to divide the black voting power in areas that share common, community interests. These communities have been impacted by multiple systems and the pandemic has helped highlight many of the underlining challenges each face. By splitting our district into 3 different districts and removing it from NY 16 puts many of our community members into a vulnerable position. We need a more favorable map that will continue to support the goals and needs of our black community.

We as members of NY 16 advise that you do not decide on this re-mapping. Please make a strong consideration into maintaining what currently exists in our district. We look forward to seeing this district maintained and continued to support the needs of our community.

Nate Adams III

Director of Operations

Email: nadams@bgcny.org

Phone: 914-235-3736



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Brenda A. Wise

From: Sheila Batson <sheilabatson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:22 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervs@cmu.ed
Subject: redistricting

Sheila Batson
28 Manor Rd
W Hempstead, NY 11552

My name is Sheila Batson. As a Member of the historic Lakeview, NY (11552/11570) community I am making a plea that Lakeview be kept in one district. We are a predominantly black community with a rich history that needs to be respected and maintained. I feel the newly drawn lines are intended to divide us and our votes. This will have catastrophic effects on our community during elections. I demand immediate action. Please reconsider the lines immediately.

Thanking you in advance,

Sheila Batson

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Tremaine O'Garro <tremaine.ogarro@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:19 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Two Letters of Opposition (Rough Draft Maps NY-16/NY-14)
Attachments: Rough Draft Opposition Letter (Tremaine O'Garro).pdf; District Leader James Payne Opposition Letter.pdf

Good Evening Judge McAllister & Special Master Dr. Cervas,

Please see the attached letters of opposition from myself and James Payne, Male District Leader of the 82nd Assembly District Part A. Thank you for your consideration.

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

James Payne
PO Box 300
Bronx, NY 10475
payne3610@gmail.com

May 17, 2022

Jonathan Cervas
Institute for Politics and Strategy
Posner Hall 386
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213
cervas@cmu.edu

Dear Special Master Cervas,

I'm writing in opposition to your rough draft map of New York's 16th Congressional District. I find the map to be racist for two reasons. Firstly, it will lead to less Black representation in Congress by you pitting two black Congressmen against each other in this year's elections. Second, it will cut off the predominantly black Bronx neighborhood of Co-op City, which I represent, from Westchester County and the resources we have historically enjoyed by sharing Congressional representation with the wealthiest county in New York. Your maps further isolate the Bronx, specifically Co-op City, to our detriment. For those reasons, I strongly urge you to incorporate Co-op City back into New York's 16th Congressional District in the final draft of your map.

Yours Truly,

James Payne
District Leader, 82nd Assembly District Part A

Dear Judge Patrick F. McAllister & Special Master Dr. Cervas:

I write to you in opposition of your proposed maps for New York's 16th Congressional District, New York's 14th Congressional District and the 34th State Senatorial District. I am a 22-year resident of Co-op City as well as a community leader and candidate for State Committeeman of the 82nd Assembly District, which Co-op City and Throggs Neck are located in.

I will be brief because I know you both have likely received many letters from a multitude of concerned citizens and impacted individuals, detailing the reasons how your proposed maps for the aforementioned districts dilute their Black votes and detrimentally split communities of interest. I have been an organizer of the effort to inundate your inboxes with testimonial e-mails with the hope that we will see our issues addressed and remedied in the final draft on May 20th, 2022. Thus, I am confident my fellow neighbors, constituents and stakeholders have made it clear these maps for our districts, in their current state, are unlawful and devastating to our shared communities of interest. I just wanted do my part and amplify their voices by sending my own letter in solidarity.

In closing, I urge you to re-unite Co-op City with the communities of Edenwald, Williamsbridge, Baychester and lower Westchester County in NY-16, due to their shared interests, historically combined representation in Congress and to avoid diluting its black voting power. I also urge you keep the community of Throggs Neck together in the 34th Senatorial District to maintain the most favorable representation for it.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our opposition and provide our input. I guarantee you that you would've had far more letters if we had more than two and a half days to send them. Please do not allow our voices to go unheard and for our communities to be divided.

In Fellowship,

Tremaine O'Garro

Brenda A. Wise

From: J Chung <antijean@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:15 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Comment on redrawn congressional maps

To the clerk of Justice McAllister;

I'm a resident of the Village of Mamaroneck, in NY Congressional District #16. We were originally slated to move to CD #3 and we were fine with that as we have a lot in common with the people of Long Island, especially a concern with flooding from Long Island Sound. Also, as an Asian American, I was happy to join a district with a sizeable percentage of AAPI voters, which meant that the needs of my community would be heard more.

The new map suggested by the special master breaks up these affinity groups.

Moreover, it takes two popular seated Congressmen of color, Jamaal Bowman and Mondaire Jones, and sets them against each other, while white members of Congress are keeping their seats more easily.

Hopefully there are changes you can make which will be less disruptive to minorities, and that also take into account community interests such as environmental concerns.

Thank you very much,

Jeanhee Chung

505 Fifth St

Mamaroneck, NY 10543

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ryan Stanton <rstanton@lilabor.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: LI Congressional Districts-LI Federation of Labor Formal Feedback
Attachments: LI Fed Comments on Congressional Maps-5-18--2022.pdf

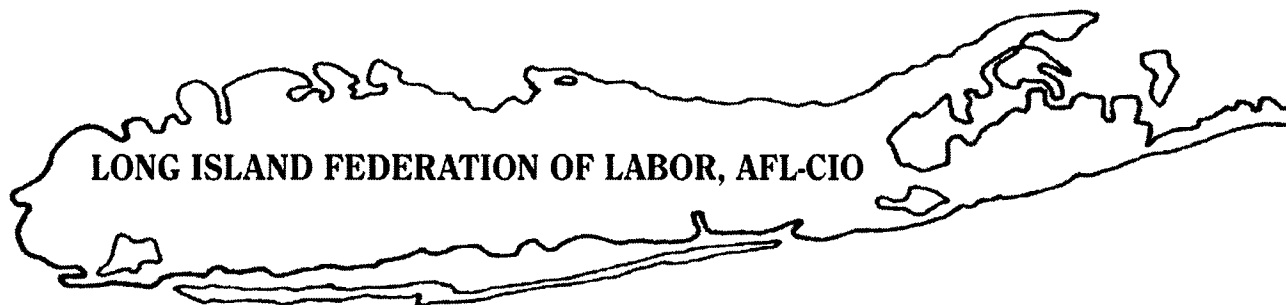
Please consider the attached feedback submitted on behalf of John Durso, President of the LI Federation of Labor, before final adoption of new congressional maps.

Ryan Stanton

Executive Director, Long Island Federation of Labor
(631) 348-1170 ext 303
(631) 338-9219 cell
Rstanton@LILabor.org

*Text LIFED to 877877 to receive text message updates about the labor movement. Regular rates apply.

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May 18, 2022

RE: Adoption of NYS's newly Drawn Congressional Maps

Supreme Court Justice McAllister and Dr. Jonathan Cervas:

On behalf of the Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO and the working people we represent I write to encourage the courts to delay adopting the Congressional District maps as proposed by Dr. Jonathan Cervas. We have provided comments for consideration regarding the newly drawn Congressional Districts for the State of New York, but given the limited timeline for feedback they are singularly focused on the current iteration of NY-2 in comparison with the NY-2 district proposed by the special master.

We believe for working people to truly be served by their government it is important for the courts to get it right, rather than just adopting something quickly. Our concerns are not limited to NY-2. We know and understand any changes applied would have a ripple effect throughout our region.

The law creating the independent redistricting commission required several factors for consideration. The following were among them:

- The commission had to consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, and of communities of interest
- Districts should be contiguous and as compact in form as practicable

Dr. Cervas's apparent goal of not crossing county lines appears to be an effort to achieve some of the goals set forth above. Unfortunately, we believe by giving county boundaries super priority Dr. Jonathan Cervas proposed maps that divide communities of interest, and although the districts may be contiguous and compact they are not so in a manner that is practicable.

Written in the court's opinion Supreme Court Justice McAllister indicates map drawers must balance county preservation with other considerations. The court's opinion goes on to highlight that there is clearly nothing in the constitution that requires county integrity receive preference, or even be given the same priority across the board in a uniform manner throughout New York State.

The version of NY-2 that has existed for the previous decade, and was largely maintained in the maps drawn by the New York State legislature considered the maintenance of cores of existing

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districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, and of communities of interest. It also kept the district contiguous and as compact in form as practicable.

Communities of interest often refers to a group of people with a common set of concerns that may be affected by legislation. Examples of communities of interest include ethnic, racial, and economic groups. New York State, like many other states, requires the preservation of communities of interest be taken in account when drawing electoral districts in an effort to enable these communities to elect representatives whose platforms or policy proposals align with their interests.

The version of NY-2 that Representative Andrew Garbarino currently represents is a "South Shore" District. It includes the Townships of Babylon and Islip in Suffolk County and the Southeast communities in the Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay in Nassau County. These communities are bound by common concerns including, but not limited to the economy and the environment. As proposed by Dr. Cervas, this district is torn in two for the sake of keeping districts predominantly within county boundaries, which can be inferred by the court's opinion is essentially arbitrary. NY-2, as proposed by Dr. Cervas, consolidates the Township of Huntington and the Township of Babylon into one district. A brief review of their community needs during times of disaster would lead to the obvious conclusion that they don't have the same community needs. Splitting apart the south shore communities is contrary to keeping together communities of interest, racially, ethnically, and economically. Dr. Cervas seems to have maintained the north shore/south shore districts intact for the State Senate maps. Thus, naturally eliciting the question, was this an oversight, and could these maps be revisited if given the proper amount of time.

Long Island's history and geography has made the development of communities of like character stretching from East to West as opposed to North to South. The Long Island Railroad has serviced Long Island commuters since the 1800's. It has a North track and a South track that knit together communities from East to West. Federal infrastructure investments have long been targeted to serve North Shore or South Shore communities. Water quality issues, transportation needs, investments to protect our barrier beaches and the southern bays are shared across the south shore. They also happen to have the same coastline. We believe their coastline and the litany of shared challenges reaffirm they should be put together in a contiguous compact congressional district that runs east to west along the south shore. Federal matters such as efforts by the Army Corp. of Engineers to preserve barrier beaches are concerns that non-South Shore residents don't understand. Putting Eaton's Neck in the same district as Fire Island is illogical.

Long Island's topography natural disasters affect the South Shore communities different from their North Shore counterparts. Super Storm Sandy and Hurricane Irene created significant coastal flooding on the South Shore, while North Shore communities dealt with downed power lines and tree damage. The bulk of reconstruction dollars were spent on the South Shore communities devastated by Super Storm Sandy, and yet a decade later residents still grapple with the aftermath of the storm. A Representative in Congress who fully understands these facts through a lived experience shared with their constituents enables them to deliver effective representation on behalf of the communities they are meant to represent, rather than someone who is forced to make political calculations in the midst of disaster discerning which coastline to prioritize.

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New York's Second Congressional District isn't broken. On behalf of the working families who call it home, don't fix it. It is contiguous. It is reasonably rectangular in shape and contains communities of like character and concerns. The maps as proposed by Dr. Jonathan Cervas have Southeast Nassau communities such as Massapequa and Massapequa Park in a pre-dominantly North Shore District. This is a disservice to the residents of communities on both coasts. Similarly, putting Long Island Sound communities such as Lloyd's Neck, Centerport, and Northport in the same district as Amityville, Lindenhurst, and Great River denies them a representative that understands and is devoted to their unique concerns.

As previously stated, our concerns are not unique to NY-2. We hope these maps can be amended in such a way that keeps the communities of the South Shore of Long Island together, communities of the North Shore together, and as is required by statute in a manner that is consistent with the intent to keep communities of interest together. They deserve to be represented by one of their own, someone who can be an effective voice to advocate for their safety, prosperity and well-being.

Sincerely,



John R. Durso
President

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www.longislandfed.org



Brenda A. Wise

From: Niles Flanders <nilesflanders888@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:13 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

I am against redistricting for the 16th district. My name is Niles A. Flanders my address is 100 Co Op City Blvd, The Bronx, NY 10475

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Jacqueline A Olivet <jaoolt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:10 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master, new proposed 18th & 19th Congressional District and New State Senate Districts

Dear Mr. Gervais, Special Master,

I am semi-retired having practiced law for 20 years in the Hudson Valley and then for the next approximately 25 years became a full time secondary education teacher in social studies 7-12 (teaching primarily participation in government and economics, criminal justice, and 7th grade history) and an adjunct instructor at Dutchess Community College teaching law-related courses, including in its paralegal program. I was born and raised in Kingston, and lived a good portion of my life there. For the last 26 years, I have been a resident of Greene County, as a homeowner in the town of Catskill. Thus, except for when I was away at school, I have been a resident of the Hudson Valley and Catskills my entire life. I mention all of this to show I am vested as a citizen in my government on every level and in my elected representatives and in these electoral districts. Also, I understand the purpose and goals behind having a non partisan special expert do reapportionment and redrawing of a state's electoral districts. I don't believe it should be done in a partisan way, no matter the political party, and I have been very disappointed and dismayed by the redistricting that has been accomplished all over this country by very partisan state legislatures, often upheld by states' courts. Thus, I laud an attempt to have a hopefully non partisan special expert in this field review New York's districts with the purpose to make them as fair as possible according to the standard guidelines established for redistricting. However, when I read about how the 19th congressional district was divided up into two new ones, 18th and 19th, and how the lines were being drawn and how the State Senate district lines were being redrawn, I was totally dismayed and felt it was not completely following the guidelines for redistricting or in

the best interests of citizens. As one specific example, as much as possible, political boundaries are supposed to be honored; however, my hometown, Kingston, is being divided into the new 18th and 19th! It's not like Kingston is like Manhattan where one would expect these types of divisions. It's a city of approximately 20,000 residents, whose citizens should expect to be represented by the same elected representative!!

As a resident and taxpayer of Greene County, NY, I am very upset about the newly defined redistricting map for Congress and State Senate. 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. Although we are rapidly growing due to the increased influx of downstaters into the Hudson Valley, Greene County remains without a doubt part of the Hudson Valley and Catskills and has little connection with the other areas of which now through your proposal, we find ourselves. 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 interactions 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. There are historical bases that establish Greene County and the Catskills as part of the Hudson Valley and Capital Region, far more than where your proposed plan puts it now! The Hudson Valley is a part of the Catskill Mountains, which is the heart of Greene County. There are not close connections, physically or culturally, with what is now the western portions of the new 19th, which is more in central NY and part of the southern tier.

We understand that this process to redraw maps has had to happen quickly; however, there is still time to make necessary adjustments in the interests of our citizens and to better follow the usual guidelines for redistricting. Please do not discount the vital relationship between Columbia and Greene County or our relationship to the Hudson Valley and the Capital Region. This is our home.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this vital matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline A Olivet

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Brenda A. Wise

From: DTwo Perc <d2perception@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:07 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; cervas@cmu.edu
Cc: DTwo Perc
Subject: NO 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. The main point is that the northeast Bronx needs to be retained with lower Westchester and not to dilute the Black voter population which will decrease it by 17%. This will marginalize our communities ability to elect individuals which are supportive of people of color, and who will best represent our interests. As you know,

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

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

We are asking for a fairer map.

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

Thank you,

D. Jones

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jeff <spacenut10100@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: 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, Jeff

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Dawn Cantwell <dawn.e.cantwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: regarding redistricting maps for New York State

To the honorable Justice Patrick McAllister and Special Master Jonathan Cervas:

I am writing to share my deep concern and frustration with the redistricting maps being proposed by your office. As a long time New York City resident, the extent to which respected and beloved incumbents that we in New York City have come to rely on, such as Gerry Nadler and Carol Maloney as well as Hakeem Jeffries and Yvette Clark, will be forced to be pitted against each other in the forthcoming primaries is profoundly disturbing and upsetting. It is yet another example of anti-majoritarianism and the squelching of equitable representation for communities of color already running rampant in this country. The newly and now contested New York State redistricting maps of March 2022 are nowhere near as egregiously political as those of Republican held states, North Carolina for one, and such Republican held states are operating without any constraints whatsoever. The net effect being that, come November 2022, there will be even more of a tyranny of minority opinion than already exists in this country if these maps you have drawn are upheld. There are certain political realities which, as a woman who relies heavily on particular rights at stake if the Republicans take control of the House, makes these maps feel brazenly dangerous and fundamentally unfair. Frankly, I feel disenfranchised and with all due respect Justice McAllister, knowing you are a Republican and are far, far away from New York City and the lower Hudson Valley makes this feel even less fair. These new maps are especially harmful to marginalized and underrepresented communities, and I implore you not to disenfranchise the citizens of New York.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Dawn Cantwell (she/her)
www.dawncantwell.com
www.selkiemusical.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: usatbklyn@nyc.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; 'Cervas@cmu.edu'
Subject: NYC Redistricting 7th Congressional District

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

Dr. Jonathan Cervas, Special Master
Poster Hall 386, 5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Dear Judge McAllister and Dr. Cervas,

As a life time resident of Williamsburg, Brooklyn and public housing resident, I am disappointed with the newly create 7th District lines and map. For far too long, our communities have been targets of decision makers with no vested interest or knowledge of the needs of communities of color. We are sadden that once again a map has been drowned to further marginalize and divide a district which is predominately Latino, Black, Asian and Jewish here in Williamsburg and in our sister the Lower East Side. We are a united water front community, Williamsburg and the LES. We might be 10 minutes across the bridge but we are united by similar communities issues like housing, the environment, health issues, education, and gentrification. For the past 30 years, our communities have worked in solidarity for the betterment our city. We can not allow this proposal map to diminish our past accomplishments and our representation. It is important that we maintain these long standing communities as the core of the NY 7th district. We are and have been a community of interest and it is an injustice to have cut off 50 percent of our district (Lowet East Side) from Williamsburg. The role of the our Federal courts are to protect the civil and voting rights of its people. This map will have a long term detrimental impact on communities of color. Our ability to elect a representative of our choice is truly harmed by this map. I urge you to reconsider and rejoined the Lower East Side and our community of colors neighbors back to Williamsburg.

Thank you,

Jeanette Algarin

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Husker Hazel <huskermx514@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:06 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NY Map

This is approximately 99% of the original map population wise but only splits Erie County splits into 2 seats, adds Saratoga Springs to CD20 by swapping population in Saratoga County, and tweaks the CD2/3 border to lessen the strip from the sound to the southern LI coast in CD3. It eliminates the southern Coastline in CD3. All districts are +-1 person with the same amount of split cities.

I hope you and Cervas consider these changes as looking at Public Comment these are some of the most requested ones and all of the changes are isolated allowing for you to pick any of the 3 changes without changing the rest of the map.

You can get a shapefile from the DRA link I have used to draw the map.

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/1a7cc18f-ca47-4e1d-8558-9aa50c3d3977>

Sincerely,
Max Vitek

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Cheryl Dewitt <deenooktab@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:03 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; cervas@cmu.edu

May 18, 2022

Please we must receive a fairer redistricting map. NY-16 must retain the northeast Bronx communities of Co-Op City, Edenwald and Williamsbridge with lower Westchester

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

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

Thank You in advance for your support

Cheryl Dewitt

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Malia Cordel <malia.cordel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:03 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Kingston and Ulster County Together!

Dear Judge McAllister,

Please don't split the City of Kingston into two different congressional districts.

It makes absolutely no sense for those of us who actually live in Kingston.

My neighbors across the street would be in a completely different Congressional district than me--how absurd and confusing!

This is a small city and the proposed division will make it incredibly difficult for us to work together to advocate for ourselves in congress. I hope that is not the reasoning behind this proposal. It would be absolutely unfair to the 27,000 residents of Kingston to split our city into two different congressional districts.

PLEASE keep Kingston in the same congressional district!! We deserve unified representation in Congress.

Sincerely,

Malia Cordel

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Ron Lipton <ronlipton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:00 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master re: redistricting failure

Dear Special Master Cervas:

I have three degrees in political science from highly respected schools (Brandeis and NYU), have taught at several universities both here and abroad, and have been active in government and politics for well over 60 years, including running a state agency in California, and acting as Dean of Faculty at a Graduate School of Public Administration and Political Science in Iran. I have been involved in more campaigns that I can count. I can honestly say that I have never, in all those years, seen a slap-dash redistricting job like the one just completed for New York. It completely ignores community, social, historical, and economic ties of many areas, and is obviously based on some quick and simplistic formula. It is, in fact, a disgrace to the entire profession of political science. I should also mention that I was an active and life-long Republican until the changes and corruption in the party drove me away. My comments are based on reality and not any party affiliation.

Since my time is very limited, having just returned to my home in Lexington, I am addressing here only the county I live in - Greene. This is an underserved area in many ways - economically, educationally, medically, and very much in terms of transportation. But the county has managed to develop very close ties in these areas with Columbia, Ulster, Albany, and in fact all the northern Hudson Valley areas. By separating our representation from these areas, you have put our functioning and growth in these areas at serious risk.

As a single example, I have been working to get a federally-funded community health center established in the mountaintop towns of Greene, and have been making steady, if slow progress. Now, however, the relationship with our sister county, Columbia, where the only hospital is located, will be effectively severed (except for existing and already funded medical offices), and they will have no incentive to establish a clinic here. Greene is also tied to the only area community college - in Columbia. And, many of our residents commute to jobs in Albany, Saugerties, Kingston, and other valley towns - almost never to the southern tier that you have put us with.

In effect this redistricting disenfranchises all of Greene County. I urge you to reconsider, and take into account all the factors that you have so obviously ignored.

If you wish to contact me for further explanation or discussion, I am available 24/7, by email at this address, and by phone at (518)989-6367 or (727)409--5516 [also text].

Sincerely,
Ronald F. Lipton, Ph.D.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Narda Martin <nardamartin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:53 PM
To: cervas@cmu.edu; cervas@cmu.edu; Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NO DISTRICTING

What happened to the process of keeping the people of Lakeview heard and respected. No districting of our area. We have specific needs and that is how we vote.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Bryn Hammarberg <brynhammar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:45 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: New York Congressional Draft Map Comments

Dear Ms. Wise and Mr. Cervas,

My name is Bryn Hammarberg and I am a resident of Crown Heights, Brooklyn. I am writing this email today to address some of the issues I see in the draft Congressional map released on May 16.

My neighborhood of Crown Heights, like many bordering neighborhoods, has been split into multiple districts without regard to major streets, subway lines/stops, landmarks, or population centers. A common boundary for Crown Heights is Atlantic Avenue to the north, Washington Avenue to the west, Empire Boulevard to the south, and Howard Avenue to the east. While I understand that not all neighborhoods can be kept perfectly whole, none of these boundaries are respected entirely. Several blocks to the west are put into District 10, which will be dominated by the much more affluent neighborhoods in Lower Manhattan and waterfront Brooklyn. To the east, the historic section of Weeksville is separated from the rest of Crown Heights, along with a seemingly random collection of blocks south of Eastern Parkway. Crown Heights shares much in common with Bed-Stuy to the north, Prospect Heights to the west, Prospect Lefferts Gardens and Flatbush to the south, and Brownsville to the east. But I cannot think of a reason why it would share more in common with these neighborhoods than with itself. Additionally, by splitting Crown Heights these other neighborhoods are divided as well. To split Bed-Stuy into three districts, as well as separate it from Clinton Hill and Fort Greene, is to split the historic core of the Black electorate in Brooklyn. Broadway is a strong dividing line, and it is unnecessary to cross it twice.

Beyond my neighborhood, I would like to mention that it is unfortunate that Manhattan Chinatown, Sunset Park, and Bensonhurst are each in different districts, (the 10th, 11th, and 9th, respectively). These three neighborhoods are the centers of Manhattan and Brooklyn's Asian populations, and are strongly tied together - residents move from one to another and travel among them to shop, dine, and visit relatives. Splitting them up denies these New Yorkers the chance to elect a candidate who would represent their shared experience. Chinatown, Sunset Park, Bensonhurst, and Dyker Heights (also in District 11) should be grouped in the same district to the greatest extent possible.

I would also like to add that, if you haven't already, please use a map of NYCHA housing found [here](#) to ensure housing developments are not split apart.

Thank you very much for considering this input and that of other New Yorkers, and I look forward to seeing the final plans.

Best,
Bryn Hammarberg

--

Bryn Hammarberg
(973) 224-5871
he/him/his

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Shaun Abreu <shaun.abreu@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:42 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional District 13: Communities of Interest

Dear Special Master,

My name is Shaun Abreu. I am a resident of Congressional District 13 and council member for District 7 in northern Manhattan. If Congressional District 13 is to grow, I urge that it expand to include the Highbridge area in the Bronx west of University Avenue, which is geographically adjacent and forms a community of interest with northern Manhattan.

When I was a child, my family was evicted from our home in Washington Heights. As we struggled to get back on our feet, we relocated to the west Bronx, where we found a community that felt much like the one we had been forced to leave. My family, like so many of the families that I have represented in housing court, took comfort in relocating to a place that was home to other Spanish-speaking immigrants and people with shared values and concerns.

The residents of northern Manhattan and the west Bronx deserve to elect someone who can focus on those concerns that disproportionately affect them. Both parts of the city are plagued with rising crime and homelessness, as well as schools that are under-resourced for the populations they serve. Challenges of this magnitude require undivided attention, which should not be diluted by the competing priorities of fundamentally dissimilar neighborhoods.

Northern Manhattan and the west Bronx are already united by the people that live there, businesses that operate there, and the city itself. They are connected by the Fordham Road Bridge, the High Bridge, the Cross Bronx Expressway, bus lines, and the 1 train. They are both served by Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and the shops that run out of the River Plaza.

Elected officials and community leaders have motivated voters in northern Manhattan by giving voice to their unique concerns and promising them a chance to be represented by someone who shares their background and values.

For these reasons, we must recognize the community of interest between the Highbridge area in the Bronx west of University Avenue, should the district grow.

Sincerely,

Shaun Abreu

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: mtdavek 122553 <mtdavek@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:41 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Carolyn Riggs
Subject: Special Master Comments on the proposed Redistricting of NYS Senate and Congressional Maps involving Greene County

Dear Jonathan Cervas

As a resident, taxpayer and community member of Greene County, NY, I am involved with many Local Community and Regional organizations, I have spent literally years in Service for our citizens developing, Local, Regional and State connections for our community.

I'm thanking you in advance allowing comment and for taking the time to read this.

I am very upset about the newly defined redistricting map,

Respectfully Sir, there are so many things, I as a involved lay person see as inconsistent with good representation and hurting the ability of Greene County communities to keep their local and regional connections.

Greene County is interestingly and uniquely positioned as a catalyst for the economic growth for and within the Hudson Valley and Capital Region. Greene County is a geographical area of two Worlds. The majority of our population is like a Hudson Valley River Town living at almost sea level, Its commerce and job opportunities happening within the Capital District and Hudson Valley, Our other half live at 2000 feet above Sea level the area made famous by the Hudson River School of Painters. Who's Art work is Featured in our Nations Capitol. Interesting most all the Mountain Paintings look EAST (Not West) into the Hudson Valley from where they came from. Greene Counties Mountainous Forests all within the Catskill Park Blue Line are the connector for our Hudson Valley Region for what has become NY's New Central Park with over a million visitors, mostly traveling up the Hudson Valley establishing interdependent connections with our Hudson Valley (Columbia , Capitol District and Ulster County) Communities. We seemed so close to finally having a cohesive region that we have all worked toward.

We have for years struggled with many of the States imposed boundary's, as we try to change Horace Greeley " Go west young man " **To GO EAST young man.** (Sorry, a feeble attempt at a little humor about possibly being lacked out of our home connections and hitched to a wagon going in a different direction)

Case in point: Being a former Board Member of OTEGO Northern Catskills BOCCES,(ONC BOCCES) I have witnessed first hand how improperly drawn boundary's directly effect our young students, The foundation of our hope for future.

As the Former President of Hunter Tannersville CSD for 15 years representing a district made up of Hunter, Jewett, and Lexington we petitioned many times to allow us to become part of the Quest Star BOCCES located in the Valley, Don't get me wrong ONC offers a wonderful education , But the Greene County mountain Towns student and families mostly connect with the Valley (Kingston, Albany),

Different BOCCES offer different programming based upon the demand for Industry talent. The Hudson Valley and Capital region has been evolving for years at the Silicone Valley of the East, and the Trade Schools (BOCCES)in the Hudson Valley have tailored their curriculum to meet the hiring demands for that talent ,

Many of our Residents travel to work down the mountain, They do their shopping and recreation mostly in the Valley ,

We have worked to hard as Town's, County and Region to be simply removed. It will hurt our community members, I ask that as we always do in our Planning Board meetings about SEQR (New York State Environmental Quality Review Act) **Did we really take a real hard look??**

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.

Needless to say, I stand ready to discuss any point that has been made in this letter.
My Personal Cell # 518-514-8140

I look forward to your call.

Best Regards,

David Kukle

Currently:

Councilman Town of Hunter
President Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway
Vice Chair Coalition of Watershed Town's
Member Schoharie Watershed Stream Management Implementation Program
Member Catskill Park Advisory Group
Member Hunter Area Trails Coalition
Member Kaaterskill Railtrail Committee
Member Kaaterskill Clove Working Group
Chairman Village of Tannersville ZBA

Formerly:

President Greene County Council on The Arts
President Green County School Boards Association
President Hunter-Tannersville Central School District
NYS School Boards Association District Representative to National School Bards Association
Member Town of Hunter Planning Board

Sent from Mail for Windows

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Liz Nixon <liznixon6@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:39 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Remove Erie County from the proposed NY 23 Congressional district

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas:

Please remove Erie County from the proposed 23 Congressional District and restore the traditional Southern Tier District. Chautauqua County's needs and resources are completely different from the urban life of Erie County. Therefore, the people of the Southern Tier want someone who can represent the rural, small town people without getting lost in a large metropolis.

Thank you for your time, and I am counting on you to keep the 23rd Congressional District the same as it has been.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Nixon
A Concerned Citizen of Chautauqua County

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Michael Foley <mikefoley646@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:38 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise; STEUBEN_SUPERIOR; cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Comment on Proposed Congressional Map - NY-16

Justice McAllister & Special Master Cervas:

My name is Michael Foley. I testified in Bath about the importance of keeping the Yonkers-based NY-16 within Lower Westchester instead of sprawling to Putnam County.

I have noticed a slew of suspiciously similar comments in the record about adding more of the Bronx to NY-16. These commenters all say almost the same thing. In fact, they are likely working off of someone's supplied talking points. You can see these talking points directly attached to the comment of Paula Gilbert in NYSCEF Document #587.

Almost all these commenters complain about the Bronx communities of Co-op City, Williamsbridge, Baychester and Edenwald being separated from each other and NY-16. What all these commenters miss is that while the Long Island counties plus NYC had enough population to support about 15.34 of New York's 27 districts in 2010, they now only have enough population to support about 15.09 of 26 districts in 2020. Thus, while about 242,000 Bronx residents needed to be added to a Lower Westchester-based NY-16 district in 2010, only about 71,000 can be added to it today without creating two districts that span the narrow Westchester-Bronx line.

The population of combined Wakefield, Williamsbridge, Baychester and Co-op City (after separating Wakefield from Woodlawn at the Bronx River Parkway, as you did in the proposed Congressional map) is about 190,000, if you follow the lines of the 2020 NYC Neighborhood Tabulation Areas in from NYC's website available here (<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww1.nyc.gov%2Fsite%2Fplanning%2Fdata-maps%2Fopen-data%2Fcensus-download-metadata.page&data=05%7C01%7Cbwise%40nycourts.gov%7C9471518740a849a124f308da3940a601%7C3456fe92cbd1406db5a35364bec0a833%7C0%7C0%7C637885247216721933%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjA%7CwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aGXFm0qYDP37Vmpi6YEKcfMEibaCJeKvHJYc3Co%2Fn6s%3D&reserved=0>). Thus, all of those areas cannot be united into NY-16 without another Southern Westchester district picking up about 119,000 Bronx residents elsewhere. I don't even know how you could plausibly draw that, and so doing would create an unnecessary county split.

Should you agree with these commenters and agree to unite these Bronx communities in a congressional district, you could unite them in NY-14 by removing the portions of Wakefield and Williamsbridge/Olinville in proposed NY-16 and adding portions of the Northwest Bronx in NY-15, including Riverdale, Woodlawn and Spuyten Duyvil into NY-16. These communities have more direct ties to Yonkers than Co-op City, anyway.

This would also end up creating a more compact NY-15 South Bronx district than in the current proposed map, as Congressman Richie Torres requested in his public comments in Bath.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

-Michael Foley
Yonkers, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Pat Wagner <patricefwagner@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:35 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I am writing to ask that the proposed redistricting map not be certified as it is. The Capital Region historically has been kept together in the same Congressional District for good reason – the shared communities and cities of Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy have deep roots binding them together. For example, we share common services through the CDTA and SUNY systems. Additionally, the people are better represented by someone that overall shares the same values as most city dwellers.

Putting the cities of Amsterdam & Saratoga in a distr along with the north country will do their residents a big disservice. Their voices will not be represented by Rep Stefanik, who, it is suspected, would intentionally ignore them & provide no support.

If the last maps were considered unfair due to the Democratic party's bias, then this change is unfair as well. Please keep the Capital District's cities together for the good of their residents. Their voices need to be represented in Washington too!

Thank you,
Pat Wagner
Latham, NY

Sent from my stinkin' iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: aviles.andrea04@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:32 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY 20

As a resident of the city of Amsterdam, NY, I am strongly opposed to the draft Congressional map that would remove my community from a Congressional district centered in New York's Capital Region. Amsterdam strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Saratoga Springs. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities, and just this month it was announced that the Capital District Transportation Authority would be expanding its service into Amsterdam. Placing Amsterdam into a district that stretches to the Canadian border with communities that have much different needs than our own will ultimately be detrimental to our community. I urge you to include Amsterdam in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Aiysha Glenn-Bradby <aiyshag@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:26 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Lakeview

My name is Aiysha Glenn-Bradby. As a Member of the historic Lakeview, NY (11552/11570) community I am making a plea that Lakeview be kept in one district. We are a predominantly black community with a rich history that needs to be respected and maintained. I feel the newly drawn lines are intended to divide us and our votes. This will have catastrophic effects on our community during elections. I demand immediate action. Please reconsider the lines immediately.

Yours truly,
Aiysha Glenn-Bradby

Sent from my iPhone

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Owen Grant <owenbgrant@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:26 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

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

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Many thanks
Owen Grant
149 Spring St.
Saratoga Springs NY 12866

Owen Grant
C: 917-675-0383

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Aaron Straus <strausad01@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:24 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Aaron Straus
Subject: Public comment on proposed 23 Congressional District

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas:

I am emailing you today to request that you please remove Erie County from the proposed 23 Congressional District and restore the traditional Southern Tier District. Erie County is not compatible with rural communities in the Southern Tier. Chautauqua County is very rich in farmland, Amish communities, small businesses and is completely different from the urban life of Erie County.

Our community is so much different in Erie County in so many ways, and I am convinced that combining our districts would be very detrimental to our county in so many ways.

I thank you for reconsidering, and I am counting on you to keep the 23 Congressional District the same as it has been, for the sake of all who live here.

Thank you,

Aaron Straus
Urban Buffalo, NY raised; happy southern tier transplant
Erie County, WNY, is NOT my region

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Ida Golden <igolden@stny.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:22 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Public Comment- Redistrict Map- Ida and Thomas Golden

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas:

We are emailing today to ask you to please consider our point of view. Our names are Thomas and Ida Golden. We live in Ashville, New York.

Ashville is part of the beautiful Chautauqua County where visitors come from all over to vacation. Tour the wine trail, visit Lucille Ball museum, or hear a lecture at Chautauqua Institution, take a peaceful drive along the winding county roads, visit family owned farms and roadside vegetable stands. Smell the fresh chopped hay or taste the freshly harvested maple syrup. There are vineyards, orchards, pumpkin patches, you name it we have it. We are a community who embrace our local rural roots.

It is so important that redistricting be linked with who we are as a community. A community of common values, and influences. We are rural, made up of small towns and villages with agriculture as our core. We are requesting that you please remove Erie County from the proposed 23 rd congressional District and restore the traditional Southern Tier District. We risk losing our identity and our voice.

We urge you to draw the district lines by population along the southern tier. Our communities along the southern border are of like influences. We oppose Chautauqua County being mapped in with Buffalo, the concerns of Buffalo are not the agricultural concerns of the Southern Tier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas & Ida Golden
Concerned Citizens

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Eve Vaterlaus <eve@evevaterlaus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:20 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New York Congressional district map

Your Honor,

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

Sincerely,

Eve Vaterlaus
New City, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Aida Berry <aortizberry@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:19 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting lines

As a Member of the historic Lakeview (11552/11570) community I am making a plea that Lakeview be kept in one district. We are a predominantly black community with a rich history that needs to be respected and maintained. The newly drawn lines are intended to divide us and dilute our votes. This will have catastrophic effects on our community and its resources. Please reconsider the lines immediately.

Sincerely,
Aida Berry
1120 Ossipee Rd, West Hempstead, NY 11552

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Gail Gaynin <gailgaynin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:18 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,
Gail K. Gaynin

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Michael Mayer <rufusmayhem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:17 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,

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Roger Waltzman <drrog17@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:13 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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Columbia, 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,

Roger

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jack Riccobono <jack100@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:15 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Cervas@cmu.edu
Subject: Redistricting Comments - NY-7

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

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

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

Sincerely,

Jack Riccobono
415 Sackett St
Brooklyn, NY
11231

Sent from the field

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Peter Engel <gotopengel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:15 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: NY Redistricted Maps

Hello,

I'm writing to express concerns about the new maps proposed by the special master.

The Congressional district boundaries in particular seem to be driven by the aesthetics of having pretty lines. Where is the respect for keeping historically marginalized communities together?

In particular, across Brooklyn neighborhoods like Bedford-Stuyvesant and Fort Greene these new boundaries ignore the imperative to maintain existing districts.

Being compact in form should not take precedence above all the other requirements that New Yorkers should expect to see in new district lines. I hope you will revise them to be more fair.

Sincerely,

Peter Engel
191 Willoughby Street, #9B
Brooklyn, NY 11201

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Sandra Pinn <sandypinn@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:14 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: District Lines

We should each be in a district that is aligned with our neighbors.

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jill <awbinee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:11 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Special Master's draft map

The Capital Region Congressional District needs to include Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady and Troy in the final map!

Jill Brass
Guilderland, NY

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: Kevin Kennell <kennell.kevin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:09 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New district maps

I am thankful for the new finger lakes district. It will be better representation for the common interest of the people here.

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

Brenda A. Wise

From: pssaul@gtel.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:03 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, Sarah and Peter Saul

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Gilbert Chichester <glchichester@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:01 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
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Very truly yours,

Gilbert Chichester
1426 County Route 28
Valatie, NY 12184
518-935-0923

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