

**Building and Construction Trades Council  
of Nassau and Suffolk Counties**

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The Honorable Supreme Court Justice Patrick McAllister: Submitted 5/17/2022

I composed this letter to respectfully suggest to the court and Special Master tasked with drawing equitable Congressional District(s) for the State of New York, pertaining to how this process will impact Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

Understanding the special master's core philosophy of not crossing county lines is commendable, however attempts to fix something that already works is like reinventing the wheel. The concept of redistricting begins west of the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District and is more or less centered by the North or South Shore of the Island. This seems completely logical based upon the demographics.

The Second Congressional District 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 south shore communities bound together, sharing waterways and common concerns and issues ranging from the economy to the environment. Once again, this is a logical conclusion based upon the demographics.

Long Island commuters have used the rail road since the late 1800's, so it's reasonable to assume that communities were joined by a few rail lines running west to the east. Federal dollars allocated for infrastructure improvement were based on need and went to either North or South Shore communities. North Shore residents have different priorities from South Shore residents and it can range from roadways, parking, green space or any number of reasons. In the past, the Special Master kept the north and south shore districts intact when drawing the state Senate maps, so why don't the Congressional Districts follow the same approach?

Realizing that county lines are imaginary walls between counties requires the Special Master to evaluate population based upon the district's make up. So wouldn't communities of like interest be kept together on the South Shore and allow the Second Congressional District to include Massapequa, Massapequa Park, Seaford, Farmingdale, Bethpage and Levittown?

Each town and village has a unique history. Geography influenced the development of communities of like character stretching from East to West instead of North to South. Every retailer knows the different styles of clothing worn between the North and South Shore and from East to West. So when merchants sell their goods in beautiful storefronts, restaurants benefit as well, this is a result of being situated in their quaint and inviting communities.

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Every level of government agrees that the Southern Shore of Long Island has unique issues, however the people living in the communities do not feel there's a need for redistricting. Topography, water quality, barrier beaches and the southern bays separate them from one another. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers routinely preserves barrier beaches and the typical North Shore resident does not experience the same circumstances. Rocky shorelines don't react like sandy beaches, washing away after destructive nor'easters.

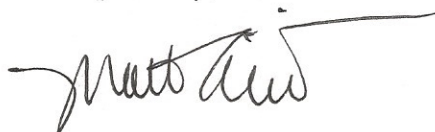
Natural disasters affect the South Shore communities differently from their North Shore counterparts. South Shore communities suffered coastal flooding from Super Storm Sandy and Hurricane Irene, while North Shore communities battled with power outages from fallen trees. It is imperative that a Representative in Congress fully understands these facts and is not divided by the interests of different communities. A Representative must assess the needs to formulate a timely response to disasters. Every issue has an enormous economic impact on the region. Avoiding financial losses is just as important to local businesses and companies as to homeowners. Restoration of key transportation routes and power lines is a key component to return to normalcy as quickly as possible.

Respectfully, for the many reasons cited in this letter New York's Second Congressional District should not be redrawn. It's shape and communities within this District have the same needs and are similar in charm and character. Southeast Nassau communities such as Massapequa and Massapequa Park are now in new maps and including them in a North Shore District does more harm than good.

Long Island Sound communities such as Lloyd's Neck, Centerport, and Northport are very different from Amityville, Lindenhurst or Great River. Reorganizing these varied communities into a singular District denies them a representative that understands their issues. A Representative should not be forced to choose one community over another.

It is my hope that these maps can be amended to keep the communities of the South Shore of Long Island together and represented by one of their own residents who can be an effective voice to advocate for the safety, prosperity and health of their families and neighbors.

Respectfully,



Matthew Aracich,  
President