



Town of Islip
655 Main Street
Islip, NY 11751



Town of Babylon
200 E. Sunrise Highway
Lindenhurst, NY 11757

As the Supervisors of the Towns of Islip and Babylon (one a Democrat and one a Republican) we write today in a bipartisan spirit to respectfully provide input to the court and special master tasked with the responsibility to draw fair Congressional Districts for the State of New York. We wish to specifically address how this process will affect New York's Second Congressional District. The Long Island counties of Nassau and Suffolk are the most highly taxed region in the country. The hard-working people of our Towns pay more than their fair share of taxes and justice should demand that they have the proper representation on the federal level.

Fairly drawing the Congressional Districts on Long Island is key to keeping them competitive and history bears this out. We write specifically to advocate for keeping the integrity of the Second Congressional District. Traditionally, this district has been subjected to a minimal amount of gerrymandering and the result is that it has consistently been a fair, competitive true swing district that has alternated between Representatives that have been both Republican and Democrat. Since the election of 1962, this district has been represented by James Grover (R), Tom Downey (D), Rick Lazio (R), Steve Israel (D), Peter King (R) and Andrew Garbarino (R).

Historically this has been a "South Shore" District that has been centered in our Townships of Babylon and Islip. As any civic, community or governmental leader from this area will attest, the South Shore of Long Island has unique issues and challenges that make it imperative these communities are not split up through the redistricting process. From water quality, transportation issues, economic development, protecting barrier beaches and the southern bays, the issues facing these communities make them unique and united in bipartisan efforts to protect their quality of life. As the elected executives for our Towns, charged with the safety, prosperity and well-being of the people we represent, we would be derelict in our duty to not bring our concerns to your attention.

In summation, it is our urgent request and sincere hope that the court and special master give due consideration to our concerns and not split up or off any of the communities contained in our great towns. We ask that you incorporate into your redistricting plan what has historically worked so well in making this district fair, competitive and represented by someone who truly understands and advocates for our concerns, be they a Republican or a Democrat.

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Carpenter
Islip Town Supervisor

Rich Schaffer
Babylon Town Supervisor