



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 4, 2022

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

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

Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

As a resident of the current 60th New York State Senate District, and the county executive of Erie County, New York, I am concerned about the impact the process of redistricting may have on Erie County's representation in the New York State Senate.

As you may be aware, of the eight counties considered to be "western New York" (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties), only Erie County grew in population from the 2010 federal census to the 2020 federal census. In fact, Erie County's population grew by 3.8 percent, while every other western New York county decreased by as little as 1.8 percent (Niagara County) to as much as 5.9 percent (Orleans County).

Unlike the rest of western New York's counties, Erie County is also the most ethnically diverse county in western New York, with more than 20 percent of its population made of minority populations (Black/African American, Hispanic, Asian), and a substantial majority of those residents live in the City of Buffalo or the surrounding first ring suburbs. The issues that affect those communities are significantly different from those in surrounding counties, and deserve representatives from those communities.

Based on Erie County's increase in population, the decrease in all other western New York counties, and significant proportion of Erie County's population being made up of minority populations, I respectfully request that the new State Senate geographic lines be drawn in such a manner to protect minority representation and the reflect the increased population of Erie County.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive