

Index # E2022 - 0116CV

May 10, 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: REDISTRICTING PLAN AND THE MAINTAINING INTEGRITY OF ERIE COUNTY IN THE
NEW 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Dear Justice McAllister & Dr. Cervas:

As current and former public officials and community leaders representing the suburbs and rural communities in Erie County, we implore you to preserve the integrity of our communities in redistricting. Currently the 27th Congressional District covers all areas outside the urban core of Erie County, thus Erie County, with over 919,000 population, has two congressional representatives. We believe two is the appropriate number for our county.

The map that was approved by the Governor and Legislature, now rejected by the courts, oddly spread Erie County into three Districts, attaching significant Erie County towns such as Hamburg, Orchard Park, and Aurora into the 23rd Congressional District which encompasses the entirety of the Southern Tier. The proposed remedial map submitted by the legislative respondents unwisely continues this approach. Further, the proposed 24th District would be stretched far to the east to include distant Oswego County. Counties in Western New York and areas just south of Monroe County do not have any shared communities of interest with Oswego County which shares multiple interests with the Syracuse region.

Since 2013, the residents of the suburban and rural communities of southern Erie County have resided in the same Western New York based congressional district. The placement within this district has been appropriate, given that this congressional district is made up of a mix of villages and rural areas with many shared interests and issues.

Erie County is one of the largest counties outside the New York City metropolitan area. It has consistently had two congressional districts where the majority of the population in those congressional districts are from Erie County. We believe it is appropriate to continue with that practice. We do not believe our communities should be manipulated for political purposes.

The Honorable Patrick McCallister & Dr. Jonathan Cervas

We believe that the remedial plan for the U.S. House of Representatives put forth by the Petitioners in this matter represents a reasonable approach for Western New York. As such, we respectfully request that the Court adopt that plan, particularly as it pertains to Erie County, the Southern Tier, and Central New York.

Sincerely,

Hon. Eugene Majchrzak, Supervisor, Town of Orchard Park, NY
Hon. James Bach, Supervisor, Town of Aurora, NY
Hon. Philip Drozd, Supervisor, Town of Concord, NY
Hon. Wayne Clark, Supervisor, Town of Elma, NY
Hon. John Tobia, Supervisor, Town of North Collins, NY
Hon. Jason Keding, Supervisor, Town of Boston, NY
Hon. Timothy Howard, Supervisor, Town of Wales, NY
Hon. William Kolacki, Town Councilman, Town of Holland, NY
Hon. Daniel Lotito, Town Councilman, Town of Holland, NY
Hon. Beth Farrell, Councilwoman, Town of Hamburg, NY
Hon. Patrick Keem, former Supervisor, Town of Orchard Park, NY
Hon. Lynne Dixon, Former Erie County Legislator