Honorable Patrick F. McAllister
New York State Supreme Court, County of Steuben
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, New York 14810

Submission Brief:
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State Senate:

The State Senate proposal is one that prioritizes communities of interest, especially communities of color, while balancing populations. Using the struck-down map as a base, 3 major areas were modified: Long Island, New York City, and the Lower Hudson Valley. Within New York City, changes were made to align more closely with the Unity Map to combine minority communities of interest while being more population neutral. In the Hudson Valley, the goal was to create one Rockland County district. The aim on Long Island, on the other hand, was to create a new Hispanic-plurality seat based around Brentwood and West Babylon and a minority-majority seat centered on Hempstead and Freeport. For counties above New York City, towns were also kept together, and districts beyond the Capital District were not touched because of a lack of expertise in these communities. In addition, all partisan data were based on the 2020 election unless noted.

Long Island:

Long Island was significantly modified to achieve the goals of increasing minority representation. The new 4th district encompasses parts of the towns of Islip and Babylon. The predominantly African American and Hispanic communities in these towns historically were divided between 3 separate districts, diluting their vote with surrounding white voters. The other new majority-minority seat is the 6th district, which combines several villages in the town of Hempstead. This seat combines significant African American and Hispanic populations that were also divided between 2 districts, which diluted their vote. In addition, the 14th district was extended into Long Island to incorporate Elmont. Elmont has strong cultural and ethic ties to Southeast Queens, which is shown on the 2012 and many proposed 2022 congressional maps. Extending this district also helps with population equity between districts. Other seats on Long Island are similar to the past iterations, with 4 solid Democratic seats, 3 solid Republican seats, and 2 competitive seats.

Queens:

Due to population growth and past malapportioned of the Senate map, it was determined that 1 more seat would be moved here from Upstate, as determined in past iterations of the map. Most districts are similar to past districts but drawn to be much more compact. Many of these maps keep communities of color together. For example, district 11 connects Flushing and its satellite community, Elmhurst. Both of these neighborhoods are destinations for the large Asian populations in the region. District 16, on the other hand, encompasses the rest of Northeast Queens, which has similar transportation modes. These areas have frequent buses to the nearest subway stop, which makes these areas primarily bedroom communities with suburban

densities. The biggest change is the 15th district and the new 17th district. The redrawn 15th district is a new Hispanic-plurality seat with a significant Asian minority. The new 15th district keeps Richmond Hill, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, and Woodhaven together, communities that are ethnically diverse and deeply interconnected. The 17th district is a new district, connecting majority white areas in Queens.

Brooklyn:
Many of the changes in Brooklyn deal with the districts that are centered around and that surround the new 27th district, due to population growth. The new 27th district is one that is centered around Sunset Park and Bensonhurst. This district ecompasses the growing Asian American community more effectively and ends the non-compact 22nd district. The 22nd district becomes a Bay Ridge-to-Dumbo district, incorporating Red Hook, Cobble Hill, Brooklyn Heights, Windsor Park, and Sunset Park. The 23rd district becomes a Staten Island to South Brooklyn seat, with Coney Island, parts of Bath Beach, and Sheepshead Bay included in the district. These changes more effectively connect communities of interest shown in many other maps, such as the IRC maps A and B.

Bronx:
Since the population in the Bronx is such that all districts except 1 will have a Hispanic plurality, it was determined that a much more compact 36th district can be drawn. The 31st district now only emcompasses South Bronx, East Harlem, and Hunts Point, dropping University Heights north of the Cross Bronx Expressway, a major barrier. The 34th district is centered around East Tremont and Morrisania, two similar communities sandwiched between the B/D and the 2/5 subway lines. The 35th district includes Riverdale, Woodlawn, Norwood, and University Heights, which is centered around the 1, 4 and B/D lines, as well as various bedroom communities that use these subway lines. The 36th district includes most of Eastern Bronx south of Pelham Parkway. This community has an increasing Hispanic population but also a significant white population, including the village of Pelham. All of the districts above have a Hispanic plurality or majority. The 38th district encompasses Mt. Vernon as well as the neighborhoods of Allerton, Pelham Gardens, Eastchester, Laconia, and Wakefield. This district is a clear community of interest, and past iterations of the maps have included this district. Most proposed maps follow something similar to this map.

Lower Hudson Valley:
Westchester is divided between 4 main groups, called "river towns", "rail towns", "shore towns", and the Northlands. River towns are those on the Hudson Line, and have significant commerce on the river. Rail towns are railroad towns that were built or that thrived when the Harlem Line was being constructed through Westchester. Shore towns are those that drive significant commerce from the Long Island Sound, connected by the New Haven Line. With this in mind, the major issue I had with past maps was the inclusion of Ossining, a river town, in a Rockland-based district. This is a clear example of gerrymandering to make the Rockland County district more Democratic. Thus, Ossining was moved to the 37th district, and towns along the Harlem Line north of White Plains were moved to the 42nd district, which now incorporates northern rail towns and the Northlands. The other district that changed significantly

is the 41st district. The 41st district was centered around the Hudson River. The issue with this district was that it split between 4 separate counties. and caused the 44th district to enter Orange County twice. Redrawing the district means that the county has a clearer east–west divide. In addition, this district goes further into Dutchess County and Putnam County. In response to adding the town of Wappinger Falls to the 41st District, the 43rd district includes parts of Putnam County. The result of this is 4 solid Democratic districts, 1 solid Republican district, and 2 competitive districts. The biggest disadvantage of this configuration is the division of Putnam County into 3 parts, but the towns of Philipstown and Putnam Valley have strong connections to the river and the Hudson Line, which is why they were included in the 41st district, and the other segment was divided between the 42 and 43rd seats due to population equity.

Statewide:

Given that these changes are based on the maps that were struck down, the Upstate communities have the same districts as the past map. While Upstate communities are not within my expertise, the cities and the suburbs of Buffalo, Rochester, and Albany each deserve 2 Democratic seats, as these regions are heavily Democratic, and many of these cities, such as Rochester, were historically cracked to install Republicans.

Table 1: Partisan makeup of the state senate map

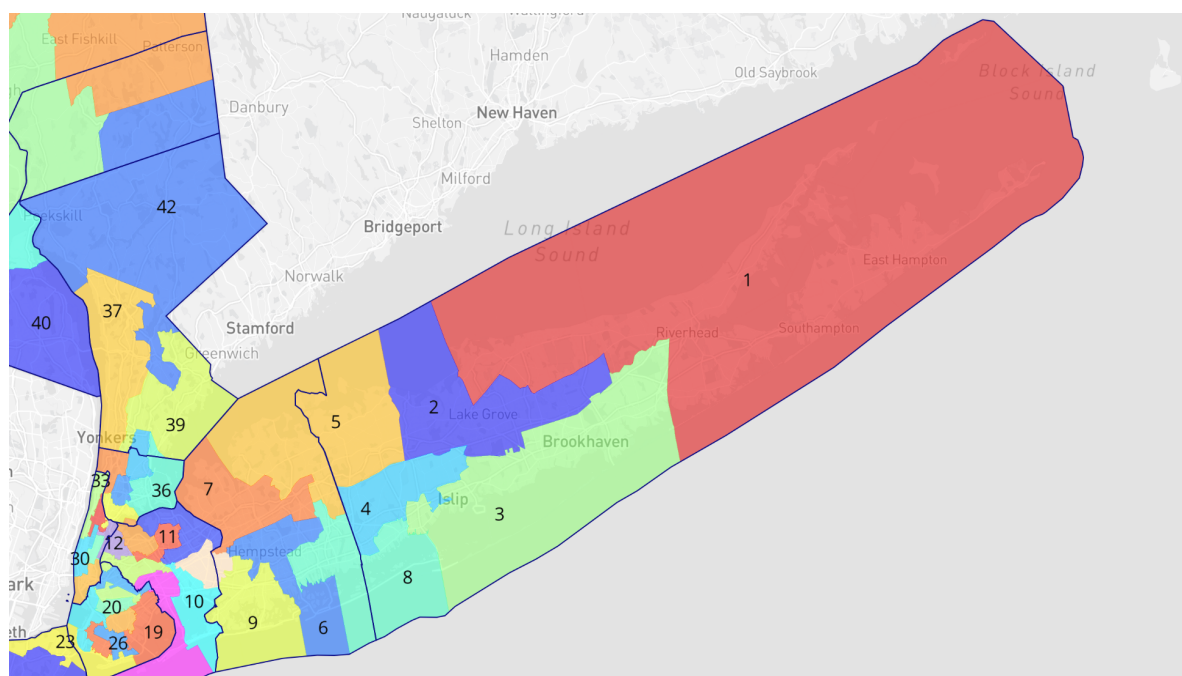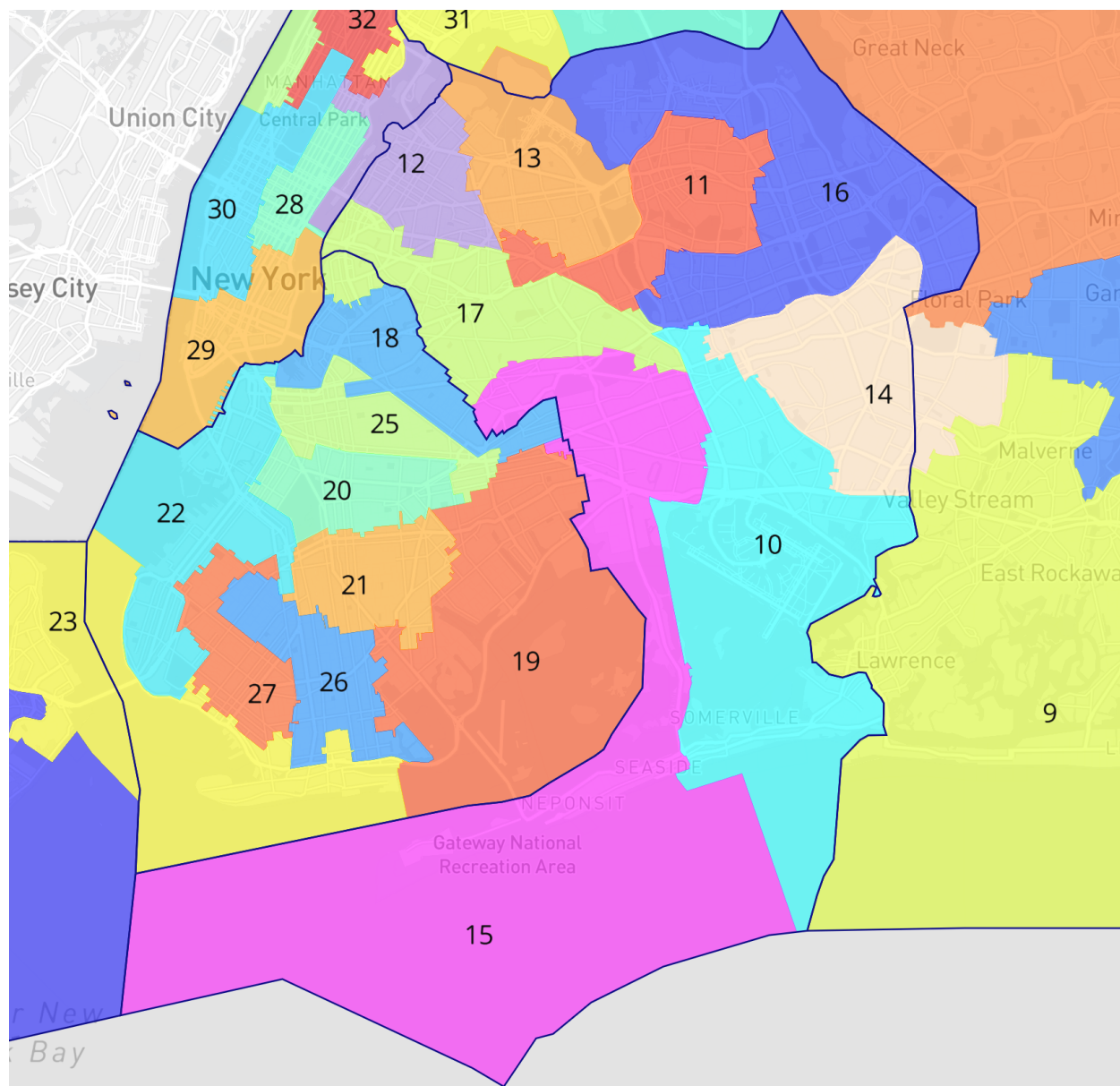| Election	Democratic safe seats	Republican safe seats	Seats within a 10% margin
President 2016	41	15	7
Governor 2018	40	12	11
AG 2018	46	11	6
Senate 2018	47	3	13
President 2016	44	13	6

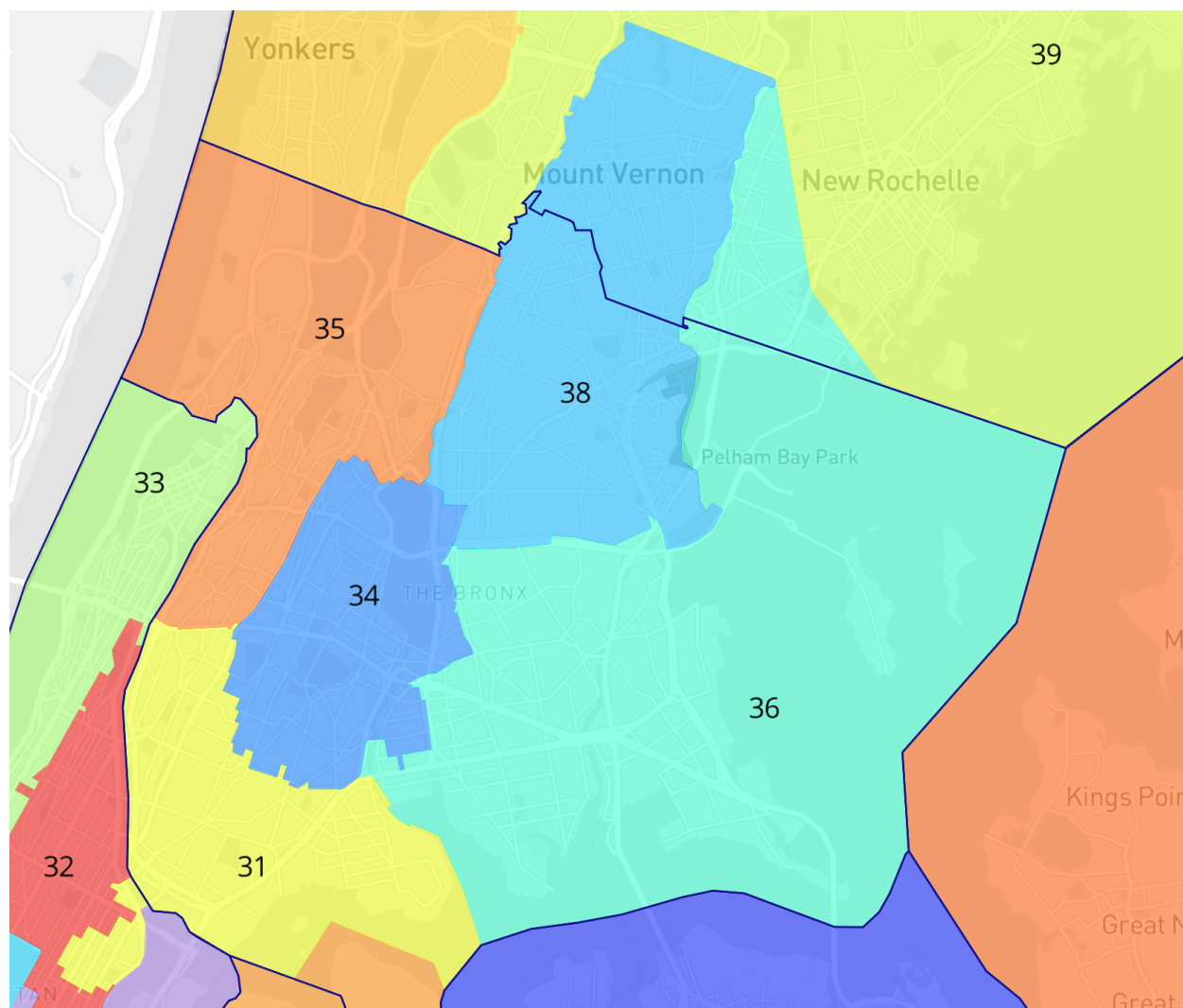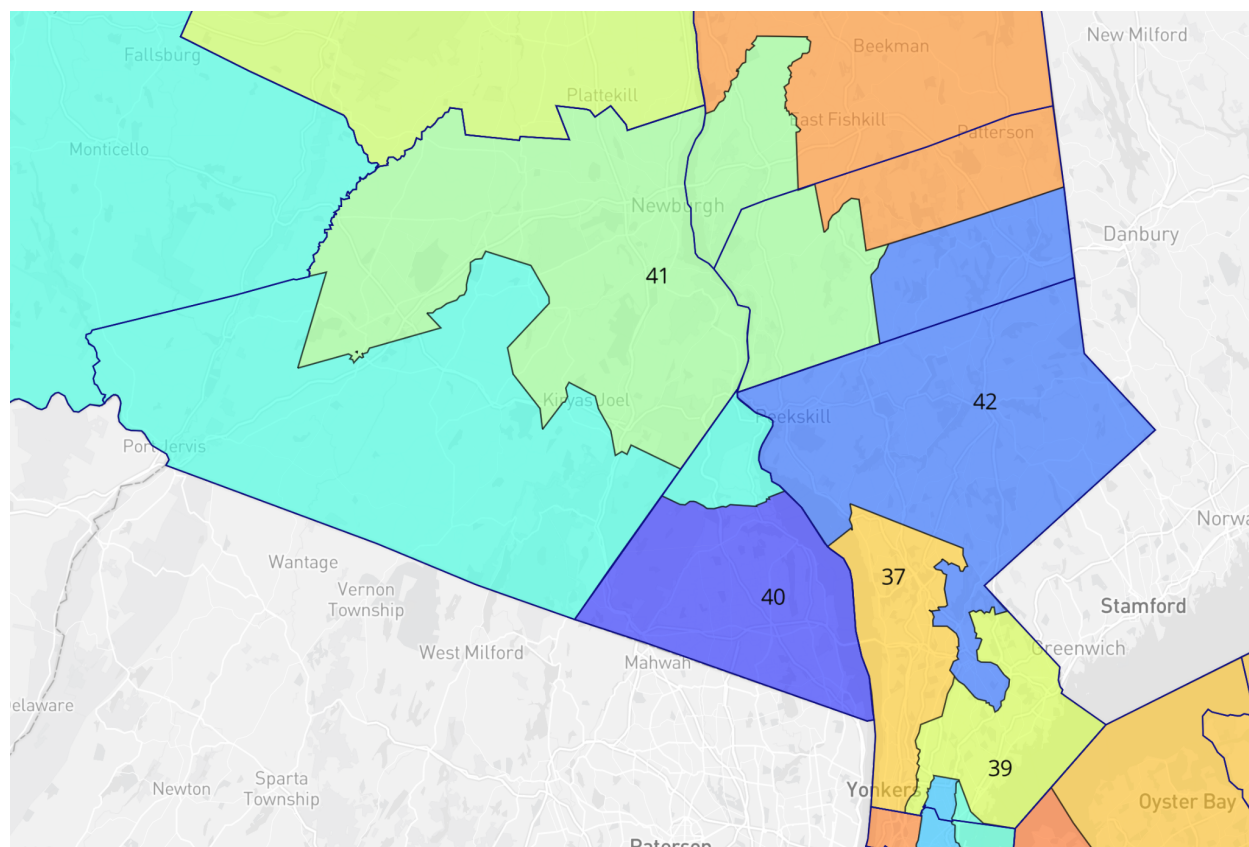Figure 1: Long Island

Figure 2: Brooklyn and Queens
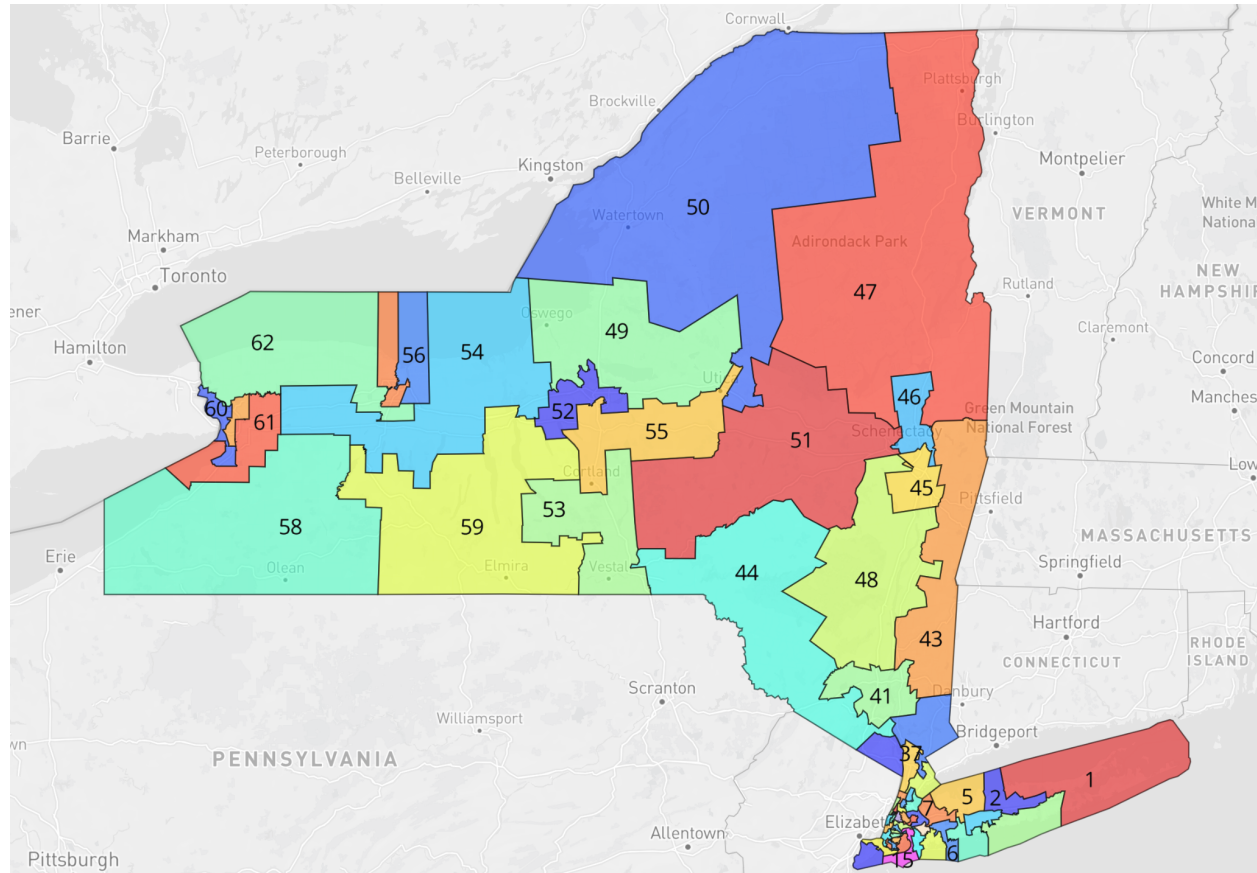
Figure 3: Bronx

Figure 4: Lower Hudson Valley

Figure 5: Statewide