

To: Hon. Justice Patrick McAllister, Special Master Jonathan Cervas  
From: Ari Schulman  
Re: Submission Regarding New York State Senate District Lines  
Date: 5-04-22

---

This submission to the Court and the Special Master regarding the redrawing of the lines for the New York State Senate is offered to assist with local knowledge and expertise to ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act in the Nassau County section of New York State. At the same time, this document also provides important information that should prove instructive in achieving important goals in serving the spirit of the Voting Rights Act. In specific, this submission addresses the imperatives of preserving community borders within districts, compactness of districts, respecting community character, retaining villages intact within the boundaries of districts, as well as protecting the voice of minority communities, including religious minorities, among other priorities.

As I observed in my previous submission to the Court and the Special Master on the Congressional District maps, Nassau County has a unique suburban identity that is separate and distinct from that of neighboring New York City. Accordingly, any maps that are drawn should respect the border between New York City and Nassau County. The County of Nassau and the Towns of North Hempstead and Hempstead, which are entirely contained within Nassau County, have little in common with New York City communities of Queens and Brooklyn. Nassau and the aforementioned towns are represented by wholly different local governments from the communities within New York City, and they are served by a completely unique school systems and feature mostly different bus and other mass transportation networks. The residents of Nassau are also served by different utility providers than New York City, as well as receiving their drinking water from an entirely separate source (sole source aquifer).

One of the most important considerations in the drawing of the Senate District maps is doing everything possible to support the voice of minority communities. The maps created by the Special Master and the Court should demonstrate the highest regard for minority communities in "the corridor" of Hempstead Town (Hempstead, Uniondale, Roosevelt, Lakeview, Freeport and Baldwin), ensuring a robust voice for minority communities in the electoral process. There exists a unique opportunity for the communities of Uniondale, Hempstead, Freeport, Baldwin and Lakeview to be included in a single senate district for the first time. Aside from giving African American voters a robust voice in a single senate district, emerging Hispanic communities in Freeport and Hempstead can be included in that same district. Outreach services, churches, cultural organizations that serve residents of "the corridor" would have a strong and united voice if this imperative is served. Finally, ensuring the inclusion of these communities in one district would help

to build a stronger network of community services that would be of benefit to the residents.

What's more, the importance of preserving the religious minority community (Orthodox Jewish) in the Five Towns of southwestern Nassau County, as well as the Orthodox Jewish community in the hamlet of West Hempstead, within a single senate district cannot be overstated. Members of this religious minority group have common interests, customs, social networks, cultural celebrations, religious observances, in addition to other practices and priorities. Addressing the priorities and interests of religious minorities and other minority groups, as well as the imperatives of the Voting Rights Act would be best addressed by keeping the Orthodox Jewish communities of Nassau County in one senate district within Nassau County.

The maps that are drawn by the Special Master can and should retain the vast majority of affected school districts intact, as well as dozens of incorporated villages. Further, hamlets with their individual identities, should also largely be kept whole to the extent possible. The suburban character of Nassau County should be deservedly respected and numerous other governmental jurisdictions (library districts, fire districts, water districts, etc.) should be retained as complete units within single senate districts.

Thank you to the Court and the Special Master for your consideration of this submission regarding the New York State Senate maps.

/s/Ari Schulman

Ari Schulman