

**MID-HUDSON
WRITTEN TESTIMONY**

January 30, 2023

Dear Commissioner Jenkins and Members of the Assembly Redistricting Committee:

I have been a resident of the hamlet of Mahopac, which is located in the town of Carmel, for nearly 40 years. My remarks are related primarily to the town of Carmel, which would be split into two Assembly Districts under the current proposed redistricting plan.

Created in 1795 and having a population of 33,710, the town of Carmel houses over one third of the population of Putnam County. The county seat of Putnam County is located in the hamlet of Carmel, while the town offices for the three hamlets, Carmel, Mahopac and Mahopac Falls, are located in Mahopac. They are hamlets of one town, not separate villages. It is here that the building, assessment, taxation, recreation, zoning and planning functions reside as well as the headquarters of the Town of Carmel Police Department. The town functions as a whole of the three hamlets, with like character and interests that include such services as water, sewer and transportation.

The county has two main roads. Route 6, a state road, is the main transportation route of the town of Carmel. Route 301, which begins in Carmel and is the main east/west roadway for the county would also be cut into two Assembly districts. Your proposal would unnecessarily complicate any discussion or planning for repairs, improvements, safety, traffic or other.

Splitting the town into two Assembly Districts would make the town, the school districts and the residents' relationship to state lawmakers more difficult and confusing. Many children, who live in the Carmel hamlet zip code, attend the Mahopac Schools and the reverse. If a parent living in Carmel with a child in school in Mahopac, has a problem that requires contact with their Assembly member, who do they call? Do they have to call two Assembly members? This is government at its most ridiculous. In Governor Hochul's budget presentation, she prioritized consolidation of towns, hamlets, villages and departments. This Assembly District proposal complicates any consolidations which could be proposed.

Any redistricting proposal must take into account the transportation routes and the units of local government in order to function efficiently. They should not be drawn for political expediency. This same disdain for the largest town in our county was exhibited in the unconstitutional gerrymander in which the town of Carmel was singled out to be represented by a Congressman from the Bronx! Ideally, this small County should be treated as a whole. At the very least, the Town of Carmel should be kept together, in one Assembly District.

Through the current proposal, the designers have deemed our community, our identity and our voice to be irrelevant. We don't matter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alana Sweeny



AMY R. PAULIN
Assemblywoman 88th District
Westchester County

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
Committee on Health

COMMITTEES
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Women's Issues
Puerto Rican/Hispanic

March 8, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chair
Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Jenkins, Vice Chair Nesbitt and members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

Thank you for accepting testimony on the New York State Assembly districts. I write to oppose the changes to the 88th Assembly District included in the Commission's draft map published on December 1, 2022.

I have represented the 88th Assembly District for a little over two decades. In recent redistricting cycles, the boundaries of the district have shifted, but the overall location and makeup of the district has stayed the same. The district is geographically compact and contains all or part of several municipalities in southern Westchester County.

In recent decades, the 88th District has had a population approximately evenly divided between part of two small cities and all or part of several towns. The two cities are New Rochelle and White Plains, and the towns entirely in the district are Eastchester, Pelham, and Scarsdale, including the villages of Bronxville, Tuckahoe, Pelham, Pelham Manor, and Scarsdale. As of the 2022 elections, the 88th District also includes part of the Town of Greenburgh, specifically the area coextensive with the Edgemont Union Free School District. The district's population breakdown, evenly divided between towns and small cities, has worked well in my experience. New York State has different laws that govern different types of municipalities, and by having an even division within the district, it ensures that the Assembly Member representing the district will understand the different communities, their needs, and the State laws that govern them.

In the IRC's draft Assembly map, part of the City of Yonkers is placed in Assembly District 88. While this addition does not represent a significant part of Yonkers or of the 88th District, it would be a significant change for the legislator who would represent the district. Unlike the other two cities that are already in the district, Yonkers is a "Big Five" city. The laws that govern the City of Yonkers are different than those that govern smaller cities, particularly when it comes to the Yonkers City School District. The six Union Free School Districts in the current 88th District (Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Pelham, Scarsdale, and Tuckahoe) and the two City School Districts (New Rochelle and White Plains) have elected school boards, whereas the Yonkers City School District operates as a branch of the local government with no elected school board or taxing authority.

Advocating for local school districts is one of the most important roles of State legislators in New York. Adding a small part of Yonkers, the third largest city in the State, to the 88th District would create a situation where the legislator representing this district would need to balance representing several towns, two small cities, and part of a big city. It would be unfair to the residents of these communities to have a legislator stretched across so many different types of municipalities with different structures and laws.

In altering the boundaries of the 88th Assembly District, the Commission's draft map divides neighborhoods in the cities of New Rochelle, White Plains, and Yonkers. In New Rochelle, the West End neighborhood, which is currently contained in the 91st District, would be split down the middle by the 88th and the 91st. In White Plains, the Highlands and Prospect Park neighborhoods, currently in the 88th District, would be divided between the 88th and the 93rd. And in Yonkers, Beech Hill and Colonial Heights, which are currently in the 92nd District, would have portions split off into the 88th District. Each of these neighborhoods is a community of interest.

When municipalities must be divided to maintain equal population across districts, it is important to keep defined neighborhoods whole where possible. This helps guarantee that residents know who their legislators are and allows community members to organize with their neighbors. In past cycles, the block-on-border requirement unfairly hurt residents of cities throughout the state by requiring some neighborhoods to be divided to ensure zero population deviation. The voters of New York State removed that requirement for Assembly Districts from the State Constitution, and accordingly, the Commission should avoid unnecessarily dividing city neighborhoods.

The Commission must also remedy errors where a finite number of Census blocks are placed in a different district than the rest of their municipalities. These errors occur throughout the IRC's draft map. In certain instances, the Voting District (VTD) boundaries maintained by the Census Bureau do not accurately align with municipal boundaries. This is a problem in several counties, including Westchester County, and is likely the cause of these errors.

For example, in the IRC's draft map, the Town of Harrison, with a population of 28,221, is divided between two districts, with 28,201 residents in the 93rd District and 20 residents in the 91st District. Similarly, the Town of Mamaroneck, with a population of 31,765, is divided between the 88th and the 91st District, with 31,735 residents in the 91st and 30 residents in the 88th. The Town of North Castle, with a population of 12,411, is also divided between two districts, with 12,362 residents in the 93rd District and 49 residents in the 95th District. And the Town of New Castle, with a population of 18,314, is divided between the 92nd and 95th District, with 18,311 residents in the 95th District and 3 residents in the 92nd District.

While these appear to be minor technical errors, if they are not remedied in later drafts, they could create serious problems for representation and administration of elections.

I appreciate the challenging job you have before you. Finding a way to balance population requirements with the necessity of uniting communities of interest is not an easy task. For that reason, I hope you will understand the work that a legislator must do to balance the needs of the different communities they represent. Communities should not be haphazardly placed in one district or another but should instead be united in a way that furthers their representation in Albany.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments about the 88th Assembly District and for listening to the comments from New Yorkers throughout this process. We all appreciate the work of the Independent Redistricting Commission and your commitment to guaranteeing fair representation for all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Paulin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Amy Paulin
Member of Assembly
88th District

From: [Clare Keaveney](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Assembly district 96
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 3:30:49 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing regarding the 96th Assembly District. The Town of Clarkstown should be kept whole in this Assembly District. It should also be kept with the Town of Haverstraw and the Villages of Nyack and South Nyack. Breaking up these towns and separating them would break up communities of interest. These Towns all share similar issues in their entirety. The existing district, with these towns whole and united, has served us very well in our representation in New York State.

Thank you,
Bernadette Keaveney

Sent from my iPhone

TESTIMONY TO THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FROM BETH SMAYDA

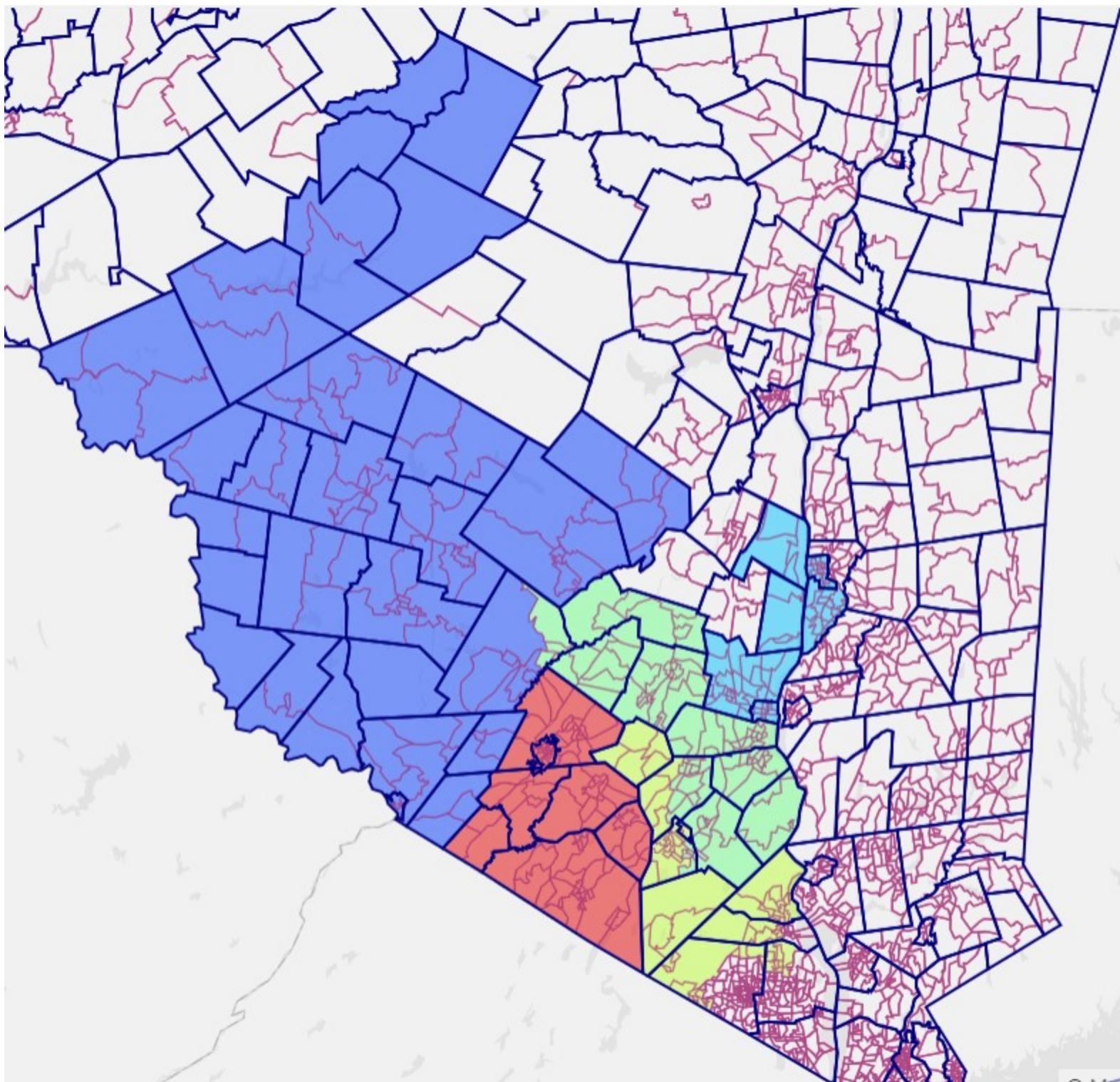
Hello, my name is Beth Smayda and I am a resident of White Plains, NY. I am a former White Plains Common Council Member and have served in the past as President of the White Plains League of Women Voters and Head of Legislation for the White Plains PTA Council. I currently serve on the Westchester County Board of Legislators' County Budget Advisory Committee and as a White Plains Democratic District Leader.

I am very familiar with the City of White Plains given my civic involvements and even served as district leader for a good portion of the area which is proposed to be removed from AD-88 in the current draft map from the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC). More specifically, I am referring to the area northwest of Bryant Avenue and Winslow Road, Vermont Avenue, Sterling Avenue and Charlotte Street, which would be shifted to AD-93. In exchange, AD-88 would pick up a portion of Yonkers. This proposal is problematic for a number of reasons.

1. The IRC draft map divides two active and defined White Plains neighborhoods, namely, the Highlands and Prospect Park (areas north and west of Winslow Road, Vermont Avenue, and Prospect Street; north of Sterling Avenue, Charlotte Street and Bryant Avenues; and south of West and East Post Roads.) White Plains is a city with very active and involved neighborhood associations which further solidifies these two neighborhoods' identities as communities of interest. The IRC should avoid dividing neighborhoods when drawing district boundaries within the City of White Plains.
2. The remainder of the White Plains area that is proposed to be moved to AD-93 from AD-88 that is north and west of West and East Post Roads would be alienated from White Plains' single family residential neighborhoods. West and East Post Roads are major commercial streets. Putting this area in the primarily northern Westchester Assembly District 93 will increase their alienation from the single-family residential neighborhoods of White Plains, again, dividing a community of interest. Its current northern border is along the Bronx River Parkway and White Plains' downtown area, both of which provide a natural northern border in the current 2023 to 2024 AD-88, maintaining the (cohesiveness) of this single-family enclave with the rest of the District. The IRC should not remove this single-family neighborhood out of AD-88.
3. Introducing a Large City into AD-88 which has historically just included Towns and Small Cities will just, as a matter of practicality, dilute the attention and thus representation that can be placed on Small City concerns. As you're aware, Small Cities operate under State laws separate and apart from Large Cities and that difference should be considered when determining State representation, i.e. redistricting. The IRC should reverse the addition of Yonkers, a Large City, to AD-88.

4. The City of White Plains has similarities to the City of New Rochelle. Both are suburban cities in southern Westchester with unified city school districts. These two communities are racially and socioeconomically diverse, and they have a broad array of housing and transportation infrastructure. Parts of White Plains and New Rochelle have been together in AD-88 for several decades. Since New York State laws that govern cities are different than those for towns or villages, it is beneficial to have significant parts of these two cities kept in AD-88. By having parts of both communities in the same district, the representative from this district is more likely to understand and be able to address the needs of these two cities. Currently, White Plains and New Rochelle make up about half of the population of AD-88, ensuring that they have a voice to advocate for their unique needs as suburban cities. The IRC draft reduces this by moving a significant part of White Plains from AD-88 to AD-93, which is a district that primarily includes smaller towns in northern Westchester. The IRC should reverse this change and keep as much of White Plains and New Rochelle together as possible in AD-88.
5. In addition, the new proposed IRC lines remove Winbrook Public Housing Complex from AD-88 and places it in the more rural, less dense AD-93. The Winbrook population is an integral community to White Plains and should have its interests represented in an Assembly District whose Assembly member is well versed in Small City issues. This community should not be moved out of AD-88 by the IRC.

Thank you for your consideration of my views as you work to ensure fair and equitable representation of our State's residents.



From: [Christine McGovern](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 6:58:25 PM

Dear Commissioners:

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be reunited, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Daniel Atonna](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Public Comment on the Assembly Redistricting Draft Map
Date: Friday, February 17, 2023 5:25:54 PM

My name is Daniel Atonna. I live in the City of Poughkeepsie. As a resident of Assembly District 104, I am asking the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission to leave the City of Beacon in AD-104. I believe Beacon and Newburgh should remain in the same Assembly district. Separating them breaks up the core of the existing district. Newburgh and Beacon are connected by the aptly-named Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. Many people live on one side and work or play on the other side. Also, Beacon and Poughkeepsie are the only cities in Dutchess County. It doesn't make sense to put Beacon in AD-94 with towns and villages in Putnam and Westchester County. Please keep Beacon, Newburgh, and Poughkeepsie together in AD-104. Thank you!

--

Daniel Atonna (he/him)
845-321-2663

Rabbi Daniel Reiser
Temple Beth Shalom
740 N Broadway
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

Dear members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

My name is Daniel Reiser, and I am a Rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom (constituting 400 households) in Hastings-on-Hudson, a village in the Town of Greenburgh. I am writing to the Commission regarding the decision to include part of Yonkers in Assembly District 92 in both the 2022 map and the IRC's draft map.

It is my understanding that due to population growth, the Commission must include part of Yonkers in an additional Assembly District. If this is necessary, I would advocate for keeping part of Yonkers south of Hastings in Assembly District 92.

South Hastings and Northwest Yonkers have a long, connected history — that is why the Warburton Avenue Bridge was built in the 1890s, and North Broadway and Warburton Avenue continue to be primary thoroughfares in both communities. Today, the Greystone section of Northwest Yonkers is a popular destination for Hastings empty nesters who downsize, and folks from Yonkers often go to downtown Hastings to shop, dine, visit art galleries, and meet with old friends. In my own experience, residents from both Hastings and Yonkers attend services at Temple Beth Shalom. In fact, our very own synagogue president, along with many of the regulars in our adult educational offerings, live in North Yonkers (despite the synagogue's being located in Hastings)!

The Hudson River communities in Greenburgh share civic organizations with the City of Yonkers. Along with villages further north, these communities are often referred to jointly as the Rivertowns. For example, the League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns serves the City of Yonkers in addition to Tarrytown, Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, and Hastings-on-Hudson, and the Hudson River Audubon Society also draws membership from Yonkers in addition to Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley, and Irvington.

These communities also have shared State policy concerns. The Hudson Line on the Metro North Railroad, which relies on State funding, passes through both Yonkers and the Rivertowns, with four stations in Yonkers and four stations in the villages in Greenburgh. In addition, the New York State owned Saw Mill River Parkway, which passes through the center of the City of Yonkers, is used by residents in the Rivertowns and marks the eastern border of Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, and Irvington. The transportation infrastructure shared by these communities is vital to the residents of both Yonkers and the villages in Greenburgh.

The communities along the Hudson River in Greenburgh, particularly the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, share several connections and interests with the City of Yonkers. If the Commission must include a section of Yonkers in a neighboring Assembly District, it would make the most sense to keep part of Northwest Yonkers bordering Hastings in Assembly District 92.

Sincerely -- Daniel Reiser

Donna Held



128 Laurel Rd, New City, New York 10956
(845) 323-0354
Donnaheld1962@gmail.com

2-28-2023

To whom it may concern,

I have been advised that Assembly maps for the State Of New York are being changed. It is my understanding that public comment is allowed. I am particularly concerned with **Assembly District 96**. This is the district in which I reside. According to your newly proposed map this District is now divided in ways that unacceptably breaks up the Town of Clarkstown. I have lived here for 53 years and it has approximately 86,000 people. This is a **community of interest**. It is **deleterious** to its residents.

In addition, the map Breaks up the Town of Haverstraw which has always had a strong town wide identity. It would be deleterious to this town's broad community of interest. We have had decades of being together and should be reunited in their entirety. This is totally unacceptable. Breaking up Assembly district 96 breaks up our strong town wide identities. We share issues of concern together. I ask that this be revisited, and that Assembly District 96 be made whole once again.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read my concerns on this very important matter.

Best Regards,
Donna Held



From: [liz schiano](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Redistributing
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:04:50 PM

Dear Commissioners:

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be re-united, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Schiano

Independent Redistricting Commission:

I am write to the Commission with regards to the Independent Redistricting Commission's (IRC) proposed maps modifications for the New York State Assembly particularly the 100th Assembly District.

It was unsettling to hear that IRC propositioned splitting off the Town of Wallkill and City of Middletown in Orange County from Sullivan County in the existing 100th Assembly District. Whereas the immediate Wallkill and Middletown area may be located in Orange County, many people in Sullivan County travel to the Town of Wallkill and City of Middletown for medical, entertainment, social, business and family events. We are indistinguishably interconnected.

Sullivan County has a noteworthy rural population, which centers along State Route 17 Highway that is economically attached to Orange County. Even the rural Sullivan County communities along the Delaware River share more similarities with Orange County than they do with those in Delaware County.

Sullivan County has seen tremendous growth and revitalization over the years due to the influx of people from New York City. It is imperative that all of our elected officials have the opportunity to continue building upon the success and growth of each and every municipality. The Town of Wallkill has been in the same Assembly district as the majority of Sullivan County for many decades, it would be a grave mistake for these communities to be separated. I encourage you to re-examine these district lines and preserve the 100th Assembly District.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Serrano
Town Supervisor- Town of Wallkill.

To the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission:

January 30, 2023

I am writing you regarding the Independent Redistricting Commission's (IRC) proposed maps for the New York State Assembly, Districts 100 and 101.

I agree with my fellow City of Middletown elected officials in our disappointment in having Middletown and the Town of Wallkill torn from the 100th Assembly District and moved to District 101. It is contrary to our history and many of our shared interests and common concerns.

Middletown was originally in Ulster County. The County lines today define our Orange County Government offices, but not our long standing political bonds with our Sullivan County neighbors. The late Jake Gunther's great grandfather's hunting dog still stands on point in Middletown City Hall. Jake, who lived in Forestburgh, was a great State Representative for Middletown, as is Aileen today.

The Erie Railroad brought folks to Sweet's Hotel in Middletown, from which they took the stage to Monticello. The O&W spur ran through Sullivan County. Route 17 often backed up from Monticello and Liberty to the Red Apple Rest. My folks were good friends with the owners of the Concord and Nevelle and Brown's Hotel. The resorts are gone but the summer visitors and shoppers are not. When they moved the Woodstock Festival from the Town of Wallkill it went to Bethel where today it is a performing arts center. We still read the Sullivan County Democrat. The Canvas covers many Sullivan County Arts events and venues. These all tie us together in important ways, and it is a deep connection that we would hate to lose.

Middletown and the Town of Wallkill are central to much of our MidHudson identity, particularly as a center of commerce and commercial activity, and as the gateway to our Sullivan County neighbors. We hope you will reconsider the maps you have proposed, and keep our communities linked with our common Assembly representative. It has worked well for many years, and even more so now with our strong health care connections. It was a Sullivan County foundation that allowed our new hospital to be built. We would truly hate to lose our common district in the name of independence.

Sincerely,

Gerald Kleiner, Alderman, Middletown, NY



March 21, 2023

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear members of the Independent Redistricting Commission:

I am the Executive Director of the Community Outreach Center, a non-profit organization based in the Town of Ramapo that is dedicated to improving the lives of people in need of assistance. In that role as a community leader and advocate, I am privileged to represent a rather large group of individuals and families in Ramapo from all walks of life, including minority communities. Amongst the people that we service are over 75,000 Orthodox Jews who call Ramapo home.

With a community makeup such as ours, which includes a sizable Yiddish-speaking population, we are unquestionably a community of interest. As such, when it comes to the redistricting process and the assessment of state legislative district lines, this community should absolutely be contained within a single Assembly District.

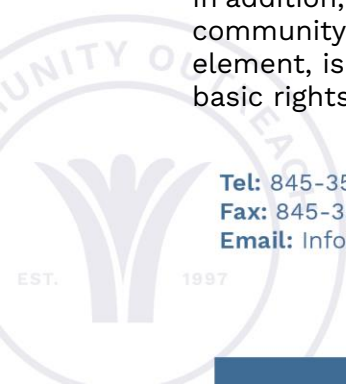
It is therefore perplexing that the Town of Ramapo located in Rockland County, despite its unique demographic characteristics, is split into three different Assembly Districts (districts 96, 97 and 98), especially when you consider the constitutional provisions that exist in New York State. According to our state constitution, among the factors that must be given due consideration during the redistricting process is "whether the new district lines would result in the prohibited denial or abridgment of racial or language minority voting rights," and "the maintenance of existing districts, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest."

While Ramapo, with a population in excess of 148,000, is perhaps too large to comprise a single Assembly District, there is no justifiable reason as to why it would be split into three different districts. Carving up a municipality in this fashion appears to be antithetical to the constitutional mandates that govern this process, and allowing this injustice to stand would be a dereliction of this Commission's duty to ensure fair and adequate representation for all New Yorkers.

In addition, with common social and economic interests and concerns, the Orthodox Jewish community in Ramapo, which, as I noted hereinabove has a significant Yiddish-speaking element, is indeed a community of interest that should be protected, not denied its most basic rights.

Tel: 845-356-9600
Fax: 845-356-9612
Email: Info@COOnline.org

21 Remsen Avenue, Suite 201 | Monsey, NY 10952





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When considering the factors that I have enumerated above, it is surprising that the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission put forth a proposed map that seemingly ignores our status as a community of interest. I hope that the Commission will use this opportunity to contemplate the issues that I raised and reconsider its proposal as it pertains to the Town of Ramapo.

Furthermore, at a time of rising antisemitism and a rash of hate crimes targeting Jews, the Jewish community cannot have its voice suppressed; rather, it must be given ample opportunities to amplify its voice and advocate for itself during these very challenging times.

It was just a little over three years ago that there was a deadly anti-Semitic attack in our town during the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah. The image of a madman entering a rabbi's home and stabbing people with a machete will be forever embedded in our minds, and that horrific attack changed our community forevermore. In the aftermath of that horrible event, people from different communities came together to condemn the heinous attack and to offer much-needed support. While Ramapo's Jewish community received resources and security assistance from the Governor's office and the State Senate, the State Assembly failed to provide any assistance in the wake of this indescribable tragedy. Not surprisingly, with our town split among three Assembly Members, not one of them considered this their issue, as Ramapo is often seen as an afterthought.

Carving up our community and our town and creating a situation where we are represented by individuals whose full attention is not necessarily on Ramapo has a deleterious effect on our residents. The people who call our diverse town home are disenfranchised due to the status quo, and this Commission should remedy the situation immediately.

I respectfully suggest that the Commission create an Assembly District that comprises most of the Town of Ramapo within it. The villages located in the western part of the town, Hillburn, Montebello, Sloatsburg, and Suffern, which are in relative proximity to Orange County, should then be placed in an Assembly District together with their Orange County neighbors. Doing so would ensure that our very distinct community of interest would be wholly contained within a single district, which is how it should ideally be in light of the circumstances and the constitutional mandates governing this process.





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We are one community, and the common threads that bind us together as a community of interest should be respected and considered in the context of this redistricting process. As you move forward in this process, I implore you to be cognizant of our town's unique needs and status and ensure that fairness prevails. Having a single Assembly Member represent us is of paramount importance and the most judicious approach.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Hersh Horowitz
Executive Director

I am Holly Mccall, a resident of New Castle, parent of two teenagers and currently serve on the Town Board of New Castle. Speaking as both a representative of the town and an individual citizen, I strongly urge you to not remove New Castle from Assembly District 93.

The Town of New Castle and its residents would be done a great disservice. Not only do New Castle residents often patronize businesses and services in Bedford and Mount Kisco, but the municipalities also share a wide range of interests and concerns. Inter-municipal agreements are in place with these municipalities for drinking water, backup water supply, waste water solutions, fire protection, Advanced Life Support services, NYC watershed monitoring and more.

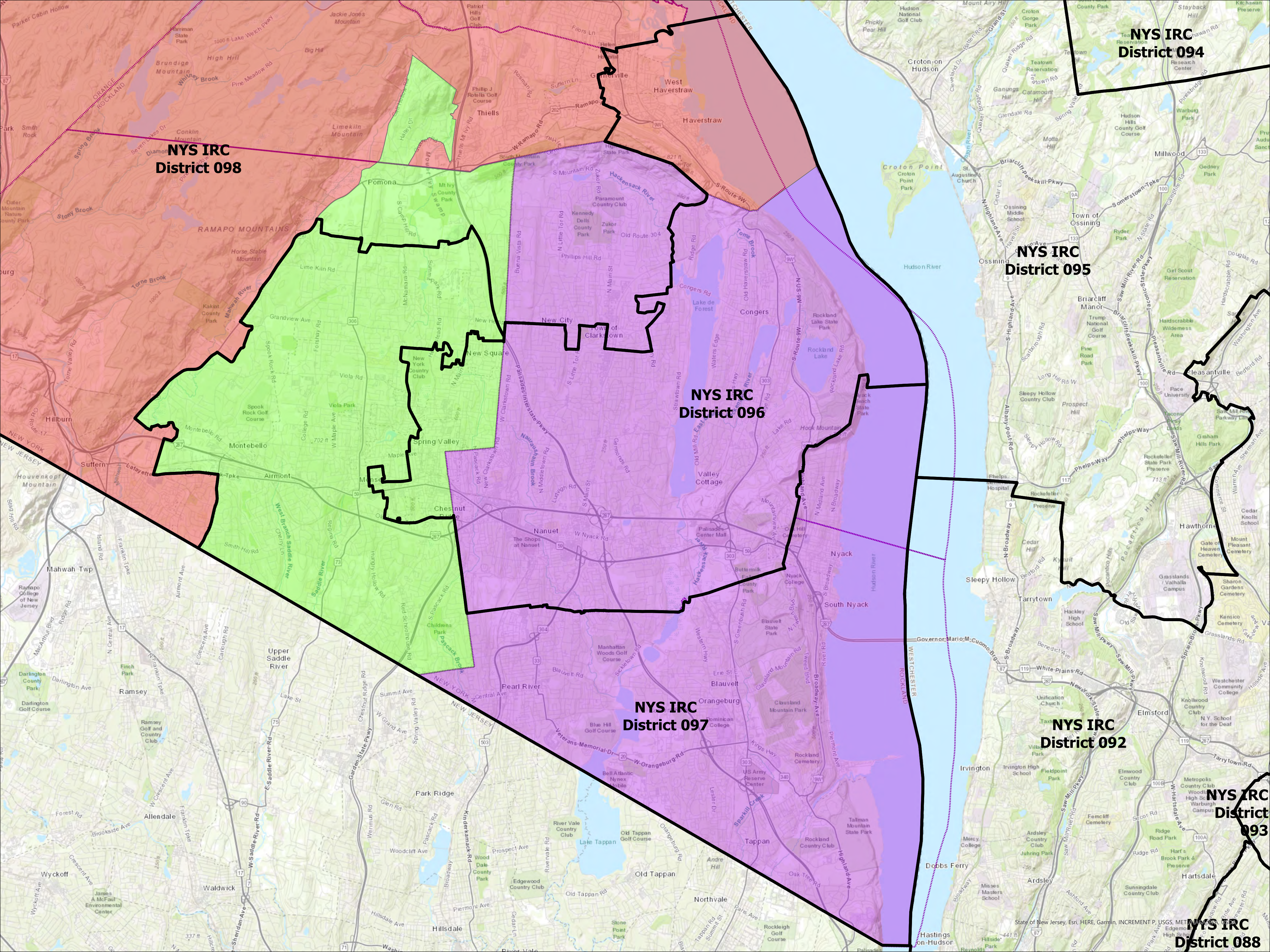
Again, New Castle residents depend on many services in Mt. Kisco such as Northern Westchester Hospital, we receive regular medical care in Mt. Kisco, attend churches and synagogues drawing from the same three communities, New Castle residents who vote early primarily do so in Mt. Kisco, restaurants and shops in Mt. Kisco are owned, operated and frequented by New Castle residents. Our families

send their children to activities in Mt. Kisco, I myself drive up and down the Saw Mill Parkway to and from Mt. Kisco for my children's activities almost daily.

One of the regional strengths of the Towns of New Castle, Mt. Kisco and Bedford is that they have easy access to the Saw Mill Parkway as well as train stations and parking along the Harlem line of the Metro North Railroads. With this key transportation access comes challenges unique to these Towns, railroad grade crossings, and enforcement issues, to name just two that require a regional approach to resolve.

The Town of New Castle has been a part of a northern Westchester Assembly District dating back as far as 1906 and I can see no benefit for our community or residents to be removed, rather it would only result in irreparable harm and disruption to the strong ties and communities of interest which the Town of New Castle, its residents, its businesses and its community organizations enjoy and rely upon.

For these reasons and more, I strongly urge the Redistricting Commission to adopt the 2022 Assembly District map and reject the draft map.



**NYS IRC
District 094**

**NYS IRC
District 098**

**NYS IRC
District 095**

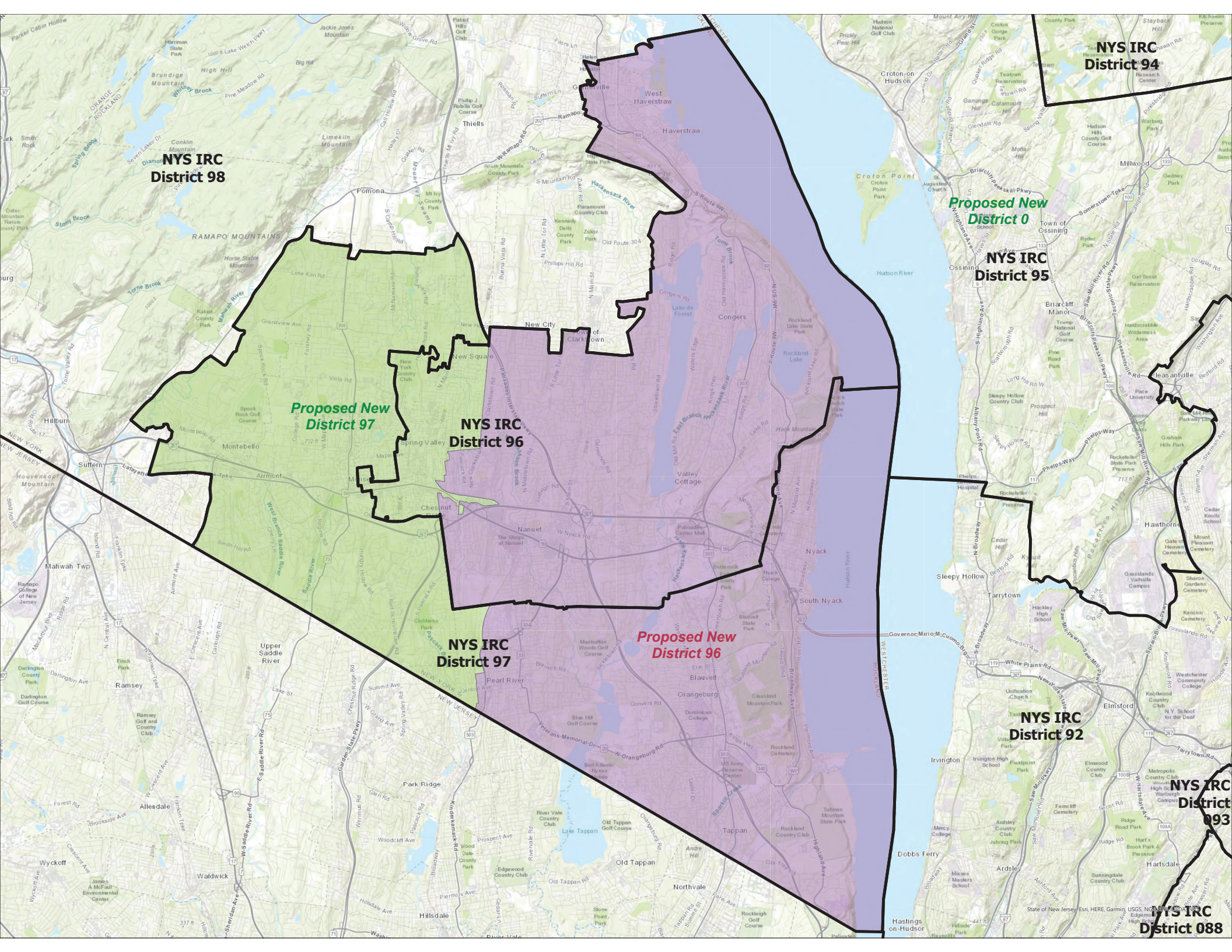
**NYS IRC
District 096**

**NYS IRC
District 097**

**NYS IRC
District 092**

**NYS IRC
District 099**

**NYS IRC
District 088**



**John J. Gould
Councilman
Town of Haverstraw**

February 4, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

Please let me take this opportunity to express my strong concerns regarding the discussions taking place which would change the existing boundary lines of Assembly District 96. This Assembly District has been comprised of the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown for decades. The two Towns have enjoyed a long standing relationship that has worked well for all involved. We are extremely happy with our representation over the years and feel that is in the best interest of the people of the Town of Haverstraw for that relationship to continue. To consider dividing our communities and the thought of possibly dividing the Town of Haverstraw would be detrimental and counterproductive to all concerned. We have a strong community of interest that cannot be overlooked.

It is my belief and hope that if this process of redistricting seriously considers all the issues and facts regarding “community of interest” that common sense will prevail and Haverstraw and Clarkstown will remain together as one Assembly District.

Respectfully submitted,

**John J. Gould
Councilman
Town of Haverstraw**

JOHNNY ORTIZ
COUNCILMAN
TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW

February 3, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you to express my deep-seated concerns regarding any changes to the current boundary lines of Assembly District 96. This district has always been comprised of the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown, where we have enjoyed the representation of 1 Assembly person together. On behalf of the people of Haverstraw, who I have represented in different capacities for over 3 years as a councilman and proud to be the first Dominican to serve as Councilman in Haverstraw, we are urging you not to divide our Towns in the new redistricting map. We understand that there was even one plan that would have divided the Town of Haverstraw. This would be completely contrary to the Community of Interest.

The Town of Haverstraw, with the Villages of Haverstraw and West Haverstraw, share in a common citizenship since our inception. We have enjoyed being the gateway to every immigrant group coming to America. We are a true melting pot throughout our Town. The Town of Haverstraw's services are intertwined with the Villages of Haverstraw, West Haverstraw and parts of the Village of Pomona. We share the same school district, police department, wastewater treatment system, recreation facilities and activities, paramedics and ambulance corps. Together, the Town and Villages host many events with the school district such as the Latin Festival, Latin Night, Black History Month, Juneteenth, Dancing Under the Stars, North Rockland Family Charity Sports Day and North Rockland Community 5K Fun Run (where we have raised over \$350,000 for families in need in the Haverstraw community), the North Rockland Youth Police Academy, Badges for Baseball, Fourth of July Fireworks and Celebration, Dominican Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony, free meals for those in need on Thanksgiving and Christmas


hosted by the Town and two Villages and our Annual Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Corps Recognition Evening.

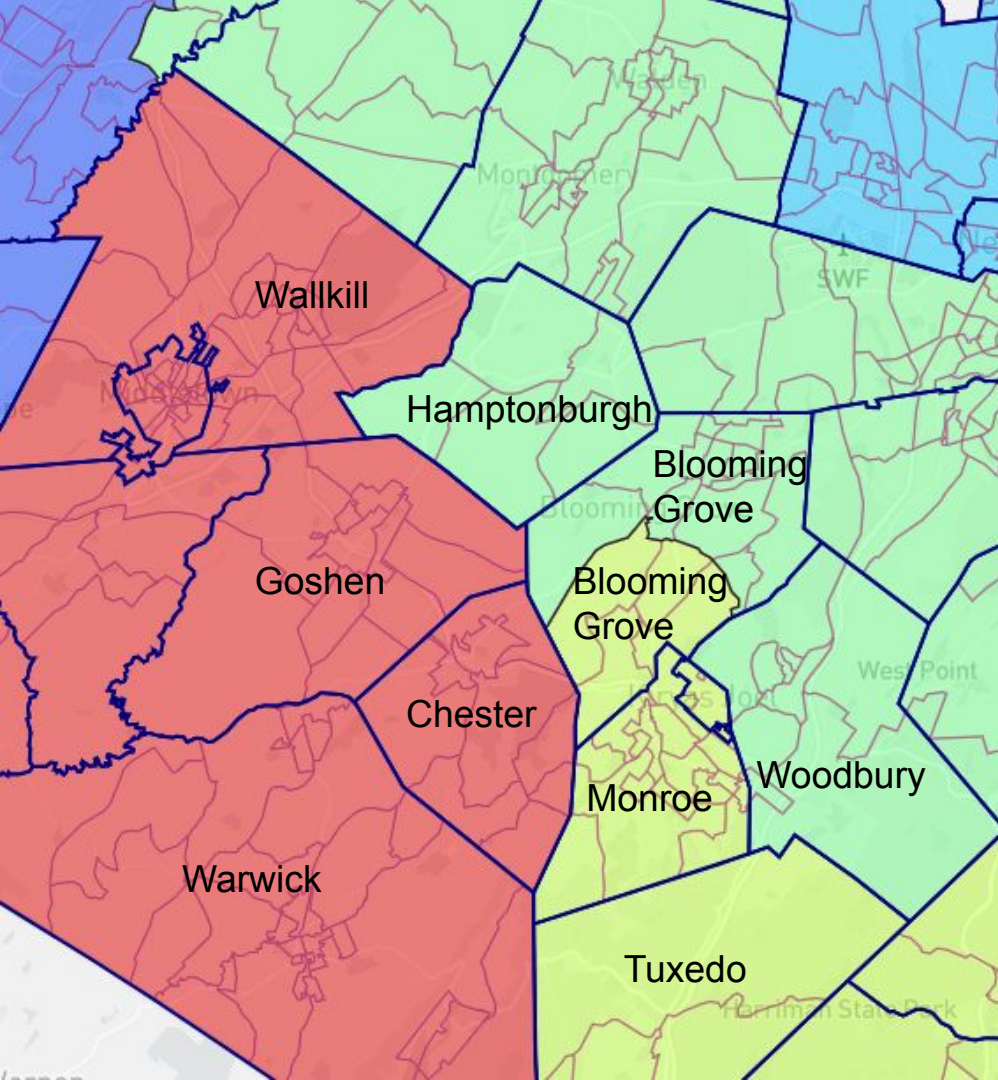
We have taken great pains to ensure our Police Department represents our Haverstraw community. We have one of the most diverse Police Departments in the State of New York. We have sponsored Drug Court which has been extremely successful, which gives youth a second chance, Youth Explorer's where Officers meet with the youth of our community and volunteer for different events and two School Resource Officers who on a daily basis interact with the students of all nationalities in our schools. Our Youth Officer works with students and families on different challenges that they are having in our community. Unlike other communities, Haverstraw's Town and Villages have provided affordable housing for young couples, senior citizens and families, more than any other Town in Rockland County. We are the only Town that passed the Tenant Protection Act in three major apartment complexes.

We have always had an excellent working relationship with the Town of Clarkstown. We have shared many municipal services together. Some of these services are Police, Highway, recreation, paramedics, ambulance corps. and fire departments. Together our voice and representation of our shared Assembly person has brought much needed grants and programs to our residents. To undo this would significantly impact our minority population which depends upon these services that have been provided by our Assembly person. If the Commission cares about the representation of a community that is one of the most diverse in the State of New York, you will leave our Assembly District boundary lines intact.

Sincerely,

JOHNNY ORTIZ
Councilman


02/03/2023



Yellow- 98th District

Green- 99th District

Red- 101st District

From: [Justin Sweet](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: District 96
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7:39:03 AM

I am writing you today about current assembly district number 96, which currently comprises the towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw and 2 election districts from Ramapo.

I urge you to reject the proposed configuration of district 96 that has been proposed.

This proposed map is completely unacceptable, as it divides the town of Clarkstown into three different election districts, and also separates the town of Clarkstown from the town of Haverstraw, which the two towns have worked together very well in the past and share multiple common interests.

Please adopt a version of the redistricting map which keeps the town of Clarkstown in one assembly district. This is a must!

Justin Sweet
Clarkstown Town Clerk
ED 74 AD 96
(845) 406-7479

To: The Independent Redistricting Commission

I write as a private citizen who has lived in the Town and Village of Scarsdale, NY for over 30 years, and not as a representative of any organization or political party. However, I have been an active volunteer in many of the local organizations in my community. I continue to serve in many of them and have served in leadership roles in many of them in the past. I am politically active in both the nonpartisan party system for the Village and Town Board of Scarsdale and the Scarsdale School Board and in my registered political party. My experiences inform my opinion of what a district representing my community's interests should look like.

The Scarsdale and Edgemont communities share much in common—similar demographics and economic resources, many international families, a strong commitment to educational excellence for our children in both public and private schools. We share resources and maintain memberships in many different organizations such as the *Scarsdale Inquirer* and several online news services, mental health services provided by Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling Service, the Scarsdale Chinese School of Southern Westchester housed at Edgemont High School, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts organizations, and the congregations of many of our religious institutions. Our communities share a common zipcode-10583-and the Scarsdale Metro North train station located on the border of Scarsdale and Edgemont is used by residents of both communities every day. The shopping district in Scarsdale Village serve both communities.

In light of the many successful pathways these two communities have forged to better their communities, I strongly urge the IRC to continue to recognize the commonality of interest shared by Scarsdale and Edgemont and to retain these contiguous communities in State Assembly District 88.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Kathleen Munguia
Scarsdale, Westchester County, New York
January 6, 2023

To: NY Independent Redistricting Commission

From: Kathy OConnor, resident of Tivoli NY, Dutchess County

Date: 1/30/23

Dear Commissioners -

First, I want to thank you for your service, and I acknowledge the seriousness of your responsibility. What comes out of this redistricting process will have long-lasting repercussions.

I am here to petition that you do NOT sever the Towns of Red Hook and Rhinebeck in Dutchess County, currently in Assembly District 103, from the City of Kingston and its environs across the Hudson River in Ulster County.

We in Tivoli have long-standing community associations with our counterparts across the river. I belong to two organizations (the League of Women Voters of the Mid-Hudson Region and Bard Lifetime Learning Institute) whose members come from both sides of the river, and we have many activities on either side.

As the District is currently joined, we get an advantage of having a greater diversity in the make-up of our common communities. I am so glad my son and his family became residents of Kingston; I can see that my grandson will grow up with the advantages of multi-cultural exposure. With the exception of the Bard College population and migrant farm workers, we are a much more homogenous group in the Northern Dutchess Area.

Our Congressman (CD-18) serves his constituents on both sides of the river. Our State Senator (SD-41) serves her constituents on both sides of the river. Does it not make sense that our Assemblymember (AD-103) would also serve a population long-linked?

I want to point out a couple of things I wish the Commission had done differently. First, the Hudson Valley Region is quite large, yet you scheduled the only public hearing in our area at the lowest part. It would take me an hour and a half to go in person to the hearing in White Plains;

over an hour to travel to the Capital Region in Albany. I know each of you travel many, many miles for these hearings, but I think more consideration for the public in the Mid-Hudson Valley could have been effected.

Second, the proposed maps on your website are very difficult to discern. Light blue highlighted on medium blue is very challenging for these aged eyes of mine to differentiate. The current maps, showing blue on orange, are much easier to see clearly.

I want to close with, once again, thanking you all for your service. Giving attention to 150 State Assembly Districts is an extremely daunting task. It's very encouraging to see Democracy at work.

Sincerely,

Kathy OConnor
Tivoli NY

From: [Kenneth Zebrowski](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Testimony Submission Assemblymember Kenneth Zebrowski
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 3:16:38 PM
Attachments: [Facebook Icon.png](#)
[Twitter Icon.png](#)

Dear Commissioners:

I am a current member of the New York State Assembly representing district 96 in Rockland County. I respectfully submit this testimony to the Commission on the proposed map and how it relates to the district I represent as well as the surrounding region.

Unfortunately, I believe the proposed map does not provide a proper representation model for this region of the State. The map breaks up communities of interest, existing municipalities and neighborhoods and also completely changes the existing core of district 96.

The proposed map breaks up the Town of Clarkstown into three different districts. This town of about 86,000 people has been whole for decades and made up the majority core of the existing district. The town has a town-wide identity and should be considered a community of interest. Folks across this town share in their issue concerns. The Town also has numerous town-wide events and shared services such as sewer, water and policing that unite residents. Breaking up this town ignores the existing core of district 96 and breaks up communities of interest in a way that is deleterious to its residents.

The proposed map also breaks up the Town of Haverstraw into two different districts. This Town of about 37,000 people has also been whole for decades and shares many of the same aspects described above for Clarkstown. The town has a town-wide identity and should be a community of interest. There is a strong town-wide identity going back generations. The town and its villages all work together, attend town wide events and share numerous issue concerns and shared services such as one school district, sewer, water and policing. This town makes up the second largest percentage of the 96th Assembly district and breaking it up ignores the existing core of district 96 and would be deleterious to this town's broad community of interest.

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of

being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be re-united, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

The balance of district 96 was previously made up of a few villages in Ramapo. In the map passed by the Legislature in 2022, these villages were placed into an adjoining district with more of Ramapo and the villages of Nyack and South Nyack were added to make up the balance of the 96th district. This made a lot of sense, as Nyack and South Nyack were united with Upper Nyack, Central Nyack and West Nyack. Uniting the Nyacks is a good representative model for these similar communities of interest. Furthermore, many of the residents in the Town of Clarkstown, Haverstraw and the Village of Nyack and South Nyack have similar concerns and issues and would be well served by an Assembly district that unites them.

Thank you in advance for taking this formal testimony into consideration and it is my hope that the next map submission contains major amendments similar to the above comments. I appreciate your hard work and deliberations in this process.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Zebrowski
Member of Assembly - District 96

--

Assemblyman Kenneth P. Zebrowski

District Office:
67 North Main Street
New City, NY 10956
Telephone: [845-634-9791](tel:845-634-9791)

Albany Office:
Room 625
Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248
Telephone: [518-455-5735](tel:518-455-5735)

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From: [Kim Ancin](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: District 96
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:00:37 PM

Dear Commissioners:

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be reunited, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

Kimberly Ancin
18 Birch Dr, Thiells, NY 10984

To: The Independent Redistricting Commission

I am a private citizen who has lived in Edgemont (with PO address of Scarsdale, NY) for 20 years, and not as a representative of any organization or political party.

My experiences as a resident, as a parent of children in the Edgemont school system and as a long-time volunteer and Board member of local institutions (Scarsdale Synagogue and Hearts & Homes for Refugees) inform my opinion of what a district representing my community's interests should look like.

The Scarsdale and Edgemont communities have a great deal in common—similar demographics and economic resources; culturally diverse populations; a strong commitment to educational excellence for our children in both public and private schools; and shared resources for our children, elderly and families. We are both covered - together! - in local media such as the Scarsdale Inquirer and several online news services. We share the benefits of mental health services provided by Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling Service, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts organizations, and the congregations of all the local Scarsdale- and Edgemont-based religious institutions. Our communities share a common zipcode (10583) and the Scarsdale Metro North train station located on the border of Scarsdale and Edgemont is used by residents of both communities every day. The shopping district in Scarsdale Village serves both communities.

In light of the many successful pathways these two communities have forged to better their communities, I strongly urge the IRC to continue to recognize the commonality of interest shared by Scarsdale and Edgemont and to retain these contiguous communities in State Assembly District 88.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Kapner Hosp

Scarsdale, Westchester County, New York

January 9, 2023

From: [marcy Silverman](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:43:28 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I believe the proposed map for the 96th Assembly District does not provide a proper representation model for this region of the State. The map breaks up communities of interest, existing municipalities and neighborhoods and also completely changes the existing core of district 96.

The proposed map breaks up the Town of Clarkstown into three different districts. This town of about 86,000 people has been whole for decades and made up the majority core of the existing district. The town has a town-wide identity and should be considered a community of interest. Folks across this town share in their issue concerns. The Town also has numerous town-wide events and shared services such as sewer, water and policing that unite residents. Breaking up this town ignores the existing core of district 96 and breaks up communities of interest in a way that is deleterious to its residents.

The proposed map also breaks up the Town of Haverstraw into two different districts. This Town of about 37,000 people has also been whole for decades and shares many of the same aspects described above for Clarkstown. The town has a town-wide identity and should be a community of interest. There is a strong town-wide identity going back generations. The town and its villages all work together, attend town wide events and share numerous issue concerns and shared services such as one school district, sewer, water and policing. This town makes up the second largest percentage of the 96th Assembly district and breaking it up ignores the existing core of district 96 and would be deleterious to this town's broad community of interest.

Sincerely,

Marcy Silverman
20 Fay Road, New City, NY

Sent from my iPhone

7 Woodrow Drive
Yonkers, New York 10710
March 3, 2023

Dear Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

I am writing this letter as a long-time resident of Yonkers having lived in this community since 1968. I want to express my strong opposition to the current redistricting proposal, which would divide Yonkers into four Assembly districts, compared to the current three districts and the opposition to this proposal by my entire family. Till 2022, Yonkers was two Assembly districts, then in 2022 it was expanded to three districts this in itself created problems , 4 districts will exacerbate the issue because we would be left with only one Assembly member whose interest is solely in representing the third largest City in New York State. Thus, I and the Mayor of Yonkers as well as informed citizens of our city see this as our representation would be completely subsumed by the much larger portions of neighboring communities.

I completely agree with Mayor Spano who has expressed so well that this proposal will not allow the needs of Yonkers to be met by this proposal. It will dilute the voice of Yonkers between four Assembly District- two of which will have Yonkers for only a negligible part of the district. It is a disservice to divide communities of interest within the City itself. I see this proposal as encouraging residents to leave Yonkers who can do the best for our city.

It adds insult to injury, that we would be forced to pay for another salary in Albany, which comes along with all the financial perks, housing, gas, tolls, food etc. that this proposal which would have representative not from Yonkers represent us which will not bring us the representation and finances that we deserve. This would lead to a waste of my tax payer dollars and that of all Yonkers residents.

I hope you will sincerely rethink this proposal and act as if you lived here and act in the best interest of our entire city. It is with a heavy heart that I think such a proposal was made and I ask you to withdraw this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Fedigan

**JANUARY 25, 2023
IN ALBANY
STATEMENT TO THE NYIRC**

My name is Mary Murfitt and I'm the Chair of the Ancram Democratic Committee.

To me, the re-drawing of the 106th Assembly District feels like a solution in search of a problem and will no doubt cause unnecessary confusion for voters yet again in 2024. We just went through four separate elections in 2022 thanks to Congressional and state senate redistricting. As someone who worked on various campaigns, merely explaining to voters what was happening was an exhausting process. I know I don't want to go through that again...it only serves to suppress voting.

That is just one reason why I am here to support keeping the current 106th Assembly District map as is.

First, in looking at IRCs New York regions map, it should be noted that in our part of Columbia County we (or at least I) identify as being residents of the Mid-Hudson Valley. I personally, have never considered myself part of the Capitol Region as we are a very rural district and have little in common with Rensselaer and Albany. Perhaps that's why I find the redrawn maps for the 106th and 107th Districts so baffling.

The communities currently in the 106th (located in Northern Dutchess and Southern Columbia County) are deeply

connected by so many things...similar economies, which importantly include agriculture and small family-owned businesses. We share the same medical providers, grocery stores, restaurants, theaters, drug stores, recreational facilities, churches, Hudson Valley Rail Trail, lakes, rivers and state parks. We've formed close personal & professional relationships with our neighbors to the north in Hudson, Copake, Hillsdale and Claverack and south to Pine Plains, Millerton and Stanfordville. We actually share school districts, too. For example Ancram (where I live) is located in Columbia County but many residents (like me) pay school taxes to the Pine Plains School District, which is in Dutchess County. We also participate in their School Board Elections. Other Ancram voters pay taxes to Taconic Hills in Columbia County and vote in those School Board Elections.

OUR 106th district is wonderfully diverse with community leadership that celebrates and supports our diversity and already understands the needs of our district. Please, let's make this easier on everyone and keep the 106th district as it is.

THANK YOU.

New York

1

133,513

-1,113

District Selector

District Details

1

Total Pop (Adj) 2020

	Pop	%
Total	133,513	100.0%
White	108,381	81.2%
Hispanic	9,677	7.2%
Black	7,989	6.0%
Asian	4,349	3.3%
Native	2,515	1.9%
Pacific	204	0.2%

Voting Age Pop 2020

	Pop	%
Total	110,227	100.0%
White	92,112	83.6%
Hispanic	6,628	6.0%
Black	5,422	4.9%
Asian	3,236	2.9%
Native	2,092	1.9%
Pacific	153	0.1%

Composite 2016-2020

	Votes	%
Democratic	35,382	54.9%
Republican	27,296	42.4%
Other	1,755	2.7%

County

City

Precinct

Block

Tools

Map

Statistics

Analyze

Compare

Advanced

Map

Statistics

Analyze

Compare

Advanced

Colors

Overlays

Custom Overlays

Map saved to server.

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8 Second St.

Kerhonkson, NY 12446

09/21/2022

The Editor

Shawangunk Journal

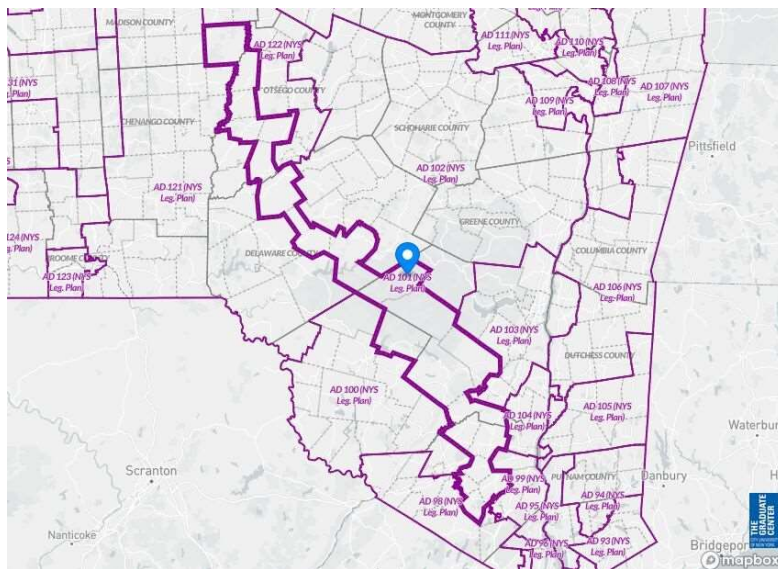
Ellenville, NY

Subject: Assembly District 101- A gerrymandered and egregiously drawn district

Dear Editor,

I am Matthew Mackey, Democratic and Working Families Candidate for NYS Assembly District 101. I am writing to you today to inform your readers of the unconstitutional and illegal nature of our district lines, how this impacts our communities, and the hope of future change and effective representation.

For a decade, Assembly District 101 has been heavily impacted by gerrymandering. As Chad McEvoy, former candidate for AD 101 puts it in a New York Times Article: "The 101st was drawn in 2012, so the story goes, by Republicans to punish one of their own caucus members yet remain a safe Republican seat. In other words, its design is actively antidemocratic." One only needs to look at the map of the district to see the gerrymandered design.



Spanning 131 miles from top to bottom, and around 30 miles at its widest points, in portions but never the majority of 6 Counties (Orange, Ulster, Sullivan, Delaware, Otsego, and Madison) and within 4 Congressional Districts, AD 101 is effectively the most gerrymandered district in New York State. On the campaign trail, when I talk about the District, people from both sides of the aisle are appalled at how the district is drawn, with the knowledge that the issues, needs, and even cultures of the upper and lower portions of the district are vastly different from each other. There isn't even a main throughfare that connects the upper and lower portions of the district, let alone towns in some cases, leaving this district to be highly challenging to represent regardless of an Assemblymember's party affiliation.

These challenges make it extraordinarily difficult to work with local, state, and congressional representatives to get the vital resources our communities need to survive and thrive, leaving the residents and families of our district to suffer without an effective voice in Albany.

Whether intentional or not, the NYS Legislature failed to recognize an even more egregious error while drawing the district, the racist and now illegal nature of our district lines. The entirety of AD 101 has a registered voter population of 90,617, 12,721 (14%) of which are registered voters of color. Of that 12,721 Registered voters of color, 12,477 (98%) live in just the Orange and Ulster portions of the District. The remaining 244 registered voters of color (2%) live in Sullivan, Delaware, Otsego, and Madison portions. What makes this particularly horrifying is that the upper portion of the district's white registered voter population is 14,058, a number which exceeds the entirety of communities of color in the lower district, effectively canceling their votes and silencing their voices. The NYS Legislature should be ashamed of themselves for allowing such an oversight and in fact just passed a law this year, the New York John Lewis Voting Rights Act that makes this district illegal.

This year, the Independent Redistricting Commission failed to deliver newly drawn maps that could be agreed upon by members of both parties. In turn the NYS Legislature created Congressional, Senate and Assembly maps which failed to meet NYS Constitutionality as determined by the NYS Court of Appeals. While the Congressional and Senate maps were redrawn, the Assembly maps were left untouched, leaving the possibility for an independent special master to redraw our district in the next election cycle.

There is a lot of work to be done that cannot wait until someone is elected to represent AD 101 to remedy this issue, which is why I have created a petition for residents to sign that lays out the case to the divide the district and provide the representation that AD 101 residents deserve. I do this with the knowledge that I may be written out of the district and unable to seek office in the area and with the residents I love because what matters more to me than any political career is that this District's voice be restored in Albany and communities of color have the justice, equality, and representation that has been long overdue to them.

The petition will be given to the Independent Special Master when drawing the new Assembly maps, in order to place a spotlight on this issue and can be found at <https://bit.ly/DivideAD101>. I encourage all your readers who reside in the district to sign and to share. Together, Change is Possible.

In Solidarity and Sincerity,

Matthew Mackey, MSW

Candidate for NYS Assembly District 101



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MIKE SPANO

January 20, 2023

Dear Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission:

My name is Mike Spano and, I am the current Mayor of the City of Yonkers, and prior to that had represented the City in the Assembly for many years.

I wish to express strong opposition to the current redistricting proposal, which would divide Yonkers into four Assembly districts, compared to the current three districts. This is a continuing step in the wrong direction for the City. Until 2022, Yonkers consisted of two Assembly Districts. In 2022, this was expanded to three districts, with a small portion of northern Yonkers being combined with dissimilar communities to the north. Now, under the current proposal, this process becomes even worse.

Yonkers, a City of more than 200,000 people, would have only one Assembly district that is completely within its borders. In other words, it would have only one Assembly member whose interest is solely in representing what is now the State's third largest City. In two of the proposed districts, the new 90th and 88th, small portions of Yonkers would be completely subsumed by the much larger portions of neighboring communities.

Yonkers is very different in so many ways from the communities into which its diluted voice would be submerged under the current plan. To take one example, the city has a dependent school district whose students are overwhelmingly people of color, at or below the poverty line, and face unique challenges. There is no comparison to the school districts of neighboring municipalities whose boards of education and tax rates are subject to a separate vote, whose funding is far more secure, and in which the economic and cultural standards of the students are a world away from those in Yonkers.

If you think the needs of Yonkers can be met in the same way as the needs of Bronxville and Scarsdale, then please think again, because they cannot. If you think the needs of Yonkers can be met in the same way as the needs of Ardsley and Hastings on Hudson, please think again, because they cannot.

Besides diluting the voice of Yonkers between four Assembly Districts – two of which will have Yonkers as only a negligible part of the district, the current proposal also divides communities of interest within the City itself.

Cohesive neighborhoods are inexplicably split up. Neighborhoods such as Colonial Heights and Beech Hill for example, whose residents have long been able to call upon a single Assembly member in a united manner, will now be divided into separate districts. The voice of the people will be diluted.

I am in the fortunate position of having served Yonkers in the Assembly, and now running its government as Mayor. Therefore, I see the issue from both sides – as a local official presenting the City's needs to the Assembly, and in the past as an Assembly member responding to the local officials.

I can tell you with 100 percent certainty that the current proposed map is a recipe for failure on both ends.

There are good and workable alternatives to the current proposal. I will leave it to the Commission to decide which of those alternatives work best. However, I can say without any doubt that there is one plan, which does a disservice to every resident of the City – and that is the plan that is currently proposed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments to the Commission.

Very truly yours,



MIKE SPANO

Mayor



March 15, 2023

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

We are writing to express our concern and opposition to the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission's proposal as it relates to the status of our NYS Assembly District lines.

Our respective villages are quite unique, in that they are predominantly made up of a Yiddish-speaking population that overwhelmingly adheres to the same cultural and religious beliefs and practices, and shares social and economic interests. We are a community of interest in every sense of the word.

Yet, despite our unique status as perhaps the quintessential community of interest, the current proposal recommends splitting our villages into separate Assembly Districts (Kaser: District 97, New Square: District 96), even though we are currently included in a single district (District 97). The proposal would unquestionably deny us the right to effective and fair representation, and we therefore felt compelled to call your attention to our concerns and explain them accordingly.

Taking two villages whose social interests and religious ideologies align with one another and carving them up runs counter to the constitutional mandates that were set forth to ensure fair representation. We are a distinct minority whose voices at the ballot box and in the State Legislature would be adversely impacted by this proposal, and the Commission has a fundamental duty to prevent this current proposal from being enacted.

The Villages of Kaser and New Square should absolutely not be split into two separate districts. Our residents deserve to have one Assembly member who represents them and who is always looking out for their collective interests, and who is in a position to address issues of mutual concern.

We therefore urge the Commission to reassess this inequitable proposal, which would inevitably dilute our residents' voices in the electoral process and in the halls of our State Legislature. It is our sincere hope that you will understand and acknowledge the significance of this inequity and make the necessary changes on the final map to ensure that our villages are duly kept within one district.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our concerns.

Very truly yours,

Allie Pinkasovits
Mayor of Village of Kaser

Israel Spitzer
Mayor of Village of New Square

From: [Grant, Michael](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: NYIRC - Assembly Districts
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:55:38 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing regarding the current Redistricting work of your commission.

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be reunited, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

The plan currently being considered is an affront to the voters in District 96. I urge you to consider. The needs not the historic core of this district.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Grant
Rockland County Legislator
LD 2

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From: [Michael McGovern](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 6:58:56 PM

Dear Commissioners:

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be reunited, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

WHITEMAN
OSTERMAN
& HANNA LLP

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Robert S. Rosborough IV
Partner
518.487.7608 phone
rrosborough@woh.com

January 23, 2023

VIA Electronic Submission and FEDEX

Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: *New York Independent Redistricting Commission Proposed State Assembly Map*

Dear Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

Our firm represents the Town of Palm Tree and the Village of Kiryas Joel, and their government officials, who are also resident voters. The Town and Village are a coterminous municipalities located in Orange County, New York, which includes a majority of language minority voters. The Town of Palm Tree was established in 2020 from the division of the Town of Monroe and encompasses the entirety of the Village of Kiryas Joel.

We write to express our clients' grave concerns regarding the ongoing process to draw new redistricting maps for the State Assembly, following the litigation that invalidated the first Assembly map, and respectfully ask that you protect the constitutional rights of the minority language community that resides in and around the Town and Village when preparing revised maps.

It is important for the Commission to consider in this process that the redistricting maps that were previously adopted drew unconstitutional lines that not only violated the partisan gerrymandering prohibition in the New York Constitution, but also abridged language minority voting rights in southern Orange County. In particular, New York Constitution Article III, § 4(c)(1) specifically prohibits the creation of political districts that "result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights." Indeed, as the Constitution provides, political districts must be drawn to ensure that "minority language groups

do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice.” *Id.*

In the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove in southern Orange County, over the past ten years, a significant minority language community has grown that speaks English as a second language. In fact, there are approximately 50,000 residents who speak Yiddish as a first language who now live in these four municipalities. The Orthodox Jewish community in southern Orange County, nevertheless, has been either ignored or purposefully dispersed in the redistricting process that has resulted in splitting the Yiddish-speaking community in two and drastically reducing the opportunity of these residents to vote for representatives of their choice who will understand the unique issues that the community faces. Indeed, since the Orthodox Jewish community began to grow in southern Orange County in the 1970s and 1980s, Yiddish-speaking families, business people, and governmental officials have faced discrimination in almost every facet of their lives, including opposition to Orthodox Jewish religious practices, exclusionary zoning, and hindrances to the community’s access to reliable water sources and sewage treatment infrastructure, among many other issues.

In the face of this overt discrimination, many, if not most, local political leaders turned a blind eye to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community. The recent redistricting maps have split the Orthodox Jewish community in half by placing the Towns of Palm Tree and Monroe in a different election district than the neighboring adjacent Towns of Woodbury and Blooming Grove. Aside from the establishment of the new town, nothing else has changed to warrant the new drastically different election district dividing line.

This specific and seemingly intentional division of the Yiddish-speaking community has drastically impaired these minority language voters’ rights. The Commission must rectify this wrong, keeping the language minority population in the Orthodox Jewish community in the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a single district to ensure that they have the same opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Indeed, if the Orthodox Jewish community were to remain in divided election districts, election material, including political pamphlets, flyers, petitions, and ballots, among others, would have to be split up into multiple campaigns, making it much more difficult to reach the voters, resulting in further potential impairment of voting rights.

Most importantly, the same proposed division of the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County was rejected earlier this year by the Special Master tasked with drawing the new State Senate and Congress maps after the New York Court of Appeals’ decision in *Harkenrider v Hochul*. As we explained during that process, and the Special Master recognized, dividing the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County would once again contravene the substantive dictates of the New York Constitution, and would drastically impair the voting rights of that community. A copy of our prior comments regarding the State Senate and Congressional maps are enclosed for your convenience. Indeed, currently elected leaders have begun to use the proposed division of the Yiddish-speaking community in the Assembly map as a basis for an attempt to control land use and annexation of land between municipalities in the area and to foreclose the residents of Palm Tree from having any say in these decisions, the outcome of which could drastically affect their State-protected real property rights. One

Senator, for example, has even made the legally untenable claim that the division of the Yiddish-speaking community in the Assembly map would prevent any future annexations of land from or to the divided communities. Plainly, the proposed Assembly map division of the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County promotes, rather than discourages, these discriminatory efforts, and should again be rejected.

Given that the Special Master specifically rejected a proposed division of Yiddish-speaking voters in the State Senate and Congress redistricting maps, we would respectfully request that the Commission likewise place the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in the State Assembly district where they have finally, after years of ineffective representation by the minority party, successfully elected a representative in the Assembly majority, in an extremely close race that had almost 40,000 voters, who can effectively represent the Yiddish-speaking voters' needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Sterthous".

Michael G. Sterthous
Robert S. Rosborough IV

Enclosure

WHITEMAN
OSTERMAN
& HANNA LLP

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www.woh.com

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April 29, 2022

VIA NYSCEF

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

Re: *Harkenrider, et al. v. Hochul, et al.*
Index No. E2022-0116CV

Dear Judge McAllister and Dr. Jonathan Cervas,

Our firm represents the Town of Palm Tree and the Village of Kiryas Joel, and their government officials. The Town and Village is a coterminous municipality located in Orange County, New York, which includes a majority of language minority voters. The Town of Palm Tree was established in 2020 from the division of the Town of Monroe and encompasses the entirety of the Village of Kiryas Joel. We write to express our clients' grave concerns regarding the ongoing process to draw new redistricting maps for the State Senate and Congress, following the Court of Appeals' decision to invalidate the first set of maps, and respectfully ask that you protect the constitutional rights of the minority language community that resides in and around the Town and Village when preparing revised maps.

It is important for the Special Master to consider in this process that the redistricting maps that were previously adopted drew unconstitutional lines that not only violated the partisan gerrymandering prohibition in the New York Constitution, but also abridged language minority voting rights in southern Orange County. In particular, New York Constitution Article III, § 4(c)(1) specifically prohibits the creation of political districts that "result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights." Indeed, as the Constitution provides, political districts must be drawn to ensure that "minority language groups

do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice.” *Id.*

In the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove in southern Orange County, over the past ten years, a significant minority language community has grown that speaks English as a second language. In fact, there are approximately 50,000 Yiddish-speaking residents who now live in these four municipalities. The Orthodox Jewish community in southern Orange County, nevertheless, has been either ignored or purposefully dispersed in the redistricting process that has resulted in splitting the Yiddish-speaking community in two and drastically reducing the opportunity of these residents to elect representatives of their choice who will understand the unique issues that the community faces. Indeed, since the Orthodox Jewish community began to grow in southern Orange County in the 1970s and 1980s, Yiddish-speaking families, business people, and governmental officials have faced discrimination in almost every facet of their lives, including opposition to Orthodox Jewish religious practices, exclusionary zoning, and hindrances to the community’s access to reliable water sources and sewage treatment infrastructure, among many other issues.

In the face of this overt discrimination, many, if not most, local political leaders turned a blind eye to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community. The recent redistricting maps have split the Orthodox Jewish community in half by placing the Town of Palm Tree in a different election district than the neighboring adjacent Towns of Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove. For the nearly 40 years prior to the establishment of the Town of Palm Tree, the voters in the Village of Kiryas Joel, which was then located within the Town of Monroe and is now in Palm Tree, were part of the same election district as the rest of the minority language community in Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove. Aside from the establishment of the new town, nothing else has changed to warrant the new drastically different election district dividing line.

This specific and seemingly intentional division of the Yiddish-speaking community has drastically impaired these minority language voters’ rights. With the courts now overseeing the redrawing of the State Senate and Congressional districts to correct the unconstitutional gerrymander, the Special Master must rectify this wrong, keeping the language minority population in the Orthodox Jewish community in the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a single district to ensure that they have the same opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Indeed, if the Orthodox Jewish community were to remain in divided election districts, election material, including political pamphlets, flyers, petitions, and ballots, among others, would have to be split up into multiple campaigns, making it much more difficult to reach the voters.

Given that the Town of Palm Tree’s voters have already been arbitrarily placed in a State Assembly minority district in the map that was not challenged in this litigation, and thus will not change, we would respectfully request that the Special Master place the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a State Senate majority district where they have been for the last 40-plus years since the founding of the Village of Kiryas Joel. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Rosborough IV", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael G. Sterthous
Robert S. Rosborough IV

cc: All counsel (via NYSCEF)

As a voice for Putnam County's business community, we are contacting the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission to encourage you to preserve the continuity of representation of the existing district for New York's 95th Assembly District.

For two decades, western Putnam County, including the Town of Philipstown, and the Villages of Cold Spring and Nelsonville, has been connected to the northern Westchester, river communities of Peekskill, Croton-on-Hudson and Ossining in a combined State Assembly district. This is significant because this area forms a single, cohesive community of interest connected by the Route 9 and Route 9A corridors, with interconnected economies and community concerns.

Despite its relatively modest size, Putnam County is extremely diverse. The Route 202 and Route 6 corridors, along with the Route 22 corridor in the Town of Southeast, are fundamentally different than the Route 9 corridor in Philipstown and Cold Spring. The county's economy is clearly bifurcated between the east and the west, with the western portion of the county historically integrated with the river communities of northern Westchester. We strongly believe the existing configuration of the 95th Assembly District provides the best representation for our county and region and we encourage you to preserve it.

The Putnam County Business Council appreciates your attention to this matter and hopes that you will restore and respect the longstanding communities of interest that are described in this comment. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Nat Prentice

President, Putnam County Business Council

February 12, 2023

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COMMENT FROM THE PUTNAM COUNTY BUSINESS COUNCIL ENCOURAGING THE NYIRC TO PRESERVE NYS 94TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT AS IT IS

As a leading voice for Putnam County's business community, we are contacting the members of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission to encourage you to preserve New York's 94th Assembly District as it currently is.

For two decades, eastern Putnam County, including the Town of Carmel and the Hamlet of Mahopac, has been connected to the northern Westchester towns of Somers and Yorktown in a combined State Assembly district. This is significant because Yorktown, Somers, Carmel and eastern Putnam County are a single, cohesive community of interest connected by the Route 6 and Route 202 corridors, with interconnected economies and community concerns.

Despite its relatively modest size, Putnam County is extremely diverse. The Route 202 and Route 6 corridors, along with the Route 22 corridor in the Town of Southeast, are fundamentally different than the Route 9 corridor in the Town Philipstown. The county's economy is clearly bifurcated between the east and the west, with the eastern portion of the county historically integrated with Yorktown and Somers. We strongly believe the existing configuration of the 94th Assembly District provides the best representation for our county and our region and we encourage you to preserve it.

We would also like to specifically comment on the Commission's proposal to split the Town of Carmel, which includes the Hamlet of Mahopac. The Town of Carmel, including the community of Mahopac, acts as the linchpin for Putnam County on a variety of levels which is why we strongly encourage the Commission to reconsider this proposal. Similarly, we strongly disagree with the proposal of separating Mahopac from the eastern portion of the county with which it has traditionally and appropriately shared representation in the State Assembly.

The Putnam County Business Council appreciates your attention to this matter and hopes that you restore and respect the longstanding communities of interest, continuity of representation and core of the existing 94th State Assembly District.

Nat Prentice
President
Putnam County Business Council
natprentice848@gmail.com
845-661-8937

JANUARY 31, 2023

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From: [Nelda Tuciarone](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: District 96
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:19:38 PM

Dear Commissioners:

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be reunited, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Nelda Tuciarone

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD
OF THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE
TUESDAY, January 24, 2023**

PRESENT: Lisa S. Katz, Supervisor
Victoria Tipp, Deputy Supervisor
Alexandra Chemtob, Council Member
Holly McCall, Council Member
Jeremy Saland, Council Member

**Resolution in Opposition to the Draft Assembly Redistricting Plan Proposed by the
Independent Redistricting Commission Regarding the 93rd Assembly District**

Council Member Chemtob moved, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Tipp, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle has always been part of the 93rd Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, this representative boundary recognizes and respects the deep intermunicipal ties among the communities it encompasses; and

WHEREAS, New Castle, Bedford and Mount Kisco share a wide range of interests and concerns and, just as important, together provide essential municipal services to their collective residents; and

WHEREAS, our shared interests and essential municipal functions with Mount Kisco, Bedford and other Northern communities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The Town of New Castle has intermunicipal agreements (IMA) with Mount Kisco and Bedford to supply drinking water to residents to these neighboring communities.
2. The Town of New Castle has intermunicipal agreements with both Mount Kisco and Bedford to act as a backup water supply if needed at any time.
3. New Castle has just entered into a significant IMA with Mount Kisco to provide a permanent solution to the failing waste water treatment plant at Fox Hollow (Yeshiva and Riverwoods) supported by East of Hudson Watershed Coalition (EOHWC) funding.
4. New Castle has contracted for decades with Mount Kisco through the Northern Fire Protection District to provide fire protection to a third of our Town. Many of the volunteers who participate in the Northern Fire Protection District are New Castle residents living in the Mount Kisco “portion” of New Castle.
5. New Castle collaborates with Mt. Kisco, Bedford and other Northern Westchester communities to address the significant environmental issues we are uniquely situated within the NYC water shed which subjects our communities to the East of Hudson Watershed Coalition agreement and regulations. Our sensitive location requires collective

efforts to protect the water shed and carries with it mandates that only these EOHWC communities can address with a united effort. It is critical to the success of the EOHWC that these communities continue to work together under the oversight of our state representatives familiar with the EOHWC mandates.

6. Our communities share common waste water issues as the overwhelming majority of our residents are on septic systems with sewers only located in more densely populated commercial/hamlet areas. Monitoring and ensuring the health of septic systems within the New York City watershed areas carry with it, special challenges unique to these communities but which carry wide ranging implications for the safety of NYC's drinking water. To that end, a \$300,000 New York State's appropriation for the EOHWC which New Castle's representatives in the New York State legislature secured for EOHWC directly benefits New Castle for performing an assessment on facilities needed for wastewater disposal to protect the NYC watershed and the safety of New Castle's water quality.
7. The Town of New Castle along with Bedford and Mount Kisco have signed on to the Croton Kensico Water shed Intermunicipal agreement, bringing all communities with land in the Croton and Kensico watersheds, part of NYC water sheds to continue implementing programs and policies to protect New York City's drinking water.
8. In addition to providing drinking water to our neighboring Towns, Mt. Kisco, New Castle and Bedford work together to support efforts to upgrade water infrastructure throughout our region. Presently, Mt. Kisco is replacing an antiquated water main that runs under Byram Lake Road. The water main is exclusively Mt. Kisco's and they are spearheading the main replacement but the roadway it runs under is at points owned and maintained by all three municipalities.
9. New Castle, Mount Kisco, Bedford along with 5 other Northern Westchester Communities have successfully collaborated to create a coalition to provide Advanced Life Support to our communities. Since 2000 we have provided skilled ALS services to our communities in a timely and cost-efficient manner. These services are all the more critical when it is recognized that these communities are served by volunteer ambulance services for basic life support.
10. Our communities of New Castle, Bedford and Mount Kisco are strategically located within Northern Westchester Hospital's catchment area.
11. The children of New Castle Bedford and Mount Kisco go to the same schools. New Castle collects school taxes for the Bedford Central School District as a section of New Castle attends Bedford Schools.
12. We worship together as our synagogues and churches all draw from the New Castle, Bedford, Mt. Kisco communities.
13. The areas of New Castle, Bedford and Mt. Kisco enjoy the same recreational facilities including the Boys and Girls Club in Mount Kisco as well as Leonard Park; a section of New Castle is eligible to utilize this Mt. Kisco/Bedford municipal facilities.

14. Early voting for New Castle residents is located in Mt. Kisco.
15. New Castle residents routinely work and shop in Mt. Kisco.
16. New Castle residents own and operate businesses in Mount Kisco, Bedford and Mt. Kisco. As an example, Fortunato Cambereri, a resident of New Castle, is active in the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce and the Mount Kisco Chamber recently honored him as Citizen of the Year.
17. One of the regional strengths of the Towns of New Castle, Mt. Kisco and Bedford is that they have easy access to the Saw Mill Parkway as well as train stations and parking along the Harlem line of the Metro North Railroads. With this key transportation access comes challenges unique to these Towns, railroad grade crossings, and enforcement issues, to name just two that require a regional approach to resolve.
18. Redistricting would split New Castle from other neighboring communities that share common environmental concerns related to the Westchester County Airport.

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle is an integral part of the core of the 93rd Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Castle has been a part of a northern Westchester Assembly District dating back as far as 1906; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission draft plan issued on or about December 1, 2022 would remove the Town of New Castle from the 93rd Assembly District resulting in irreparable harm and disruption to the strong ties and communities of interest which the Town of New Castle, its residents, its businesses and its community organizations enjoy and rely upon; and

WHEREAS, the draft plan would dismember the core of the 93rd Assembly by removing the Town of New Castle from it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of New Castle hereby strongly and emphatically opposes any removal of the Town of New Castle from the 93rd Assembly District since we have longstanding common interests with those municipalities within the 93rd Assembly District disruption of which would be disastrous to the well-being and safety of our communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that for all of the reasons stated the Town Board of the Town of New Castle implores the Independent Redistricting Commission to retain the Town of New Castle in the 93rd Assembly District; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, , that Town Board of the Town of New Castle respectfully strongly urges the Independent Redistricting Commission to adopt the 2022 Assembly district map presently in effect in substitution for the draft map as the 2022 map fairly and equitably fulfills all statutory redistricting requirements and criteria which the Independent Redistricting Commission is obligated to apply; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of New Castle is hereby requested to forward a certified copy of this duly adopted resolution of the Town Board of the Town of New Castle to each member of the Independent Redistricting Commission, Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, NYS Senator Peter Harckham, NYS Assemblymember Chris Burdick, Congressman Michael Lawler and County Legislator Vedat Gashi.

VOTE	AYES	NAYS
Supervisor Katz	X	
Deputy Supervisor Tipp	X	
Council Member Chemtob	X	
Council Member McCall	X	
Council Member Saland		ABSENT

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) SS:

COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I, CHRISTINA PAPES, Town Clerk of the New Castle Town Board, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this Resolution with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original Resolution and of the whole thereof, as duly adopted by said New Castle Town Board at a meeting duly called and held at the New Castle Town Hall, 200 South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua, NY 10514 on January 24, 2023 by the required and necessary vote of the members to approve the Resolution.

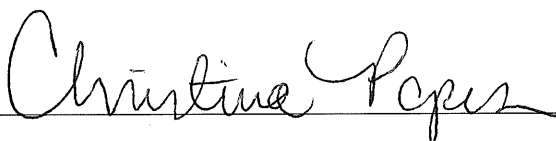
WITNESS My Hand and the Official Seal of the Town of New Castle, New York, this 25th day of January, 2023.

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Christina Papes, Town Clerk, Town of New Castle

13 Moreland Road
New City, NY 10956

February 27, 2023

Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway
New York, NY 10007

Dear Members of the Commission,

I resided in the 96th Assembly District and am one of the NYS Committee Persons serving on the New York State Democratic Committee. I would like to comment on the proposed re-districting map for the 96th Assembly currently under consideration.

The proposed map should NOT be considered for the following reasons:

1. The Town of Clarkstown as a whole is a community of interest and should be kept together.
2. The Town of Clarkstown has a town-wide identity, this identity spans generations etc.
3. The Town has numerous events, celebrations etc. that are attended by the entire Town, they have a well-used parks and recreation system and numerous other amenities.
4. It is important that the commission preserve the core of the existing district. This current map completely ignores the core of the existing district. Clarkstown has always been unified and has been combined with Haverstraw in an Assembly district for decades. These two towns have become a broader community of interest. It has led to efficient representation for the residents of these towns. It creates a compact district.
5. Breaking up the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown from an Assembly district will throw out decades of precedent and hurt representation for the residents.
6. Both the Town of Clarkstown and Haverstraw have an identity within Rockland County. Rockland is the smallest geographical County in NY outside the five boroughs and Clarkstown and Haverstraw should be kept within a Rockland Assembly district that is substantially similar to the core of the existing district.
7. Linking the villages of Nyack and South Nyack with Upper Nyack and the rest of the 96th district is the best way to make up the rest of the population of an Assembly District and preserve the best representation and communities of interest for Rockland County.

Thank you for your consideration and allowing me to express my views as to why the re-districted district for 96th should NOT be approved .

Sincerely yours,

Nicole M. Doliner
NYS Committee Person for the 96th

Noam Bramson
Mayor
Office of the Mayor
nbramson@newrochelleny.com
www.newrochelleny.com



City Hall
515 North Avenue
New Rochelle, NY 10801
Tel: 914.654.2150
Fax: 914.654.2357

January 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I respectfully submit the following comment with regard to the draft New York State Assembly map.

The draft proposal unnecessarily divides the West End neighborhood of New Rochelle between Districts 88 and 91. The West End is presently contained entirely within District 91, and this configuration should be maintained. For more than 100 years, the West End has been the epicenter of New Rochelle's immigrant populations -- originally German, then predominantly Italian, and now overwhelming Hispanic/Latino. In its demographic, socio-economic, land use, and cultural characteristics, the West End constitutes an obvious community of interest that has benefitted from clear, unified lines of representation at the municipal, county, state, and federal levels.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the people of New York State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noam Bramson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Noam Bramson
Mayor



TOWN OF NORTH SALEM

Delancey Hall
266 Titicus Road
North Salem, N.Y. 10560

Office of the Town Clerk
Maria C. Hlushko

RESOLUTION #51-23
TO OPPOSE THE DRAFT ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING PLAN PROPOSED BY THE
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REGARDING THE 93RD
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Motion made by Supervisor Lucas
Seconded by Councilwoman Daniels

WHEREAS, the Town of North Salem has always been part of the 93rd Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, this representative boundary recognizes and respects the deep intermunicipal ties among these similarly situated communities it encompasses; and

WHEREAS, the towns in Northeastern Westchester; North Salem, Somers, Lewisboro, Bedford, Mount Kisco and Pound Ridge share a wide range of interests and concerns and, work on a variety of projects together, and

WHEREAS, our elected officials meet with the other elected officials on a monthly basis discussing all of the local issues affecting our County, and

WHEREAS, we share interests and essential municipal functions between North Salem, Somers, Lewisboro, Bedford, Mount Kisco, Pound Ridge and other Northeastern Westchester communities which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Northern Westchester Watershed Consortium (NWWC): North Salem collaborates with Mt. Kisco, Bedford and other Northern Westchester communities to address the significant environmental issues to those communities uniquely situated within the NYC water shed which subjects our communities to Northern Westchester Watershed Consortium and the East of Hudson Watershed Coalition agreement and regulations. Our sensitive location requires collective efforts to protect the watershed and carries with it mandates that only these coalition communities can address with a united effort. It is critical to the success of the East of Hudson Watershed Corporation (EOHWC) that these communities continue to work together under the oversight of our state representatives familiar with our NYS MS4 mandates. This has significantly helped our communities with the NYS MS4 expense leveraging the State and NYC DEP funding for these municipalities.

RESOLUTION #51-23
TO OPPOSE THE DRAFT ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING PLAN PROPOSED BY THE
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REGARDING THE 93RD
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(continued)

2. 93rd Assembly district support is critical to our broader concerns: Our communities share common waste water issues as the overwhelming majority of our residents are on septic systems with sewers only located in more densely populated areas. Monitoring and ensuring the health of septic systems within the Westchester County Board of Health and the New York City watershed areas carries with it special challenges unique to these communities but which carry wide-ranging implications for the safety of NYC's drinking water. To that end, North Salem's representatives in the New York State legislature appropriated \$300,000.00 for EOHWC to perform an assessment on facilities needed for wastewater disposal to protect the NYC watershed and the safety of North Salem's water quality, directly benefitting North Salem.
3. Croton and Kensico Water Intermunicipal Committee (CKWIC): The Town of North Salem, along with Bedford, Somers, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, Mount Kisco, Yorktown, North Castle and New Castle, created the Croton Kensico Watershed Intermunicipal agreement, bringing all communities with land in the Croton and Kensico watersheds in Westchester together to implement programs and policies to protect New York City's drinking water.
4. Westchester Emergency Medical Service Advanced Life Support: North Salem, Bedford, Somers, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, Mount Kisco, Yorktown, North Castle and New Castle have successfully collaborated to create a coalition to provide Advanced Life Support to our communities. For more than 22, years we have provided skilled ALS services to our communities in a timely and cost-efficient manner. These services are all the more critical when it is recognized that these communities are served by volunteer ambulance services for basic life support.
5. I684/84 Consortium: The Town of North Salem has worked closely with the towns of Somers, Lewisboro and Bedford and with the NYS Department of Transportation on a study for the I684 corridor which impacts all of Northeastern Westchester County. These towns have been greatly impacted by the over use of our side roads to mitigate I684 traffic and as a group have had meetings with NYMTC and the NYS DOT regional director and our 93rd district representation is critical to our success.
6. Northeastern Westchester Wireless Study: To provide consistent phone access to our residents, as a group, North Salem, Bedford, Mount Kisco, Somers, Lewisboro and Pound Ridge have worked collectively on a Northeastern Wireless Study to support cell coverage and cell tower placement throughout our communities. This

RESOLUTION #51-23
TO OPPOSE THE DRAFT ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING PLAN PROPOSED BY THE
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REGARDING THE 93RD
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(continued)

was possible because of the close working relationship of our municipalities on a wide variety of consortiums and groups listed in this resolution.

7. Westchester Municipal Officials Association (WMOA) and Westchester Supervisor's Association (WPATS): The Town is heavily invested in our local Associations and we work with and educate each other on issues of concern working with; Bedford, North Castle, New Castle, Somers, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge and Mount Kisco in various issues. Because of New York State law, Westchester Towns are different and we do not share the same concerns or timelines with other Towns on items such as taxes collection and budgets; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Salem is an integral part of the core of the 93rd Assembly District; and

WHEREAS, the Town of North Salem has been a part of a northern Westchester Assembly District dating back as far as 1906; and

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission draft plan issued on or about December 1, 2022 that would remove the Town of North Salem from the 93rd Assembly District, resulting in irreparable harm and disruption to the strong ties and communities of interest which the Town of North Salem, its residents, its businesses and its community organizations enjoy and rely upon; and

WHEREAS, the draft plan would dismember the core of the 93rd Assembly by removing the Town of North Salem from it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of North Salem hereby strongly and emphatically opposes any removal of the Town of North Salem from the 93rd Assembly District since we have longstanding common interests with those municipalities within the 93rd Assembly District, disruption of which would be disastrous to the well-being and safety of our communities; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that for all of the reasons stated the Town Board of the Town of North Salem implores the Independent Redistricting Commission to retain the Town of North Salem in the 93rd Assembly District; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town Board of the Town of North Salem respectfully suggests to the Independent Redistricting Commission that the Commission consider substituting the draft Assembly plan with the 2022 Assembly district map presently in effect which fairly and equitably

RESOLUTION #51-23
TO OPPOSE THE DRAFT ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING PLAN PROPOSED BY THE
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION REGARDING THE 93RD
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

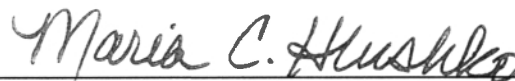
(continued)

fulfills all statutory redistricting requirements and criteria which the Independent Redistricting Commission is obligated to apply; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk of the Town of North Salem is hereby requested to forward a certified copy of this duly adopted resolution of the Town Board of the Town of North Salem to each member of the Independent Redistricting Commission, Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, NYS Senator Peter Harckham, NYS Assemblymember Chris Burdick, Congressman Michael Lawler and County Legislator Erika Pierce.

Supervisor Lucas - Aye
Councilman Aronchick – Aye
Councilwoman Daniels – Aye
Councilman Golisano – Aye
Councilman Kamenstein – Aye
Resolution Adopted.

I, Maria C. Hlushko, Town Clerk of the Town of North Salem, County of Westchester, State of New York, do certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Town Board of said Town at a meeting held on January 24, 2023.



Maria C. Hlushko, Town Clerk

THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, New York 10512
(845) 808-1020 Fax (845) 808-1933

Paul E. Jonke *Chairman*
Amy E. Sayegh *Deputy Chair*
Diane Schonfeld *Clerk*
Robert Firriolo *Counsel*



Nancy Montgomery	Dist. 1
William Gouldman	Dist. 2
Toni E. Addonizio	Dist. 3
Ginny Nacerino	Dist. 4
Greg E. Ellner	Dist. 5
Paul E. Jonke	Dist. 6
Joseph Castellano	Dist. 7
Amy E. Sayegh	Dist. 8
Erin L. Crowley	Dist. 9

January 27, 2023

Karen Blatt, Co-Executive Director
Douglas Breakell, Co-Executive Director
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission
Sent via Email

Dear Executive Directors Blatt and Breakell:

As members of the Putnam County Legislature, we are contacting New York State's Independent Redistricting Commission to encourage you to keep the existing boundaries for the state's 94th Assembly District.

Currently, the 94th District includes the Putnam County towns of Kent, Patterson, Southeast, Carmel and Putnam Valley and the Westchester County towns of Somers and Yorktown. We strongly believe this is the best and most appropriate design for this district and largely maintains the core of the existing district dating back to the 2002 redistricting.

This continuity of representation has well-served Putnam County and reflects the integrated economic and community interests of eastern Putnam County and the towns of Yorktown and Somers that are physically connected by Route 202 and Route 6. Moreover, we believe it is extremely important to keep the Town of Carmel and the hamlet of Mahopac whole.

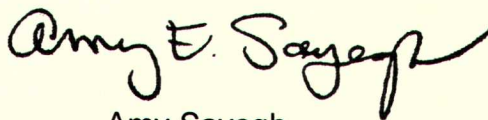
As you complete your deliberations and issue your revised plan for the State Assembly, we ask that you reconsider the design included within your initial draft and restore the existing boundaries for the 94th State Assembly District to reflect the traditional communities of interest that were separated in the initial draft.

As a growing county with a diverse economy, we strongly believe this request is in the best interest of the entire county and we hope that it is reflected in the final legislation sent to the State Legislature for its consideration.

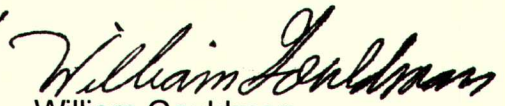
Sincerely,



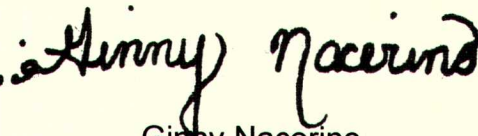
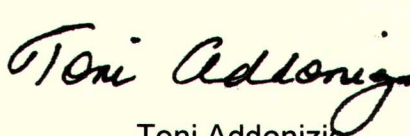
Paul E. Jonke
Chairman
Legislator, District #6



Amy Sayegh
Deputy Chairwoman
Legislator, District #8



William Gouldman
Legislator, District #2

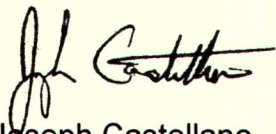


Toni Addonizio
Legislator, District #3

Ginny Nacerino
Legislator, District #4



Greg Ellner
Legislator, District #5



Joseph Castellano
Legislator, District #7



Erin Crowley
Legislator, District #9

Hyde Park

100

oyd

POUGHKEEPSIE

104

Beekman

East Fishkill

105

Beacon

Patterson

dsor

Kent Hills

Carmel

094

Putnam Valley

Somers

Verbaan

From: [reagan.mcgovern](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 7:01:13 PM

Dear Commissioners:

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be reunited, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

ROBERT R. D'AMELIO
MAYOR
VILLAGE OF WEST HAVERSTRAW

February 3, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Village of West Haverstraw, I'm writing to express my concerns of changes to the boundary lines of State Assembly District 96. As you are aware, this district is comprised of the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown of which we've shared representation of an Assembly member.

As the Mayor in a Village of nearly 11,000 constituents I'm disheartened and frankly perplexed at the notion of a redistricting map which would not only divide the two towns but even divide areas of the Town of Haverstraw. A redistricting such as the one proposed would be detrimental to the Community of Interest.

The Town of Haverstraw with the Villages of Haverstraw and West Haverstraw, share in a common citizenship that spans generations. The 2020 Census shows the diversity of our community. And despite this diversity, the Town and two Villages have a town-wide identity. The Town and Villages co-sponsor dozens of community events that promote unity and celebrate our cultures and backgrounds. The municipalities host a United Latin Festival, Juneteenth Celebration in conjunction with the Haverstraw African American Connection, multiple Dancing Under the Stars, Dominican Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony in conjunction with the Quisqueya Sports Club of Haverstraw, LGBTQ+ Flag Raising Ceremony, Badges for Baseball, Fourth of July Fireworks and Celebration to name a few. The municipalities continually work with local organizations to provide free meals for those in need on Thanksgiving and Christmas. All of these events, celebrations and happenings are attended by the entire Town.

The two Villages and the Town share one police department, school district, waste water treatment system, recreational facilities, paramedics and ambulance corps. The municipalities work together to provide these services to all of its constituents. Together our voice and representation of our shared Assemblymember has brought much needed grants and programs to our residents.

The Town of Haverstraw has an identity within Rockland County. Rockland is the smallest geographical County in NY outside the five boroughs. Haverstraw should be kept within a Rockland Assembly district that is substantially similar the core of the existing district.

The current map completely ignores the core of the existing district. Haverstraw has not only been unified but has been with Clarkstown in an Assembly district for many decades. The two towns have become a broader community of interest. Just as the above services are shared in Haverstraw, the Town of Clarkstown and Town of Haverstraw share municipal services as well. Such services include segments of Police, Highway, Ambulance and Fire Departments. It is important that the commission preserve the core of the existing district. It has led to efficient representation for the residents of these towns and it creates a compact district. Breaking up the Town of Haverstraw and Town of Clarkstown from an Assembly district would be detrimental to decades of precedent and hurt representation for the constituents.

I urge the Commission to consider the Communities of Interest for the Village of West Haverstraw and leave Assembly District 96 boundary lines intact.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D'Amelio", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert R. D'Amelio
Mayor

From: [Karen Blatt](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Fwd: My thoughts about the redistricting proposal
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023 10:58:31 AM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robyn Stein <stein.robyn@gmail.com>
Date: February 16, 2023 at 10:07:06 AM EST
To: Karen Blatt <blattk@nyirc.gov>, Douglas Breakell <breakelld@nyirc.gov>
Subject: **My thoughts about the redistricting proposal**

Dear Karen and Douglas,

I am writing with concern and opposition to your proposed redistricting. This is for several reasons.

- The proposed 107th AD is too large and sprawls across too many urban, suburban and truly rural areas. It violates the goal of compactness with borders stretching from the Dutchess County border north to the Washington County border and from the Massachusetts border west to the Delaware County border.
- Ancram and Gallatin are part of and need to remain part of Columbia County for representation. We don't want them separated as happened previously with Stockport and Stuyvesant.
- Columbia County as a whole has a stronger connection to the Hudson Valley than the Capital District and therefore should be paired with Dutchess County.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

--

Robyn L. Stein
Non-Profit Consultant | Professional Organizer

From: [Shari Maurer](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: District 96/98
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:46:22 PM

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to implore you not to use the proposed maps. I am currently in District 96, along with my entire town of Clarkstown. The new maps cut my section of town away from District 96 and puts it in District 98 which encompasses Western Rockland and Orange County.

This is extremely disruptive to our town. It's vital that we stay intact as a town. We have little in common with the communities we would now be grouped with, culturally, politically, and socioeconomically. I spend a lot of time in Orange County and the towns there are very different.

I hope that you will consider all of the comments you are receiving.

Sincerely,

[Shari Maurer](#)
16 Sundbury Drive
New City, NY 10956
[\(917\) 693-1343](#)

From: [Karen Blatt](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Fwd: Town of Carmel
Date: Sunday, February 5, 2023 9:01:37 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Susan Mahoney <susan@nambe.com>
Date: February 4, 2023 at 1:00:41 PM EST
To: Karen Blatt <blattk@nyirc.gov>
Subject: Town of Carmel

Hello

I would like to voice my opinion as a long time resident of Carmel that our town stay together in one state assembly district. I do not prefer which district it goes into but feel it is very important the town is not divided. Being divided would dilute the voices of citizens and has the potential to divide our community. There are many issues facing the modern world and our state so it is important for us to be unified as a community in Albany as important topics are debated and decided.

Thank you and best of luck working through this complex process.

Susan Mahoney
Srmahoney0@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sara](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: Haverstraw/Clarkstown Redistricting
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 8:17:54 PM

Dear Commissioners:

District 96 has contained the entire towns of Clarkstown and Haverstraw together for decades. The current proposed map separates the majority of these towns and breaks up each town into multiple districts. These two towns are similar and should be considered a broader community of interest together. There is a closeness in geography, community and issue concerns that unites these two towns. Decades of being in the same Assembly district has led to a successful and familiar representative model that is supported and relied upon. These towns should be re-united, in their entirety, in the Assembly map.

Sincerely,
Sara Tuciarone
West Haverstraw, NY

Supervisor - Robert Valentine

Town Board -

Antonio Ardisana
Robert Courtenay
Brandon D. Holdridge
Cynthia Smith

Town Justices -

Janet M. Haislip
Sharon Worthy-Spiegl

TOWN OF CHESTER

1786 Kings Highway
Chester, NY 10918

Tel: (845) 469-7000
Fax: (845) 469-9242
www.chester-ny.gov

Town Clerk - Linda A. Zappala

Highway Supt. - John Reilly, III

Receiver of Taxes - Vincent A. Maniscalco

Building Inspector - Alexa Burchianti

Assessor - John Schuler, III

Police Dept. - Daniel J. Doellinger, Chief

February 15, 2022

Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Redistricting of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find the resolution duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Chester on February 8, 2023 with regard to the redistricting of New York State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk

ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING RESOLUTION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to petition the Independent Redistricting Commission to include all of the Town of Chester, Orange County, within the same Assembly District in the 2023 redistricting lines of New York State.

DISCUSSION: The Town Board discussed how detrimental it would be to split the Town into two Assembly Districts. Councilman Holdridge explained in the proposed rough draft of the redrawn districts the Town of Chester would be divided into two districts, with the western and southern side in one district with Rockland County and the northern and eastern side in another with northern Orange County, which makes no sense geographically. He added having the same representation in the State Assembly is very important to our community. He said it is very difficult to have our small town's voice being heard with one Assembly District than to have two sides of Town having to go to different Assembly members to hear our needs for funding and legislation. Supervisor Valentine said Chester, size wise, is a small town compared to Montgomery or Warwick and dividing the Town in half makes no common sense. Councilman Courtenay said Goshen is living this outcome now with part being in the 98th Assembly District and another in the 101st Assembly District.

VOTE AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith

ADOPTED

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORANGE

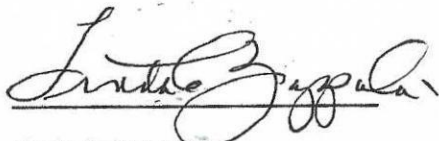
TOWN OF CHESTER

I, Linda A. Zappala, Town Clerk of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared the foregoing and is a true and correct copy of the extract of Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of the Town of Chester from the 8th day of February, 2023.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that each of the members of said Town Board had due notice of said meeting, and that Robert Valentine, Anthony Ardisana, Robert Courtenay, Brandon Holdridge, and Cynthia Smith, Councilpersons were present at such meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the seal of the Town of Chester, this 14th day of February, 2023.



Linda A. Zappala

Town Clerk



January 24, 2023

To the Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony.

I am a longtime resident of White Plains and currently serve on the White Plains Common Council. Council members represent the entire city, not particular sections, so we are very familiar with the many vibrant neighborhoods in our community, and the neighborhood associations that draw residents together.

Two of the most active neighborhood associations in White Plains represent Prospect Park and the Highlands. I understand the current proposal would divide these neighborhoods between two Assembly districts. I feel strongly that this would be a great disservice to the residents, who work as a neighborhood group on issues affecting them, and rely on the clarity of having a single Assembly member represent them.

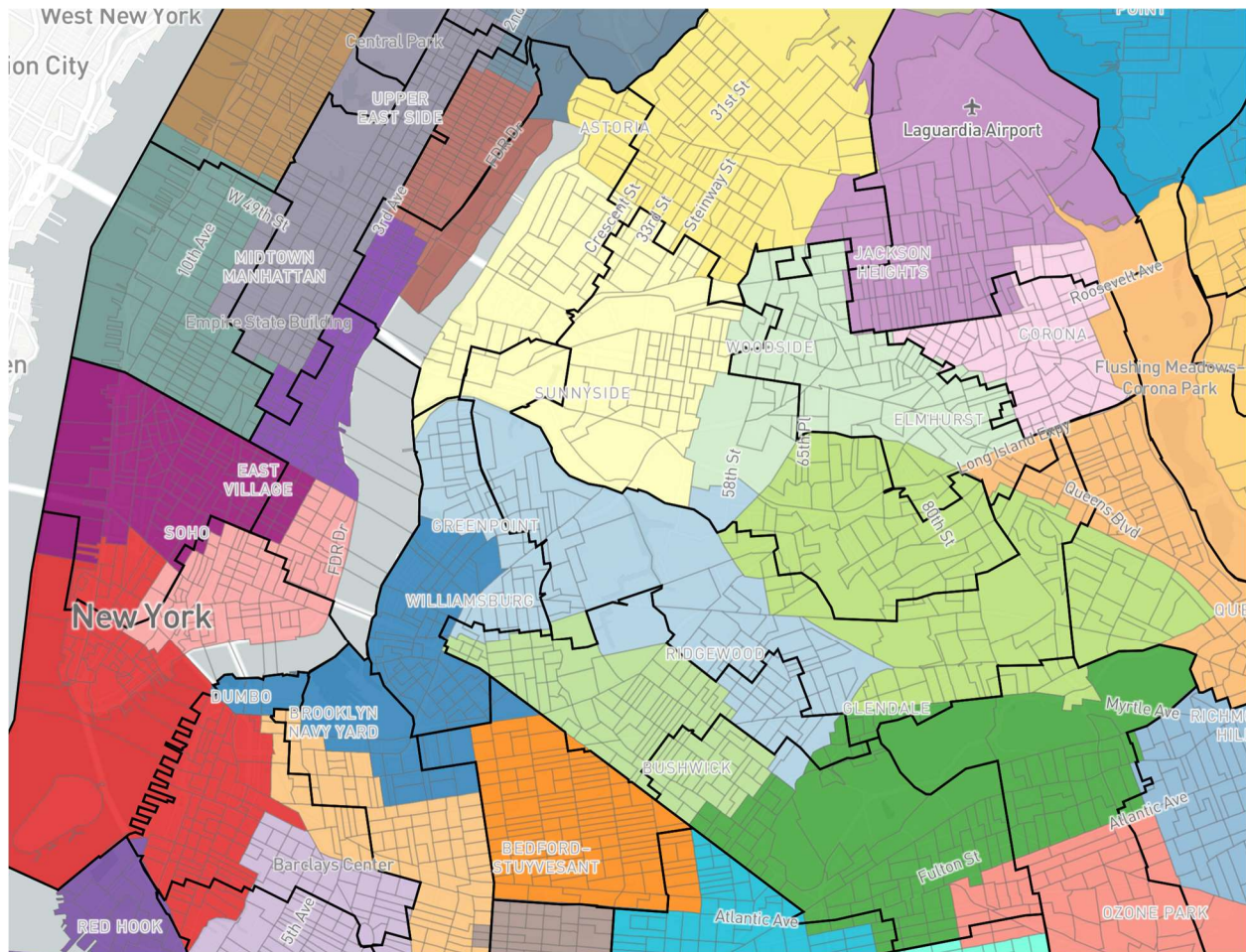
I would further argue that keeping these neighborhoods in the 88th AD makes more sense. White Plains has more in common with the southeast section of Westchester, including its nearest sister city, New Rochelle (and even the village of Scarsdale which was once a part of White Plains), than with the more rural villages to its north and west.

I know you are all trying hard to do the right thing, and none of you would identify with the cruel disdain of Robert Moses, whose municipal projects wantonly destroyed neighborhoods. But it does serve as a cautionary tale. Our neighborhoods are the vital organs that allow our municipal communities to thrive. Please do not take a scalpel to them.

Respectfully,
Victoria Free Presser
Member, White Plains Common Council
Chair, Mayor's Youth Board

My comments reference a map proposal which includes downstate districts from Long Island to the northern suburbs. The districts are all within a 5% population range and try to account for communities of interest. So I'm not suggesting anything impossible.

<https://districtr.org/plan/175151>



Districts 30, 34, 35, 39

Because the IRC received recent testimony from individuals and groups linked to incumbents, I feel compelled to correct the record. The IRC proposal for Districts 30, 35 and 39 fairly divides the area into compact districts. They allow Asian and Latino voters an opportunity to elect representatives of their own choice in Districts 30 and 39. You properly confined Astoria to District 34 and the Jackson Heights Historic District to District 35, preventing those much higher turnout gentrification transplants areas from overwhelming districts meant to protect extremely low turnout Latino and Asian immigrants in Elmhurst, Woodside and Corona.

The 2022 Legislature drawn map wasn't about improving Asian and Latino representation here, it was a blatant gerrymander that carved up our neighborhoods for the benefit of incumbents. And the so-called Unity Map proposal is just more of the same chicanery.

The District 39 drawn by the 2022 Legislature is shaped like a Y with prongs joining sections of Middle Village, Corona and Jackson Heights. These three very different areas are joined by a narrow corridor cutting through a heavily Chinese part of Elmhurst. The Middle Village prong of District 39 is clearly intended to crack a Republican leaning area of Queens. The Corona prong is the district's source of heavily Latino population. And the Jackson Heights prong is a densely populated historic district, whose garden co-op residents turn out heavily in Democratic primaries and thus decide local elections. The gerrymander only benefits the residents of that affluent subsection of Jackson Heights. Similarly, the 2022 lines for District 34 joined areas of Astoria to immigrant heavy sections of Jackson Heights and Corona. The arrangement drowned out low turnout immigrants with much higher turnout from gentrification transplants in Astoria. Adjacent District 35 joined East Elmhurst and LeFrak City, two distant and dissimilar areas. East Elmhurst is a middle-class homeowner community of one to three family homes. LeFrak City is a high rise apartment development with working class renters. Given the distance between these two areas, there isn't much interaction between residents. The 2022 Legislature map in western Queens is not compact and has no connection to any communities of interests.

Districts 23, 54

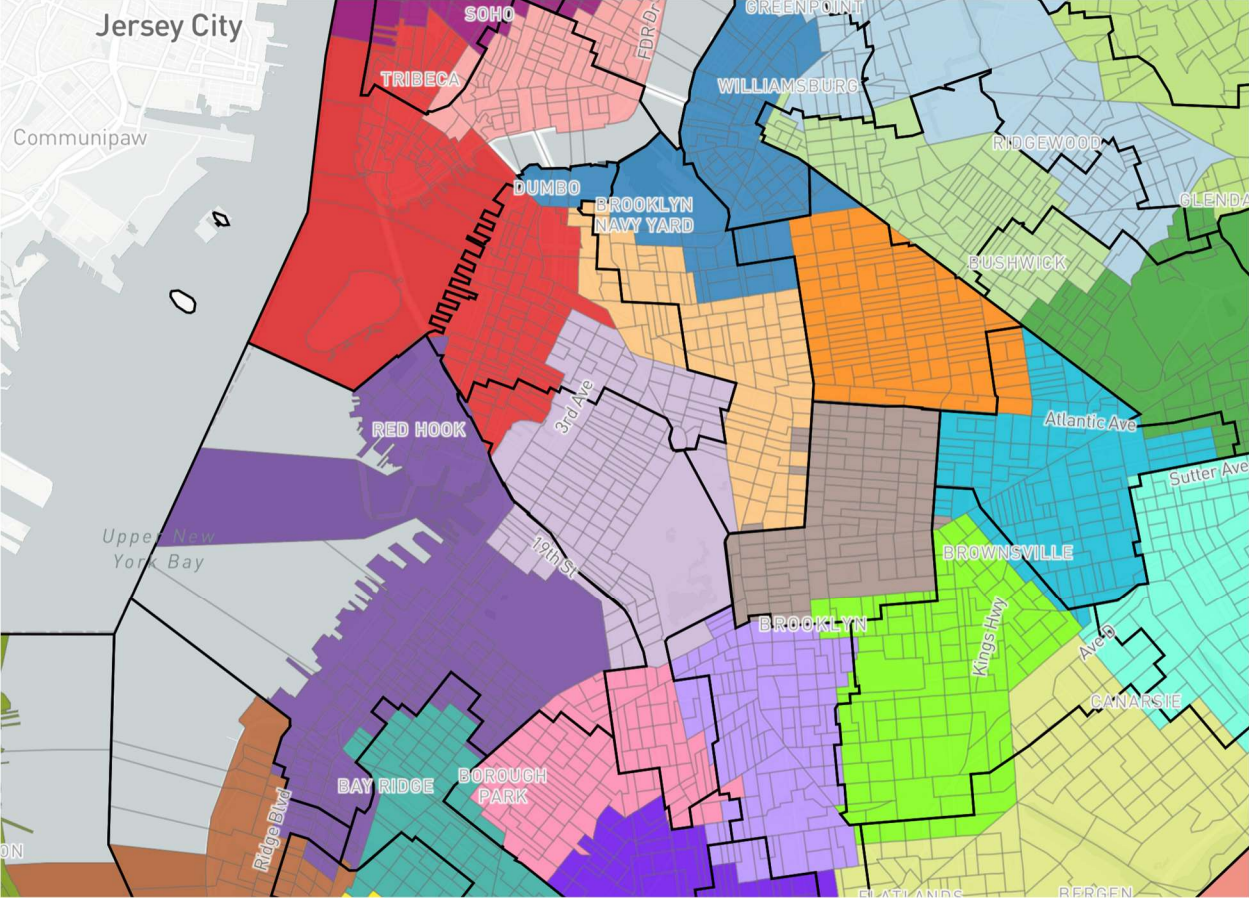
The IRC should consider joining Woodhaven and Cypress Hills in District 54 to create a district that's more weighted toward Latino homeowners. These adjacent areas along the BMT Jamaica Line have interests distinct from renters in Bushwick, which are already well represented by District 53.

That change would entail shifting the heavily Bangladeshi neighborhood of City Line to District 23, which makes sense as that community spans the Brooklyn-Queens border into western areas of Ozone Park. The Bangladeshi community straddles the borough line but they still shop at the same stores and attend the same mosques. Creating a borough crossing district there would help keep that community more intact.

District 44

Incumbents and their nonprofit affiliates keep pushing maps that join part of Park Slope to Kensington. Park Slope is an overwhelmingly wealthy White neighborhood. Splitting it between multiple districts extends its high turnout voter influence over a wider area. But what does it have in common with Kensington, a far more diverse neighborhood with working class Bangladeshi, Pakistani, West Indian, and Orthodox Jewish communities. How is Park Slope and Kensington a community of interest. Do South Asian immigrants travel north to shop at the Park Slope Food Coop. You have the Decennial Census and the American Community Survey data. Kensington's South Asian communities are growing within that neighborhood and southward along Coney Island Avenue toward Midwood. Kensington can just as easily be drawn into a Flatbush, Midwood or Borough Park based district given the overlapping communities.

Why shouldn't Park Slope voters be drawn into a single district with similar adjacent neighborhoods like Windsor Terrace, South Slope and Boerum Hill. Normally, neighborhoods and communities ask to be kept together as much as possible.



Westchester - Assembly Districts 88, 89, 90

Compact Assembly districts that protect minority voting rights are clearly feasible in southern Westchester. The IRC draft map harms the ability of minority voters to elect candidates of their own choice.

A natural majority Latino District 90 can be easily drawn in western Yonkers between the Hudson River and the New York Thruway. Your proposal, joining Mount Vernon to land along the Yonkers waterfront via a narrow corridor along the New York City border, divides the Latino community in western Yonkers, preventing the creation of a majority district.

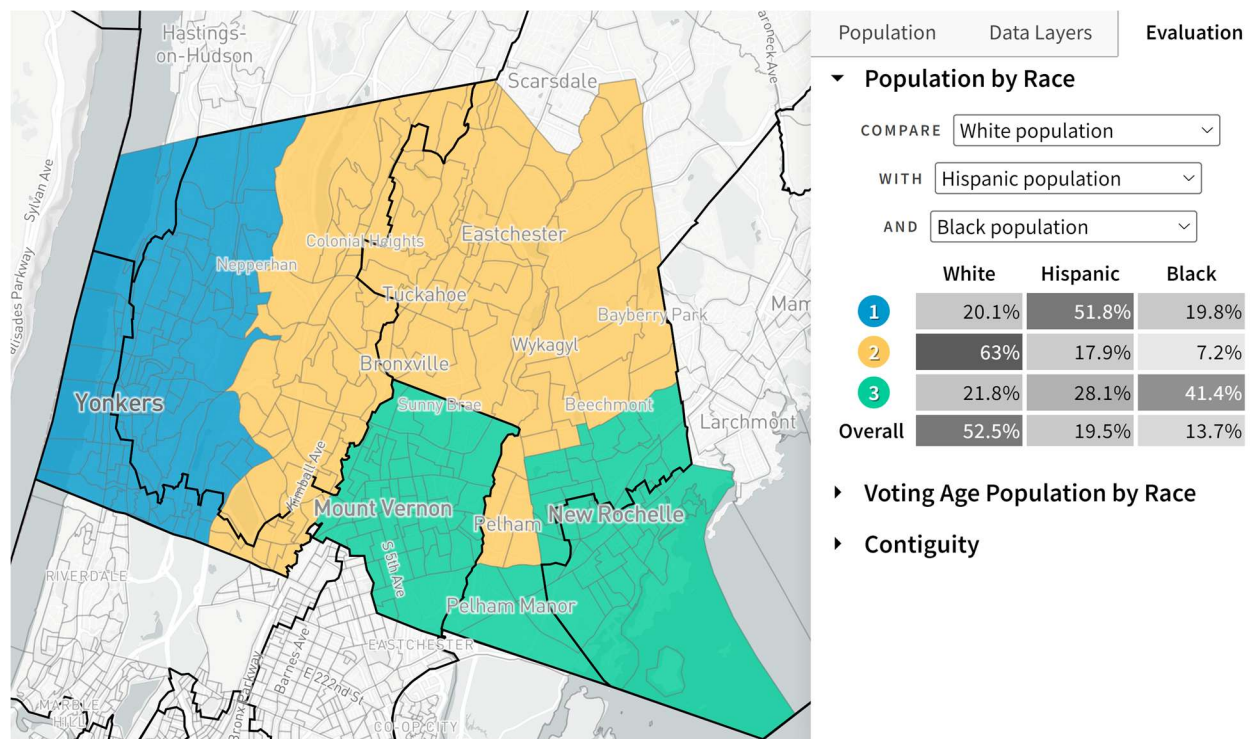
An effective Black opportunity district with near identical population can still be drawn by joining close Black communities in Mount Vernon and New Rochelle via Pelham Manor. The resulting district would be more compact than the current Assembly District 89.

Assembly District 88 should contain the land between these two voting rights districts. Eastern Yonkers, northern New Rochelle, Pelham, and Eastchester are largely affluent residential areas.

You have an obligation to protect minority voting rights. Please do the right thing.

DistrictR

<https://districtr.org/plan/171679>



WHITEMAN
OSTERMAN
& HANNA LLP

Attorneys at Law
www.woh.com

Michael G. Sterthous
Partner
518.487.7620
msterthous@woh.com

One Commerce Plaza
Albany, New York 12260
518.487.7600 phone
518.487.7777 fax

Robert S. Rosborough IV
Partner
518.487.7608 phone
rrosborough@woh.com

January 23, 2023

VIA Electronic Submission and FEDEX

Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: *New York Independent Redistricting Commission Proposed State Assembly Map*

Dear Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission,

Our firm represents the Town of Palm Tree and the Village of Kiryas Joel, and their government officials, who are also resident voters. The Town and Village are a coterminous municipalities located in Orange County, New York, which includes a majority of language minority voters. The Town of Palm Tree was established in 2020 from the division of the Town of Monroe and encompasses the entirety of the Village of Kiryas Joel.

We write to express our clients' grave concerns regarding the ongoing process to draw new redistricting maps for the State Assembly, following the litigation that invalidated the first Assembly map, and respectfully ask that you protect the constitutional rights of the minority language community that resides in and around the Town and Village when preparing revised maps.

It is important for the Commission to consider in this process that the redistricting maps that were previously adopted drew unconstitutional lines that not only violated the partisan gerrymandering prohibition in the New York Constitution, but also abridged language minority voting rights in southern Orange County. In particular, New York Constitution Article III, § 4(c)(1) specifically prohibits the creation of political districts that "result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights." Indeed, as the Constitution provides, political districts must be drawn to ensure that "minority language groups

do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice.” *Id.*

In the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove in southern Orange County, over the past ten years, a significant minority language community has grown that speaks English as a second language. In fact, there are approximately 50,000 residents who speak Yiddish as a first language who now live in these four municipalities. The Orthodox Jewish community in southern Orange County, nevertheless, has been either ignored or purposefully dispersed in the redistricting process that has resulted in splitting the Yiddish-speaking community in two and drastically reducing the opportunity of these residents to vote for representatives of their choice who will understand the unique issues that the community faces. Indeed, since the Orthodox Jewish community began to grow in southern Orange County in the 1970s and 1980s, Yiddish-speaking families, business people, and governmental officials have faced discrimination in almost every facet of their lives, including opposition to Orthodox Jewish religious practices, exclusionary zoning, and hindrances to the community’s access to reliable water sources and sewage treatment infrastructure, among many other issues.

In the face of this overt discrimination, many, if not most, local political leaders turned a blind eye to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community. The recent redistricting maps have split the Orthodox Jewish community in half by placing the Towns of Palm Tree and Monroe in a different election district than the neighboring adjacent Towns of Woodbury and Blooming Grove. Aside from the establishment of the new town, nothing else has changed to warrant the new drastically different election district dividing line.

This specific and seemingly intentional division of the Yiddish-speaking community has drastically impaired these minority language voters’ rights. The Commission must rectify this wrong, keeping the language minority population in the Orthodox Jewish community in the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a single district to ensure that they have the same opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Indeed, if the Orthodox Jewish community were to remain in divided election districts, election material, including political pamphlets, flyers, petitions, and ballots, among others, would have to be split up into multiple campaigns, making it much more difficult to reach the voters, resulting in further potential impairment of voting rights.

Most importantly, the same proposed division of the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County was rejected earlier this year by the Special Master tasked with drawing the new State Senate and Congress maps after the New York Court of Appeals’ decision in *Harkenrider v Hochul*. As we explained during that process, and the Special Master recognized, dividing the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County would once again contravene the substantive dictates of the New York Constitution, and would drastically impair the voting rights of that community. A copy of our prior comments regarding the State Senate and Congressional maps are enclosed for your convenience. Indeed, currently elected leaders have begun to use the proposed division of the Yiddish-speaking community in the Assembly map as a basis for an attempt to control land use and annexation of land between municipalities in the area and to foreclose the residents of Palm Tree from having any say in these decisions, the outcome of which could drastically affect their State-protected real property rights. One

Senator, for example, has even made the legally untenable claim that the division of the Yiddish-speaking community in the Assembly map would prevent any future annexations of land from or to the divided communities. Plainly, the proposed Assembly map division of the Yiddish-speaking community in southern Orange County promotes, rather than discourages, these discriminatory efforts, and should again be rejected.

Given that the Special Master specifically rejected a proposed division of Yiddish-speaking voters in the State Senate and Congress redistricting maps, we would respectfully request that the Commission likewise place the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in the State Assembly district where they have finally, after years of ineffective representation by the minority party, successfully elected a representative in the Assembly majority, in an extremely close race that had almost 40,000 voters, who can effectively represent the Yiddish-speaking voters' needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Sterthous". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "M" and "S".

Michael G. Sterthous
Robert S. Rosborough IV

Enclosure

WHITEMAN
OSTERMAN
& HANNA LLP

Attorneys at Law
www.woh.com

Michael G. Sterthous
Partner
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msterthous@woh.com

One Commerce Plaza
Albany, New York 12260
518.487.7600 phone
518.487.7777 fax

Robert S. Rosborough IV
Partner
518.487.7608 phone
rrosborough@woh.com

April 29, 2022

VIA NYSCEF

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

Re: *Harkenrider, et al. v. Hochul, et al.*
Index No. E2022-0116CV

Dear Judge McAllister and Dr. Jonathan Cervas,

Our firm represents the Town of Palm Tree and the Village of Kiryas Joel, and their government officials. The Town and Village is a coterminous municipality located in Orange County, New York, which includes a majority of language minority voters. The Town of Palm Tree was established in 2020 from the division of the Town of Monroe and encompasses the entirety of the Village of Kiryas Joel. We write to express our clients' grave concerns regarding the ongoing process to draw new redistricting maps for the State Senate and Congress, following the Court of Appeals' decision to invalidate the first set of maps, and respectfully ask that you protect the constitutional rights of the minority language community that resides in and around the Town and Village when preparing revised maps.

It is important for the Special Master to consider in this process that the redistricting maps that were previously adopted drew unconstitutional lines that not only violated the partisan gerrymandering prohibition in the New York Constitution, but also abridged language minority voting rights in southern Orange County. In particular, New York Constitution Article III, § 4(c)(1) specifically prohibits the creation of political districts that "result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights." Indeed, as the Constitution provides, political districts must be drawn to ensure that "minority language groups

do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice.” *Id.*

In the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove in southern Orange County, over the past ten years, a significant minority language community has grown that speaks English as a second language. In fact, there are approximately 50,000 Yiddish-speaking residents who now live in these four municipalities. The Orthodox Jewish community in southern Orange County, nevertheless, has been either ignored or purposefully dispersed in the redistricting process that has resulted in splitting the Yiddish-speaking community in two and drastically reducing the opportunity of these residents to elect representatives of their choice who will understand the unique issues that the community faces. Indeed, since the Orthodox Jewish community began to grow in southern Orange County in the 1970s and 1980s, Yiddish-speaking families, business people, and governmental officials have faced discrimination in almost every facet of their lives, including opposition to Orthodox Jewish religious practices, exclusionary zoning, and hindrances to the community’s access to reliable water sources and sewage treatment infrastructure, among many other issues.

In the face of this overt discrimination, many, if not most, local political leaders turned a blind eye to the needs of the Orthodox Jewish community. The recent redistricting maps have split the Orthodox Jewish community in half by placing the Town of Palm Tree in a different election district than the neighboring adjacent Towns of Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove. For the nearly 40 years prior to the establishment of the Town of Palm Tree, the voters in the Village of Kiryas Joel, which was then located within the Town of Monroe and is now in Palm Tree, were part of the same election district as the rest of the minority language community in Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove. Aside from the establishment of the new town, nothing else has changed to warrant the new drastically different election district dividing line.

This specific and seemingly intentional division of the Yiddish-speaking community has drastically impaired these minority language voters’ rights. With the courts now overseeing the redrawing of the State Senate and Congressional districts to correct the unconstitutional gerrymander, the Special Master must rectify this wrong, keeping the language minority population in the Orthodox Jewish community in the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a single district to ensure that they have the same opportunity to elect representatives of their choice. Indeed, if the Orthodox Jewish community were to remain in divided election districts, election material, including political pamphlets, flyers, petitions, and ballots, among others, would have to be split up into multiple campaigns, making it much more difficult to reach the voters.

Given that the Town of Palm Tree’s voters have already been arbitrarily placed in a State Assembly minority district in the map that was not challenged in this litigation, and thus will not change, we would respectfully request that the Special Master place the Towns of Palm Tree, Monroe, Woodbury, and Blooming Grove together in a State Senate majority district where they have been for the last 40-plus years since the founding of the Village of Kiryas Joel. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Rosborough IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning and a horizontal line at the end.

Michael G. Sterthous
Robert S. Rosborough IV

cc: All counsel (via NYSCEF)

FRANCIS CAPE

358 Gables Road, Narrowsburg NY 12764
utopianbenches@gmail.com ~ 917-856-4245

5th February 2023,

Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Proposed Assembly Map for District 100

The proposed map for the redistricting of District 100 cuts Sullivan County, where I live, off from Orange County, and instead connects it with areas north of the Catskill mountains.

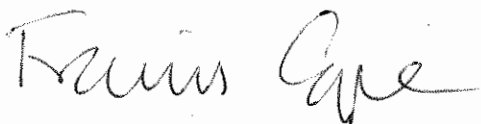
The Catskill mountains are not only a geographic barrier. Sullivan County is treated by many institutions and organizations as part of the mid-Hudson region.

I am a volunteer with the Tusten Volunteer Ambulance Service and we come under the Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council. For care that is not available in Sullivan County we transport patients to Garnet Health in Middletown. Garnet Health runs the only hospitals in Sullivan County as well as that in Middletown. We never transport patients north of the Catskills.

I write of the specific health service with which I am involved to give you but one example of the connections between Orange and Sullivan counties. There are many others involving business as well as public services. I know of no such connections between Sullivan county and the north side of the Catskills.

Please reconsider the proposed map and keep our political connection with Orange county to go along with so many others links.

Yours,



Francis Cape

Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

I write to you regarding the Independent Redistricting Commission's (IRC) proposed maps for the New York State Assembly.

I was disappointed to see that the IRC proposed separating the City of Middletown and the Town of Wallkill from Sullivan County in the current 100th Assembly District. While the immediate Middletown area may be located in Orange County, many people in Sullivan County go to Middletown to see their doctor, do their shopping, or visit loved ones. We are inextricably linked.

Although much of Sullivan County is rural, it also has significant population centers along the Route 17 corridor that are economically tied to Orange County. Even Sullivan County's rural communities along the Delaware River share more similarities with Orange County than they do with those in Delaware County.

Sullivan County has seen tremendous growth in recent years due to the influx of people from New York City, and it is important that our community leaders have the opportunity to continue building upon this success. The Middletown area has been in the same Assembly district as the majority of Sullivan County for decades; it would be a mistake for these communities to be separated now. I urge you to reconsider these district lines and keep intact the 100th Assembly District.

Diane Kula

11 Doreenfeld Drive

P.O. Box 267

Kaunongah Lake, NY 12749

*Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007*

I am writing with regard to the proposed Assembly Maps, in particular Assembly District 100.

While pleased to see that the Towns of Neversink and Fremont would be added back into the district, I'm concerned that the northeast corner of the Town of Mamakating would be separated from the district. Sullivan County is about 970 square miles in size with a population that is suburban, rural and in places densely populated. We share a strong sense of community that spans and embraces our diversity.

It's a great concern that Sullivan County would be separated from the City of Middletown and the Town of Walkill. We are inextricably linked economically, socially and in regional identity. Both Sullivan and Orange Counties are in the Mid Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and are considered to be in the same region by many other government and business entities, including the majority of our health care system. Patients are sent to Middletown and Westchester, not north to Cooperstown and Binghamton. We are both in the NYC media market which gives us a shared informational, economic, and cultural connection to New York City. We share a busy and populated Route 17 corridor on which our residents travel southeast to work, play and visit relatives. Historically, many of our long time "local" population migrated to Sullivan County from NYC and from Orange County. Currently, there is a large second home population of Metropolitan area residents who stop in Middletown to shop on their way to their homes in Sullivan County. Route 17 connects us all.

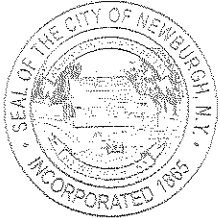
It is important that our community leaders continue to be able to work together to continue to benefit its residents. Over the years it's been a successful collaboration which has resulted in a great deal of growth for the region. It's important to build on that success. It would be a mistake to separate these communities now.

I urge you to keep the 100th Assembly district intact and to include our Towns of Neversink and Fremont in the district.

Sincerely,

Andrea Reynosa

Callicoon, New York



CITY OF NEWBURGH

Office of the Mayor

83 Broadway, Newburgh, New York 12550

(845) 569-7305/Fax (845) 569-7370

www.cityofnewburgh-nv.gov

Mayor Torrance R. Harvey

Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Proposed Redistricting for the 104th Assembly District

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about the proposed Assembly lines.

As you are aware, the cities of Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Beacon are in the existing 104th Assembly District. I am writing to request that these three cities be kept in the same district going forward.

These three cities sit on the banks of the Hudson River with less than twenty miles separating Beacon and Newburgh from Poughkeepsie in the north. They share a common history, similar demographics, and many of the same challenges.

Separated only by the two-mile span of the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge, Beacon and Newburgh are considered “sister” cities with residents going to and from each city for their shopping, entertainment and medical needs. The hospital closest to Beacon is Montefiore St. Luke’s Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh.

All three cities have significant African American and Latino populations with a high proportion of low-income families whose secondary school students qualify for free meals. While economic development in each of the cities is at different stages, the cities have historically faced similar headwinds.

Today, all three cities struggle from a lack of affordable housing and sufficient local employment opportunities. Residents of these cities face similar health-related environmental issues, including high asthma rates, and their futures are tied to the health and well-being of the Hudson River.

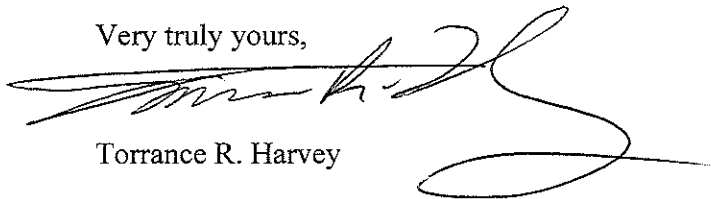
As mayor of the City of Newburgh, my ability to govern is strengthened when I can work in tandem with the mayors of Beacon and Poughkeepsie.

By keeping the three cities in the same Assembly district, our elected representative can better advocate for Newburgh, because our concerns are tied to those of Beacon and Poughkeepsie. Should these cities be separated, our voices—particularly those of our minority populations—will be diluted and our influence diminished.

It is for these reasons and more that I believe the three cities have been kept in the same district for so long – over 40 years. It is for these reasons and more that I hope they will continue to remain together.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Torrance R. Harvey', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Torrance R. Harvey

Supervisor - Robert Valentine

Town Board -

Antonio Ardisana
Robert Courtenay
Brandon D. Holdridge
Cynthia Smith

Town Justices -

Janet M. Haislip
Sharon Worthy-Spiegl

TOWN OF CHESTER

1786 Kings Highway
Chester, NY 10918

Tel: (845) 469-7000
Fax: (845) 469-9242
www.chester-ny.gov

Town Clerk - Linda A. Zappala

Highway Supt. - John Reilly, III

Receiver of Taxes - Vincent A. Maniscalco

Building Inspector - Alexa Burchianti

Assessor - John Schuler, III

Police Dept. - Daniel J. Doellinger, Chief

February 15, 2022

Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Redistricting of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find the resolution duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Chester on February 8, 2023 with regard to the redistricting of New York State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Linda A. Zappala
Town Clerk

ASSEMBLY REDISTRICTING RESOLUTION

ON A MOTION OFFERED BY Councilman Holdridge and second by Councilman Courtenay to petition the Independent Redistricting Commission to include all of the Town of Chester, Orange County, within the same Assembly District in the 2023 redistricting lines of New York State.

DISCUSSION: The Town Board discussed how detrimental it would be to split the Town into two Assembly Districts. Councilman Holdridge explained in the proposed rough draft of the redrawn districts the Town of Chester would be divided into two districts, with the western and southern side in one district with Rockland County and the northern and eastern side in another with northern Orange County, which makes no sense geographically. He added having the same representation in the State Assembly is very important to our community. He said it is very difficult to have our small town's voice being heard with one Assembly District than to have two sides of Town having to go to different Assembly members to hear our needs for funding and legislation. Supervisor Valentine said Chester, size wise, is a small town compared to Montgomery or Warwick and dividing the Town in half makes no common sense. Councilman Courtenay said Goshen is living this outcome now with part being in the 98th Assembly District and another in the 101st Assembly District.

VOTE AYES (5): Valentine, Ardisana, Courtenay, Holdridge, Smith

ADOPTED

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ORANGE

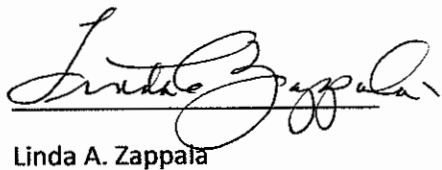
TOWN OF CHESTER

I, Linda A. Zappala, Town Clerk of the Town of Chester, Orange County, New York,

DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared the foregoing and is a true and correct copy of the extract of Minutes of the Town Board Meeting of the Town of Chester from the 8th day of February, 2023.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that each of the members of said Town Board had due notice of said meeting, and that Robert Valentine, Anthony Ardisana, Robert Courtenay, Brandon Holdridge, and Cynthia Smith, Councilpersons were present at such meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the seal of the Town of Chester, this 14th day of February, 2023.



Linda A. Zappala

Town Clerk

Feb 12, 23

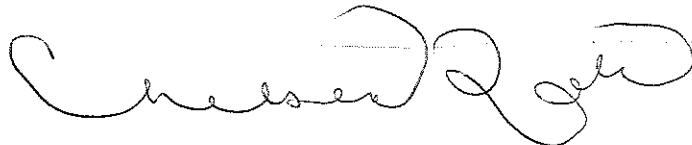
Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007

I write to you regarding the Independent Redistricting Commission's (IRC) proposed maps for the New York State Assembly.

I was disappointed to see that the IRC proposed separating the City of Middletown and the Town of Wallkill from Sullivan County in the current 100th Assembly District. While the immediate Middletown area may be located in Orange County, many people in Sullivan County go to Middletown to see their doctor, do their shopping, or visit loved ones. We are inextricably linked.

Although much of Sullivan County is rural, it also has significant population centers along the Route 17 corridor that are economically tied to Orange County. Even Sullivan County's rural communities along the Delaware River share more similarities with Orange County than they do with those in Delaware County.

Sullivan County has seen tremendous growth in recent years due to the influx of people from New York City, and it is important that our community leaders have the opportunity to continue building upon this success. The Middletown area has been in the same Assembly district as the majority of Sullivan County for decades; it would be a mistake for these communities to be separated now. I urge you to reconsider these district lines and keep intact the 100th Assembly District.



334-403-9343

ChelseaRoth@gmail.com

*Attention: Submissions
Independent Redistricting Commission
250 Broadway, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007*

I am writing with regard to the proposed Assembly Maps, in particular Assembly District 100.

While pleased to see that the Towns of Neversink and Fremont would be added back into the district, I'm concerned that the northeast corner of the Town of Mamakating would be separated from the district. Sullivan County is about 970 square miles in size with a population that is suburban, rural and in places densely populated. We share a strong sense of community that spans and embraces our diversity.

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It is important that our community leaders continue to be able to work together to continue to benefit its residents. Over the years it's been a successful collaboration which has resulted in a great deal of growth for the region. It's important to build on that success. It would be a mistake to separate these communities now.

I urge you to keep the 100th Assembly district intact and to include our Towns of Neversink and Fremont in the district.

Diane Kula

11 Doremfield Drive

P.O. Box 367

Kaunongwa Lake, NY 12749

HOWARD PHILLIPS
SUPERVISOR
TOWN OF HAVERSTRAW

February 2, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you to express my deep-seated concerns regarding any changes to the current boundary lines of Assembly District 96. This district has always been comprised of the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown, where we have enjoyed the representation of 1 Assembly person together. On behalf of the people of Haverstraw, who I have represented in different capacities for over 40 years, we are urging you not to divide our Towns in the new redistricting map. We understand that there was even one plan that would have divided the Town of Haverstraw. This would be completely contrary to the Community of Interest.

The Town of Haverstraw, with the Villages of Haverstraw and West Haverstraw, share in a common citizenship since our inception. We have enjoyed being the gateway to every immigrant group coming to America. We are a true melting pot throughout our Town. The Town of Haverstraw's services are intertwined with the Villages of Haverstraw, West Haverstraw and parts of the Village of Pomona. We share the same school district, police department, wastewater treatment system, recreation facilities and activities, paramedics and ambulance corps. Together, the Town and Villages host many events with the school district such as the Latin Festival, Latin Night, Black History Month, Juneteenth, Dancing Under the Stars, North Rockland Family Charity Sports Day and North Rockland Community 5K Fun Run (where we have raised over \$350,000 for families in need in the Haverstraw community), the North Rockland Youth Police Academy, Badges for Baseball, Fourth of July Fireworks and Celebration, Dominican Independence Day Flag Raising Ceremony, free meals for those in need on Thanksgiving and Christmas hosted by the Town and two Villages

and our Annual Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Corps Recognition Evening.

We have taken great pains to ensure our Police Department represents our Haverstraw community. We have one of the most diverse Police Departments in the State of New York. We have sponsored Drug Court which has been extremely successful, which gives youth a second chance, Youth Explorer's where Officers meet with the youth of our community and volunteer for different events and two School Resource Officers who on a daily basis interact with the students of all nationalities in our schools. Our Youth Officer works with students and families on different challenges that they are having in our community. Unlike other communities, Haverstraw's Town and Villages have provided affordable housing for young couples, senior citizens and families, more than any other Town in Rockland County. We are the only Town that passed the Tenant Protection Act in three major apartment complexes.

We have always had an excellent working relationship with the Town of Clarkstown. We have shared many municipal services together. Some of these services are Police, Highway, recreation, paramedics, ambulance corps. and fire departments. Together our voice and representation of our shared Assembly person has brought much needed grants and programs to our residents. To undo this would significantly impact our minority population which depends upon these services that have been provided by our Assembly person. If the Commission cares about the representation of a community that is one of the most diverse in the State of New York, you will leave our Assembly District boundary lines intact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard T. Phillips, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

HOWARD T. PHILLIPS, JR.
Supervisor

February 2, 2023

Dear Commissioners:

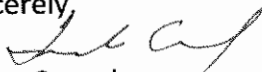
As a lifelong resident in the Town of Haverstraw and a twenty-five year elected official to the Haverstraw Town Board, I am writing this letter regarding any possible changes to the current lines of Assembly District 96. We share boundaries with the Town of Clarkstown. Our Assemblyman has done an excellent job representing and advocating for the needs of our residents in Albany.

The Town of Haverstraw is made up of the Village of Haverstraw, West Haverstraw, and the Village of Pomona. The Town of Haverstraw has always been a welcoming town throughout its history to immigrants seeking a better life in the United States and the State of New York. Our most recent immigrants are from Latin America. My parents and family came to New York from Puerto Rico in 1950. We have a community with great resources, good schools, and an excellent police department that reflexes the makeup of the citizens in the community. Our ambulance and fire departments provide twenty-four seven services to our residents on a voluntary basis.

The elected officials have always been responsive to the needs of our community. Our Assemblyman is well known to our residents and they are aware of all the help and aid he has provided to our town and villages. He continues to work to secure more school aid for our districts which helps the community with school taxes. Throughout the Town of Haverstraw our roads, sidewalks and parks, volunteer fire departments and ambulance corps all benefitted from grants obtained by Our Assemblyman. It is so important to our town that we continue this tremendous working relationship with our Assemblyman and maintain Assembly 96 boundary lines intact.

Our diverse community shares many events throughout the year to celebrate their heritage and accomplishments. These events bring people together to form a strong commitment to community. Our Assembly District 96 must continue to remain it its current boundary lines so that the residents of the Town and Villages will continue to enjoy all the government has to offer to them and their families, so they can live productive lives in our Town and state. Let's keep our district 96 in its present format to benefit all the people who live there. As the saying goes, "if it's not broke, don't fix it".

Sincerely,



Isidro Cancel
Deputy Supervisor

NYIRC Testimony - Laura Ying Liu
Given on 2/7/2023 at the Hunter College Hearing

Good afternoon!

Thank you to all the Commissioners for your service! And thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Laura Liu. I have been a resident of Scarsdale in Westchester County since 2009. I strongly support keeping the Edgemont area of Greenburgh in District 88, which also includes Scarsdale. I understand that the 2022 Assembly Map is provisional, and would like to urge the Commission to keep Edgemont in District 88 permanently at the end of the provisional period.

As an active member in the community, I currently serve on the Board of the Scarsdale Public Library, multiple school committees as well as Asian American and Pacific Islander, or AAPI community groups. Edgemont and Scarsdale share a long border, the same train station, same demographics, same local newspaper, and the same zip code. There is a long history of these two areas being highly cohesive sister neighborhoods, and they are essentially one and the same housing market.

More importantly, Edgemont and Scarsdale combined have the largest AAPI community in all of Westchester County. It will be hugely beneficial to have Edgemont and Scarsdale together in one district, so we can have the same representation in the state legislature and our community can work together and actively engage in public life. Nationwide and statewide, the AAPI communities are underrepresented in civic and political spaces. As relative newcomers to these spaces, AAPI voices are just beginning to be recognized. In the face of anti-Asian hate sentiments and geopolitical tensions globally, our community faces many severe challenges. The stereotype to see all Asians as perpetual foreigners, not full Americans, still affects many people. In suburban areas, our numbers are nowhere near as large as in the city, so it's even more important not to divide and dilute us. It's great that we have many bustling Asian businesses here, ranging from restaurants, groceries to professional services, and many cultural organizations, language schools, and houses of worship. But we have low representation on town boards and councils, neighborhood associations, voter engagement and many other areas of public life. I can't overstate the value of keeping this community of interest together. It will be a big boost to community engagement.

In closing, I would like to urge the Commission to make it permanent that Edgemont stays in District 88.