

From: Jamie Z [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 6:11 PM
To: Redistricting <Redistricting@albanycountyny.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED] Guilderland

Redistricting commission,

Please see an attached map file with my suggested changes for the Town of Guilderland, where I live and own a home. I did not presume to know enough about the neighborhoods of other towns, so I did not make any changes to other districts. Please ignore those districts in my attached map. If you would like me to submit my map through the online system anyway, I can do that if you ask.

First, let me thank the commission for their hard work on something that isn't easy. Someone will always be dissatisfied with any new districts. However, I'm only submitting this map and feedback because I believe the Town of Guilderland was redistricted poorly in the draft map.

My main concerns with the draft map:

- * District 28 is the worst place to pull people from Colonie (where there was population growth) into a neighboring district. This proposed district is two separate populations (1/2 Guilderland 1/2 Colonie) in unreachable areas from one another. The only way to reach the other half of the district from Guilderland is to either walk across the thruway, leave Albany County into Schenectady County using 890 for a 10 minute drive, or leave the district and drive all the way to New Karner Rd for a 15 minute drive. This may fit the compact definition using a computer model, but it doesn't fit the definition in the real world. This district is two towns and three school districts with a highway dividing one half from the other half.

- * Guilderland is pulled into too many districts with the majority population outside of the town. Under the current districts, four districts are wholly within the Town and one is half in the town and half in Knox/Berne. This fits perfectly with Guilderland's population and the number of districts countywide. Under the draft map, there are only three districts wholly within the Town and five districts in the town split population with another city/town. I don't see any other town where this occurred.

Under my map proposal, Guilderland goes back to just five districts. All of the districts have an under 2% population deviation.

- * District 32 in particular makes sense because north Bethlehem has more in common with Mckownville than the City of Albany. Those streets are all within the Guilderland School District. This district is also more compact than the draft or the current districts.

- * District 30 maintains its core of Westmere and is much more compact than either the draft or current districts. This district also has the highest percentage of Asian residents of any district in the county, and that is a rapidly growing population.

- * District 28 remains an Albany Pine Bush / eastern Fort Hunter district.
- * District 29 remains a western Fort Hunter district and uses Route 146 as a southern border, no longer including any of Guilderland Center.
- * District 31 is an Altamont / rural Guilderland / Town of Knox district, drawn cleanly with Normans Kill as an eastern border.

I urge the commission to consider these changes in the Town of Guilderland, especially avoiding the Guilderland/Colonie district 28 in the draft map.

Thank you,

James Z [REDACTED]
Town of Guilderland