

Albany County Redistricting Commission

Sent via e-mail to redistrictingcommission@albanycountyny.gov

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First, I first want to congratulate the ACRC on your dedication and determination in producing the first draft of the maps for the Albany County Legislature. Your open discussions and dedication to having fair, nonpartisan maps for Albany County should be commended.

I would just like to make a few points about the ACRC's initial draft map and where I see it could be improved as it seems to make some arbitrary decisions in splitting several communities of interest. I will only be commenting on districts in the western and southern part of Albany County (Hilltowns, New Scotland, Coeymans and Bethlehem) as those are the only districts (and adjoining districts) that I have changed from the ACRC's initial draft.

I commend the ACRC in maintaining the core of the two districts that currently represent New Scotland, District 33 (Voorheesville and surrounding area) and District 38 (remainder of New Scotland). However, I am concerned that under the current map, there are small census tracts that are placed in districts that unnecessarily divide Towns. Specifically the ACRC first draft:

- Places a small census block just north of Voorheesville on the Guilderland border in District 31 instead of District 33, where Voorheesville is located. I'm assuming this is simply an error, as there are only 9 residents in this census block. This census tract should be reincorporated back into District 33.
- Places a handful of census tracts in Southwestern Knox into District 39 instead of District 31, needlessly splitting Knox. As Knox is one of the towns that is below the 40% threshold for Town splits, there is no reason to split Knox in this manner, and Knox should remain whole in District 31.

However, my main concerns is that the current ACRC draft maps splits New Scotland between four districts (even though one of these looks to be a technical error). While geographically convenient to do so as New Scotland is the geographic center of Albany County, the Town of New Scotland should not be divided between more than 2 districts. Below please find my recommendations for more cohesive districts in the Town of New Scotland, Coeymans and Bethlehem.

District 33 in the ACRC draft map now includes Voorheesville, the Northeastern part of New Scotland, parts of Guilderland and parts of Slingerlands. However, the ACRC draft carves up Slingerlands into 3 districts (9, 33 and 38). In the draft map I submitted, some census tracts that were assigned to District 9 are moved back into District 33 so as to make a more cohesive community of interest in the Slingerlands neighborhood.

District 38 - The ACRC draft map places the Southwest portion of New Scotland into the District 39 (Hilltowns). While this seems to be done to even out population in the hilltowns district, this

part of New Scotland should remain in District 38 as it shares communities of interest with nearby Clarksville and is almost entirely within the Bethlehem school district (like most of District 38). In my draft map, this part of New Scotland is reincorporated back into District 38 and instead loses parts of Southern Bethlehem as those communities are more closely associated with District 37 in Coeymans or District 36 centered in Selkirk. Additionally, my map has District 38 take in a bit more of the area around Delaware Ave. in Delmar to even out population.

District 37 - The ACRC draft map expands on the current boundaries of District 37 into Southern Bethlehem because this district was significantly under populated under the old lines. My draft map takes a more cohesive view of this district in taking areas of South Bethlehem, including the CSX railyard and adding it to this district. The western end of Coeymans is now added to District 39 in order to meet population requirements for that district.

Thank you for your consideration,

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