

Statement for the record

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To: Redistricting Commission <RedistrictingCommission@albanycountyny.gov>

Good afternoon,

I would like to submit the following statement for the record, and for your consideration, at this evening's Albany County Redistricting Committee Public Hearing.

Matthew Miller, Albany County Legislator, 36th District
11 Trinity Place
Selkirk NY 12158
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Dear Members of the Albany County Redistricting Committee,

I thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts this evening. I apologize for not attending but the county legislature has committee meetings this evening during the same time frame. I am also very appreciative of the time you all commit to this very important endeavor and thank you deeply for that commitment.

I would like to address some of the changes to my present district, the 36th, which is primarily Selkirk, Glenmont and South Bethlehem, in relation to the idea of communities of interest.

I do understand the intricacies of this whole process and the domino effect of any one action, but I believe that the changes to the 36th really violate the communities of interest concept and I would like to offer an alternative idea. I have worked with the mapping system a bit, but admittedly had a few issues and have not been able to commit the time to do a full impact analysis of these changes I propose.

With that said, the new map splits in half the hamlet of Selkirk, which is a small community and very much integrated. It also performs a similar action to the South Bethlehem area, which is also a small close-knit hamlet area though I would agree a little less so than Selkirk. Though I have only been in office for 2.5 years, I have lived in Selkirk for nearly 30 years and there is simply no way that the Selkirk hamlet should be divided.

The solution to me is the northwest corner of this District. I have never quite understood how it got into the last redistricting effort but that area is entirely part of central Delmar and has no community of interest to the rest of the district as a whole. Those folks shop in different areas, attend school mostly in different schools and generally congregate and interact with the central Delmar community versus the Selkirk/ Glenmont communities.

I would propose that, in order to bring down the +4 score in the 36th, the area bordered by Rockefeller Road to the west, Kenwood Ave to the south, Rt 32 and 9W to the east and the Albany city line to the north (all relative directions) be moved into the 9th and or 34th Districts while restoring, at the least, the Selkirk portions that were cut out of the 36th. Depending on the numbers, I do think the South Bethlehem section should return as well but the math may not work out.

I appreciate your time listening tonight and for taking thoughtful consideration of this data as well as hopefully reconfiguring the 36th District with communities of interest truly in mind.

Respectfully,

Matthew Miller, Albany County Legislator, 36th LD
- Selkirk, Glenmont, South Bethlehem, Delmar