

Comments Relating to Districts 21, 22, and 23

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To:

- Redistricting Commission <RedistrictingCommission@albanycountyny.gov>

📎 1 attachments (247 KB)

ACRC Suggestion, 21-23.png;

To whom it may concern:

I appreciate the time and effort the redistricting commission has taken to draw fair and reasonable maps. Having watched the public hearings online, it seems like this was a monumental and difficult task.

Looking at the most recent "ACRC Final Draft" map, I noticed that changes were made that divided my neighborhood by Blue Creek Elementary, with some parts remaining in the 21st district, while others moved to the 22nd. Having lived here my whole life, it is my experience that this is a close knit area with much in common. Families are familiar with each other because all the children in these neighborhoods go to the same school, and many of them even walk to school together, sometimes from kindergarten through 12th grade. Additionally, these areas are linked by foot paths, where neighbors frequently encounter one another. With all this in common, I believe that this neighborhood should remain in one district.

Being curious as to why this change was made, I looked at the publicly submitted testimonies, and saw that there was a comment relating to keeping Siena College in the same district as Steeple View and Campus View Drive. It seems, in order to keep population balance, that this was accomplished by dividing the Blue Creek neighborhood where I live.

Thus, I submit a suggestion to this commission that keeps this neighborhood together (bounded by Routes 2, 9, and 155, and linked by Blue Creek Elementary, the Junior High, and the High School), while also keeping the Siena College and the neighborhood across the road intact. This is done while keeping populations within the accepted margins.

My suggestions are as follows:

- 1) Move the neighborhood by Blue Creek Elementary from the 22nd to the 21st. Heavy traffic and a lack of safe crossings means Route 9 is a distinct boundary that separates the neighborhoods on either side.
- 2) Move Siena College and the Campus View neighborhood from the 21st to the 23rd.
- 3) In order to ensure that districts remain balanced in population and reasonably shaped...
 - a. Move the neighborhood in the triangle of Fiddlers Lane, Route 155, and Route 9 from the 23rd to the 21st.
 - b. Move the apartments on the west side of Route 9 from the 23rd to the 21st. This also has the added benefit of consolidating many apartments to the 21st (which also contains the Carondelet and Lake Shore apartments). Presumably, the population of apartment dwellers may have common interests and would be better served united in one district.
 - c. Move the community alongside Old Niskayuna to the 22nd district. Separated by Maxwell Road and not connected to the apartments to their east, this district is less connected to the neighboring 21st and 23rd districts. Additionally, this helps balance the population.

This plan makes changes to only the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd districts, meaning it can be easily adopted without any changes to the rest of the map. They are minor in scope and would impact less than one third of the population in these districts.

I have attached a map that has these suggestions visualized. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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