

Dear Redistricting Commission:

In my recent email exchange with a member of the MMD redistricting commission, I shared which is worth sharing with the entire commission (below paragraph 3). According to her email, the commission was using "minority voting patterns" to create MMDs which will ensure the ultimate outcome be the election of a majority minority member. I am not sure what data you are utilizing, but recent election results do not support your proposal that Colonie election districts 1 & 2, and approx 3 streets in 3, be included in your proposed 3rd MMLD.

I examined the results of recent primary elections in the village of Menands when a minority candidate is on the ballot. What I found is what I have been advising the commission: your proposed 3rd MMLD legislative district will ensure the election of a non-minority member and cause the city of Albany to lose a legislator that will be gained by Colonie. The city of Albany has the largest disenfranchised minority population in Albany County and putting MMLD's partially in suburbs runs the very real risk as mentioned. As I am the first woman to represent my district starting in 2013, each year I help the candidacy of a woman or a person of color. Prior to my 2013 election as legislator, we only had all white male candidates - such as the Republican candidate I almost lost to in my first race. In 2013, I lost to the white male GOP candidate in Colonie 1, 174-110, and Colonie 2, 214-195. This ensures you will have both a Menands GOP candidate and a Menands Democratic primary candidate running in your proposed 3rd MMLD in 2023. It should also be noted that there is not a single minority member on the Menands village board which represents Colonie elections districts 1 and 2, a couple of streets in 3 and approximately 30% of 4.

As for the data I examined, below is the recent primary election results from the two proposed election districts to be moved into the 3rd MMLD, Colonie 1 & 2 and a very small portion of 3. The below data is from the Albany County Board of Elections website. I believe I have transcribed it correctly, but it is easy enough to check as it is available to the general public.

June 2019 primary for county legislator: The largest minority population in Colonie EDs 1 & 2 is Asian. The opponent in 2019 was Asian and only garnered 44% of the vote in these two districts.

COLONIE ED 1: McLean Lane/73 Weiss/29
COLONIE ED 2: McLean Lane/75 Weiss/37
TOTAL: McLean Lane/148 Weiss/66

Below is the 2018 primary for Attorney General. Both Hon. Latitia James and Ms. Leecia Eve are black minority members and received 16% and 7% of the vote respectively.

COLONIE ED 1: Maloney/51 James/22 Eve/8 Teachout/53
COLONIE ED 2: Maloney/48 James/21 Eve/11 Teachout/48
TOTAL: Maloney/99 James/43 Eve/19 Teachout/101

Below are the results of the 2020 Family Court primary election. We had one black minority candidate on the ballot, the Hon. Sherri Brooks. I publicly supported the two winning candidates in the race [which may have skewed the outcome somewhat, but the minority candidate still lost].

Colonie ED 1: Barone/12 Andrews/14 Joyce/32 Brooks/37 Tabak/24 Levy/17 Corona/41
Colonie Ed 2:
Barone/9 Andrews/21 Joyce/38 Brooks/31 Tabak/17 Levy/8 Corona/59
TOTAL: Barone/17 Andrews/35 Joyce/70 Brooks/69 Tabak/41 Levy/25 Corona/100

In these samples, you can see the voting pattern does not support the inclusion of these Colonie election districts in an MMLD. Because these voters lean very Democrat in those election districts, in general elections they will vote for the Democratic candidate regardless. However, the data that should be utilized for determining voting patterns are primary elections data; because a primary election, and not a general, will decide a county legislator race in your proposed 3rd MMLD.

I thank you for your kind consideration of the above.

Sincerely,

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Alison McLean Lane