

February 1, 2022

**Via Regular Mail and Electronic Mail**

New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission  
Raysa Martinez Kruger, Secretary  
c/o Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 068  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

Dear Members of the Commission:

I proudly serve as Mayor of the Borough of Chatham, which is in Morris County, New Jersey. The Borough is currently situated in the 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District along with four municipalities in Somerset County and ten municipalities in Union County. The only other Morris County municipality currently in the 21<sup>st</sup> District is Long Hill, which is not contiguous with the Borough.

During the 1990s and 2000s, Chatham Borough was situated in the 26<sup>th</sup> District, which was mostly comprised of Morris County municipalities. However, when redistricting was completed following the 2010 Census, the Borough's surrounding municipalities in Morris County, including Chatham Township, Madison, East Hanover, Hanover, Florham Park, Harding Township and Madison, were moved into the 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

While Chatham Borough appreciates the representation provided by its current 21<sup>st</sup> District representatives, all of whom are Union County residents, it cannot help but believe that being placed in a legislative district that is separate from the surrounding communities with which it shares particularly close historical, cultural, and commercial ties diminishes its ability to have its concerns most effectively heard in Trenton. I am aware that the independent member of the Commission, Hon. Philip Carchman, has issued guidance that recognizes that keeping "communities of interest" together is an important standard when drafting a fair map. Judge Carchman indicates that such communities of interest share common values, goals and concerns, including shared infrastructure concerns, shared environmental concerns, and shared industry.

In this regard, the Commission should be aware that Chatham Borough has endeavored to share many critical municipal services with surrounding Morris County municipalities, something that has been strongly encouraged by governors and legislators of both political parties. The Borough has established a Joint Municipal Court with Madison, Chatham Township, and Morris Township. It operates a joint sewerage system and treatment facility with Madison, which also provides Chatham Borough with building department and IT services. Chatham Borough shares a sports and recreation program with Chatham Township and is also part of a regional school district with the Township, the aptly named "School District of the Chathams". The Chatham Emergency Squad serves the Borough and Township jointly, as does the Library of the Chathams. (Chatham Borough's civic and cultural ties with Chatham Township are so intertwined that Township residents commonly refer to the Borough's commercial district along Main Street as *their* downtown.) Emergency (911) services are provided by Morris County, and the County's MUA provides recycling services. The Borough has received state funding to explore the possibility of sharing public works equipment with other Morris County municipalities, and is working with

County-based environmental groups to implement best practices. In short, Chatham Borough has been a model for responsible integration of its operations with its neighbors, saving tax dollars while still providing the highest level of service possible. It seems only appropriate that it should be situated in a legislative district with them as well.

Of course, I fully recognize that Chatham Borough is a small town with a population of fewer than 10,000 residents, and the Commission is faced with the complex task of placing 565 municipalities into just 40 legislative districts. I further recognize that there are other critical aspects to developing a map that meets Constitutional requirements and ensures fair representation for New Jersey's increasingly diverse population. Certainly, it would be easy for small Chatham Borough to be overlooked given the enormity of the task ahead of the Commission. But it is my responsibility to advocate for the interests of the residents who elected me, and I respectfully suggest that facts bear out that to the extent that it is feasible to do so, Chatham Borough has made the case to be returned to its traditional legislative home in a Morris County-centered district along with its surrounding neighbors including Madison and Chatham Township. That will ensure that we can continue to work together for our shared best interests, along with our representation in Trenton.

I appreciate your consideration of my request, and stand ready to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

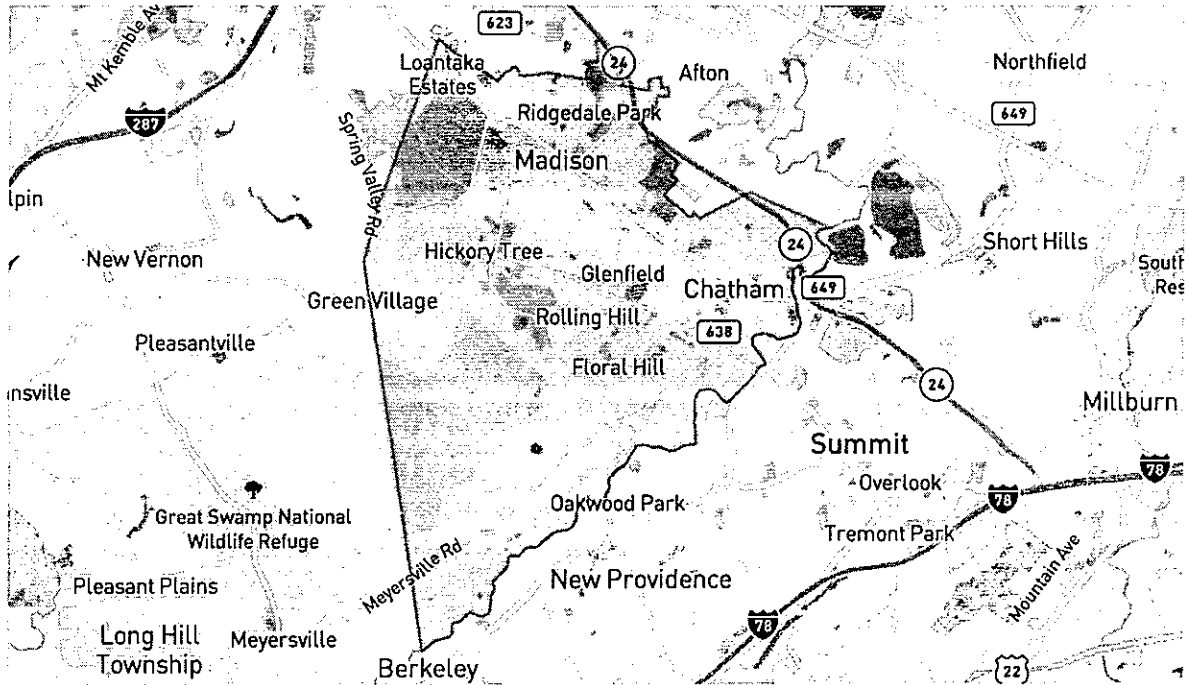
Thaddeus J. Kobylarz  
Mayor  
Chatham Borough, NJ

# Chatham Borough, NJ

This map was created at Representable.org

View this community at:

<https://www.representable.org/submission/8010587f-8db8-4328-ab15-13540498588f?pdf=true>



# Community Information

## **Economic or Environmental Interests**

Chatham Borough's commercial district along Main St. is regarded by Township residents as its own downtown. Both towns have the Passaic River forming their eastern boundaries; as such, they share common environmental challenges and concerns.

## **Community Activities and Services**

Chatham Borough shares many critical municipal services with surrounding Morris County municipalities. The Borough has established a Joint Municipal Court with Madison, Chatham Township, and Morris Township. It operates a joint sewerage system and treatment facility with Madison, which also provides Chatham Borough with building department and IT services. Chatham Borough shares a sports and recreation program with Chatham Township and is also part of a regional school district with the Township. The Chatham Emergency Squad serves the Borough and Township jointly, as does the Library of the Chathams.

## **Cultural or Historical Interests**

Chatham Borough's civic and cultural ties with Chatham Township are so intertwined that Township residents commonly refer to the Borough's commercial district along Main Street as their downtown. Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, and Madison were all part of the original Chatham Township and so are historically connected. The extensive cultural and commercial ties among these three towns continue to this day.

## **Community Needs and Concerns**

Chatham Borough and Chatham Township share a school district (the "School District of the Chathams"), a library, and sports & recreation program. As such children and families from the two towns are closely connected. Moreover, nearly two-thirds of each town's tax revenue go to these shared services. So the fiscal needs of the two towns are very much intertwined.

NJ Legislative Apportionment Commission Statement  
Patricia E. Doherty  
Research Director  
NJ11th For Change  
February 5, 2022

Thank you Chairmen Barlas and Jones, Judge Carchman, and commission members for this opportunity to speak with you. My name is Patricia Doherty. I am a 24 year resident of Nutley, and also the Research Director for NJ11th For Change.

Leslie Bockol and Mara Novak Co-Executive Directors, and Stacey Abenstein, our Field Director, have previously provided testimony, data, and a submitted map describing the changing demographics of both the current and newly constituted Congressional District 11 that our organization represents. We support legislative districts that recognize the diversity in our changing NJ landscape--strongly advocating that communities of interest are represented with vital opportunities for participation in the political process.

As Ms. Abenstein described with her data and submitted map on January 26th, the recent expanding AAPI and LatinX communities--as well as the older established Black and Jewish communities in Essex, Morris, and parts of Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties-- can be accommodated in these proposed compact districts that follow the prescribed deviations. These also show the working relationships among municipalities while considering physical and environmental boundaries.

Within our proposed map for Essex-oriented LD 27 and 34, the dense and diverse municipalities encompass shared county relationships, services, and businesses that cross township boundaries. These towns also share similar environmental concerns to address flooding, brownfields, ongoing remediation of lead contaminated water supply and school districts with 100 yr. and older facilities needing rehab, updating or replacing.

The proposed LD29 creates a new robust LatinX district with easy access to culturally-oriented businesses, social, and language services. The new LD 28 is majority Black retaining much of the long established communities in Newark and Irvington. These two districts have many of the environmental concerns as the 27<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> --as well address how some members are affected by the lack of affordable and decent housing, often with conditions of unsafe lead paint that disproportionately affect the children of Black and LatinX families. It is critical that these

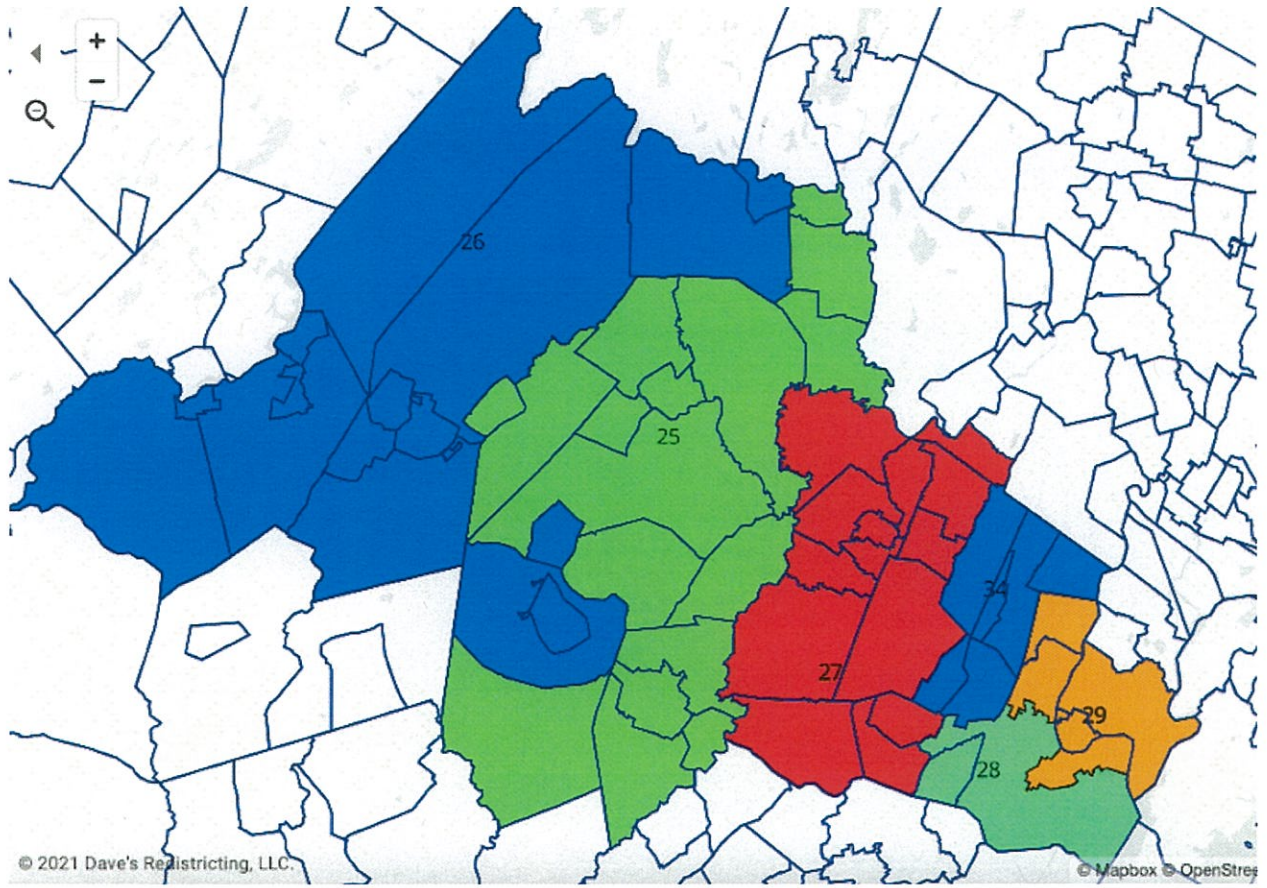
communities be represented by legislators who understand the wide breath of their social, health, and economic needs

In LD 25 and 26, AAIP and LatinX households comprise growing communities of interest that must have the political influence that only competitive districts would provide. In addition, housing availability with high costs create conditions in which immigrant members have difficulty finding affordable housing suitable for their needs. These areas also have common environmental issues such local flooding from as Passaic River and its tributaries which directly impact housing, business, transportation, and work.

In closing, our proposed map also reflects continuity of representation that is so critical for voter trust and engagement, turnout and civic participation. I would urge the Commission consider the hyperlocal community needs that would not necessarily be addressed by just mapping with the numbers plugged in to fulfill formulas. NJ11th For Change also thanks the Commission for planning the release of the final maps with the follow-up ability for public comment. Thank you so much for listening.

Submitted Map by Stacey Abenstein

Link on <https://davesredistricting.org/join/1cea81d4-4b38-4475-9645-f2e8006da783>.



Hi my name is Charly Dutton. I attend church at Christian Care Unit, work at my local neighborhood McDonalds as my first job, and reside in Winslow Township High School. I am here to testify about the important features of my community. My community is demographically the perfect example of what our nation looks like with a great blend of Caucasians, African-Americans and Hispanics as the most populated groups in my city. Many citizens who live on the rural side have cultivated in this township for generations. Though, community thrives on its diversity there is an economic gap regarding the incomes of citizens where the middle is found between the suburban and rural communities.

My community is criss-crossed by major state roads such as US Route 73, 30, 143 and the Atlantic City Expressway. My community includes eight schools including Winslow Township High School, a Pinelands Reservation, and our historical church of St Jude Syro-Malabar Catholic Mission, formerly known as St.Lucy's Roman Catholic Church, where a great number of citizens attend. My community is wholesome in the first Congressional and the fourth state Legislative districts.

I would like to highlight the main issues of our community which lies in the economic gap between citizens. The town of Sicklerville has had a lot of suburban development while the rural side tends to fall in the flat rate for sources of economic growth and this issue is reflected in our schools that must care for citizens on both ends of the spectrum. When a consensus was done the results showed that about half of the students come from low-income families, and our school receives less than 5% in federal aid. With this in mind it would be beneficial for the federal government to provide more aid for a district and city that must stretch its limited resources of income for educational purposes.

Our community is a lot like our neighboring city of Chesilhurst where they are also a diverse suburban area. To sum this all the heart of Winslow Township is vibrant, with a growing community. We hope to be represented well in the new maps of the districts. I thank the committee for listening to me today and ask that you consider keeping my community together when drawing new maps to the extent it is possible ,without in any way diluting minority voting power or otherwise violating the law or fair redistricting principles. Again, thank you.



**TESTIMONY BY KHALID ANJUM**

**LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2022**

Good morning Judge Carchman, Chairman Jones, Chairman Barlas, and all of the members of the Legislative Apportionment Commission. I'd like to thank everyone for taking time out of their Saturday morning to hear members of the public. My name is Khalid Anjum, and I am a proud resident of South Brunswick in Middlesex County. And this is where I'd like to focus my testimony this morning.

South Brunswick is a diverse town and plays a major role in hosting large cultural and religious gatherings where residents from Montgomery and Princeton gather to celebrate Diwali that is hosted here in South Brunswick each year. Many of our residents do not travel to celebrate holidays in Edison because the community in South Brunswick host and celebrate here in town and play as the Southern Middlesex County hub for other nearby towns.

South Brunswick is also home to the Islamic Center of Central Jersey. The Islamic Center is one of the largest mosques and cultural centers in the area that has been serving the community for almost 40 years. South Brunswick just recently approved expanding the Center's new initiatives to build a sports facility and multi-family senior housing. This will continue to benefit other South Middlesex County residents and their families who live in Somerset and Mercer Counties.

South Brunswick's population is 49% Asian, and I would urge the commission not to pack the Asian community in South Brunswick and simply combine them with East Brunswick and Edison. Yes, this would help ensure that the first South Asian legislator elected from Middlesex County would be re-elected, but it would dilute the community's ability to increase representation at the state level. The proof is in the election results from this past general election.

The diverse electorate in the currently enacted 16th legislative district played an instrumental role in recently electing Assemblywoman Sadaf Jaffer – the first Muslim mayor to be elected in the United States and one of six South Asian legislators elected last year. We cannot pack diverse communities and we cannot undo the progress we've all worked so hard to accomplish.

I urge you to keep South Brunswick in the current configuration of the 16th legislative district. I thank you for your time and your consideration, and I wish you luck on the apportionment process.

Thank you for having me, Judge Carchman and Esteemed Commission Members, thank you to the other New Jerseyans here giving testimony, using their voices to effect positive change in this state that we all love very much.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you on the important subject of Legislative Apportionment as related to our New Jersey LGBTQ Community. I'm Lauren Albrecht, I am a lifelong New Jersey resident and currently reside in Wall Township. I chair the New Jersey Democratic State Committees' LGBTQ Caucus, I am proudly Garden State Equality's policy consultant, and I wear several other various hats in politics and policy on the County, State and Federal spectrums.

By far my most rewarding and challenging role is that of representative of, and advocate for, the LGBTQ Community. Seizing on this once-per-decade opportunity to increase LGBTQ representation and visibility, I am here to make the statement that in the same vein as communities of interest regarding race, religion, ethnicity, immigration and economic standing, our communities' concerns are heard louder when we can speak as a collective voice, and when our voice is diluted by splitting up areas of LGBTQ-concentrated communities, we are more likely to suffer systemic erasure, which, unfortunately for us, often results in the removal of our legally-protected rights in military service, healthcare, workforce, education, housing, physical safety, economic security, and basically every metric by which the success, health and wealth of a community is measured.

At the most recent estimate by the HRC, in 2020, LGBTQ people comprise 6% of the population. This is merely an estimate, and arriving at this estimate is hampered by a few different factors—most notably, the lack of a sexual orientation/gender identity category on the Census, coupled with the fact that self-identification as an LGBTQ individual can be detrimental to personal safety or employment security. This estimate is culled from a variety of resources such as polling favorability of marriage equality and the results of ballot questions, as well as healthcare data and door-to-door data collection. Some LGBTQ organizations put the estimate closer to 12% of the total population falling somewhere into the overall category of LGBTQIA+.

If 6-12% of the population is LGBTQ, truly equitable representation would, in New Jersey, mean that 6-12% of our 120 members of Legislature would identify as LGBTQ. That would be, at a minimum, 7 members of legislature. Right now, there is currently one LGBTQ-identifying member, and not a single member of our federal delegation. Despite this absence, which is not for our lack of trying, and despite what the census says, we exist. And study after study, and most recently in New Jersey, the report of the transgender task force convened by Governor Murphy, show the needs of our community to be unique. Ideally, the goal is that one day, our Legislature accurately reflects who we are as a population, and this is more likely to happen when our voices are heard as a block rather than a diluted smattering.

I'd like to highlight for you some more of the glaring disparities that exist between LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ residents of America, which are reflected also at the State level proportionally: at

least 31% of transgender people have considered attempting suicide, 3 times more than their non-LGBTQ counterparts. 46% of LGBTQ people still report being closeted in the workplace, right now, in 202. Fewer than .3 percent of Fortune 500 board directors are openly LGBTQ, as of 2020. 17% of LGBTQ respondents of a poll by HRC lost their jobs amid the coronavirus pandemic, compared to 13% of the non-LGBTQ population. This the reality of a true unequal minority whose rights, safety and livelihood, based on the immutable truths of personal sexual orientation or gender identity, are consistently up for debate, and unfortunately we have found that the consolidation of people into one political party is weaponized to deny our rights to marry who we love or weaponized to make the world less safe for our LGBTQ children to grow up in. This leads me to my next point- the Independent Member's standard of partisan fairness as set forth in the Statement of Standards of Philip S. Carchman, 11th Member of the New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission and dated January 7, 2022.

In New Jersey, overwhelmingly, the LGBTQ community has found its' allies in our Democratic members of Legislature, who pay more than lip-service to creating true, lived equity through legislation and policy. It follows logically then, that overwhelmingly, our New Jersey LGBTQ community turns out to vote for Democratic members of Legislature, because this is where our community finds its' needs met, with few notable exceptions. I can personally attest to this every time my own Legislators introduce bills to deny the rights of trans people to use the bathroom that matches their gender identity, and when they fail to affirm my right to marry who I love by voting no, in 2022, on Marriage Equality in New Jersey. Therefore, I would respectfully request that the Commission consider the negative impact of moving LGBTQ-dense municipalities out of Democratically-held districts, and I would also respectfully request that the Commission consider keeping or re-apportioning LGBTQ-dense municipalities into the same districts as other LGBTQ-dense municipalities, obviously while observing the process set forth under Article IV, Section III of the State Constitution and Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Thank you again for your time and for providing me this space in which we are all heard equally to advocate for my community.

Good morning commissioners, everyone. Thank you for the chance to speak. My name is Joe Marchica, I'm from Hamilton Township in Mercer County, and I co-chair Our Revolution Trenton Mercer. We're a grassroots group within a national network of groups, supporting progressive policy and candidates, and fighting for a more inclusive, just society that prioritizes working-class people.

We applaud the commission for agreeing to publish both proposed maps on Monday, and to hold multiple hearings afterwards. We also applaud you for appointing Laura Matos, resolving an egregious lack of Hispanic representation on this commission. And I'm also here to personally support the Fair Districts Unity Map.

But most of all, I'm here to ask you to help fix New Jersey's broken democracy. Right now our primary election ballot format and our gerrymandered districts combine to undemocratically pre-select our representatives, cutting voters' voices out of the process. Gerrymandering specifically minimizes the number of competitive districts, and sets an expectation that our legislative elections will be non-competitive. **This commission will determine whether or not we fix this for the next decade.**

Now, demographic changes over the last decade made for some surprises back on Nov 2nd. Even so, only 4 districts saw the incumbent party lose a seat: 2, 3, 8, 16. Add in three others that were closer than expected (11, 21, and 38), and we're up to 7. But this a DECADE since districts were drawn. It took THAT LONG to get **only 7 competitive elections, out of 40 total districts.**<sup>1</sup>

**This is not a healthy democracy.** With so few competitive elections, people feel their vote doesn't matter. So they don't vote. To engage New Jerseyans in their government, we must SHOW them their vote matters- not just tell them how important it is. Otherwise, our words ring hollow.

An example: LD16 was widely expected to be competitive this year, and both parties aggressively tried to turn out voters. Turnout in the LD16 Senate race was up 23% this year vs. 2017. Compare that to the governor's race, where statewide turnout increased by only 19%. That extra 4% increase, applied statewide, would mean almost 90 THOUSAND more people voting.

Let's compare that to the largest upset in the state: LD3. There, we saw about a 20% increase in turnout. If instead, LD3 had matched LD16's 23% turnout increase, that's 1500 more voters. Had the outgoing Senate President's district been perceived as more competitive, and had his campaign emphasized turnout like Sen. Elect Zwicker in LD16, perhaps he'd have stood a better chance to hold his seat.

Furthermore- our Governor won more votes in LD3 this year than he did in 2017. But LD3's incumbent Senator LOST votes compared to 2017. So the narrative blaming our Governor and progressives for others' losses doesn't seem accurate. More likely, lackluster Democratic voter turnout is to blame, due to a perceived non-competitive district and lack of voter engagement/enthusiasm. I urge South Jersey Democrats to take note: Emphasize engaging with voters to improve our democracy, and issues that clearly support blue collar, working-class people, and you may see more success.

Back on topic: We MUST stop drawing virtually every district to be non-competitive. This cuts voters out of our democracy- especially when combined with New Jersey's unique, intentionally undemocratic Primary Election Ballots. It also protects the systemic racism entrenched in our state government and history.

New Jersey county party leadership is disproportionately old, white, and male. Almost 3/4 of county party chairs are male, and about 85% are white. So these chairs tend to pick candidates who look like them, and grant these candidates preferential ballot placement on The County Ballot Line. This rigs the primary election in their favor- no one has successfully primaried an incumbent state rep placed on The County Line in over 12 years.

When districts are drawn to be non-competitive, we know ahead of time which of these disproportionately white and male candidates will win the general election. So not only do people's votes end up not mattering in either election, but our legislature doesn't represent the diversity of our state. **Is it any wonder New Jerseyans are disengaged, when we're repeatedly shown our votes don't matter?**

Some demographics on our 2021 legislature I'm sure you've heard, compared to the latest census data:

- 30.8% of NJ legislators are women- much less than half. We're only 25<sup>th</sup> nationally
- Half the legislature was over 59 years old, and a whopping 92% were over 40. Millennials are grossly underrepresented. People between 25 and 40 years old deserve FAR more than 9 representatives out of 120.
- 73.3% of the legislature is white, versus 54.6% of NJ residents
- In comparison, 2.5% of the legislature is Asian American, versus about 10% of NJ residents:
- And 7.5% of the legislature is Hispanic or Latino, versus 21.6% of NJ.

This lack of diversity results directly from our unhealthy democracy. That is how mostly white, male County Party Chairs, predetermine election outcomes to favor people who look like I will in 30 years, at everyone else's expense- especially people of color. New Jersey's legacy is rife with systemic racism, and it's long past time to take decisive action to fix this.

A couple final notes based on recent events:

- Your counterparts on the Congressional redistricting committee ultimately went with a map that MINIMIZED competitive districts- CD7 is likely the only competitive district. I urge you to NOT emulate them, and instead encourage a robust democracy with far more competitive districts
- I urge the commission to look long and hard at the Fair Districts Unity Map. It:
  - Does an excellent job keeping communities of interest together
  - Creates 20 majority-minority districts, half of the legislative districts
  - Accurately reflects that half of NJ's population identifies as non-white.

In closing, I urge you to do two things:

- 1) Draw fair, competitive districts that where voters are able to decide who their representatives are. This is necessary for a healthy democracy
- 2) Draw districts that enhance, rather than diminish, the voices of people of color, women, and young people. Given our state's history of systemic racism, communities of color MUST have their voices heard.

Thank you for your time.

Joe Marchica

Co-Chair, Our Revolution Trenton Mercer

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<sup>1</sup> I considered Senate races withing 8 percentage points, or races where the incumbent party loses a seat, to be competitive elections.

Thank you Chairman APPC for allowing me to speak today. I'm Robert Soni, [redacted], Randolph NJ. My wife and I have been a resident of New Jersey for 24 years. We have raised three children in NJ – Devika, Vivek and Sarika. I also have lived in Randolph NJ for 15+ years, and previously lived in Parsippany with a Morris Plains postal address for 8+ years. I have really enjoyed NJ, and my family has greatly appreciated the community of New Jersey. I am a technology leader at a company called VMware as a fully remote worker – having previously worked locally in NJ for Nokia-Bell Labs for almost 23 years. I am an active volunteer having taught Sunday school for Hindus, called Vidyalaya, in Parsippany for the past 12+ years. I also served for two+ years on the Randolph Board of Education and was Vice President of the BOE. We worship at Yogi Divine Society and Sanatan Mandir – two temples based in Parsippany. Please note that all comments and opinions are my own and do not reflect the opinions or views of my employer, or past affiliation with the school board or with Vidyalaya or YDS or Sanatan Mandir.

While I was attracted to NJ by a burgeoning telecommunications industry in the '90s, my family has found NJ to be welcoming to those of Indian origin and descent despite a very challenging period in the '80s as the influx of Hindu Americans were met by rampant racism. Today, many Hindus and Indian Americans have seen the benefit of creating communities of interest and linking them together within legislative boundaries to help defeat racism. Today, we are happy to live in the state with the highest per capita allocation of Indian Americans and in particular Hindu Americans in the USA. Hindus and Indians are widely dispersed in NJ, but have strong concentrations near Princeton NJ, Iselin, Edison, and Parsippany NJ.

We moved to Randolph as we outgrew our house in Parsippany and shifted to Randolph which has one of the fastest growing Indian American and Hindu American communities in NJ. Many of you know that Randolph has one of the best school districts in the area as does Parsippany which typically tends to attract Indian Americans. One of Randolph's elementary schools now easily exceeds 20% of those with connections to the Indian diaspora. The impact of this is not unknown to Parsippany residents where the high school has > 20% of the population connected to the Indian diaspora.

Today most Indian Americans must leave Randolph to worship and travel to Parsippany to educate their children about their cultures and religion. Despite the lack of local temples and schools, our local politicians in town council still found the ability to recognize how fast our community is growing by honoring Hindu Heritage Month and recognizing Diwali (the Hindu New Year)! This was after 4 years of advocacy by the Hindu American community in Randolph.

I have observed that our LD25 delegation has spoken out quite vocally regarding the celebration of Columbus Day or Rosh Hashanah in Randolph schools but did not speak about the importance of celebrating Diwali nor has recognized the growth of this community. It's well noted that Randolph and some of the surrounding communities are Italian American (1/3) or Jewish American (1/3). I also believe that there is opportunity to link the Italian American and Jewish American community in Parsippany with Randolph which has several synagogues and a vibrant Italian American community. Many of our Jewish American friend's worship in

Parsippany.

There is an opportunity for the re-districting to bring Parsippany and Randolph and link these two communities in a beneficial way. While we have many religions and cultures and covered by Indian Americans, I would really like to again highlight how it might bring value to Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists together to create a strong community of interest. Thank you, committee, and Mr. Chairperson for allowing me to speak today.

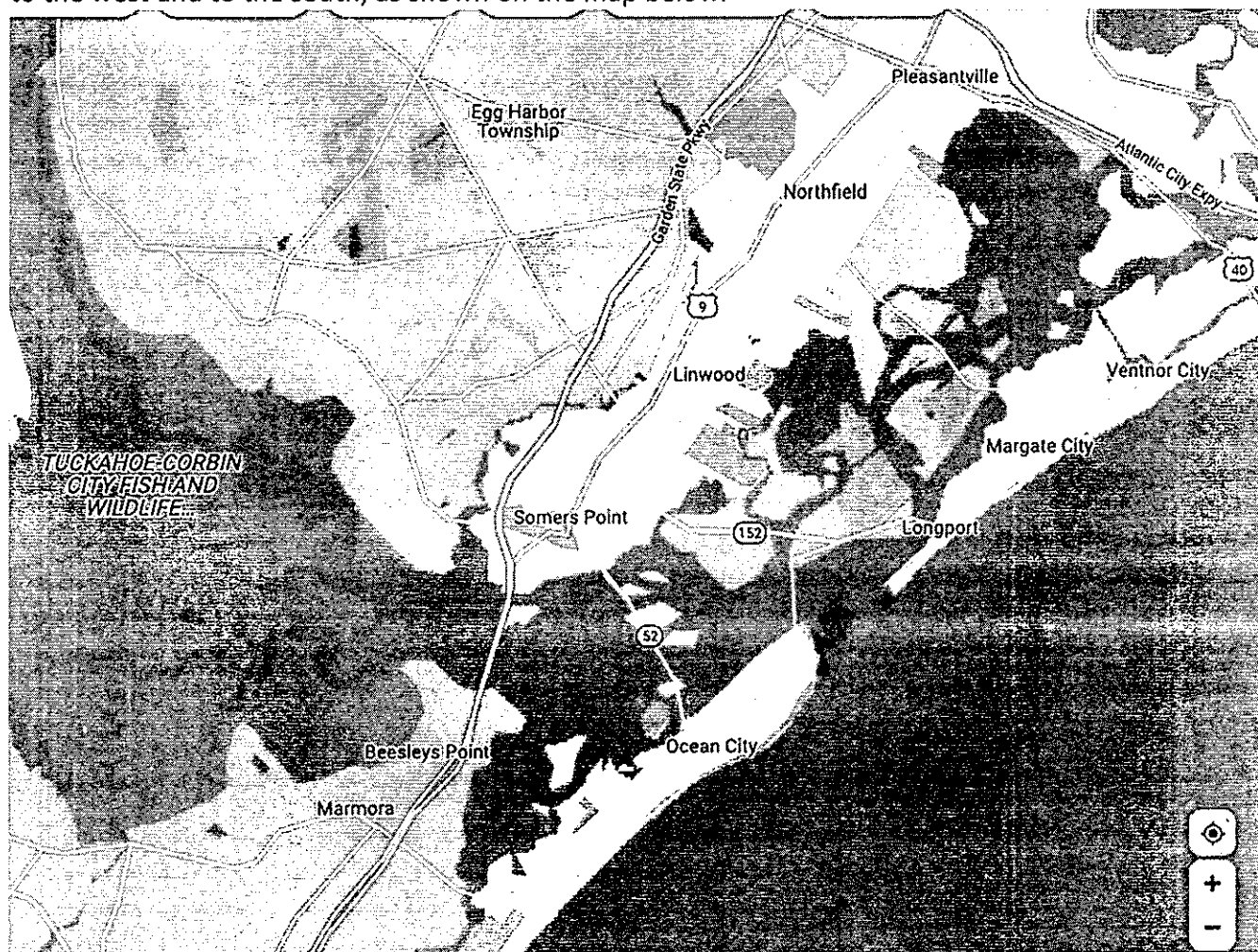


## The City of Somers Point Should Remain in Legislative District 2

My name is Kim O'Brien and I have been a resident of Somers Point for 20 years. I am also the president of the Somers Point Democratic Club. I am here to testify in response to the possibly moving Somers Point from Legislative District 2, which includes most of the towns in Atlantic County to Legislative District 1, which includes Cape May and Cumberland counties.

I have discussed this issue with many residents and all agree that leaving LD2 would be a detriment to Somers Point. I grew up in Cape May County and still have family there. It was a great place to grow up. This time of year, when we did get major snowfalls, we could play openly in the streets because there were no cars at all. It is a very different place than Somers Point where I live now.

Somers Point is not contiguous with Cape May county. We are separated by 2 miles of water to the west and to the south, as shown on the map below.



Moving to LD1 would create an obstacle of distance for our residents. There is no direct bus route to legislative offices there and the closest one is about 20 miles away. In contrast, we share a bike path with the towns of Linwood and Northfield which is used by the students of all three towns to walk to high school. All three towns are sending districts to Mainland High School which is overseen by the Atlantic County Superintendent of Schools.

Our needs, our economy, and our public institutions are strongly aligned with Atlantic County and we need leaders with whom we established relationships. Many of our residents work in Atlantic City casinos. We need to be represented by leaders who understand and are directly involved in the casino industry.

We are all here because we understand the importance of legislative representation. Complicating that process by moving us to a different district will confuse and disenfranchise voters. I introduced myself as a Democrat. I have discussed this issues with members of my own party and to Republicans who are equally passionate about remaining in LD2. Staying or moving does not benefit either party politically. Allowing Somers Point to remain in LD2 will ensure that Somers Point residents are represented effectively. Our current leaders are our neighbors. They live and work in towns in Atlantic County where we have shared agreements for services, where we are fellow sending districts to the our high school, and where our economic and cultural interests are aligned. Thank you for your service and your time.

Kimberly O'Brien  
Somers Point Democratic Club

## Kohav Dantara: February 5th Testimony Legislative Reapportionment Hearing

Good morning members of the commission, my name is Kohav Dantara and I have been a resident of West Windsor Township for my whole life. I am currently a 16 year old junior in the West Windsor Plainsboro Regional School District. I am a south Asian constituent of the fifteenth legislative district which also covers the East Amwell, Lambertville City, West Amwell, Ewing, Hopewell, Lawrence, Pennington, and Trenton municipalities. Demographics wise according to the 2020 US Census, the population of the 15th district was 224,002 people, 39% were white, 26% were black, 12% were Asian, 24% were Hispanic and the remainder were native American. In West Windsor, 40% of the residents were born abroad making it the largest proportion of immigrants in the 15th district. Age-wise 25% of the population is under the age of 18 while 61% of the population is between the ages of 18 and 65. Furthermore, the median household income in West Windsor is higher than any other municipality within the district at \$169,312. Plainsboro is a town in the 14th district that is largely similar to West Windsor demographics wise. The West Windsor Plainsboro school district is regional and spans the two communities. The school district has contributed to the tight knit community between the two towns so I ask that the commission considers keeping the two communities together. Back to the 15th district, the district contains vital roadways including I-295, Rt-1 and easy access to Rt.130 and I-95 which allow passage up and down the northeast corridor into New York City and Philadelphia.

With regards to the school systems, the municipalities of the 15th district have seen stark contrasts between one another. Of the 8 municipalities and 7 school districts, only 1 school district ranks in the top 20% of all ranked districts in New Jersey according to Niche. This is low in comparison to district 14 where 3 districts rank in the top 20%. For district 15 the sole school district to be ranked in the top 20% is West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional Schools, ranking 4th in

Kohav Dantara: February 5th Testimony Legislative Reapportionment Hearing

the state. While also considering the median household income of each of these municipalities I ask that the commission ensure that the needs for students living in other municipalities of the 15th district with lower median household incomes are met as they equally deserve the highest level of education possible. Under current policies, all students are eligible to receive free lunches which I have seen as a large benefit.

Concerning the real estate market, the most expensive home in West Windsor is listed at 1,899,900 and the cheapest home is listed at \$372,500 according to Zillow. The high numbers have been an increase in home prices over the last 10 years; indicative of the increasing difficulty to buy a home in West Windsor in comparison to other towns. Furthermore, the disparity in prices is higher than neighboring municipalities such as Lawrence where the most expensive home is currently at \$1,200,000 and the cheapest home is at \$175,000. Most townships in these municipalities rely on either the Princeton Junction train station, Trenton train station, or the Hamilton train station which provides transportation through the cities of Princeton, New Brunswick, Newark, Secaucus, Philadelphia as well as New York City. Between the cores of several of these towns such as West Windsor and Trenton, NJ transit buses provide convenient public transportation.

I want to thank the commission for their time and hope they will be able to craft a map that takes into account the needs of students, employees, individuals, and families.

My name is Ashok Sharma and I live in Plainsboro. I am here to tell the Committee why Plainsboro should be kept in a similar 14<sup>th</sup> legislative district.

The 14th district is now 18.7% Asian. We are a district where Asians can successfully compete for political office. We have been increasing in Asian population and that will only continue. Plainsboro now has 57% Asian, Robbinsville 28%. Monroe 27%, East Windsor 23% and Cranbury 21%.

We have many Asians coming up through the ranks. We have Asian council people in Plainsboro, Cranbury and Monroe. There are many minority group members on the Mercer and Middlesex Board of Commissioners, and at least 9 Asian school Board members.

For over 40 years, Hamilton, Plainsboro and Cranbury have been part of the 14<sup>th</sup> District. They have in effect become communities of interest because they have shared economic, environmental and other interests over the years. Plainsboro has shared a school district with Mercer County since 1969. Cranbury has sent its children to Princeton High School in Mercer County since 1988.

There have been many Plainsboro and Hamilton candidates of both parties who have run successfully for a Legislative seat for 40 years. Hamilton has been represented by three Plainsboro residents, including two women of both parties, for over 30 years. Plainsboro has been one of the most politically active towns in the 14<sup>th</sup> district.

If Plainsboro is removed from this district, 40 years of progress will disappear.

February 5, 2022

## Comments for Apportionment Commission Meeting

Good morning. My name is Liz Cohen, I live in Princeton NJ and am speaking as a constituent of District 16.

I am a strong believer in the adage, "If it's not broken, don't fix it" and I see District 16 as a model of what the commission is looking to create in your redistricting efforts.

I view our district with several lenses. As a volunteer canvasser, I have knocked on doors throughout this central NJ district many times and have a sense of both the diversity and wholeness of the district. There is a solid mix of small to moderate size towns, diversity of ethnicity, race, financial security, and political leanings, and a solid degree of engagement and connection as a district. This was evidenced by the outpouring of support in response to District 16 legislators calls for collections of cleaning supplies, household goods, and money to help Manville recover after last fall's disastrous flooding.

As a poll worker, I know the value of continuity of representation. Citizens feel more confident and compelled to vote when they are familiar with what district they belong to. While review and adjustment is necessary and mandated, this consideration is very meaningful when you find the existing boundaries to be working well.

As a member of the nonpartisan NJ Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, I have advocated on many issues of social justice with congregants from around the state, and in organizing Trenton Advocacy Days I have gained an appreciation for the complex interweaving of needs and interests across the state. We have done a lot of teaching about the importance of state governance and gaining familiarity with our districts and our legislators. Our District 16 members come from all parts of the district and feel tied together as a community. We have appreciated the availability of our legislators from both sides of the aisle to all constituents, sensitivity to growing diversity in our towns, and commitment to bipartisanship in their work in the legislature.

On a personal note, I live in Princeton and worship in Hillsborough. It has been very meaningful for me to be able to tie these two communities together for me as a constituent, and I very much hope that will continue.

But of course your charge is for the overall good governance of the state. It is my strong sense of connection to this District and my belief that our community is strongly tied together that compelled me to speak today. I believe you will find that District 16 as is well adheres to the standards you seek with good balance of recognition of communities of interest, competitiveness, continuity of representation, and partisan fairness. Thank you for your attention.

Public Hearing: February 5, 2022

New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission

Good Morning Judge Carchman and Members of the Apportionment Commission.

Thank you for providing me with time to speak today.

I am Glorianne Robbi, a resident since 1967 of East Amwell Township in Hunterdon County. I've held local government office in East Amwell, the first woman elected to the Township Committee (1984-89) serving as Mayor 3 years. The residents' need for transparent government was what drew me into running for local office.

Judge Carchman deserves our appreciation for his leadership and the Apportionment Commission members' agreement to hold open meetings for public testimony and questions. A significant step for the process' transparency is Judge Carchman's decision that both parties on February 7th publicly display on the Apportionment's website their proposed apportionment maps without partisan identification.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey, of which I am a longtime member and a former executive director, is an advocate for the Fair Districts Unity Map which was released February 2nd for the Apportionment Commission's consideration. There is sufficient time for the Commission's members to review the Fair Districts Unity Map, based on its extensive accompanying data, and ensure that community interest is accounted for in the final map chosen.

Fair Districts New Jersey, a nonpartisan coalition working to reform New Jersey's redistricting process, believes redistricting should be impartial, transparent, and community-driven. Redistricting must prioritize public engagement.

Thank you.

Testimony of: Glorianne Robbi, member of League of Women Voters of New Jersey



Good morning Chairman and Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I am a member of the Coalition for Citizen Initiative and New Jersey Independent Voters. This includes the roughly 2.4 million New Jersey voters who are not members of either of the two parties. People like to say we aren't really independent; that we all lean R or D. The truth is that we vote for the best candidate based on the issues and not on party identity. May the best candidate win!

On Wednesday February 2, Fair Districts NJ presented the commission with a non-partisan map. The primary focus is on distinctive communities of common interest. We are grateful for the efforts of the Fair Districts NJ to prepare this non-partisan map.

We are also grateful to the commission for agreeing to publish the maps from the two factions in advance of their decision. The degree of risk to the commission for this voluntary transparency is understood and appreciated.

In a proper reapportionment process, voting districts would group people of common interest and then politicians and their parties would compete for the privilege of representing those districts. Beyond good ideas and the hard work of campaigning, there would be no advantage baked into the system for any candidate or party.

So in that spirit, we have a map that has been conceived with a lot of public input and which was developed by people who have no partisan interest. I urge the commission to adopt as a compromise the non-partisan Unity Map submitted by Fair Districts NJ. It is not overstatement to say that this would be a heroic and courageous choice by members of the commission.

Thank you for your attention this morning.

Stephen Barratt

18/05/2017

NJ Apportionment Commission Testimony

February 5, 2022

Rohn Hein, UU Faith Action Reparations Task Force

I want to thank the NJ Apportionment Commission for this opportunity to give testimony regarding the redrawing of legislative districts. My name is Rohn Hein and I live in Maple Shade. I am the co-chair of the Reparations Task Force of the UU Faith Action of NJ – a coalition of all Unitarian Universalist congregations in the state, including UU of Cherry Hill where I am also co-chair of our Reparations Task Force.

Judge Phillip Carchman got it right when he said that this is truly participatory democracy. Unitarian Universalists are committed to 7 core principles, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Principle states, “The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” Your desire to hear the voices of ordinary citizens is to be commended and the fact that the maps to be considered have been made public prior to a final vote is a great achievement. It is our desire that you strongly consider and adopt the principles that are reflected in the Fair District Unity Map that is currently before you.

Common sense tells us that the legislative district lines should be representative of its citizens and their communities. Partisanship and protecting incumbents should not be a consideration. However, since human beings who happen to be politicians are empowered to perform this task, it is no small wonder that end results have in the past fallen far short of goals and expectations.

Consider the existing legislative map. Currently, people of color represent almost 50% of the citizens in New Jersey, but the State Legislature has only 25% people of color to voice their dreams and aspirations. Now, I recognize that the election of representatives involves many variables, but if the districts are designed so that these voices of color are diluted through the careful carving up of communities of interest, we are not even playing on a level playing field to start.

The Fair District Unity Map provides the racial equity that is needed. Within its redrawn boundaries, one half, or 20 districts, would contain a population of people of color that is in the majority. Currently, there are only 15 districts that meet this basic need. The Unity Map has been meticulously created to measure the exact number of all racial interest groups – white, black, Hispanic, Asian, indigenous – in every district and to not skirt where segregation takes place and where diversity exists. Since the last census ten years ago, the growth in New Jersey is directly related to the increase of numbers in the

people of color who are citizens of this great state. To turn one's back on this fact is to make a mockery of this process. We have confidence that you will look at this map with an open mind and heart and see the wisdom in its breadth and logic.

And let's talk about communities of interest and what that means. The coalition, that put forth the Fair District Unity Map, has held meetings throughout the state to ask ordinary citizens what they viewed as their community of interest. That means where do they do their shopping, where do they go to church, where do they work, where are their network of friends, where do they feel comfortable to see people and do new things. This is not a sterile version of where does the township or county lines start and end.

Let me speak specifically about where I have lived for the last 20 years in South Jersey. Beginning in 2000, I lived in Pennsauken with my wife and two stepchildren who were attending the public schools at the time. Serving on the Pennsauken Alliance on Substance Abuse for five years, I discovered how linked the township and Camden are. Meanwhile, Merchantville, which so happened to be in my backyard, is almost completely surrounded by Pennsauken and all three should be considered a community of interest. Camden's interests are not served well when divided up into three different districts that do not share their common interests with a town like Pennsauken. These three communities should be in the same district.

I was once told by a wise man that when you are in hole of your own making, the best way to get out is to first stop digging. I would suggest to the commission that is exactly what you need to do. In order to address the problem that we currently have by legislative district lines drawn in an unfair manner without consideration of the facts, you need to look elsewhere to the Fair District Unity Map to give everyone the same opportunity to be represented in Trenton.

I want to thank you once again for this opportunity to speak and to thank you for your hard work in maintaining a fair and open process.

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**From:** Rania Mustafa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 08, 2022 1:14 AM  
**To:** OLSaideAPPC  
**Subject:** Written Testimony 2/5  
**Attachments:** List of Mosques in NJ (1).pdf; List of Arab American Politicians - Sheet1.pdf

Hello,

Thank you for accepting these written testimonies. Please find them below. We are also attaching a list of Arab American Politicians in NJ and a list of 100 Mosques that Arab Americans Frequent. Here is the latest version of our community map.

**Fihmi Abdelfattah**

- Good afternoon, Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, my name is Fihmi Abdelfattah, I am the President of the North Hudson Islamic Educational Center. I am a businessman that immigrated to this country over 40 years ago and I'm currently leading the largest Mosque in Hudson county.
- I am here to support the Unity Map presented by Fair Districts New Jersey.
- I have been working with PACC to help map Arab communities throughout the state of New Jersey in hopes that the commission will take my community into consideration when redrawing the state's district maps.
- The diverse Arab/MENA populations in New Jersey can trace their ancestry to different countries, speak different dialects or languages, practice different religions and fall into a broad range of socioeconomic categories. However, we have much more in common and want to be represented by leaders that understand our community ethnic diversity and unique needs.
- We can trace our economic contributions to New Jersey by Syrian immigrants that established silk manufacturing soon after the city of Paterson was founded in 1792 and by 1924 there were 25 Arab American owned factories in Paterson and Hoboken.
- There are an estimated 113 islamic nonprofits organizations in New Jersey and many Arab organizations throughout NJ, including my own in Union City. We have become a home and a safe haven for thousands of people seeking assistance and connection with their community. But we are limited in our ability to provide social services, as many funding streams are limited to data and government sources of information that do not track my community.
- In Hudson County, where I live, we have mapped the following cities as having significant Arab populations including Jersey City "The Heights Area, Union City where my community center is, West New York mainly centered around Bergenline. This community of interest shares a uniquely immigrant experience with specific community needs that can only be addressed by someone that understands the complexity of my community.
- Even though our Arab American community can trace its history to the establishment of the city of Paterson, we have seen a significant increase in our population over the last 30 years giving us the ability to gain leadership positions throughout local government but we currently have no representation in Trenton or Washington D.C.
- PACC has submitted a community of interest map highlighting 25 cities and townships in 6 counties with significant Arab American populations. This map is also included in the Unity Map presented by Fair District New Jersey.

- I hope you take these maps into consideration when drawing new district lines. I hope you're able to keep Jersey City, Union City, and West New York together as a voting block to ensure we get the representation we need.

### **Suha Obeidallah**

- Hello Commission, my name is Suha Obiedallah, I live in Passaic county and I am an ESL teacher at School 9 in the city of Paterson.
- School 9 has the highest enrollment of Arab American students in the state. I work directly with these families and see first hand the disparities that exist within my community.
- I am one of a few in the school that can assist students and parents with language access needs.
- I also run an Islamic school during the weekends where I teach Arabic, and Islamic studies.
- I see firsthand the importance of having representation in these families and children's lives. If I was not there to provide this very needed service, many of these families would go without their needs being addressed.
- This is why I am here to endorse the unity map presented by Fair District New Jersey. Fair District New Jersey has worked with the Palestinian American Community Center to map Arab American communities throughout the state.
- I see how vital it is for me to engage school and district leadership in order to get my students' needs met, and that is why I stand before you today.
- I see how the Arab American student enrollment has grown over the last decade in my school and my school district. The economic contributions of my community are significant and will only continue to grow as I educate the next generation of leaders.
- PACC has worked closely with community leaders throughout the state to map our community and provide that information to you.
- We have highlighted 6 counties with significant Arab populations including Passaic, Hudson, Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, and Monmouth Counties.
- I hope you take our community of interest map into consideration and think about the future generations of voters that can either have representation or go another decade without. Please consider the Unity map presented by Fair Districts New Jersey.

### **RAED ODEH**

- Hello Commission, My name is Raed Odeh, I am a proud Business owner of Passaic County and I am here on behalf my Arab American community and the Palestinian American Community Center known as PACC.
- I am a trusted leader within my community and I am informally known as the other Arab Mayor of Paterson.
- I am here to support the community of interest map presented by PACC, they have worked with community leaders across the state to map the most significant Arab populations. We have found that 6 counties and 25 cities in New Jersey have the most significant Arab populations.
- Even though our community can trace its history to the establishment of the city of Paterson, we have seen a significant increase in our population over the last 30 years giving us the ability to gain leadership positions throughout local government.
- The city of Prospect Park currently has 5 elected officials that are Arab American including Mayor Mohammed Khairullah and Chief of Police Amin Matari demonstrating that our population is significant enough to elect candidates of our choosing.
- The city of Paterson has two elected officials of Arab descent including Mayor Andre Sayegh.
- The City of Clifton has two Board of Education elected officials with Arab heritage.

- The City of Haledon also has two Arab American elected officials including Council President Mounir Almaita and Councilman Mohammed Ramadan.
- North Heldon has two elected officials of Arab descent including Mayor Randy George. There are currently 13 additional cities in New Jersey with 14 elected officials of Arab American heritage, demonstrating that our community will elect candidates of their choice when given the opportunity, we currently have no representation in Trenton or Washington D.C.
- I hope you take the map built by PACC and by Fair Districts New Jersey into consideration so that we may get the representation needed throughout state government.
- Please ensure we have fair representation in New Jersey and utilize the vital information being presented to you by community leaders throughout the state.

### DIAB MUSTAFA

- Hello Commission, Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify. My name is Diab Mustafa. I am the Palestinian American Community Center President of the Board of Directors.
- My family has roots in Passaic, and Hudson county for many decades and I am a very active member of my community.
- I was one of the founders of PACC. PACC was founded because we recognized the many needs of my Arab community in New Jersey.
- My work confounding PACC gives me a unique experience in directly seeing how my community has grown over the last decade and how we expect it to continue to grow in the coming decade.
- PACC has worked closely with Fair Districts New Jersey to ensure that our community of interest map is included in the Unity Map. Which has been presented to the commission.
- PACC has brought together Arab community leaders from across the state to discuss how we would like to be represented in Trenton and in Washington, D.C. We have mapped pockets of Arab American communities throughout New Jersey which have had significant economic and development contributions to the state.
- I want to ensure the commission recognizes my community as part of the redistricting process, as the process primarily uses Census demographic data, which categorizes Arab/MENA communities as White.
- Because we are not counted in the Census as our own racial or ethnic category we are invisible in government processes, cutting our ability to get funding, or our policy concerns addressed.
- PACC has drafted a community of interest map that encompasses 6 counties and 25 cities with the highest concentration of Arab American populations and businesses that contribute to the economic development of these cities in significant ways.
- Passaic County is considered the epicenter of the Arab American Community in New Jersey, with Paterson being the highest concentrated city. Clifton, Woodland Park, Little Falls, Wayne, and Passaic all have significant Arab populations.
- Essex County also has a high Arab American population, centered around Bloomfield and Nutley.
- Middlesex County also has highly concentrated Arab populations in New Brunswick, Piscataway, South River, Old Bridge, Edison, and Sayreville.
- Monmouth County cities of Holmdel and Middleton have the highest concentrations.
- You will hear from others representing Hudson and Bergen counties.
- By focusing on these 6 counties and 25 cities with high populations, it would be a great starting point for our community to receive the representation it needs to elect community leaders that will address our specific policy and community needs.

- I hope you take the Unity map presented by Fair Districts New Jersey and PACC community of interest map into consideration when redrawing district lines. This is our only opportunity to get fair representation for the next decade.

**Fedah Mohammed**

- Good afternoon commission. My name is Fedah Mohammed and I am here on behalf of the Palestinian American Community Center and the Fair Districts New Jersey. I would just like to take a moment to thank the commission for allowing me the space to speak today about my community's concerns.
- There are at least 3.5 million Arab Americans living in this country, yet we are not represented in Census data as unique racial and ethnic categories and we are categorized under the white race.
- According to the census, the New Jersey statewide Arab American population is 116,240.
- However, the Arab American Institute (AAI) estimates that about 257,868 Arab Americans live in New Jersey.
- This is a gross undercount of our community's population and if the Census is the only demographic data source you are using, you are certainly not taking my entire community into consideration when mapping.
- We have been working with Arab community leaders from across the state to map all significant communities with Arab American populations. We have identified 25 cities and townships in 6 counties with significant populations and economic contributions.
- Our community of interest map has been included in the unity map presented by Fair Districts New Jersey and I hope the commission takes it into consideration when redrawing our districts maps.
- As a recent college graduate, I have seen firsthand the significant impact community organizations such as PACC have played in my community. PACC currently services children, students, and young adults, engaging youth in democracy work and enabling us to get involved.
- I am here to ensure that future generations of Arab Americans can get the representation we need to address our community's needs. It is only through active participation and engagement that we can hold our leaders accountable.
- PACC has presented our data and findings about my community and I hope you take it into consideration so that we can elect candidates that will ensure our future generations have a voice at the table.
- Thank you again.

**RANIA MUSTAFA**

- Good afternoon, I want to thank the commission for giving the Fair District Committee and myself the opportunity to present our community of interest map. My name is Rania Mustafa, I am here on behalf of my community and as the Executive Director of The Palestinian American Community Center (PACC for short).
- I am here to endorse the Unity map that Fair Districts New Jersey has presented to the commission. Taking the Fair Districts New Jersey unity map into consideration will ensure that racial equity and inclusion of diverse communities are considered and represented at the state level.
- NJ is a culturally, geographically, and religiously diverse state, embodying many experiences and narratives that cannot be distilled into a singular experience or partisan lines. The unity map is a starting point in building political power for minority communities throughout the state including Arab Americans in NJ.



- I was born and raised in Paterson, the epicenter of the Arab community in New Jersey and I have lived within the same one mile radius for most of my life. I know firsthand the economic and development my community has contributed not only to Paterson and Clifton in Passaic County but also all the smaller pockets my community has built throughout the state, which we have mapped and included in the Unity Map.
- In the last 8 years PACC has quickly become a staple in my community and a pillar in educating and providing critical services our community needs. We have worked with various Arab American community leaders throughout the state to map Arab American communities in New Jersey, you have already heard from many from my community and a few more will speak today.
- New Jersey is home to one of the most diverse Arab and Middle Eastern & North African (MENA) communities in the country. Specifically, New Jersey has the second-largest community of Palestinians in the United States and the 7th largest Arab and MENA community in the country.
- The South Paterson Arab American community known as Little Ramallah, is a great example of our economic contributions to New Jersey as it is currently leading economic development for the entire city of Paterson.
- An estimated 10,000 Arab American residents throughout New Jersey visit the South Paterson Arab business corridor nearly every weekend bringing in huge economic opportunities to our community.
- We recognize the unique experience our community has and PACC works closely with the community to address our needs including translation services, civic engagement, childcare, and social services especially during this pandemic.
- In addition to endorsing the fair district map, we have submitted our own community of interest map. Our community of Interest is diverse in geography and primarily lives in Passaic, Hudson, Bergen, Essex, Middlesex, and Monmouth Counties with 25 cities.
- We want to thank the commission for taking it into account in the map-making process. In our map, we point to the cities and important landmarks like Mosques, Churches, Businesses, Community Organizations, and Schools with high populations of Arab Americans.
- As you know, Arab Americans are not captured in the U.S. Census as we are categorized as "White", therefore it is difficult to calculate our population overall.
- The inability to fully capture my community in government data has detrimental impacts including how much funding we receive, whether our community is considered in political and government processes such as redistricting. It is important that our community of interest is recognized and is mapped together when possible so we may have the ability to elect candidates of our choice to address our specific community needs.
- This commission is our only opportunity to be recognized as a significant population in New Jersey and receive adequate representation.
- Thank you very much for your time and attention to this very important matter!

### LAYLA ODEH

- Good afternoon, my name is Layla Odeh. I live in Bergen county and I am here with The Palestinian American Community Center located in Clifton. I am also a college student at Montclair State University. As the lead Get Out the Vote organizer, I know firsthand how important it is for my community to engage in all democracy work including redistricting.
- That is why I am here today to endorse the unity map that Fair Districts New Jersey has presented to the commission.
- New Jersey has experienced significant growth amongst its most diverse populations over the last decade. Those who identified as Arabic-speaking in the U.S. Census grew more than 42% between 2000 and 2017. The number of New Jerseyans who claim an Arab ancestry has more

than doubled since the Census first measured ethnic origins in 1980, and is among the fastest-growing Arab populations in the country.

- The Unity Map recognizes the significant growth from diverse populations throughout the state, and it will ensure that communities get the representation needed in Trenton.
- The U.S. Census counts people who hold Arab ancestry or other Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) origins within the "White" racial category. The Arab/MENA community, though lumped into the White racial category by the U.S. Census, is quite distinct from White populations.
- In Bergen County where I am from, the Arab population lives in Fairlawn, Paramus, Garfield, Elmwood Park and Cliffside Park. Mapping this community together will ensure we have the ability to elect candidates of our choice to address our very unique needs.
- After several community meetings and discussions with community leaders, we recognize that the most significant Arab population in Bergen county is within these 5 cities, and the commission has the ability to map this area contiguously.
- Please consider keeping my community together as a voting block to ensure we can elect a candidate of our choosing to better serve our needs in Trenton.

Rania Mustafa  
**Executive Director**

**Palestinian American Community Center**  
973-253-6145  
[www.paccusa.org](http://www.paccusa.org)



County	City	Elected Officials	Position
Passaic County	Prospect Park	Mohamed Khairullah	Mayor of Prospect Park
		Alaa Matari	Councilman
	Paterson	Amin Matari	Chief of Police
		Arwa Ensour	Board of Education
	Clifton	Hesham Dagstani	Manchester Regional High School Board of Education
		Alaa Abdelaziz	Councilman of 6th Ward Paterson
		Andre Sayegh	Mayor Paterson
		Fahim Abedrabbo	Board of Education
		Feras Awad	Board of Education
		Mohammad Ramadan	Councilman in Haledon
North Haledon	Mounir Almaita	Council President	
	Micheal Fattal	Board of Education Vice President	
	Randy George	Mayor	
	Khaled Alagha	Manchester Regional High School Board of Education	
Woodland Park	Joseph Wojtecki	Councilman	
	Adam Chaabane	Board of Education	
Hudson County	Jersey City	Yousef Saleh	Councilman in Jersey City
		Mohamed Barkouch	Board of Education
Bergen County	Ridgewood	Muhammad Hatim Mahmoud	Board of Education
	Montvale	Michael Ghassali	Mayor
	Wallington	Mustafa Rabboh	Chief of Police
		Khaldoun Androwis	Councilman
	Elmwood Park	Chakib Fakhoury	Councilman
	Bergen County	Ramon Hache	County Commissioner
Union County	Westfield	Sahar Aziz	Board of Education
Monmouth County	Red Bank	Hazim Yassin	Councilman - Former

Somerset County

Franklin Township

Sami Shaban

Board of Education



# HARTFORD INSTITUTE FOR RELIGION RESEARCH

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109 Masjids fit this category.

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Mosque Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Contact
<b><u>Masjidul Bayaan</u></b> Islamic Center of Asbury Park	612 Ridge Ave.	Asbury Park	NJ	07712	732-318-6930
<b>Dawah Center</b>	16 S. Tennessee Ave.	Atlantic City	NJ	08401	609-340-8860
<b>Masjid Al-Taqwa</b> Muslim Community Organization of South Jersey	3536 Atlantic Ave.	Atlantic City	NJ	08401	609-344-1786 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Muhammad Islamic Center</b>	300 N. Albany Ave.	Atlantic City	NJ	08401	609-347-0788
<b>Masjid Furqaan</b>	1208-B Atlantic Ave.	Atlantic City	NJ	08401	609-344-0279 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Islamic Society of Basking Ridge</u></b>	P.O. Box 173	Basking Ridge	NJ	07920	908-672-1798 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Mas Center of Bayonne</b>	235 Broadway	Bayonne	NJ	07002	201-455-8806
<b><u>Miraj Center</u></b> Bayonne Muslims	625 Ave. C	Bayonne	NJ	07002	<a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Jame-E-Masjid Islamic Center</u></b> American Islamic Academy	110 Harrison	Boonton	NJ	07005	973-334-9334 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Garden State Islamic Center</b>	22 Coral Ave.	Bridgeton	NJ	08302	856-451-4651 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Al-Falah</b>	1475 Mountain Top Rd.	Bridgewater	NJ	08807	
<b>Selimiye Camii</b> Delaware Valley Muslim Association	203 Fountain Ave.	Burlington	NJ	08016	609-386-5535
<b>Masjidun Nur</b>	1231 Mechanic St.	Camden	NJ	08104	856-365-1551
<b>Quba School And Islamic Center</b>	1311 Haddon Ave.	Camden	NJ	08103	856-831-6562
<b>Admiral Family Community</b>	1268 Park Blvd.	Camden	NJ	08103	609-

<b>Center</b>						541-0301
<b>Masjid Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahab</b>	1032 Spruce St.	Camden	NJ	08103		856-541-0681
<b>Carteret Islamic Center</b>	P.O. Box 422	Carteret	NJ	07008		732-770-9363
<b>Deleware Valley Islamic Center</b>	199 Berlin Rd.	Clemeaton	NJ	08021		856-783-0006
<b><u>Masjid Shahada</u></b>	2648 U.S. 206	Columbus	NJ	08022		609-265-9370
<b><u>Baitul-Qayem</u></b> Shia Association of North America	337 Conrow Rd.	Delran	NJ	08075		856-764-9697
<b><u>Iqra Community Services</u></b> (East Brunswick Congregational Church)	402 New Brunswick Ave	East Brunswick	NJ	08816		908-227-6830 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjidus- Sadaqa</b>	18 N. 19Th (Ground Floor)	East Orange	NJ	07017		973-678-1365 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Masjidu Ahlis Sunnah</u></b> Islamic Center of America	215 N. Oraton Pkwy	East Orange	NJ	07017		201-672-6690 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid As Habul Yameen</b>	224 N. 18th St.	East Orange	NJ	07017		973-678-7878
<b><u>Institute For Islamic Studies</u></b>	379 Princeton Highstown Rd. Bldg 2 Suite 1	East Windsor	NJ	08512		917-685-7502 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Jamia Musallah</u></b>	157 Plainfield Ave.	Edison	NJ	08817		732-896-0356 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Muslim Community Center of Union County</u></b>	60 Prince St.	Elizabeth	NJ	07208		908-965-1001 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Dar-UI-Islam</b>	606-612 Salem Ave.	Elizabeth	NJ	07208		908-965-2011 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Al-Hadi</b>	9 Broad St.	Elizabeth	NJ	07201		908-351-7238 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Mehfile Shahe-Khorasan</u></b>	36 Tenafly Rd.	Englewood	NJ	07631		
<b><u>Astana-E Zehra</u></b> Ahle Baith Foundation	14 Mt. Vernon Rd.	Englishtown	NJ	07726		732-446-

0554  
[email](#)

<b><u>Islamic Center of Hunterdon County</u></b>	39 Mine St.	Flemington	NJ	08822	<a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Muslim Community of New Jersey</u></b>	15 S. 2Nd St.	Fords	NJ	08863	773-738-5100 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Imam-A-Zamana Foundation of North America</u></b>	235 Georgia Rd.	Freehold	NJ	07728	732-308-3027 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Albanian American Muslim Society</b>	43 Monroe St.	Garfield	NJ	07026	973-546-4095 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Bergen County Islamic Education Center</b>	78 Trinity Place	Hackensack	NJ	07601	201-488-8075
<b>Minhaj-UI-Quran</b>	36 Vreeland Ave.	Hackensack	NJ	07601	201-641-7474
<b>Islamic Society of Northern New Jersey</b>	354 Road 46 W	Hackettstown	NJ	07840	908-850-9925 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Islamic Center of Harrison</u></b>	301 Jersey St.	Harrison	NJ	07029	973-481-2877 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Waarith Ud-Deen</b>	62-70 Howard St.	Irvington	NJ	07111	973-373-3333
<b><u>Zainabia Imambara</u></b>	1049 Clinton Ave	Irvington	NJ	07111	973-375-5995
<b>Sunni Rizvi Jamia Masjid Gmc Foundation</b>	294 Grove St.	Jersey City	NJ	07302	201-333-2500
<b>Masjid Al-Iman</b>	598 Communipaw	Jersey City	NJ	07304	
<b>Muslim Federation of New Jersey</b>	530 Montgomery St.	Jersey City	NJ	07302	201-433-0057
<b>El Tawheed Islamic Center</b>	984 W. Side Ave	Jersey City	NJ	07306	201-432-1773
<b>Masjid Darul Khair</b>	20 Chopin Court	Jersey City	NJ	07302	<a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Al-Salaam</b>	2824 Kennedy Blvd	Jersey City	NJ	07306	201-653-2990
<b>Al-Huda Islamic Center The Egyptian American Group</b>	326 Central Ave.	Jersey City	NJ	07307	
<b>Masjid Muhammad</b>	297 Martin Luther King	Jersey City	NJ	07305	201-

	Drive				435-6845
<b><u>Islamic Center of Jersey City</u></b>	17 Park Street	Jersey City	NJ	07304	201-433-5000
<b><u>Islamic Center of Old Bridge</u></b>	205 State Rt. 35 North	Keyport	NJ	07735	732-583-2030
<b><u>Islamic Center of Lake Hiawatha</u></b>	63 N. Beverwyck Rd.	Lake Hiawatha	NJ	07034	970-703-4474
<b><u>Masjid Free Haven</u></b>	280 Ashland Ave.	Lawnside	NJ	08045	856-546-1500
<b><u>Islamic Circle of Mercer County</u></b>	336 Lawrence Station Rd.	Lawrenceville	NJ	08648	609-586-3165
<b>Ar-Rahma Center</b>	3003 Lincoln Dr. W	Marlton	NJ	08053	856-334-5414 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Al-Amaan</b> Islamic Society of Monmouth County	496 Red Hill Rd.	Middletown	NJ	07748	732-671-3321
<b><u>Islamic Society of Central Jersey</u></b>	4145 Us 1	Monmouth Junction	NJ	08852	732-329-8126 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>New Brunswick Islamic Center</u></b>	167 Remsen Ave.	New Brunswick	NJ	08901	732-214-1547 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Al-Quddus</b> Nigerian Muslim Council Inc	582 S. 11th St.	Newark	NJ	07103	973-424-0662
<b>Masjid Imam Ali Muslim</b>	257 Orange Avenue S.	Newark	NJ	07103	908-380-3819
<b>Masjid Al-Fallahee</b>	675 Clinton Ave.	Newark	NJ	07108	973-732-0393 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Rahmah</b>	657 Martin Luther King Blvd	Newark	NJ	07102	973-621-8833 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>National Islamic Association</b>	239 Roseville Ave.	Newark	NJ	07107	973-482-8996
<b>Masjid Al-Mubarak</b> Nigerian American Islamic Mission	103 14th Ave.	Newark	NJ	07103	973-622-6246 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Bayt-UI-Khaliq</b> Newark Community Masjid	214 Chancellor Ave	Newark	NJ	07112	973-926-8927
<b>Masjid Al-Haqq</b>	689 Springfield Ave.	Newark	NJ	07101	973-



						373-0344
<b>Islamic Cultural Center</b>	20-24 Bradford Place	Newark	NJ	07102		973-623-2100
<b>Irvington Islamic Center</b>	660 Sanford Ave.	Newark	NJ	07106		
<b>Al-Madina Masjid</b>	55 Manor Dr. Basement	Newark	NJ	07106		
<b>Masjid Ibrahim</b>	392 Chancellor Ave.	Newark	NJ	07112		973-923-3426
<b><u>Islamic Center of South Jersey</u></b>	612 Garfield Ave.	Palmyra	NJ	08065		856-786-7440 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Islamic Information Institute</b>	520 Ernston Rd. No.9	Parlin	NJ	08859		732-316-1800 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Al-Ibrahemi Masjid</u></b>	59 Van Winkle Ave.	Passaic	NJ	07055		973-277-2237 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Naksibendi Sufi Center</u></b>	940 Main Ave.	Passaic	NJ	07055		607-369-4816
<b><u>Masjid Al-Ansar</u></b>	132 President St.	Passaic	NJ	07055		973-365-0988 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Jalalabad Jam-E-Masjid</u></b>	57-61 Van Houghton St.	Paterson	NJ	07505		973-279-6408
<b><u>Ulu Cami</u></b> Turkish American Cultural Center	408 Knickerbocker Ave.	Paterson	NJ	07503		973-345-6584 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Albanian Associated Fund Cultural Center</b>	456 River St.	Paterson	NJ	07524		973-523-9203
<b>Mohammadia Islamic Center</b> Islamic Association of Afghan	140 Marshall St.	Paterson	NJ	07501		973-742-3020
<b><u>Masjid Ansar As-Sunnah</u></b>	63 Washington St. 2Nd Fl.	Paterson	NJ	07501		973-357-0122 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Al-Ferdous</b> Paterson Islamic Mission	438 Union Ave.	Paterson	NJ	07502		973-389-7987
<b>Islamic Center of Passaic &amp; Patterson</b>	6 Plaza Rd.	Paterson	NJ	07424		
<b>Masjid Omar Bin Khattab</b>	501 Getty Ave.	Paterson	NJ	07503		973-279-6226

<b>Turkish Muslim Mosque</b>	32 Chestnut St	Paterson	NJ	07501	973-345-1083
<b><u>Islamic Center of Passaic County</u></b>	152 Derrom Ave.	Paterson	NJ	07504	973-278-7070
<b><u>Muslim Center of Middlesex County</u></b>	1000 Hoes Lane	Piscataway	NJ	08854	732-463-2004 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjidullah</b>	321 Grant Avenue	Plainfield	NJ	07060	908-561-6797
<b>Plainfield Center for Islamic Enlightenment</b>	147-151 North Ave.	Plainfield	NJ	07060	908-222-1101 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Islamic Dawah Center</u></b>	230 E. Fifth St.	Plainfielf	NJ	07060	908-769-8700 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Al Falah Center</u></b>	P.O. Box 252	Pluckemin	NJ	07978	908-671-1742 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Islamic Center of Morris County</u></b>	1 Mannino Dr.	Rockaway	NJ	07866	973-664-1111 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid Ismail</b>	121-125 Chestnut St.	Roselle	NJ	07203	908-245-3586 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Masjid-E-Ali</u></b> Muslim Foundation Inc.	47 Cedar Grove Lane	Somerset	NJ	08873	732-564-1331
<b><u>Muslim Center of Somerset County</u></b>	63 Southside Ave.	Somerville	NJ	08876	908-231-1263 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Masjid Shuhada</u></b>	2648 Us Rt. 206	Springfield	NJ	08022	609-265-9310 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Nida-Ul-Islam Center</u></b>	250 Hargreaves Ave.	Teaneck	NJ	07666	201-833-2162 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Dar Ul-Islah</b> Muslim Community of Bergen	320 Febry Terrace	Teaneck	NJ	07666	201-692-7730
<b>Islamic Center of Fairleigh Dicks</b>	1000 River Road Student Un. Bld T-Su2-03	Teaneck	NJ	07666	201-692-2768 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Masjid Al-Mustafa</u></b> Islamic Center of Ocean	2116 Whitesville Rd.	Toms River	NJ	08755	732-363-

County					1940
<b><u>Masjid Bilal</u></b>					732-
Muslim Society of Jersey Shore	1733 Route 9	Toms River	NJ	08755	286-0300
<b>Islamic Center of Ewing</b>	685 Parkway Ave.	Trenton	NJ	08618	609-406-9222
<b>Masjid Muhammed Al Uthaymeen</b>	39 East Paul Ave.	Trenton	NJ	08638	609-503-5148 <a href="#">email</a>
<b>Masjid As-Saffat</b>	25 Oxford St.	Trenton	NJ	08618	609-695-7775
<b>Masjidul-Taqwa</b>	1001 East State Street	Trenton	NJ	08609	609-392-3303
<b><u>Islamic Center of Union County</u></b>	2372 Morris Ave.	Union	NJ	07083	908-686-5400 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>North Hudson Islamic Educational Cener</u></b>	4613 Cottage Place	Union City	NJ	07087	201-330-0066 <a href="#">email</a>
<b><u>Voorhees Islamic Center</u></b>					856-753-7925 <a href="#">email</a>
Muslim American Community Association	3 Lafayette Ave.	Voorhees	NJ	08043	
<b><u>Masjid Al-Nasr</u></b>					973-790-9709
Circassian Benevolent Association	383 Oldham Rd.	Wayne	NJ	07470	
<b>Westville Islamic Comm Center Masjid</b>	1420 Pilgrim Ave.	Westville	NJ	08096	856-853-0330 <a href="#">email</a>

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