

New Jersey Apportionment Commission
Compromise Map Proposal
By Brad Van Arnum
February 8th, 2022

Dear members of the New Jersey Apportionment Commission,

I would like to thank the commission for releasing two draft maps this week, both of which I have been reviewing closely. I have already registered to make a statement at the virtual hearing on Wednesday, February 9th, but I wanted to take this opportunity beforehand to present one final map of mine, which aims to combine the best features of the Parkway and Turnpike maps, both of which have elements that should be included in the final legislative map.

Broadly speaking, I felt the Parkway map did a good job of drawing districts in Morris County, Northwest Jersey, and especially South Jersey. On the other hand, I believe the Turnpike map made more logical choices in the central and northeastern part of the state. My map, therefore, followed the two drafts in those respective regions.

The link to my map is:

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/a07d6012-5660-44e1-b21c-f37856096cf7>

My map meets the requirements outlined previously by Judge Carchman. I have 17 majority-minority districts (with one more district right on the cusp of majority-minority status), and the population deviation across my 40 districts is just under 5%.

Compared to the Parkway and Turnpike drafts, my map ended up with more continuity of representation. This consideration was not a driving factor of mine when I first started replicating parts of the two drafts, but as it so happens, my map would force very few incumbents (to my knowledge, just one or two) out of their current districts.

One of my primary goals in this exercise was to create more majority-minority districts. For example, whereas the current 5th district, based in Camden, is about 50% White, 23% Black, and 23% Hispanic, my version is roughly 41% White, 28% Black, and 29% Hispanic. Additionally, my version of the 16th is several percentage points more Asian-American, being about 29% Asian-American. This is the district I alluded to earlier that may become majority-minority in the near future (my version is 51% White).

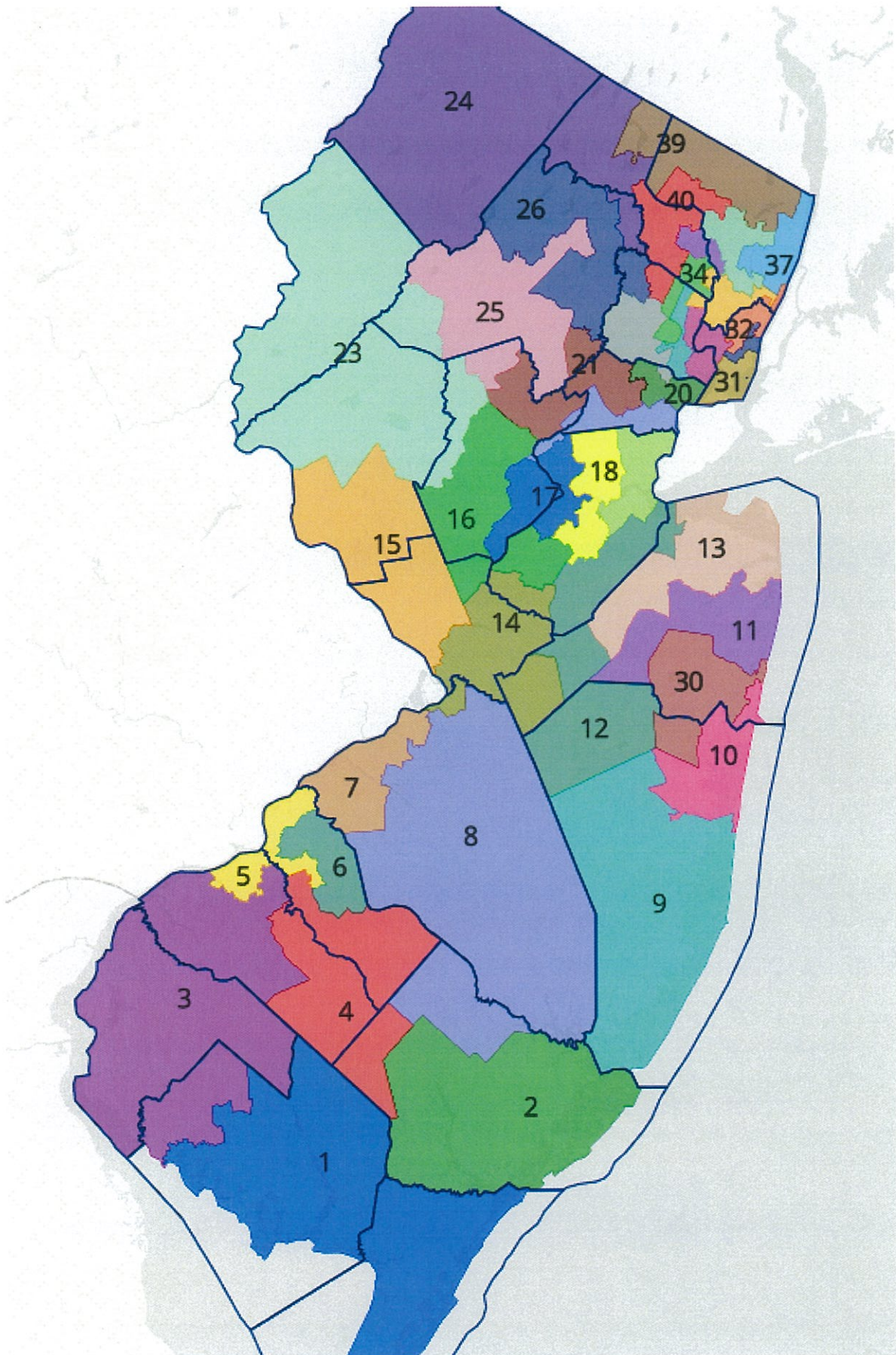
I was pleased to see that both drafts changed the 27th district in an identical way, creating a new version of the district with a much more substantial African-American population. My map followed suit.

Finally, at a time when more districts across the country are being drawn to be safe for one party, my map embraced competition whenever possible. I would consider my districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, and 21 to be fairly competitive. Additionally, districts 25, 36, and 39 might be considered slightly competitive under certain circumstances.

I look forward to making my final appearance on Wednesday, and I hope that members of the commission will consider this map as a possible way of combining the best elements of the two draft maps. A large image of my map appears on the next page. The link provided earlier will allow for a close-up view of any part of the state, as well as the ability to show municipality boundaries.

Sincerely,

Brad Van Arnum





City of Somers Point

DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY CLERK

SOMERS POINT

NEW JERSEY

*the shore starts here!*SM

February 2, 2022

Apportionment Commission Member LeRoy J. Jones, Jr
Apportionment Commission Member Al Barlas
Apportionment Commission Member Cosmo Cirillo
Apportionment Commission Member Jon M. Bramnick
Apportionment Commission Member Stephen M. Sweeney
Apportionment Commission Member Linda DuBois
Apportionment Commission Member Gary Taffet
Apportionment Commission Member Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Apportionment Commission Member Diane T. Testa
Apportionment Commission Member Michael B. Lavery
Apportionment Commission Member Philip S. Carchman
Senator Michael L. Testa, Jr.
Assemblyman Erik Simonsen
Assemblyman Antwan McClellan
Senator Vince J. Polistina
Assemblywoman Claire Swift
Assemblyman Don Guardian

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed please find a certified copy of Resolution No. 44 of 2022 that was passed by City Council at a meeting held on the 27th day of January 2022.

Sincerely,

Shelby Heath, RMC/CMR
Deputy City Clerk/Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics

Enclosure

City of Somers Point

Resolution

No. 44 of 2022

Subject: Requesting that the City of Somers Point Remain in Legislative District #2
Introduced by: Council Member McGuigan

WHEREAS, in accordance with the New Jersey State Constitution, legislative redistricting in New Jersey must be undertaken at the beginning of each decade to account for population changes that occur during the previous decade within the geographic boundaries of the State, in order to ensure equal democratic representation among the members of the population as nearly as practicable; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting map is created by the Apportionment Commission which consists of 10 members appointed in equal numbers by the chairmen of the State committees of each of the two political parties whose candidates for Governor received the largest number of votes at the most recent gubernatorial election. If the Commissioners cannot agree on a map, an 11th Commissioner is appointed by the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Somers Point is currently part of the Second Legislative District and there is speculation that the Apportionment Commission may consider shifting the City to the First Legislative District; and

WHEREAS, over the last two decades, the City has been shifted back and forth between the two districts, creating confusion amongst the citizenry as well as disenfranchising many; and

WHEREAS, Somers Point is a demographically diverse, working-class community, similar to much of the communities currently in the Second District, with many residents working in the Atlantic City casino industry and the many ancillary businesses; and

WHEREAS, Somers Point, as part of the southeast portion of Atlantic County, has different needs than those of Cape May County, being more suburban in nature, while much of Cape May County is made up of rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Somers Point's economic and social interests are much more aligned with the communities of Atlantic County rather than those of Cape May County; and

WHEREAS, Somers Point has established a number of share service agreements with other communities in the Second Legislative district; and

WHEREAS, Somers Point is part of the regional sending districts for the Mainland Regional High School, along with Linwood and Northfield, splitting the communities across two different Legislative Districts would be a disservice to the school and to the students it serves; and

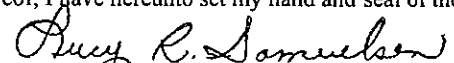
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point, that the Governing Body request that the Apportionment Commission keep the City of Somers Point in the New Jersey Second Legislative District of New Jersey and thus allow the citizens of Somers Point to continue to have consistent and proper representation at the State level in Trenton.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Somers Point that copies of this resolution be sent to Apportionment Commission members, LeRoy J. Jones, Jr., Al Barlas, Cosmo Cirillo, Jon M. Bramnick, Stephen M. Sweeney, Linda DuBois, Gary Taffet, Thomas H. Kean, Jr., Diane T. Testa, Michael B. Lavery, and Philip S. Carchman. And also, to New Jersey State Senator Michael L. Testa Jr., New Jersey

Assemblyman Erik Simonsen, and New Jersey Assemblyman Antwan McClellan, of the 1st Legislative District. And also, to New Jersey State Senator Vince J. Polistina, New Jersey Assemblywoman Claire Swift, and New Jersey Assemblyman Don Guardian of the 2nd Legislative District,

	MOTION	SECOND	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	RECUSE
Bruno		X	X				
Dill	X		X				
Adams			X				
McCarrie			X				
McGuigan			X				
Owen			X				
Johnston			X				
Consent							
Agenda							

I, Lucy R. Samuelsen, City Clerk of the City of Somers Point, New Jersey, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy, duly adopted by the City Council of said City at a Regular meeting held on the 27th day of January 2022. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the Office on the 27th day of January 2022.


 Lucy R. Samuelsen, RMC, City Clerk

I would like to start by saying thank you to the committee for providing this forum to hear concerns directly from the public related to redistricting.

My name is Sukhvir Singh and I am here to humbly request the committee strongly consider shifting Morris Plains and Parsippany Troy-Hills into the 25th Legislative District and out of the 26th.

I am currently a student at Rutgers Law School, but more importantly I am someone who has called Morris Plains and Parsippany my home for my entire life. I grew up attending the amazing schools we have and being a part of a community I am proud to call mine.

This community, the South Asian community, is vibrant and thriving in Morris County, but for the past 10 years, the State has been doing it a disservice based on the current legislative mapping. By placing Morris Plains and Parsippany in the 26th district, the South Asian community and community at large are being unfairly and needlessly divided.

For so long all across Morris County, from Boonton to Randolph to Parsippany, South Asians have been opening and operating businesses, establishing families, and giving back to the community. But we are currently unable to have our voices heard because we are being split and our vote significantly diluted.

The Constitution provides voting as a right for one reason, to make sure the people's voice is heard. But that is not possible when a person who casts a vote wonders if their voice will be heard or if it will be drowned out because it has been removed from his community with whom he shares his voice and views.

One of the pillars of the South Asian community is its adherence to faith and religious expression. From all over the county, we travel to attend temples and mosques and churches that all have one thing in common, they are located in towns that are represented by the 26th district. No matter what angle you approach it from, the community exists together and in one place, except when it comes to legislative mapping, which is what makes this so important as we are presented with a chance to fix this going forward.

Even when viewing it from a logistical perspective, it makes sense to shift Morris Plains and Parsippany into the 25th because they share so many services, like sewage, schools and so many more, with Morris township and Morristown, **both** of which are located in the 25th.

Please, take into consideration the need to preserve unity amongst communities and groups that are proud to call New Jersey their home and allow us to be heard fairly and justly for the years to come. Thank you.

Good evening Chairman Jones, Chairman Barlas, and members of the Apportionment Commission:

My name is Danielle M. Jones, and I live in Legislative District #11, which covers a majority of Monmouth County. In addition, I currently serve as a member of the Eatontown Borough Council. I wish to write about the importance of establishing fair and equitable legislative districts throughout the State of New Jersey.

In the 2020 Census, data reports that there was a 5.35% population growth – almost 500,00 New Jerseyans – in the state from the previous Census. Despite the obstacles of recording accurate data during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State recorded a significant growth in individuals calling New Jersey home. I urge the Commission to ensure that the newly drawn state legislative districts accurately reflect the communities living in their respective districts.

New Jersey is home to a diverse number of communities, including Black/African American, Latino, Asian, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, veterans, individuals with disabilities, religious, and much more. Over 100 languages are spoken in this state. As reflected in four (4) languages available for New Jersey residents to register to vote online and twelve (12) languages available in printed voter registration applications, this state is one of – if not the most diverse – states in the Union. Exodus 22:21a (NLT) states, *“You must not mistreat or oppress foreigners in any way”*, which demonstrates the significance of our public servants not using their positions of power and influence to cause harm to underrepresented and underserved communities.

As quoted by Professor Douglass Amy, *“Gerrymandering is one of the great political curses of our single-member plurality system ...”*, it is imperative that the legislative districts are accurately and fairly drawn to be representative of all individuals living in these districts. The legislators elected to represent their district have the responsibility to not only uphold both the United States and New Jersey Constitution, but to also represent all their constituents in a fair, equitable manner. I have faith that this bipartisan commission will not fall victim to establishing legislative districts for the next eight years to favor specific political affiliations.

Acclaimed author & activist James Baldwin said, *“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.”* It would be difficult to address and solve the challenging issues being spotlight in the State, including pension reform, property tax relief, K-12 public school funding, and more without accurate representation. Regardless of political ideology, I ask the Commission to present a final legislative map to New Jerseyans in which each district gives their constituents a voice and ability to actively engage and participate in their government.

From: Richard McManus <
Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2022 12:02 PM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: Fwd: FW: Written Objections for 2/9 meeting
Attachments: Reply Brief 3-22-12.doc

----- Original Message -----

From: John Wopat <
To: 'Richard McManus' <
Date: 02/08/2022 11:49 AM
Subject: FW: Written Objections for 2/9 meeting

Dick,

Can you forward it? It bounced back again.

Eddie

From: John Wopat <
Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 11:48 AM
To: 'olsaideppc@njleg.org' <
Cc: 'Richard McManus' <
Subject: Written Objections for 2/9 meeting

To the Members of the Commission: Attached please find the reply brief in Gonzalez v. Apportionment Commission (428 NJ Super.333, 2012) inadvertently left out of our previous comments. We object strenuously to both the "Turnpike" and "Parkway" plans commission members released yesterday for one-day of public comment. Both plans violate the State Constitutional mandate (Art.IV, Sec.II, par. 3) to maintain the integrity of county lines "unless necessary" to meet one-man, one-vote standards. Both plans ignore the constitutional directive to minimize "county splits." Respectfully submitted, John W. Wopat III and Richard J. McManus

March 29, 2012

Joseph H. Orlando
Clerk of the Appellate Division
Superior Court of New Jersey
Hughes Justice Complex
25 W. Market Street
P.O. Box 006
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-006

Re: Barbara Gonzalez, individually and as
Founder of the Bayshore Tea Party Group;
Robert A. Gordon, individually and as
Chairman of the Bayshore Tea Party Group;
Connie J. Sherwood, Clark Sherwood, Nancy
Peterson and Ted Peterson, individually and as
leaders of the Ocean County Citizens for Freedom,
Daryl Brooks, Joseph Abbruscato, Antoinette
DelGuidice, Frank Gonzalez, Lynn Gordon,
Brian Hegarty, Helene Henkl, Shelly Kennedy,
Charles Drake Measley, William Haney, Debbie
Sutton, Peter Michael Carroll, Jim Leskowitz,
Kelly Ann Hart, Adrienne S. Knobloch, Vincent
Avantagiato, Paul Albanese, Al French, Linda Shute,
Michael Pierone, Daniel Biringer, Catherine V. Giancola,
Edward J. Simonson, Frank Cottone, Michele Talamo, Carol J.
Gallentine, Douglas Salters, Mary Logan, Edward Auwarter,
Susan Lord, John Andrew Young and Brenda Roames,

Plaintiffs,

and

Richard J. McManus, Esquire, Plaintiff/intervenor

v.

State of New Jersey Apportionment Commission; Nilsa Cruz-Perez, Joseph Cryan, Sheila Oliver, Alan Rosenthal, Paul Sarlo, John Wisniewski, in their official Capacity As Members of the State of New Jersey Apportionment Commission; Kim Guadagno, in her official capacity as Secretary of State of the State of New Jersey; Paula Dow, in her official capacity as Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, Robert F. Giles, in his official capacity as Director of the Division of Elections of the State of New Jersey,

Defendants.

(Sat below: Feinberg, A.J.S.C)

Dkt. A-000747-11T4

Plaintiff/Intervenor-Appellant, Richard J. McManus respectfully submits the following letter reply brief pursuant to R.2-6-2(b).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTERVENOR MCMANUS (1) DID IDENTIFY A CLEAR CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION WHICH WOULD OVERCOME A PRESUMPTION OF VALIDITY OF THE 2011 APPORTIONMENT MAP BECAUSE (2) THE STATE SUPREME COURT NEVER UNEQUIVOCALLY ABROGATED ALL OF ARTICLE IV, SECTION II, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.....3

INTERVENOR MCMANUS (1) DID IDENTIFY A CLEAR CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATION WHICH WOULD OVERCOME A PRESUMPTION OF VALIDITY OF THE 2011 APPORTIONMENT MAP BECAUSE (2) THE STATE SUPREME COURT NEVER UNEQUIVOCALLY ABROGATED ALL OF ARTICLE IV, SECTION II, PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

The Democratic Members of the Apportionment Commission (“The Democrats”) contended that the intervenor McManus never identified a clear constitutional violation by the Apportionment Commission, and the Law Division property dismissed his intervention complaint. The Democrats are wrong.

Article IV, Section II, Para. 3 of the State Constitution reads in full:

The General Assembly shall be composed of eighty members. Each Senate district to which only one senator is apportioned shall constitute an Assembly district. Each of the remaining Senate districts shall be divided into Assembly districts equal in number to the number of senators apportioned to the Senate district. The assembly districts shall be composed of contiguous territory, as nearly compact and equal in the number of their inhabitants as possible, and in no event shall each such district contain less than eighty percent nor more than one hundred twenty percent of one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State as reported in the last decennial census of the United States. Unless necessary to meet the foregoing requirements, no county or municipality shall be divided among Assembly districts unless it shall contain more than one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State, and not county or municipality shall be divided among a number of Assembly districts larger than one plus the whole number obtained by dividing the number of inhabitants in the county or municipality by one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State.

The Court in Scrimminger v. Sherwin, 60 N.J. 483 (1972) invalidated those portions of Article IV, Section II which provided for multi-member

Senate districts and permitted a “swing” of twenty percent above and below the ideal “one-man, one-vote” district.

After the Appellate Division decision in Davenport v. Apportionment Commission, 124 N.J. Super. 433 (App. Div. 1973), Chief Justice Weintraub reconsidered the Scrimminger decisions in Davenport, et. al. v. App. Comm., 63 N.J. 433 (1973):

When in Scrimminger we spoke of “adherence to county lines” we used that expression as the equivalent of adhering to the whole county in setting up the Senate districts. We did not have in mind adherence to less than all of the lines of a whole county. In other words, there was not before us the question whether the 40 new districts should be so drawn as to adhere to as many county lines, as much as possible even though the whole county concept plan was not to be followed. The Appellate Division opinion projects the question whether an apportionment plan must place as many of the 40 districts as possible somewhere within the borders of a county. Without intending to limit parties, we note two theses which could arguable be advanced for the proposition that the Constitution commands that there shall be placed within whole counties as many of the 40 Senate districts as can be. The first is that this mandate is a lesser-included mandate within the Constitution’s direction that the Senate districts consist of whole counties, i.e., that this mandate would tend to achieve the same constitutional policy which cannot be achieved in full under the 1970 demographic pattern. The other possible thesis would be that the provision in Article 4, Sect. 2, paragraph 3, which deals with Assembly districts rather than Senate districts, compels the same or a similar result even though that provision was included on a hypothesis that failed, i.e., that it would be applied in creating sub-districts within Senate districts consisting of one or more whole counties. We refer to the last sentence of Art. 4, Sec. 2, paragraph 3, which we flagged earlier and which reads:

“...Unless necessary to meet the foregoing requirements, no county or municipality shall be divided among Assembly districts unless it shall contain more than one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the state, and no county or municipality shall be divided among a number of Assembly

districts larger than one plus the whole number obtained by dividing the number of inhabitants in the county or municipality by one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State.” 63 N.J. at 446-447.

The Court recalled the case in 1974, after the Democratic Party had won historic super-majorities in both houses of the State Legislature and Richard J. Hughes had been appointed Chief Justice. The majority opinion sidestepped Chief Justice Weintraub’s distinction between “whole counties” and “within whole counties.” It concluded:

We are satisfied that once the use of counties as building blocks was declared unenforceable, as it had to be under the demographic pattern shown by the 1970 census, the county concept ceased to have any viability in the creation of Senate districts. Davenport, et. al. v. Apportionment Comm., 65 N.J. 125, 133 (1974).

In his dissent Justice Morris Pashman called his colleagues on their avoidance of that distinction:

With the help of some doubtful reasoning, my colleagues have concluded that the county concept, in whatever form, was declared unconstitutional in *Scrimminger, supra*. This is simply not the case. The county concept was never explicitly held to be unconstitutional. 65 N.J. at 137.

I believe my brothers have been unnecessarily flexible with our constitutional mandates...Marbury v. Madison, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137, 2 L.Ed. 60 (1803) declared that the United States Constitution could not be read so restrictively as to nullify or ignore any specific clauses contained therein unless absolutely necessary. As this rule of construction applies to the United States Constitution, so does it apply to our State Constitution, except when the latter contravenes the former. Our Constitution is not to be read restrictively and technically, but broadly and as a whole. It is this Court’s duty to constantly endeavor to harmonize each ingredient, reevaluate each part, and rebalance the entirety in order to

form a more cohesive and meaningful unity which is in tune with the spirit of the Constitution itself (citations omitted).
65 N.J. 125

See also dissents of Justices Verniero, Albin, and LaVecchia in McNeil v. Legislative Apportionment Commission, 177 N.J. 364, 400-401 (2003).

It matters not that the court below dismissed the Tea Party Group complaint for failure to state a claim under R.4:6-2 (e). The judgment of the Law Division did not directly dismiss the complaint in intervention.

CONCLUSION

In retrospect, one can only conclude that the court's decision in Davenport II was a blatantly partisan one. It did not, however, unequivocally abrogate Article IV, Section II, paragraph 3 in its entirety. The "county concept" can still be used to limit unfettered partisan line-drawing. Its use remains before this court and ultimately, the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard McManus, Esq.

John W. Wopat, III



RIDER
UNIVERSITY

Rebovich Institute for
New Jersey Politics

Micah Rasmussen
Director

2083 Lawrenceville Road
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648-3099
T 609-896-7760
F 609-896-7762
mrasmussen@rider.edu
www.rider.edu

February 8, 2022

New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission
State House Annex
Post Office Box 068
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0068

Dear Apportionment Commission Members,

As you know, there are different theories on how to maximize the electoral opportunities of minority voters, and at least two are employed in the submitted maps—the concentration of minority voters into a single district or into several nearby opportunity districts. In seeking to maximize the opportunities of Asian-American voters in the central region of the state, I would like to respectfully suggest that New Jersey's three-legislator districts bear particular consideration, because they provide more varied opportunities than the single-legislator districts of other states.

The six districts within the central region that are subject to the differing redistricting treatments (12, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 22) are currently represented by 18 legislators, with three people of color. The creation of a single district of concentration would not be likely to yield any greater result; in fact, it could very possibly create a ceiling of three legislators by draining the surrounding districts of Asian-American voters. Yet given the growing commitment of the region's county organizations of both parties, it is entirely possible that more of the region's 18 legislators could well be Asian-Americans over the course of the decade if they are not concentrated within a single district. In other words, Asian-Americans may well amass more legislative representation by not concentrating them together into a single district.

I hope this helps to inform your important work.

Sincerely yours,

Micah Rasmussen

Governor Richard J. Codey
Senator, District 27, Morris and Essex

Testimony for the February 9, 2022, Public Meeting of the New Jersey
Legislative Apportionment Commission.

Democratic Chairman Jones, Republican Chairman Barlas, Honorable
Judge Carchman and esteemed members of the Commission:

I currently represent the 27th Legislative District, comprised of municipalities
in Essex and Morris Counties.

**The current 27th District is nearly ideal in terms of size. With a
population of approximately 233,779, this is only 1,554 over the ideal
district size. This is a deviation of less than one-half of one (.05)
percentage point.** Our district well reflects the diversity of our State, with
communities that are racially and economically diverse.

Under the proposed maps, all the Morris County municipalities would be
removed from the 27th. I believe this would be a loss not only for the voters
in these areas, but also across the County. In the current configuration, my
district mates and I are the only Democratic representatives in a County
where Democratic registration has grown significantly over the course of
the last decade.

- Currently, out of 392,192 registered voters, the breakdown is as
follows:

Democrat: 29%

Republican: 34%

Unaffiliated: 37%

We have given a voice to the many voters who wish to see their values
represented and added to the dialogue in a county that otherwise has one-
party representation. The registration numbers demonstrate the need for
balance. In terms of competitiveness and partisan fairness, neither
proposed map envisions a district in Morris that lends itself to Democratic
representation.

I have worked to build bipartisan relationships in Morris County, partnering
with local and county officials to best serve our constituents. In the past

decade, we have been able to represent the interests of these municipalities and the county at large by working with our fellow representatives across the aisle.

Alternatively, there is an opportunity to create a district where the municipalities of western Essex County could be brought together into a single District. The proposed maps take Caldwell and Essex Fells from the 27th, and instead add the Township of Irvington and the Union County Township of Hillside.

Maintaining Caldwell, Essex Fells, Livingston, Maplewood, Millburn, Roseland, South Orange, and West Orange, while adding Cedar Grove, Fairfield, North Caldwell, Verona and West Caldwell would bring together a community of interest, that being western Essex.

I ask that you consider these points when finalizing the maps that will impact the representation of our constituents for the remainder of the decade.

Thank you again for your service.



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

CAROL A. MURPHY
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

NJ Apportionment Commission
Assemblywoman Carol Murphy

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY, VICE CHAIR
BUDGET
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE
OVERSIGHT, REFORM AND
FEDERAL REFORM
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DISTRICT OFFICE
504 ROUTE 130 NORTH
SUITE 100
CINNAMINSON, NJ 08077
(856) 735-5334
ASWMURPHY@NJLEG.ORG

Thank you Judge Carchman and the entire apportionment commission for the opportunity to submit written testimony about the publicly released maps and commend the entire commission for this step forward in transparency.

As the State Assemblywoman representing 17 municipalities in Burlington County, I was quite pleased to the approach in the public submission by the Democratic Delegation of the commission, known as the "Turnpike Map," because this iteration connects communities of interest that will be very pivotal to the economic success of the region during the next decade.

As a Mount Laurel resident, our community triples in size during the workday as thriving businesses, retail spaces and dining draw people into our great town. This positive economic reality does cause a real strain on our roads and our neighboring municipalities of Moorestown, Maple Shade, Pennsauken, Cinnaminson and Palmyra, which bonds us together with similar needs as we need have unique and related transportation interests. As Route 130, Route 73 and Route 38 converge near Exit 4 of the New Jersey Turnpike and Exit 36 of I-295, Mount Laurel is the hub of these municipalities connecting thousands of commuters to Philadelphia via the Betsy Ross Bridge in Pennsauken and the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge in Palmyra. The connection of these municipalities together is of great benefit to local residents.

Additionally, the Rancocas Creek stretches across several communities in the proposed District 7 including Moorestown, Mount Laurel, Hainesport and Lumberton where flooding issues and environmental protection are critical to local residents especially where residents share a common community of interests known as, the Rancocas Creek Corridor, including local businesses that in the next few years all will need to address water infrastructure issues.

Again, I appreciate your consideration of my opinion and wish the commission the best in their work ahead and the deliberative process that will have a profound impact on residents for the next decade.

Assemblywoman Carol Murphy
Majority Whip
7th Legislative District

Joe Bucs, Springfield Township, Burlington County

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. I'm speaking in favor of the Parkway map with a focus on District 8.

Keeping Springfield in the existing 8th district of the Parkway map allows it to benefit from a shared legislative agenda that benefits multiple similar situated communities.

We, like our neighboring communities to the south of us, are a rural community that focuses on keeping our farming heritage. When you speak to our elected representatives in Springfield you'll hear them use the term, "rural by design". To put that in perspective, we are a community that has minimum lot sizes measured in acres, not feet. Those who live in our community either have been here for multiple generations, or they make a very conscious decision to live here and preserve our rural community. We were founded in 1688, and descendents of those founders still live in Springfield.

Springfield and Hammonton have similar agricultural needs that can best be served by legislators who have an understanding of the challenges faced by today's growers. The Turnpike map would inhibit a legislator because the proposed Turnpike map would co-mingle dense urban communities with sparsely populated farmland. Urban and rural communities have needs and priorities that are in opposition. Towns like Delran, Riverside, and Willingboro have needs focused on increasing development, addressing re-development, or dealing with large commercial properties. Farming communities like Springfield, Southampton, Shamong, and Hammonton focus on preserving farmland and protecting our state's natural resources. Preserved farmland helps to stave off global warming and will become more important as climate change becomes a greater issue for society to deal with. Many of you have seen the "No Farmers No Food" signs and bumper stickers. Splitting our farming communities across districts makes the reality of No Food much more likely. In fact, it would threaten our slogan "New Jersey, The Garden State"

Springfield, like Hammonton and several others in the current 8th District, is also one of the 56 municipalities within the Pinelands national preserve. It's important that communities that have shared burdens placed on them by the Pinelands work together with a common legislative team to advance issues for consideration by the commission.

Again, the Turnpike map separates us from many of these towns and instead adds more populated towns from along the Delaware River into the same district. Those towns don't have the same challenges or needs from a legislative perspective.

Outside of farming and land use concerns, our schools districts are vastly different. I'm a Springfield Township Board of Education member. I've not been authorized to speak on behalf of my board, and this is my individual opinion. I can tell you that we have different legislative priorities when compared to urban districts. I've personally worked with our existing LD-8 representatives to draft legislation that is important for rural and regional districts. These items don't impact urban districts and might not be a priority in a Turnpike map.

In the 2021 election 897 residents of Springfield, which represents 65% of our total voters, voted for Jean Stanfield. She is only one of three elected Republican women Senators in New Jersey and the only one from South Jersey. By moving incumbent Senator Troy Singleton into Stanfield's 8th District, that would disenfranchise these voters and rob them of a competent female legislator.

Please vote to support the Parkway map, as the Turnpike map is detrimental to agriculture, climate change, and education.

Thank you

Good afternoon. My name is Chris Scales, and I am resident of Hamilton in the 14th legislative district.

I have had an opportunity to study the Turnpike and Parkway maps, as well as the Fair Map presented to the Commissioners last week. I support the Turnpike map because it keeps Plainsboro in the 14th District where it has been situated for the past 40 years, along with Hamilton. Our district has long been one of the most competitive districts in the state, and we meet the criteria for partisan fairness because both parties have represented the 14th legislative district in the senate and assembly over the last four decades.

Communities of interest remain protected by keeping Plainsboro in the 14th. It is vital to create several Asian opportunity districts rather than pack these important voters into one district, which would be the case with the 17th district under the Parkway map.

The 14th is over 20% Asian with Plainsboro in it, and the Asian population will only continue to grow.

Plainsboro needs to stay in the 14th so that the 14th can be an Asian opportunity district. The 17th under the Parkway map or the 16th under the Turnpike map will be Asian opportunity districts even without Plainsboro. Such opportunities for more diverse representation in Trenton only make our state stronger.

It is vital to make sure that there are opportunities for stronger representation not only for ethnic groups but also for women.

Though it is true that West Windsor and Plainsboro share a school district, the two towns are quite distinct and do not have to be in the same district. The West Windsor-Plainsboro school district is the #4 school district in the state despite the two towns currently in separate legislative districts. There has been no adverse effect on the school system or communities with the two towns separated and represented by different legislators.

I thank you for listening and appreciate you taking my testimony into account when redrawing the legislative boundaries.



New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
570 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102
www.njimmigrantjustice.org

NJAIJ Introduction

This testimony was delivered live by Amy Torres on behalf of the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice (NJAIJ) at the February 9th virtual public hearing.

NJAIJ is the state's largest immigration coalition, representing over 45 member organizations that span labor, faith, policy, community-based, and grassroots organizations. NJAIJ uses the power and strength of our members to fight for policies that empower and protect immigrants.

NJAIJ is a proud member of the Fair Districts coalition, a broad-based group that has been at the forefront of advocacy for an apportionment process that is transparent, representative, community-driven and fair.

Many of the NJAIJ's own members and partners testified at this hearing, or have testified over the last few months. We stand in support of those statements that call for racial equity and a right-sizing of representation in New Jersey, which is now a state where half of our residents are a person of Color.

New Jersey's Growing Diversity

New Jersey is more diverse than we've ever been and it should be no surprise that we are one of the most diverse states in the nation, both in percentage of people of Color but the racial and ethnic diversity within communities of Color. NJAIJ would like to thank and acknowledge Assembly Member Sumter for her remarks that this represents just the "counted" population, we know there are many systemic barriers and intentional design barriers from the past federal administration that contributed to probable Census 2020 undercounts, a point that was echoed by our SEIU 32BJ coalition partner, Adrian Orozco. It's also important to lay on record that these communities are growing, a trend that is not unique to 2020, but has stretched over the last two decades. That's why NJAIJ was proud to work with partners toward the Unity Map which demonstrated that communities of Color, again, half of the state's population, can be represented in majority districts in half of the legislature.

NJAIJ is focusing the short amount of time allotted for public testimony on two groups that have historically been overlooked by reapportionment and again were underrepresented in the first release of maps that came out this week: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and the Middle East and North African (MENA) community.



Common Myths vs Data-Backed Truths: The Danger of Underrepresenting AAPI and MENA Communities

MENA and Arab American communities grew over 40% in the last 20 years. New Jersey is also home to the second largest Muslim population per capita in the nation. We know undercounts for these groups are highly likely not only for the reasons outlined above but because MENA is not a category included on the decennial Census, a point raised several times by Palestinian American Community Center (PACC), and another painful Trump Administration legacy that was meant to undermine representation for communities of Color. We are only able to glean general answers about this community from Census and American Community Survey questions related to "ancestry."

AAPIs are the fastest growing group nationally, projected to double to more than 47 million by 2060 and projected to remain the fastest growing group 2nd only to "mixed race" Americans through 2060. These national trends track here in New Jersey too. In New Jersey, the AAPI population has now surpassed one million, making up over 10% of the State. This is an over 40% increase from just the last Census and this community alone is a major driver of the state's overall population growth. AAPIs also outpace their immigrant peers in eligibility to naturalize and already make up 10% of eligible voters in the state.

We would also like to address some prior misconceptions we heard on record today. Contrary to the remarks of several testimonies, it is **not** packing the have districts where these communities are over 20% or even 40% when it's very clear that if drawn together they could be a plurality or even majority district. Those remarks assume that white communities are the majority in those parts of the state when data is very clear that they are not. Splitting up diverse communities so they can essentially serve as a "cherry on top" diversity boost in multiple split districts (rather than a majority one on their own) is not equity and it is not empowerment. It has a disenfranchising effect that is wrong and against the principles that Judge Carchman laid out for this Commission. Separately, while Voting Age Population or VAP may be a consideration, it is dangerous and regressive to suggest that only citizens should be drawn together. The opposition to the Trump Administration's attempt to add a citizenship question to the Census was well covered by the media and thoroughly litigated in our courts. We also know that legal services programs, naturalization classes and application waivers, ESOL classes, and voter registration drives are all things that are woefully underfunded in the state and stem largely from public policy decisions. These communities have been historically underrepresented, both in direct representation but in public policy decisions. We can see that the effect of splitting and cracking them is also warping the public's perception of these populations despite overwhelming data evidence to the contrary.

Even though both AAPI and MENA communities have some of the lowest and worst ratios of population



to representation, the call to draw them together is not so much about electing someone who “looks like us” or “comes from our community,” but instead, electing responsive representatives who will legislate for our communities and represent us in public policy decisions.

Too often, these groups, like many newly naturalized voters, are viewed as a monolith. They are perceived as apolitical or low propensity when in reality, it’s the division of these communities across district lines that dilutes their political influence and contributes to a cycle where campaigns don’t reach out to voters, voters aren’t empowered or aware of important election milestones, and those electorates as a result see diminished turnout. In a national survey following the landmark 2016 federal election, it was found that over 70% of AAPI voters received no contact from either partisan or nonpartisan campaign outreach. We invite the Commission to imagine how these disparities might be replicated in a state like New Jersey where our state elections are held on odd-numbered years and where half of the state’s top 10 spoken languages outside of English and Spanish are Arabic and Asian languages. The low outreach to low turnout cycle is as real here as anywhere else, if not worse. New Jersey is one of very few states with political apportionment commissions and any final map that would split communities of Color for partisan gain is not only a calculus from an outdated political playbook, but a moral failing that would dangerously undermine our democracy.

Recommendations

We thank the Commission for the advance released of maps, but upon viewing them, we urge you to revisit both maps, particularly the areas of Mercer and Middlesex County, the latter of which contains some of the most diverse corridors in the state but where AAPI communities are split across up to 2,3, or 4 districts; Essex and Morris counties, specifically around Livingston and Parsippany for AAPIs; and Essex and Hudson AAPI populations; and MENA populations in Paterson, Clifton, Totowa, Wayne and Pompton Lakes and surrounding areas. We also encourage you to consider additional public hearings given the overwhelming public response to the release and the remaining time you have until official certification.

Finally, while we focused on just these two communities in comment, NJAIJ uplifts the testimony of our members and partners who are committed to maps that center racial equity and redistribute a fair share of political power and representation toward Black, Latino and other communities of Color. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Questions or requests for clarification can be sent to Amy Torres at atorres@njimmigrantjustice.org

Marisa Marley
2/9/22

I first want to thank the Apportionment Commission for allowing me to speak about the importance of a "fair" redistricting process to our democracy. In any democracy, the redistricting process should be transparent and include public input. I commend the commission for publishing these two maps under consideration and for holding this public hearing prior to approving a final version. Since I have testified before I will keep this testimony short.

I testified at the first public hearings on the principles that should be used in drawing district lines. One of those very important principles was protection of communities of interest and color and their representation. I want to again commend the commission for increasing the number of minority/majority districts in both published maps to 17 from the current 15. Is it enough to reflect NJ's current diversity, no. Ideally, legislative maps should reflect the diversity recorded in the 2020 census data. But I am also aware of how difficult that can be to achieve when there are conflicting criteria. Minority/majority districts often end up packing and cracking Democratic districts, which as I testified earlier, can limit power through "wasted" votes.

Tonight, I want to draw the commission's attention to the importance of correctly measuring partisan fairness or partisan impact when comparing maps. It matters which election year you use. I advocate using a weighted average of recent years where the weights incorporate any underlying secular trends. For example, any use of a partisan index should use a weighted average of the 2017, 2019 and 2021 votes with a higher weight assigned to 2021.

Finally, it is imperative that the map should not be drawn to benefit a party that was unable to achieve recent electoral success in a district. For example, compare the flipping of districts in the two published maps. The Parkway flips to Republican three competitive districts that the Democrats have won over the last several years. The Turnpike map does the same flip from Republican to Democrat in one district. Again, the degree of the partisan flip depends on the index and previous elections used.

To summarize: as I said in my earlier testimony, a good map:

- **Will be one that protects minority communities from being cracked apart or packed into the minimum number of districts possible.**
- **Will empower communities of color to elect candidates of their choice**
- **Will preserve political districts where possible**
- **And will reflect the will of the voters by minimizing partisan gerrymandering.**

Dear Members of the Commission,

My name is Kate Barry. I am a lifelong resident of Harding Township and a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee. Harding Township is currently in the 27th Legislative District (LD), with our neighbors Chatham Township and Madison Borough. It is my hope that I will provide a compelling argument to keep these three towns in the same LD following this year's redistricting.

Harding is more closely tied to these two towns than any others in the county. We share multiple cultural, historical, academic, and economic connections. Harding does not have a high school, so our students move to Madison High School after 8th grade. We share sports teams and intramural activities not only for high school students, but for younger children as well. This means that every Harding resident with a child in the school system likely participates in events, both official and informal, with Madison parents and children. Harding and Madison also share clubs, including Girl Scout troops.

Similarly, there is a long history of residents from Harding, Madison, and Chatham opting to pay to have their child attend school in one of those neighboring towns, whether based on proximity or preferred facilities or some other factor. For example, when I was a student at Harding Township School, several children joined from Chatham Township because their homes were significantly closer to Harding's school than Chatham's. My mother is a teaching assistant in the Madison school system and affirms that this is still a common occurrence. She referred to several Harding-based children whose parents chose to send to Madison public schools prior to high school.

I live in a part of Harding Township known as Green Village. This unincorporated community has its own fire department and post office, both of which serve parts of Harding and Chatham Township. Madison's fire department responded to calls from the area before the establishment of the Green Village fire department.

Chatham Township and Harding also share the Rolling Knolls superfund site. As a member of the Community Advisory Group addressing this site, I work collaboratively with neighbors from the surrounding area to provide feedback and suggestions to representatives from EPA and other government entities for the best and most effective approach to remediate this land that we share.

Harding commuters largely take the train from Madison train station, rather than Morristown or Convent Station. Anything that affects that train station, the parking lots, and commuters affects Harding residents.

Harding does not have any grocery stores and all residents rely on neighboring towns for the bulk of their food and drink needs. I estimate that half or more of Harding's residents do the majority of their shopping, grocery and otherwise, in Chatham Township (ShopRite, Ace Hardware, CVS, etc.) and Madison (Stop and Shop, Whole Foods, Walgreens, Madison Pharmacy, etc.). We also frequent Chatham and Madison restaurants, such as the Green Village Deli, which sits on the edge of Harding, Hickory Tree Pizza, and the Nautilus Diner.

Moving Harding Township into the LD25 makes no sense whatsoever. Harding shares minimal services with Morris Township and I don't believe any with the other towns of that district. There was talk of sharing a salt dome with Morris Township a few years ago, but that plan was rejected. Regarding academics, our only shared school is with Madison.

Further, as an argument to stay in LD27 specifically, one of the legislative offices is located in Madison. The representatives have done an admirable and greatly appreciated job of becoming part of our community. They have been responsive and present, attending many of our events and meetings. It takes time to build relationships with constituents, and for constituents to build relationships with their representatives. Those representing LD27 have made that easy.

However, if moving Harding is found to be necessary, I ask that you please consider all of the points I mentioned above and keep us with our most closely connected neighbors, Chatham Township and Madison Borough. Bearing in mind the importance of keeping communities of interest together, I hope I have made a compelling and illustrative argument proving that Harding, Chatham Township, and Madison are indeed inextricably linked and made stronger and more secure with the same representation at the state level.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kate Barry

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF WARREN**
WAYNE DUMONT, JR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
165 COUNTY ROAD 519 SOUTH
BELVIDERE, NJ 07823-1949



Jason J. Sarnoski, Director
Lori Ciesla, Deputy Director
James R. Kern, III, Commissioner

Telephone: 908-475-6500
Fax: 908-475-6528

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Philip S. Carchman
New Jersey Apportionment Commission
State House Annex
P.O. Box 068
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

Honorable Judge Carchman and Members of the Apportionment Commission:

My name is Jason Sarnoski, I am the Director of the Warren County Board of County Commissioners. I am writing to you today on the authority of that board, which was given to me at the February 9, 2022 regular board meeting, by way of a motion, to address Warren County's concerns regarding the recently released reapportionment maps. Please include this as part of public comment and consider carefully the below request.

Unfortunately, neither map is in accordance with the Constitution of the State of New Jersey ("the Constitution") as both maps divide Warren County into two districts, the 23rd and the 24th. Under Article IV Section II Part 3 of the Constitution, counties with populations less than one-fortieth of the population of the state are not to be divided among Assembly districts:

"The Assembly districts shall be composed of contiguous territory, as nearly compact and equal in the number of their inhabitants as possible, and in no event shall each such district contain less than eighty per cent nor more than one hundred twenty per cent of one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State as reported in the last preceding decennial census of the United States. Unless necessary to meet the foregoing requirements, no county or municipality shall be divided among Assembly districts unless it shall contain more than one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State, and no county or municipality shall be divided among a number of Assembly districts larger than one plus the whole number obtained by dividing the number of inhabitants in the county or municipality by one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State."

The Honorable Philip S. Carchman
New Jersey Apportionment Commission
February 10, 2022
Page 2

As of the 2020 Census, the population of the State of New Jersey is 9,288,994 persons, and the population of Warren County is 109,632. One-fortieth of the population of the state is 232,225. This puts Warren County at less than half of one-fortieth the population of the state.

Dividing Warren County not only violates the Constitution, it serves no benefit to accomplish any other principle, provision, law, or court decision. Making Warren County whole would not impact minority communities nor would it disenfranchise communities with similar interests. It would not create continuity of representation issues nor would it force incumbent legislators into the same district. In short, there are no benefits to violating the Constitution of the State of New Jersey in this instance.

I humbly request that any current or future maps that divide Warren County be rejected by the Commission.

Sincerely,



Jason J. Sarnoski, Director
Warren County Board of County Commissioners

JJS

c: Commission Co-Chairs: LeRoy J. Jones, Jr., Co-Chair
Al Barlas, Co-Chair
Commissioners: Jon M. Bramnick
Cosmo Cirillo
Linda A. DuBois
Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Michael B. Lavery
Laura Matos
Gary Taffet
Diane T. Testa

Secretary of the
Apportionment Comm.: Raysa Martinez Kruger
Office of Legislative Services

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this written testimony as the Chair of Latina Civic Inc.'s Redistricting Committee. My testimony will be in reference to the current map proposals of the NJ Apportionment Commission and its impact on the Latino community and their ability to elect candidates of their choice.

My name is Lucia Gomez, I am a resident of Rochelle Park, and prior to that a long-time resident of Union City. This is my third decade engaged in New Jersey's redistricting process monitoring the work of the Apportionment Commission to ensure protection of Latino voting rights. Under the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and our 14th Amendment protecting one-person one-vote, Latinos in New Jersey must have an equal opportunity to elect their candidates of choice and remain politically unified in communities of interest.

During the 2011 process, I recall we had one Latina Senator and six Latino/a Assembly members, just six percent of the legislative body. At that time, we made-up close to 18% of the state's population. Fast forward to today, we have grown representation by two additional Senators and two Assembly members, making-up just 9% of the legislative body of this state.

This is all the while our population grew by 28% percent, making Latinos the largest ethnic minority group at almost 22%, followed by African Americans at 12% and Asians at 10%. Nevertheless, while this increase may seem robust, it comes after prior decades' of negligence by the political establishment. Whether through the antics of pre-selection of candidates, an electoral system that all but anoints representation in non-competitive seats, and a redistricting process that may seem to just serve partisan interests, our communities of interest are either being split or packed in the Turnpike and Parkway proposals. This ultimately has the effect of diluting our communities ability to impact the internal party selection process and deny voters the ability to elect their candidates of choice.

It's no surprise that both maps in their diverse ways, dilute Latino political power. While Latinos have grown in various pockets throughout the state, the ability to create majority-minority seats for Latinos are inhibited by the structural political subdivision of cities and towns. These numbers and technical limitations cannot be used to justify a strategy that takes New Jersey back to the dark ages. The Latino communities potential to elect through coalition and crossover districts are definitely another means to achieve

effective opportunities for Latinos. It is crucial that any proposed and adopted map protect the hard-fought rights of marginalized communities in the electoral process, and we ask the following corrections be made to the maps:

- **We do not recommend Jersey City to be split three different ways, unless it is split more evenly throughout the three proposed districts of 31, 32 and 33.** The portion removed is merely 25,000 people (30% Latino, 21% white, 23 % Black and 28% Asian); this split is unnecessary and could be avoided by keeping the majority of that split in the 33rd district and still maintain Latino plurality at 39.5% Latino VAP. Yet, I understand that the deviation of said districts are relatively high if split in just two parts, creating a much higher average than your existing 5% throughout the Turnpike Plan, and essentially diluting our communities vote. Yet leaving this small split would not allow these populations' interests to be served. We suggest you return Weehawken to the 33rd and provide Jersey City with more proportional representation within the 32nd.
- **Do not remove Hoboken from the 33rd district.** Removing Hoboken from the 33rd district as proposed in the Parkway plan, would negatively impact the existing representation of a Latina from the 33rd district, intentionally pitting three Latino representatives in the proposed 32nd. We can not support this move.
- **We prefer the configuration of District 35 as proposed in the Parkway plan.** While the Parkway, like the Turnpike plan, removes Garfield, the Parkway plan leaves Haledon in the district and only adds Hawthorne. The Turnpike plan adds Glen Rock to this district and lowers the Latino VAP to 48.8% from it's existing 51.% Latino VAP. In the last decade, Haledon had a 42% Latino change in population, indicating a stronger affinity to the existing district, while Glen Rock has only changed a mere 5%. The Parkway Plan allows the 35th district to maintain a majority Latino district versus a plurality seat provided in the Turnpike plan. This district was a creation of the 2011 redistricting cycle, both returning Hawthorne and adding Glen Rock would unduly dilute the Latino electorate's voting power.
- Both proposed plans only create one majority minority Section 2 district. We encourage this Commission to not dilute our voting strength and keep both District 32 and 35 majority Latino - although only one elects a Latina State Senator (35). Nevertheless, District 32 is a product of party candidate selection and not our community's ability to elect their preferred candidate.

- The 36th legislative district can't seem to shake the continued growth of the Latino community, even growing further East and picking up both Edgewater and Fairview in both plans. Status quo and continued dismissal of our communities demographic shifts and growth in Passaic and Bergen Counties are not going unnoticed. **We support the Fair District's plan and it's attempt to shake things up and not allow historic misrepresentation to go unchecked.** We ask the Commission to take serious note of the ways in which the demographic growth in Passaic and all of Bergen County are attempting to keep our communities contained. We are unjustly divided amongst the 34th, 36th, 37th and 38th districts while our community continues to be overlooked and dismissed for elected leadership. We prefer to consolidate our voting strength and not be diluted. Neither the Turnpike or the Parkway plan helps address these concerns.
- While both the Parkway and Turnpike plan increases the white population in the 20th legislative district to 21% from it's existing 19%, the almost majority Latino population (47%) continues to only elect one Assembly person and not the Senator in that district. **We prefer the drawing of the Fair Districts map that centers the Latino community and creates a majority minority district at 52% Latino VAP.** This I can see as complying with Section 2's mandate of creating a majority Latino district where feasible, and allowing this district an opportunity for the party leadership to truly consider the election of a Latino State Senator.
- The 25th Legislative District is of significance to the Latino community. With the communities of Dover, Morristown and Wharton, each seeing a significant increase in Latinos in the last decade, with Dover's 69%, Morristown 34%, and Wharton 40% change, it is crucial that these communities stick together. **We ask the Commission to swap Morris Plains for Wharton in the Turnpike Plan, and to not divide Dover, Wharton and Morristown community of interests the way the Parkway plan does.** With a Latino elected in the 26th legislative district, we ask that our community's representation not be diluted by attempting to merge these communities unnecessarily. In fact creating an opportunity for a Latino to be elected in a different district is in fact what this Commission should be doing to attempt to remedy decades of dilution.
- In Middlesex County, **we support keeping New Brunswick in the 17th legislative district and recommend adding the communities of Bound Brook and South Boundbrook,** following natural population spillover in the last two decades. With Boundbrook seeing a 49% Latino change and South Boundbrook with 27%. We support the Turnpike way of dividing this area, although

encourage this map to find more clear ways of remedying the lack of equitable representation. The Parkway plan unnecessarily forces a district with both Plainfield and New Brunswick, and this will not get the Latino community closer to some day being able to be adequately represented amongst its elected leadership. Currently, only one Latina is elected in Middlesex County, although accounting for 22.4% of the population. Worse yet is the neighboring county of Union, with 34% of the population, we continue to be represented by one Assembly person. This raises serious questions about the intentions of keeping our communities from being able to elect candidates of their choice and ask that both the Turnpike and Parkway plans find the right combination for our communities to have equal and fair representation.

- In Southern Jersey, in the 5th district, we recommend keeping Pennsauken and Camden in the same district as seen in the Parkway and Fair District's plan. The 27% change in Latino population of Pennsauken and the continued change of 47% in Camden, make these communities allied communities of interest and closely aligned. This is also the case of the long-time communities of interest of Vineland and Bridgeton. With the on-going strategy of sprinkling Democratic votes across various districts, we must remedy this split of communities. We support both the Parkway and Fair District's plans in Legislative District 1
- With eight districts currently above 25%, both in Voting Age and Citizen Voting Age, both plans fall short of reflecting our demographic growth, and instead, relegate us to the status quo or less. **Both the Turnpike and Parkway plan must do better in creating opportunities for the Latino community to elect candidates of their choice.**

Data Points %VAP	Current	Turnpike	Parkway
Majority Latino 50%	2	1	1
35%+	4	5	5
25+	2	2	3

Every indication in this process points to redistricting proposals that do nothing more than provide Latinos with less than the number of majority districts they enjoyed at the end of the decade under existing, ten-year old districts. Both proposals seek to cap that growth when every demographic indicator shows clearly that Latino population growth requires more, not the same.

One thing that I've learned in the last two decades is that Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act requires that where Latino majority districts can be drawn feasibly, they must be drawn. In New Jersey, drawing more plurality districts where Latinos are taken into serious consideration for elected office through their party-line system of elections is as close to democracy as our current system allows.

We call on this Commission to draw districts that protect communities of interest, provide the growing Latino community an equal opportunity to elect candidates of its choice, and ensure that they are conducting the necessary performance analysis to ensure these proposed districts are not diluting the Latino vote. Thank you.

From:
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 7:57 AM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: From Web Form Fair redistricting: Dover and Morristown are sister communities

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Karol Ruiz

Dover, New Jersey 07801

Wind of the Spirit

Karol Ruiz; Wind Of The Spirit. We are a Faith-based, nonpartisan, human rights advocacy organization and immigrant resource center. Our 3 community centers are located in Morristown, Dover, and Madison, Morris County.

From a place of deep faith in the collective power of New Jersey's marginalized communities, I share with you the collective sentiment of our organization's members that these Legislative Apportionment Hearings have been a prayer, and a prayer answered. I cannot thank this body enough for listening to our prayers for justice, for inclusion, for fair representation.

Our organization's members are deeply disappointed by the press coverage and some of the testimony presenting this process, and the proposed maps, as a simplistic Republican vs. Democrat power-mapping process. Today, during this hearing, one of my neighbors in Morris County even referred to one of the maps as "the Republican map" lamenting that the map would force primary contests. The majority of Morris County residents, and we the members of Wind of the Spirit, welcome and celebrate primary contests.

While we are a non-partisan organization, Individual Wind of the Spirit members have a variety of political affiliations. Some of us migrated to the United States fleeing right-wing dictatorships. Others migrated fleeing left-wing dictatorships. Some of us are issue-based voters, while others vote in the notorious "down the line" way unique to NJ. Some of us are registered Republicans, some are registered Democrats, some are registered Green party members, and others are NJ Democratic Socialists of America Party members. Some do not identify with any political party because it is against their religious beliefs. Some cannot vote because federal law inhumanely blocks us from a path to citizenship. Many of us have been repeatedly ignored by LD25, LD26, and LD27 legislators over the past 10 years on a variety of issues. In one of the most egregious examples, former LD25 Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll was quoted spewing racist and nativist vitriol in a district with a beautiful Black and immigrant community. Nevertheless, he served as our LD25 representative for TWENTY-FOUR years.

This process MUST be about repairing the harm done to marginalized communities. Harm has been done, by splitting up communities with common interests and diluting our power. This process MUST be about fair representation. Respectfully, if the proposed maps are the "Republican map" and the "Democrat map" this body has failed to fulfill its mandate.

Appointing Commissioner Matos repaired at least some of the harm done by excluding Latinas from this Commission. We ask that you repair the harm done when the Latinx community is divided, and our collective power diluted. I ask that you remember that Dover, the resilient community currently in LD25 that I call home, has been harmed under the current map and would be gravely harmed if you adopt the Parkway map.

As a Dover resident, as a member of Wind Of The Spirit, a member organization of the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice, please know that I fully support the map that the Fair Districts Committee presented, the Unity Map. If Dover moves to the 26th district along with Morristown, Morris Plains, and Morris Township, I know that we would rejoice and continue to strengthen the bonds we have built with our neighbors.

I came before you once before asking you to consider a map that includes Dover, Parsippany, Morristown, Morris Plains, Morris Township, Rockaway Township, all in the same LD25 and removes Bernardsville, Washington Township, and the Mendhams. You also heard a different map that places Dover in District 26 WITH Jefferson and Mt. Olive, which has a growing Latinx population. Both options are feasible. However, Dover CANNOT be split from Morristown. Dover and Morristown are sister communities. If you visit Dover and Morristown you will feel the love between these two communities. I live in Dover. I work in Morristown. The first place I lived in the United States was Morristown. I have lived in Dover the majority of my life in the USA. Adopting the Parkway Map and splitting Dover and Morristown is absolutely harmful, and heartbreaking, to every member of Wind of the Spirit.

Please, take a breath. Say a prayer. Do whatever it is that you need to do to go back to the drawing board and present a Legislative Apportionment that is about The People, about repairing harms done, not about partisanship.

From: Andrea Hyatt <
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2022 7:27 AM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: Councilwoman Andrea Hyatt from LD20 wants to speak about moving to LD27

Good morning,

Councilwoman Andrea Hyatt and I would like to register for the meeting.

I would also like to speak on behalf of our constituents here in Hillside. Our town has experienced challenges for decades, and citizens have worked diligently for change. We have pushed for good government, quality leadership, to obtain better representation and more adequate distribution of resources and services throughout our township, legislative districts and Union County. We have made some headway.

Now after a Census and a worldwide pandemic the continued use of old systems allowing individuals who would be directly impacted and or stand to directly benefit from moving Hillside out of LD20 were "chosen" to be the decision makers regarding our position and our level of representation.

While we may not be able to address every aspect detailing why the process used and the people chosen is highly flawed, we can view through the lenses of democracy, clearly and see that there is a huge possibility that our town will NOT have legislative representation as members of LD27 AND our constituency MUST have a say in something so significant.

We did NOT choose the committee members who made this decision. No one asked our opinions or polled us as part of ANY process. The entire process draws striking resemblance to the basis of decision making during times of slavery when all decisions were made for the benefit of a chosen few and the to the detriment and destruction of many.

Please provide me with the login information.

Thank You.
Warm Regards,
Andrea Hyatt

From: Anita Esteve
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2022 9:38 AM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: Re: APPC 2/9 Zoom Meeting Information & Instructions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Raysa-

I had requested an opportunity to speak but I am not available until after 7PM - if you cannot accommodate my request to testify at a later time, I have included my planned testimony below and ask that it be entered into the record.

Thank you-
Anita Esteve

Good evening . I am a 10 year resident of Morris county. When I first moved to Morris in 2012, I owned a home In Pequannock, part of the 40th legislative district. As 1 of only 2 Morris County towns in the 40th I saw firsthand how hard it was to get the attention of the district's incumbent legislators and even candidates running against them. The issues of my community simply didn't mesh with the concerns of the bulk of their constituents.

This is why redistricting based on communities of interest is so important.

I moved to the Town of Boonton last fall. As I get to know my new town, I am learning that we share many services with surrounding towns such as Parsipanny. We share a municipal court among many other services. I believe it is important that Parsipanny be included in the same legislative district as the Town of Boonton- our communities share vital interests that would benefit from being served by a single legislator who supports both constituencies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



SOMERSET COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TIM HOWES
CHAIRMAN

February 10, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Hon. Phillip S. Carchman, 11th Member
New Jersey Apportionment Commission

Dear Judge Carchman:

Thank you to the Commission the opportunity to testify during the February 2, hearing. The sum and substance of my testimony was that Art. IV, sec II, par. 3 of the New Jersey Constitution prohibits this Commission from unnecessarily dividing Somerset County into more than two parts. I have reviewed the initial maps published on the Commission website. Please accept this correspondence as (1) the Somerset County Republican Organization's formal objection to the Turnpike Map, and (2) the Somerset County Republican Organization's support for Mayor Fulop's objection to the Turnpike Map, as reported by the New Jersey Globe.

The Turnpike Map unnecessarily balkanizes Somerset County by dividing it into five different legislative districts. Somerset County is home to 345,361 residents, none of whom are state senators. In 2022, for the first time in a century - or more - there will not be a state senator who resides in Somerset County. There are several reasons for that phenomenon, but the principal reason is that the 2010 Legislative Apportionment Commission unconstitutionally divided Somerset County into six different legislative districts. This Commission must end the balkanization of Somerset County.

This is, of course, a political process, but there are constitutional limits to this political process. Among constitutional principles that the Commission must weigh is the limit on the division of cities and counties during the process. Art. IV, sec II, par. 3 provides:

"Unless necessary to meet the foregoing requirements, no county or municipality shall be divided among Assembly districts unless it shall contain more than one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State, and no county or municipality shall be divided among a number of Assembly districts larger than one plus



SOMERSET COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TIM HOWES
CHAIRMAN

the whole number obtained by dividing the number of inhabitants in the county or municipality by one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State.”

Paragraph 3 lays out a simple formula based on the population of the state and in this case, Somerset County. If we plug in the relevant figures from the 2021 Decennial Census, then the formula looks like this:

1	NJ Population:	9,288,994
2,	1/40th of NJ Population:	232,224
3.	Somerset Co. Population:	345,361
4.	Maximum Districts (line3/line 2):	1.487

It is clear, based on the above calculation, that Somerset County would fit neatly into two legislative districts. Two is the ideal number of districts for Somerset County. The Constitutional principle embodied in Art. IV, sec II, par. 3 applies equally to the unnecessary division of Jersey City into three legislative districts. Accordingly, we join in Mayor Fulop’s objection.

Your predecessor Commission correctly applied Art. IV, sec II, par. 3 to Newark and Jersey City in 2011; however, it did not apply that same principle to Somerset County. There was no constitutional basis on which to divide Somerset County into six districts in 2011, and there is no constitutional basis on which to divide us into five districts in 2022.

The Turnpike Map divides educational communities of interest. The Somerset Hills School District is comprised of four towns, Peapack & Gladstone, Bedminster, Far Hills and Bernardsville. The Turnpike Map divides the Somerset Hills School District into three legislative districts: LD-21, LD-23 and LD-25. The Turnpike Map also divides the Bridgewater-Raritan School District into two legislative districts: LD-16 and LD-21.

Finally, the Turnpike Map divides an ethnic community of interest centered in Northern Somerset County into several districts. The burgeoning South Asian commu



SOMERSET COUNTY REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TIM HOWES
CHAIRMAN

nity, which is centered around temples in Bridgewater and the Basking Ridge Indian Community, finds itself in at least three legislative districts.

Somerset County offers one of the most educated populations in the nation. It is home to some of the best school districts in the state, and one of the best community colleges in the nation. It is irrational to dilute our representation in the State Legislature by dividing us into five districts when we would fit neatly into two. The makers of the Turnpike Map need to go back to the drawing board, and let themselves be guided by Art. IV, sec II, par. 3 of the New Jersey Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Timothy Howes

W. Timothy Howes, Chair

Somerset County Republican Organization

TH/

Cc: Executive Committee
Municipal Chairs

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 first hand 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. I also want to thank the commission for it's commitment to transparency by listening to the community and releasing these draft maps early.

I am here to provide feedback on your draft maps of Turnpike and Parkway and its impact to the Arab American community of Bergen, New Jersey.

PACC has worked with community leaders across the state to present to the commission a statewide map that encompasses 6 counties and 25 cities with significant Arab populations. Please consider this map when redrafting Turnpike and Parkway.

In the Bergen County community of interest map we presented both Turnpike and Parkway maps do a decent job by keeping Cliffside Park and Fairview together but you cut Ridgefield and Ridgefield Park in both maps..

Please consider keeping Ridgefield and Ridgefield Park together with Cliffside Park and Fairview.

Both Turnpike and Parkway maps do a decent job of keeping our community of interest map of West Bergen county whole, but please consider adding Elmwood to either or both to keep Arab populations together.

Other map suggestions are to add Pompton Lakes to Wayne.

Keeping my community together as a voting block will ensure we can elect a candidate of our choosing to better serve our needs in Trenton. I urge you to consider the Fair Districts Unity Map to ensure all communities of color can have representation.

Good morning (afternoon),

My name is Kathy Stanzione and I would like to just take a minute to provide you with some background information to understand my perspective. I am a retired teacher. I began my career in private and parochial schools, then transitioned to public school where I spent the last 25 years. I am certificated in multiple areas and during my almost 30 years in education I have taught different grade levels, subjects, and students of all academic abilities. So, my understanding of fairness and equality of opportunity is based on empirical data and years of experience. I'd like to now focus on the Turnpike map because it is a far cry from fair and equitable.

The way the Turnpike map is organized, Morris County will be decimated if it is approved. The intent is clearly to destroy the county and its representatives. Geographically, this map breaks Morris County into six legislative districts and spans four counties, from Florham Park to Franklin Lakes. The map is disjointed and nonsensical. Morris Plains and Parsippany will be split apart after 50 years. This map is an attempt to decrease the Republican seniority and will dilute representation from hometown candidates, therefore, destroying any opportunity for us to govern ourselves.

The Turnpike map completely marginalizes Hispanic representation and breaks up the second largest Indian American constituency in the state. Their representation will fall by the wayside. The chances are extremely high that Morris County would never have any representation at all. We would literally and figuratively be wiped off the map. The Turnpike map is a compilation of raw, partisan gerrymandering, and is designed to guarantee one-party rule, basically rendering the ballot box irrelevant and completely disenfranchising an entire constituency of voters.

As an educator, I view this partisanship as being analogous to stacking the deck for a teacher in the classroom. When you place all the gifted and talented students in one classroom, initially the teacher comes out looking like a winner, and the teacher who has all the I.E.P. and basic skills students ends up being labeled as needing improvement. However, there is no winner. The academically talented students remain stagnant because they will eventually lack the ability to interact and relate with others, no longer accepting differing points of view, while the teacher has only one direction to go, which is DOWN. Education is all about showing improvement. The low proficiency students end up further and further behind academically because they have no opportunity for advancement, peer-to-peer collaboration of opposing views, or exposure to diversity of learning, and the teacher never has the chance to move out of the "needs improvement" classification. It's a vicious cycle. Those students are pigeon-holed and will be faced with the same expectations, the status quo, for the rest of their lives. Basically, heterogenous vs. homogenous, and that's exactly how I view these two maps. The Turnpike map is inherently discriminatory, designed to solidify that one party holds a majority and that the status quo will remain in place for decades. The Parkway map is unquestionably more reasonable (although not perfect) and leaves room for change that can reflect its constituents' evolving needs and desires. Thank you for your time.

Barbara K. Eames, Working Together for NJ
Statement before NJ Redistricting Commission
February 11, 2022

Martin Luther King famously stated that Americans should be judged by the content of their character – not by the color of their skin. From prior testimony, it seems that redistricting is ALL about ethnicity, nationality, and race. In 2008, the voters of this nation elected the first African American President. We are NOT a racist nation, and we should NOT judge people first by their skin color.

ALL Americans deserve to send their children to good schools, secure a good job, provide for themselves financially, and live in safety. That should not be an issue of race. God says that there is one race – the human race. I pray that we can come together as a nation to secure these rights for ALL Americans.

I will speak to my opposition to the Turnpike map, and what it does to Morris County. Guidelines for apportionment standards require that districts be “compact, contiguous, and connected”. There is deference given to County boundaries, and “communities of interest”. Disruptions every 10 years should be avoided. And creating districts where incumbents must compete against each other should be avoided. This map negatively affects Morris County in all of those ways.

The Turnpike map places approximately 50% of the land area of Morris County in a legislative district OUTSIDE of the boundaries of the County, and leaves only D25 representing entirely Morris County. It creates a laughable and barely even contiguous district 40 that stretches from Hanover through Passaic and Bergen County, nearly to the northern border of NJ, that is neither compact, contiguous or connected. It destroys Morris County as a “community of interest”, and will likely result in more representation by legislators outside of Morris County. Ten years ago, 6 of our County’s eastern towns were moved into D27 in Essex County. Please let this move be back into a Morris County district.

Further, by removing Morris Plains and Jefferson Twp. from D26, its two assembly members, Jay Webber and Christian Barranco, will be moved into District 25 and District 24, respectively, leaving NO incumbent legislators in District 26, and pitting them against popular Republican incumbents in both of the new districts. Further, Christian Barranco is a newly elected Cuban American and the ONLY Republican Hispanic in the Assembly!

As for “Partisan Fairness”, the Turnpike map forces primaries against two Morris legislators who courageously stood up against Governor Murphy’s tyrannical and unscientific vaccine passport mandates for Legislators to enter the Statehouse. Both Jay Webber and Brian Bergen have been forceful and articulate in expressing opinions counter to the current narrative that comes out of Trenton. It looks highly “suspect” and non-coincidental, to say the least. This was even recognized on Wednesday by the Democratic chairwoman of Jefferson Township.

In short, the Turnpike plan removes a senior member of the Republican leadership, a Hispanic legislator, leaves two vacancies in District 26 (to be targeted by Democrats), and forces two primaries among 4 incumbents. It guts Morris County. Please vote no on this blatantly partisan plan.

Barbara K. Eames
Founder, Working Together for NJ
Saturday, February 11

To members of the Redistricting Commission -

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Commission this morning. I am attaching my testimony, but I would like to share some summary thoughts with you, after having listened to all of the three hearings.

I know the Commission is charged with complying with “One Man One Vote” principles, as well as antiquated principles that USED to govern this process in NJ, such as keeping Counties unified – which doesn’t happen anymore, and certainly not in Morris County’s case in the Turnpike Plan.

My observation is that NO ONE wishes to be removed from their “communities”, and hardly anyone endorsed the Turnpike plan, regardless of their race, ethnicity, etc. That certainly applies to the comments of those of us from Morris County as well, although our rationale focuses more on COUNTY identity and political beliefs. However, Parsippany includes the State’s largest community of Indian Americans, second to Edison, but has developed a good working relationship with those of us within the County. I have developed an excellent working relationship with the leader of their community.

But the principle that used to be law - about keeping counties whole in this process - is affirmed by most of the comments – even though it is not possible under current law. But it certainly is a principle that would seem to make more people comfortable, and ought to be respected, to the extent that it can be achieved.

For better or worse, we are social creatures, who like to be with those with whom we have the most in common. But drawing lines to “create” ANY districts of “color” might require the kind of ridiculous-looking district that was created in D 40 (albeit for a different reason). We, perhaps unfortunately, live in communities that are often lopsided in a certain race/ethnicity, but still only get one Senator and two Assembly people from that. People aren’t “homogenized” across the state.

But we DO need to respect community and County boundaries more than the Turnpike Plan does. We shouldn’t allow communities that share school systems, the same County government, natural or economic relationships and commonalities, etc. to be split apart. Counties DO significantly define and describe where we live, who we are, and what our interests and beliefs are, but it also doesn’t mean different groups of Americans can’t live together or next door in peace and harmony. I felt that sentiment was lacking in some of the comments.

Specific to D 40, into which my town of Hanover would now be redistricted – while it is interestingly, Republican – it is so far away at its extremes that I can’t even tell you when, if ever, I’ve even stepped foot into some of those towns. A legislative office, to be centrally located, would have to be twenty miles or so from my house. HARDLY local. And certainly NOT contiguous compact, or connected.

I don’t envy you your job! Thanks for your attention to all of our comments.

Senator Nellie Pou Testimony
February 11, 2022
Redistricting Commission

Senator Nellie Pou Testimony-Redistricting Commission (2-11-22)

Good morning, Judge Carchman, Chairman Jones, Chairman Barlas and Commission members: My name is Nellie Pou, Senator of the 35th legislative district. Thank you for providing the opportunity to discuss this very important topic with you all today. In a representative democracy, the government and its leadership must commit itself to democratic openness to ensure that it reflects the many populations it serves. Democracy fails when it does not accurately reflect its citizenry. Representation is a basic fairness principle.

Equal inclusion of underrepresented populations must be woven into all public policy making processes and must ensure that the best interest of our citizens remains the bedrock of our functioning democracy.

During the Legislative Redistricting process this year, there were significant discussions about communities of color and the need for better representation of the growing minority communities throughout New Jersey.

However, it took late into the redistricting process this year for the second largest ethnic group in the State, Latinos, to even receive consideration for a seat on the commission.

Speaking for a collective, and as a member of the leadership of this Legislature, WE must move beyond words and symbolic gestures to ensure that our processes demonstrate basic fairness principles.

Following the 2020 Census count, data showed that 1 out of every 5 residents (or 1.8 million) are Latino in New Jersey. However, Latinos continue to lag behind in representation in many areas of State government, its appointments and even the State Legislature.

Latinos are the most underrepresented race or ethnicity in the Legislature, especially in the Senate. Latinos occupy only three out of the 40 State Senate seats, and in the General Assembly, 8 out of the 80 State Assembly seats, a total of 10 percent.

Senator Nellie Pou Testimony - Redistricting Commission (2-11-22)

New Jersey is scheduled to become a majority-minority state by 2030 due to the growth of the Latino population within the State. This presents an unprecedented opportunity for New Jersey to put forward a fair and accurate redistricting effort that reflects the power of the Latino vote.

When drawn 10 years ago, the legislative map only had one district in which Latinos made up the majority of the population. Today, that same map has two districts with Latino majorities, which are districts 32 and 35. On a personal note, this very expansion afforded me the opportunity to represent my constituency in the Senate.

The commission has already heard testimony, and has seen examples provided by advocates that demonstrate that it is possible to draw a map that contains four Latino majority districts. The growth of the Latino population, especially in Passaic, Bergen, Essex, Union and Middlesex Counties create a unique opportunity to draw such districts.

It would be a major setback for the New Jersey Latino community if this commission regressed by approving a map containing anything fewer than two majority Latino districts.

Cumberland County is a great example of an area that has seen the greatest Latino growth when compared to any other county in New Jersey. This growth is being driven by increases in places such as Millville, Bridgeton and Vineland. It is critical that these three communities be kept together in the same district to safeguard true representation of these areas and their community needs.

While we have made progress in New Jersey, we must create structures that ensure appropriate representation. These structures guide the placement of qualified Latinos in elected and appointed positions in all branches of government, the Judiciary, Executive or the Legislative.

No longer is it enough to say that we will make an effort or perhaps appoint one person as the token of proof that an effort has been made. We must actively commit to the recruitment of qualified individuals from those communities reflected in our state and provide them with the opportunity to make their voice heard.

Senator Nellie Pou Testimony - Redistricting Commission (2-11-22)

In 2021, Latinos have become the largest minority group in the United States. They are the second- fastest growing group in the nation behind Asian Americans. This tremendous increase in population has a clear connection with economic growth, as Latino households now hold considerable earning and consumer power compared to a decade ago.

Setting fairness aside, Latinos are vital to New Jersey's economy and they bring a power that comes with a cascade of economic benefits. The Garden State is home to over 120,000 Latino- owned businesses, which in turn create thousands of jobs and tens of billions of dollars in tax revenues. These revenues are a vital component to funding municipal services and shoring up social programs, like Medicare and Social Security.

Most notably, New Jersey's Latino Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$97 billion in 2018, larger than the entire economic output of the state of Hawaii.

New Jersey's top three 2018 Latino GDP sectors are: Education & Healthcare (17.8% share of the NJ Latino GDP), Professional & Business Services (13.5%), and Transportation & Warehousing (9.0%).

As with the US Latino GDP, the largest component of New Jersey's Latino GDP is personal consumption. Latino consumption totaled more than \$73 billion in New Jersey in 2018.

New Jersey has the 8th highest share of eligible Latino voters in the nation with 15.5 percent according to New American Economy.

In fact, among the 10 states with the Largest Latino populations, New Jersey has the 3rd highest share of Latino immigrants eligible to vote, 6.2 percent.

As the Chair of the NJ Legislative Latino Caucus, I want to implore this commission to commit to creating maps that accurately depict the needs of our communities. Without this, a representative democracy, and its ability to govern effectively cannot succeed.

Members of the Latino Caucus work very hard every day to represent the residents of our own individual Legislative Districts, while also serving as a voice for all of the Latino residents who live in parts of our state with no Latino representation in Trenton.

Senator Nellie Pou Testimony - Redistricting Commission (2-11-22)

It would be highly unfortunate if this commission did not move our state forward by adopting a map that accurately reflects the growing Latino community by drawing 2 additional districts, bringing the total number of Latino Majority Districts to 4, thus creating opportunities for the Latino community to elect more candidates of our choice and bring us closer to representational parity in the state legislature.

So far, I have focused on majority Latino districts, which are very important because they have the power of creating the strongest chance for Latino representation. However, I would be remiss if I did not discuss the necessity to also create more Latino opportunity districts, meaning districts where Latinos make up enough of the population to have a credible chance at winning at least one of the three legislative seats in a particular district.

A strong opportunity district is one in which Latinos comprise approximately 35 percent of the population, thus giving our community a strong claim to one of the three legislative seats. There are several districts in the currently enacted legislative map that meet this definition. The commission should preserve those existing districts and expand the number of opportunity districts. The strongest opportunity districts are the ones where Latinos represent a plurality. There are several places in the current circumstance where Latino plurality districts can be drawn, given the size and distribution of the Latino population.

As previously mentioned, there is now an opportunity for New Jersey to put forward a fair and accurate redistricting effort that reflects the power of the Latino vote. In the last 10 years, our communities have continued to grow across the state and in the spirit of fairness, that growth needs to be represented in the future map.

Again, I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the importance of ensuring fair representation in the drawing of the state's legislative maps. Please know that I stand steadfast as an ally to these efforts, and it is my hope that this commission will do everything it can to achieve this goal.

Senator Nellie Pou Testimony - Redistricting Commission (2-11-22)

References:

1. NJEDA

As New Jersey's Hispanic Population Continues To Grow, So Does State's Economy
<https://www.njeda.com/as-new-jerseys-hispanic-population-continues-to-grow-so-does-states-economy/>

2. Latinos in New Jersey: A changing electorate

<https://www.cnn.com/2016/04/20/politics/new-jersey-latino-voters/index.html>

3. Census

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/NJ>

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/population-changes-nations-diversity.html>

4. Latino GDP

<https://www.roi-nj.com/2021/09/09/diversity-inclusion/bofa-study-latino-gdp-in-n-j-is-97b-and-growing-at-much-faster-rate-than-overall-state/>

From: karen arakelian <
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 4:10 PM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: LD26 redistricting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am Karen Arakelian and I live in Montville, Morris County, LD26

Thank you for allowing me and so many others to be heard on this issue

With the "turnpike map", LD 26 is being torn apart. As bad as this blowing up the district is, my biggest concern is what is being done to our wonderful Indian American community.

What this map does is divide our Indian-American neighbors in Morris plains and Parsippany,

These towns have been paired for almost 50 years...and this Turnpike map would divide the very close knit Indian-American population which resides in those two towns. The Indian-American population is a minority group here in New Jersey which is steadily growing and this is clearly an attempt to marginalize their collective minority voice.

Redistricting that marginalizes a minority community is never good but I am quite sure that I'd the parkway map, suggested by Republicans had this division in it they would be labeled RACISTS and rightly so! Thus, to use words that the people who devised this map would understand; this redistricting is completely racist and seeks to silence the collective minority Indian-American voices as well as many other minorities across our state.

These divisive tactics must come to an end. This turnpike map continues to divide the people of new jersey when what we need most is unity.

We all know when people cannot win honestly, they present options that divide and help them to win dishonestly.

Don't let this happen to LD26 and Morris County.

Thank you,

Karen Arakelian
Montville NJ

From: karen arakelian <
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 8:05 PM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: Full statement re LD26

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

>>
>>
>> Thank you for allowing me and so many others to be heard on this issue
>>
>> With the turnpike map, LD 26 is being torn apart. As bad as this blowing up the district is, my biggest concern is what is being done to our wonderful Indian American community
>>
>> What this map does is divide our Indian American neighbors in Morris plains and Parsippany,
>> two towns that have been paired for almost 50 years...and this Turnpike map would divide the very close knit Indian-American population which call these towns home The Indian-American population is a minority group here in New Jersey which is steadily growing and this is clearly an attempt to marginalize their collective minority voice.
>>
>> Redistricting that marginalizes a minority community is never good but I am quite sure that if the parkway map, suggested by Republicans had this division in it, they would be labeled RACISTS and rightly so! Thus, to use words that the people who devised this map would understand; this redistricting is completely racist and seeks to silence the collective minority Indian-American group.
>>
>> These divisive tactics must come to an end This turnpike map continues to divide the people of new jersey when what we need most is unity
>>
>> We all know when people cannot win honestly, they present options that divide and help them to win dishonestly
>>
>> Don't let this happen to LD26 and Morris County
>>
>>

From: George Bauman < >
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 9:54 AM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: George Bauman Testimony

Thank you for taking the time to read this statement. I'm a resident of Mount Holly, NJ and a proud resident of New Jersey's 8th Legislative District. I say proud because of the representatives that truly care about their towns and the constituents that live in them.

Senator Jean Stanfield has been an enormous presence in her community dating back to her time as Burlington County Sheriff and has been unrelenting since joining the legislature. I've reached out to her office multiple times for help with various issues and have always been cared for like I was a member of a large, extended family that is the 8th District.

During the pandemic, Senator Stanfield started meal drives for seniors where she partnered with local restaurants to hand out non-contact meals in an outdoor setting. While the free meal was appreciated, for many of us it was our first time leaving our house in a while and the customer service and community aspect of the events was amazing. She held five in total, and I went to every one, enjoying all my conversations with her.

I was so glad when I heard Assemblyman Michael Torrissi and Assemblyman Brandon Umba would join her office because I knew the service to our community would now multiply. And I was very upset when I saw a legislative map known as the Turnpike option that would relocate all three members of the legislative district. I voted for my representatives for a reason, and to change the district so severely pretty much throws out my vote.

Senator Stanfield has won her district through community service and representing all constituents, regardless of party. However, turning the district from a competitive one to a +25 district for Democrats on a Presidential map seems like a direct shot at a senator who is well known for winning close races.

This is gerrymandering at its worst and would greatly harm people's views of Democracy. I ask that you please consider the current competitiveness of the district and make as little changes to it as possible. Thank you for your time

Sent from my iPhone

From: Bobbie Beitz
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 11:17 AM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: Rezoning Meeting

Hello,
I was waiting to speak but due to having to get back to work I figured I would email my testimony.

Good morning, my name is Bobbie Beitz and I'm a resident of Southampton Township in Burlington County. I can't remember a time when I wasn't represented by Jean Stanfield. She served as Burlington County Sheriff for 18 years, represented me in the Assembly and is now in her first term in the Senate. As a young woman, I'm inspired by her commitment to public service and I'm so disappointed to see her being targeted in a way that would attempt to remove her from office in favor of another incumbent male legislator. I was inspired by Jean's election, and looking at this Turnpike map makes me feel so disenfranchised. That it doesn't matter how many obstacles you can overcome, you can do everything right, and there will still be a way to have what you've earned taken from you.

Aside from seeing this map as an attack on an incumbent female legislator, I'm also concerned that my hometown and our priorities will not be properly represented in Trenton. Southampton is a more rural community with many farms and back roads. We have much in common with our neighbors in the current 8th legislative district. However, when I look at the Turnpike map and see that Southampton is now moved into the 7th legislative district, and we are combined with municipalities along the Delaware River, that certainly don't have the same agricultural focus as Southampton residents.

Agriculture isn't the only commonality Southampton has with our neighboring municipalities. Given our proximity to the Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, we have a booming military and veteran population. I'm concerned when I see that Southampton is separated from other JBMDL municipalities as the specific needs of our military communities should be of utmost importance and may be lost in the shuffle and pushed lower on the priority if the Turnpike map were to be accepted. I thank you for listening to my concerns and appreciate your time today. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Bobbie Beitz

From: Jeffrey Grant, Belle Mead, NJ 08502
February 11, 2022
VIA EMAIL OLSaideAPPC@njleg.org
Hon. Phillip S. Carchman, 11th Member
New Jersey Apportionment Commission

Dear Judge Carchman,

First, I applaud the perspectives of Barbara Eames and Greg Quinlan that I summarize by: The objective is keeping communities of individuals together, not dividing people by race and not dividing people by political affiliation.

I am a father of three that has lived in Montgomery Township in Somerset County for the past 18 years having moved from Franklin Township where we lived for the prior 5 years. The towns are separated by the Millstone River.

We have a natural "life flow" community formed by the Millstone River to our east, 287 and 78 to our north and the Delaware river to our west. And by life flow, I am referring to natural pathways for shops, entertainment, worship and friendships.

Although I live a minute's drive from the Griggstown causeway to Franklin Township, the natural flow emerges to dine in Montgomery, Hillsborough, Somerville and Raritan (a lot) , dine in Flemington (Marinelli's) , Stockton (National Hotel), Sergeantsville (Inn) and Lambertville (many places), worship in Raritan Borough.

By contrast, when we lived in Franklin Park, we went to church St. Augustine's in South Brunswick, dined at many restaurants on 27 and in South and New Brunswick and rarely ever crossed the Millstone to Montgomery to the west.

Life flows and relationships in our towns have naturally solidified over the years so it does not make sense to couple Montgomery with Franklin Township as shown on the Parkway map.

As for the Turnpike map, it shows Princeton and West Windsor connected to Montgomery's south with South Brunswick tacked on to the east of the Millstone River. Princeton and West Windsor seem a good fit together, however, including them with Montgomery and Hillsborough as shown on the Turnpike map adds towns that have little natural flow or commonality.

Finally, comingling disparate towns that straddle the Millstone as shown in the Parkway Map splits communities and creates a political monopoly dominated by democratic voters offering little competition to facilitate advancing diverse policies.

The Millstone River, Delaware river, 287 and 78 are a natural boundary defining our community and this needs to be preserved because combining contiguous towns in this framework preserves meaningful living and recreational relationships. And this approach allows for diverse representation by both republicans and democrats that over time produces balanced policy that benefits everyone.

To the extent that Somerset County might be shared with multiple districts, we expect that constitutional limits of a maximum of two districts is respected.

Thank you.

From: Gabriella Brandeal <
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 11:36 AM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: RE: APPC 2/11 Zoom Meeting Information & Instructions

Dear Commissioners,

I was unable to connect with the link. Here are my comments regarding the redistricting maps: I strongly oppose the Turnpike Map as it disconnects those in Morris County where I have lived since 1978. I am a retired veteran teacher in District 25 and am concerned that the vibrant economy and culture in Morris County would be negatively impacted by the Turnpike map. I, too, have great concern about the voice of the only Hispanic representative, Christian Barranco, being totally lost if the Turnpike map is adopted. May I say that I emphatically agree with previous points which have been made: I believe the Turnpike map does cut up Morris County into six different districts thereby greatly diluting voter's voices. Is this fair? I think not. I believe that this Turnpike map is, if intended or not, discriminatory and it appears to most definitely be political gerrymandering. Consider that these decisions will reign for ten years. I do not think that Morris County will be as vibrant in ten years if the Turnpike map is adopted and fair representation for Morris County in the legislature will be much, much less.

Thank you so much for affording the public this opportunity to view the map and openly participate in our right to comment on public affairs which so affect NJ citizens in every aspect of our lives. May I say that whatever means necessary should be pursued to produce more citizenship involvement in the legislative process. Many citizens to whom I have spoke are totally unaware that this proceeding is going on. They are too busy just surviving. Thank you so much for serving the citizens of NJ.

Gabriella Brandeal, MA

Boonton Twp., NJ 07005

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [OLSaideAPPC](#)
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 10:32 AM
To: [Martinez Kruger, Raysa](#)
Subject: APPC 2/11 Zoom Meeting Information & Instructions

Dear Participant,

This message and attachments contain the information necessary to participate in the **Zoom meeting on Friday, 2/11/22 at 10:00 AM.**

The access link is below.

Everyone **must have a Zoom account created under their own name** to access the meeting. The "**Create Zoom Account**" attachment contains instructions to assist you in creating a Zoom account. The "**Zoom Meeting - Participant**" attachment contains information about using Zoom.

Please ensure you create the Zoom account in advance and that you are familiar with using the Zoom application prior to the meeting.

From: Zachary Szesko <
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 3:22 PM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: Davenport v. Apportionment Comm. :: 1974 :: Supreme Court of New Jersey Decisions :: New Jersey Case Law :: New Jersey Law :: US Law :: Justia

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Davenport v. Apportionment Comm. :: 1974 :: Supreme Court of New Jersey Decisions :: New Jersey Case Law :: New Jersey Law :: US Law :: Justia

<https://law.justia.com/cases/new-jersey/supreme-court/1974/65-n-j-125-0.html>

Judge Carchman, Thank you for this opportunity to be heard regarding the redistricting process. My name is Paul Szesko, Whippany. I'm opposed to the Turnpike map 1st because of how the District 40 I would be put in extends to the far ends of NJ and out of the county not mention a 50 minute ride now to the incumbent Legislature at that end of the state, but more importantly Morris County would be carved up among 6 Districts, even a Judge Rehnquist believes one-man one-vote goes to far. I'm a County Committee person in the 8th District in Hanover Twp and I know most of my people in my District, I have a pulse of my neighborhood and my local government so I know there needs and I know our leaders because they are part of local community, you know what they say, out of site out of mind, what would also happen is 6 of our legislators would now be primaried against each other, and the Indian population in Morris Plains and Parsippany would be split into 2 different Districts, even Christine Clarke the Democratic Chair of Jefferson Township and a former Democratic nominee for Legislature in D-26 in 2019 and 2021 testified that the aturnpike map is unfair because it removes the sitting Republican Assemblymen Webber and newly elected Cuban Assemblymen Christian Barranco from D-26, let's call it what it is, gerrymandering ! Please read thru all of the NJ Supreme Court Davenport v. Apportionment Comm. from 1974 from the above link, it still makes sense, There are many more benefits keeping Counties compact as much as possible. Thank you and good reading.

Paul Szesko

From:
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 11:58 AM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: From Web Form North Hudson

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Arthur Amidano

West New York, New Jersey 07093

Now that the meetings are done, I urge you one last time to keep North Hudson together either as one compact district or as how the 1980, 1990, 2000 maps kept North Hudson intact as I mentioned in my spoken and written testimony. The residents of Union City share more in common with North Hudson and deserve to be together in a North Hudson District. Thank you!

From:
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 4:44 PM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: APPC 2/11 Written Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi my Name is Marcela Barrezueta-Crossman. I am former marine, mom of 2 children and made my career in the financial services industry.

The Latino community is severely underrepresented.

Comparing the 2 maps, I was troubled to see that Assemblyman Christian Baranco would be placed into a primary fight against the two incumbent Assemblymen in District 24.

Diversity in the State Legislature is something that we should all value and strive for and I'm shocked that one of the maps would jeopardize the only Hispanic Republican in the caucus by throwing him into a new district.

Thank you Judge Carchman and the members of the apportionment commission for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding the proposed legislative maps.

Having spent nearly seven years serving the people of the New Jersey's Third Legislative District in the General Assembly was a great honor and a tremendous experience to make a difference in the lives of so many in South Jersey. As I look at the proposed maps, I think both iterations would make it highly unlikely that a candidate from a diverse background would get the same opportunity I enjoyed if either map is chosen, but relatively minor changes could really improve those prospects.

Currently, the 'Turnpike' map as proposed could add Fairfield and Millville in Cumberland County to improve the diversity in the Third Legislative District, while offsetting population from neighboring municipalities in Salem County and the southern section of Gloucester County. This would improve minority opportunity and also retain the historic competitiveness of the district. Additionally, the 'Parkway' map as proposed went even farther to reduce minority opportunity during the next decade by removing Bridgeton in Cumberland County along with West Deptford and Paulsboro in Gloucester County to severely reduce the influence of several concentrations of minority population.

My hope before final passage would be a commitment to not retrogress the minority influence that enabled a minority candidate to find success in the Third Legislative District, and as we discuss the important factors around improving minority representation, we should not overlook the recent elections where progress was achieved. In doing so, you will serve the true interests of this process to best represent the interests of New Jersey residents.

Thank you and I appreciate the time and consideration of my viewpoint during your collective deliberations.

Sincerely,

Adam Taliaferro

From: Millie <>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 8:28 PM
To: OLSaideAPPC
Subject: Testimony

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony as a part of this morning's hearing. My name is Millie Daverso, and I reside at _____ in Lumberton. I have lived and voted in Lumberton for 21 years. I am a mother, a wife, a daughter, and a sister.

I want to address you tonight about the 8th legislative district and precisely why the Turnpike Map would disenfranchise my vote. The Turnpike Map, as proposed, would put my three representatives in the State Legislature in three separate districts, put two Senators in the same district, and separate communities with strong bonds and commonalities.

As proposed, the Turnpike map would put my three representatives in the State Legislature in three separate districts. Assemblyman Mike Torrissi would live in the 9th district, Assemblyman Brandon Umba in the 7th district, and State Senator Jean Stanfield in the 8th district. These three representatives share a district office on Main Street in Lumberton, not far from where I live. They are very present in the community and provide excellent constituent service.

The Turnpike map would also put Senators Jean Stanfield and Troy Singleton in the same district and an extremely uncompetitive one at that. Senator Jean Stanfield is one of the very few South Jersey women to serve in the New Jersey Senate. It would reek of sexism to pit her against Senator Troy Singleton in a district that is being made less competitive.

As it currently stands, the two districts that primarily make up Burlington County are very logical. The "River Towns" make up the 7th District, and the more rural communities make up the 8th Legislative District. The Turnpike Map flips this logic upside down, and both districts would be composed of "River Towns" and rural

towns. It doesn't make sense to separate communities with strong bonds and commonalities, which positions them to benefit from a legislative agenda covering several communities in the district.

In closing, the Turnpike map would disenfranchise my vote. It will put my representatives in three separate districts, pit two Senators against one another, and separate communities that share strong bonds and commonalities. While I know some changes have to be made, the highly competitive 8th Legislative district should remain largely intact.

Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

Testimony of The Honorable J. Christian Bollwage
Mayor, City of Elizabeth, New Jersey
Respectfully Submitted to the Members of the Redistricting Committee
Friday, February 11, 2022

- Good Morning, Your Honor, Philip Carchman and Members of the Redistricting Committee. My name is Mayor Chris Bollwage, and I represent the City of Elizabeth.
- The citizenry of Elizabeth has a rich history and long association with other towns in Union County, serving as the core of our Legislative District for years.
- This pivotal relationship continues to have a significant regional impact on initiatives, projects and partnerships, which have yielded quality of life improvements, increased accessibility and the expansion of services, creation of opportunities, as well as enabled the ability to coordinate efforts in order to address needs and meet demands.
- Therefore, as the largest municipality within Union County and its County Seat, I strongly urge this Committee to keep New Jersey's 4th largest municipality with other communities in Union County.
- The City of Elizabeth is a diverse, urban community, which shares many of the same concerns, priorities and demands of neighboring Union County municipalities, which at one time included all of Union County – hence the West Fields of Elizabeth.
- Supportive leadership and valued partnerships are vital to the success of all communities, particularly as it relates to long-term projects and initiatives, which can have lasting county-wide and regional impacts.
- In the past, tie-breakers have nixed the idea of merging Bayonne and Elizabeth into the same district.
- Ten years ago, Alan Rosenthal did not support this suggestion, as crossing the Arthur Kill to remain contiguous, did not work. It would force legislators to physically cross a waterway, leaving their district for a period of time, in order to get back in.
- This proposed action would contribute to a disruption, as it relates to the continuity of district-wide service delivery, as well as produce potential challenges for legislative representatives pertaining to the ability to provide county-wide representation and support, in the event of an emergency or imminent threat, as we most recently experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The definition of contiguous in New Jersey has been a district, where it is possible to travel between any two points within that district, without crossing into a different district.
- In further reviewing the meaning of contiguous as it relates to electoral districts, the definition states that a district is considered contiguous if all parts of the district are in physical contact with some other part of another district.
- If the district is split by a body of water, there needs to be a method of transport over the water, such as a bridge, for a true physical connection to be maintained and an ability for reasonable access to be available.

- New Jersey requires State Legislative Districts to be contiguous and the creation of a Bayonne/Elizabeth District does not meet that definition.
- Elizabeth's interwoven history with communities such as Union Township and Roselle have intrinsically linked our economies, our recreation programs, and are reflected in our shared demographics, including our Portuguese American, Caribbean American, Hispanic American and African American communities, which are vibrant and flourishing.
- Kean University, which is located on the Elizabeth-Union border, is one of the state's foremost educational institutions. Warinanco Park, on the Roselle-Elizabeth border, provides recreational opportunities and community bonds for Roselle and Elizabeth residents alike.
- Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee and for your anticipated consideration.