

APPENDIX

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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/>

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.

Lox

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.

TX

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

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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.

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- 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.

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.

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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.

12x

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.

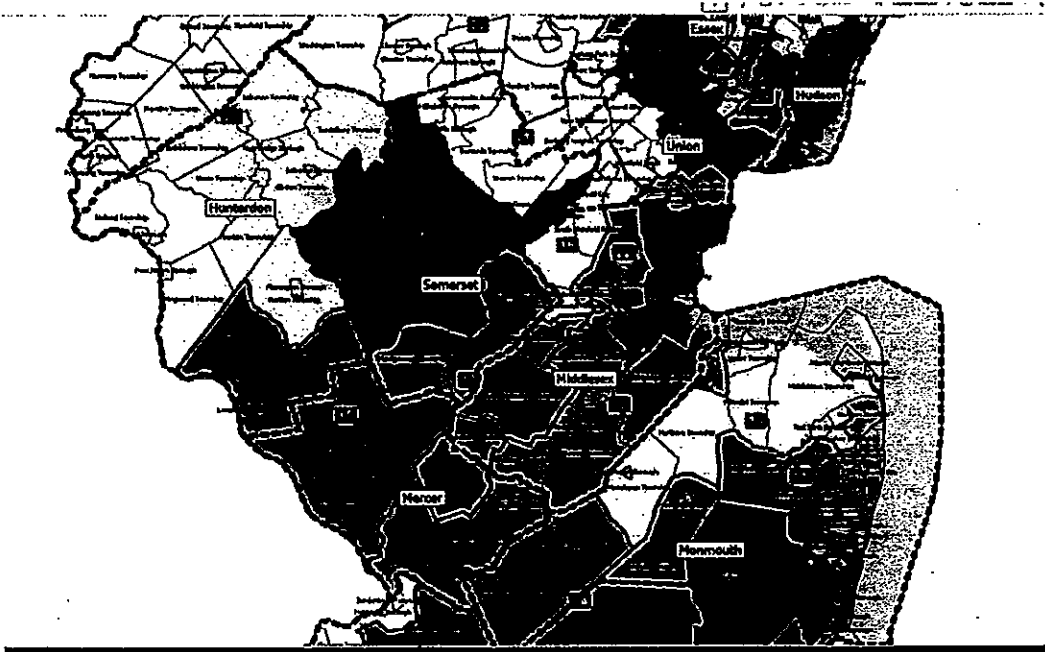
The Millstone River, Delaware river, 287 and 78 are a natural boundary defining our community and this needs to be preserved because combining contiguous towns in this framework preserves meaningful living and recreational relationships. And this approach allows for diverse representation by both republicans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

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Parkway Map



Turnpike Map



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.

15x

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

Hex

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

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

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>> 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

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>> 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.

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>> 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.

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>> 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

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

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

>>

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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

18x

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

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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

20x

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!

21x

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

22x

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

23x

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

2/11/11

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.

2/11/22

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 spotlighted 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.

25x