

APPENDIX

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.

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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: 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 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 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

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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.

5x

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.

Gx

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.

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.

8x



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.

9x



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 release 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

11x

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.

12x

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.

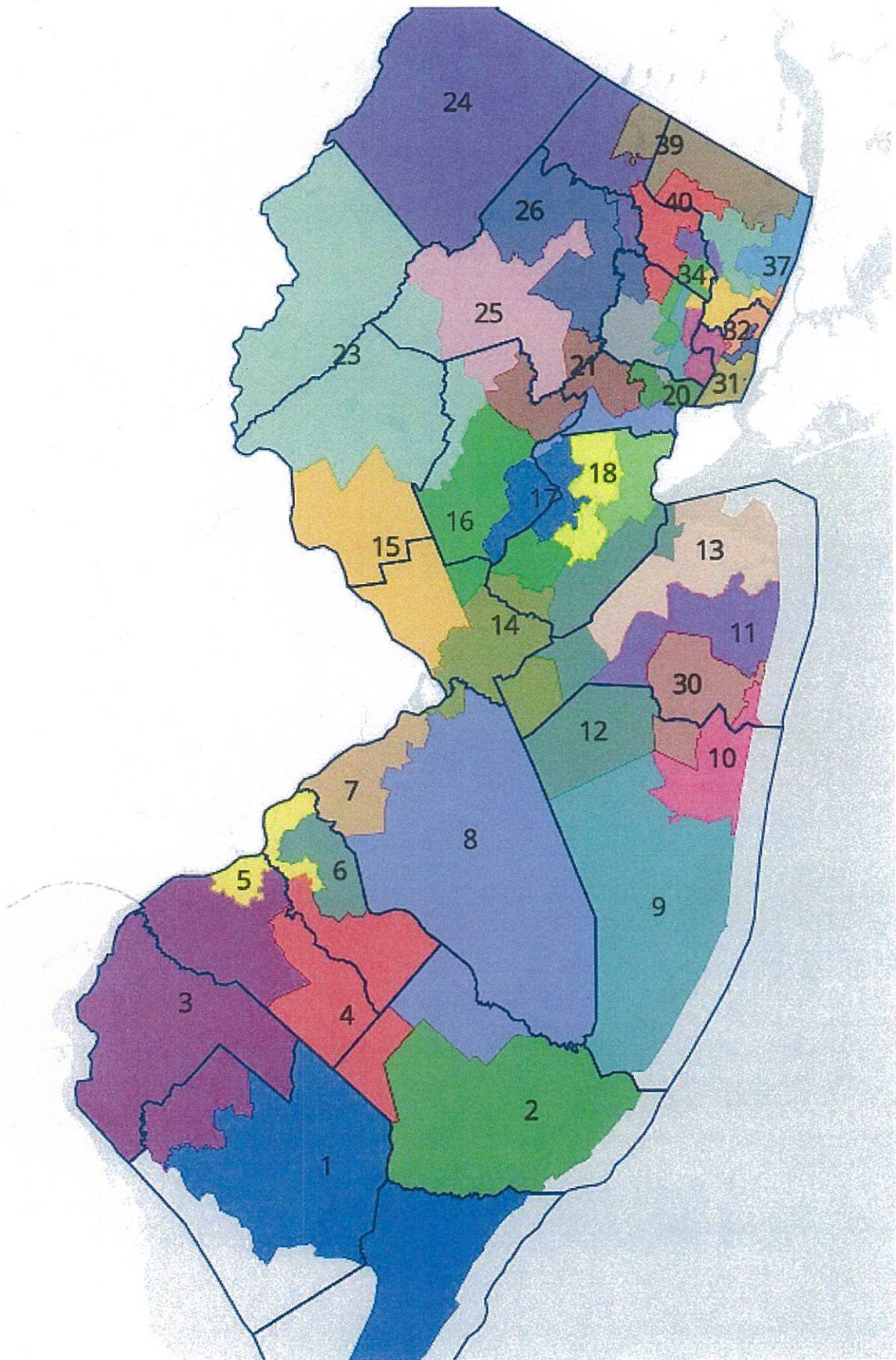
Finally, at a time when more districts across the country are being drawn to be safe for one party, my map embraced competition whenever possible. I would consider my districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, and 21 to be fairly competitive. Additionally, districts 25, 36, and 39 might be considered slightly competitive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

13x



14x

Marcia 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:

15x

- 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.

16x