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October 20: Buffalo Public Hearing

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The following material consists of themes and key points raised during the public hearings planned by the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission after the release of their preliminary maps. It also provides a list of organizations from each region that were identified and the communities of concern that were raised.

Access the NYS Independent Redistricting website [here](#). Watch or listen to all sessions [here](#).

Buffalo Hearings Key Takeaways: The Buffalo public hearing took place on October 20, 2021, and lasted about an hour and 20 minutes. Many local politicians and constituents spoke. The majority of concerns were from the Southern Tier counties and area. Many expressed concerns about not having the Southern Tier grouped with the Buffalo or Niagra area as these areas do not share priorities, interests, or ways of life. The Southern Tier is a community of interest and should be kept together. There were also concerns raised about proper engagement with the public by the commission.

Organizations Named:

- Buffalo Law School (submitted maps for State Senate, State Assembly, and Congressional Districts)
- NAACP Buffalo
- NAACP Niagara Falls
- NY Immigration Coalition
- TEAM

Communities of Concern and Specific Issues:

- Allegheny County (should be kept with the Southern Tier and the Southern Tier should be kept together and not tied to a northern district)
- Amherst (should be kept as one district and not be divided into two)
- Buffalo (community of interest and should be kept together)
- Cattaraugus County (should be kept with the Southern Tier and not a northern district)
- Census Concerns
 - There were concerns about the census data as affected by the pandemic. The commission emphasized that these issues could be bypassed by community input in the drawing of districts.
 - There was one concern raised about discrepancies between the Census prison population data and LATFOR's prison population data.
- Hamburg (should reconsider the placement as the current letters plan divides the village in two for the Assembly)
- I-186 (There was mention of this being a potential eastern cut-off for the Southern Tier)
- Minority Vote Dilution

- Concerns about gerrymandering and discriminatory redistricting were raised)
- Niagra (community of interest and should be kept together)
- Olean (should be kept with the Southern Tier as it is a community of interest)

You can view the specific hearing for Buffalo [here](#).