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## November 9: Bronx County 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](#).

**Bronx County Hearing Key Takeaways:** The Bronx County public hearing took place on November 9, 2021, and lasted about two hours. The majority of concerns were about the dilution of minority representation in proposed maps by the IRC. There were also concerns raised about not dividing communities of interest and not combining the 13th and 15th Congressional districts. Many of those who testified pointed to the growth in many areas of the Bronx, especially within communities of color. Maps should reflect this growth.

Organizations Named:

- Unity Map Coalition
  - Latino Justice PRLDEF
  - Center for Law and Social Justice at Medgar Evers College
  - Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

Communities of Concern and Specific Issues:

- AD 79: concerns over the division of communities
  - Should go to 179th and Grand Concourse
- AD 80: the five blocks that are part of AD 87 that are within Van Nest should be part of AD 80
- CD 13 and 15: should not be joined together
- Dilution of minority voices and votes
  - There were concerns raised about the splitting of communities of interest and performing districts.
- Letters Plan Senate Districts AI, AJ, BA, BB, and X: concerns over these districts splitting communities; communities should remain intact
  - BA and BB: as drawn, split up the African American community
  - X: as drawn, would lump a Queens neighborhood with a Bronx District
- North Manhattan and West Bronx: concerns over splitting up the Dominican community
- Parkchester: do not divide neighborhood; community of interest
- Parkchester, Westchester Square, and Castle Hill: keep whole
- SD 32: should not extend into queens; community boundaries are between the Bronx River and Westchester Creek, South of East Tremont Avenue and North of the Long Island Sound

- SD 33: testimony that the district should go more east instead of west
- Throngs Neck: do not split up the community
  - The letters plan currently cuts through this community
- Van Nest: concerns over the division
  - Only  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the community is within SD 32
- Van Nest and Riverdale: should be separate; not a community of interest
- Washington Heights and Bronx border
  - Keep an all Bronx district separate from Washington Heights
  - Washington Heights border: 179 street to the North, Amsterdam Ave to the East, and somewhere between 150 and 160 to the South

**You can view the specific hearing for Bronx County [here](#).**