

2023

1.9.23 - NYS IRC - Buffalo Public Hearing (Assembly)

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WE ARE NEW YORK'S LAW SCHOOL

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission - Buffalo Public Hearing

Monday January 9, 2023 @ 5:00pm

Buffalo State College (SUNY)

Name	Organization	Testimony
Jerry Schad		Amherst – keep town whole in one district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should have one assemblymember as it has for over a decade • Shall be as compact as practicable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft AD 146 is shaped like a reversed C • Draft puts Amherst with more rural and disparate communities • Shall not be drawn for purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft divides town in two, disfavoring incumbent - Harms Democrats • Shall consider maintenance of cores and towns and communities of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dividing Amherst hurts Asian population
Michele Iannello	Chairwoman - Amherst Democratic Committee	Amherst – keep town whole in one district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 146th District • Objects to draft for Amherst bc it divides town within two districts • Amherst has nothing in common with those districts • The town is large enough to have its own district
Ellen Banks		Amherst – keep town whole in one district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing was announced on short notice • People from Amherst usually turn out more • Amherst is largest town in state of NY outside of NYC area • Town has cohesiveness • Most people she knows don't know which district they are in – leads to apathy and confusion • Should keep districts together that represent what public thinks of as a unit
Angela Marinucci		Amherst – Keep town whole in one district <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disagree with draft map bc divides Amherst • Amherst has long had one assemblymember

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a single community that elects all town board members at large • It's the fourth largest municipality in NY • Should have one assemblymember • Dividing town dilutes the town's votes • The draft groups the town with more rural areas that don't have the same needs • Give deference to 2022 map and those before it
Mr. Stuhlmiller?		<p>Adhere as closely as possible to 2022 plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will submit written testimony • Make sure districts are contiguous, compact, and geographically make sense to communities • Legislators have put in time to reach out to new constituents • Look at disparity between 2022 plan and draft plan • Differing from 2022 plan could create resentment, animosity
Ian Clank		<p>Compactness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonawanda - Niagara Falls Blvd. = Effective borderline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real boundary between various aspects of city of buffalo and greater buffalo area • Current 2022 boundaries are good especially for AD 140 • Including Pendleton in 140 doesn't make sense
Mark Boyd	On Behalf of Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes	<p>AD 141</p> <p>Use state legislature approved map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will submit written testimony • City of Buffalo has recently grown in population with many new immigrants and refugees • AD 141 is the only majority minority district in upstate NY
Felton Davis		<p>Orchard Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft would remove Orchard Park from communities that share same economic values and historical background • Issue with how commission is appointed – not truly independent • Map drawing rules are not in order of priority and not detailed • Hard to balance competing demands