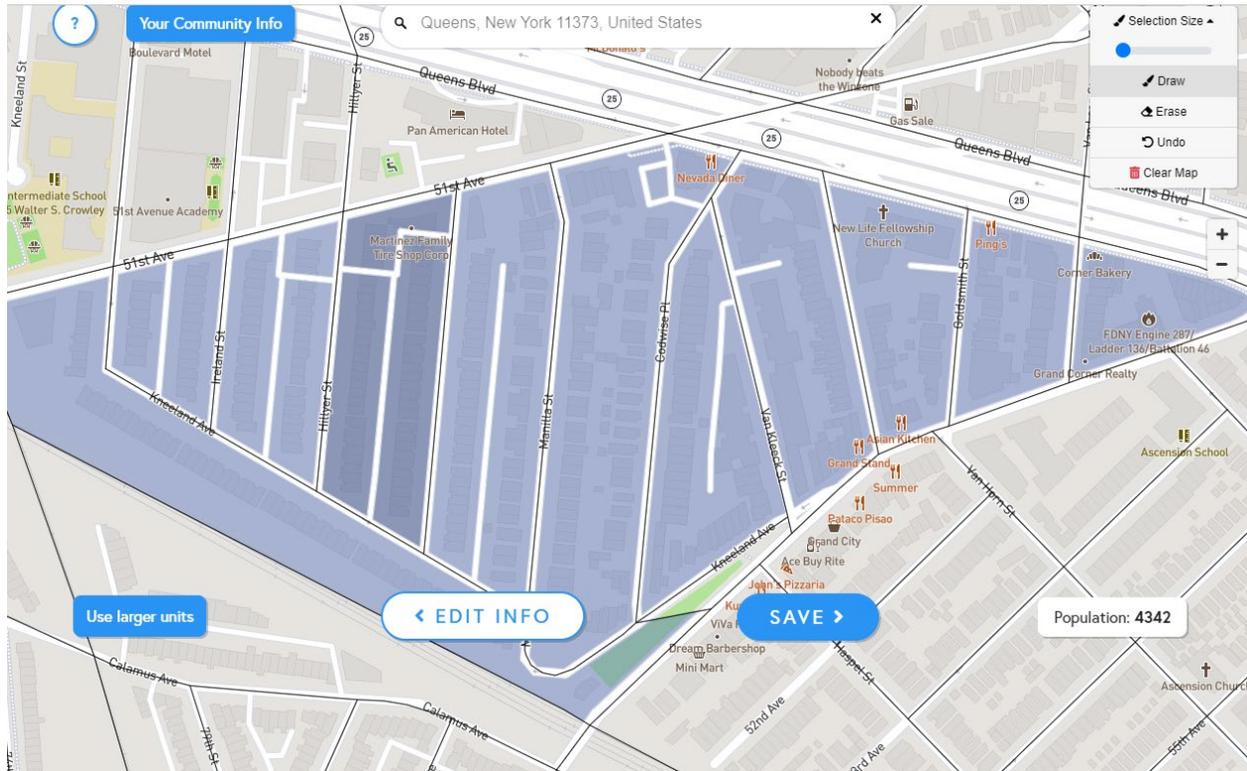


Ray Wong
NYC redistricting testimony
5/26/22



Redistrict District 25 Elmhurst the south side of Queens Blvd and Grand Av be redrawn to be included with Maspeth (district 30).

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Many years ago this section was included in District 30. The redistricting of this section has diluted our voices on important issues for single and two family owner occupied. In District 25, over the past 15 years there has been large new apt buildings being developed at a frenzy pace and major commercialization of the area. If you look at the movie “Coming to America” which was filmed in the district you can see the dramatic change in the area. I want to maintain this sector as prevailing one- and two-family character of the neighborhood and ensure that new residential development reflects the context and scale of the area’s existing housing mix.

There are many examples of this sector not being represented – most telling occurred with Hurricane Ida. This Sector is a low lying area and is prone to flooding during heavy rainstorms. So after the devastation of Hurricane Ida, many houses in the area had over 6 feet of water for days some for weeks. Our first concern was to get the water out, to remediate the damage and stop mold from forming. We were unable to do that since the sewers in the area were filled so we were pumping the water out only for it to come back in through the foundation. We felt hopeless. After Ida, District 25 was concerned about getting food to it constitutes. Little attention was given to the homeowners whose life savings were invested in the homes and we were in jeopardy of losing it all...Again the priorities of the council in district 25 did not reflect the ones in Elmhurst South.