

[REDACTED]

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To: Public Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony regarding Staten Island

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Good afternoon to everyone.

Staten Island has had three representatives for decades now and we shall continue to have that many minus some necessary additions from other areas to account for population shifts. But what we should do is look at the old "arithmetic" and see if the current districts make sense.

Traditionally Staten Island has been divided between South, Mid, and North Island. But those divisions have aged with time. There still is a North and a South but the "middle" tends to either be just more of the South Shore or just parts that don't really connect.

I propose a better way to divide the Island.

Keep a South Shore district that will represent the most Republican and most Italian of Southern Islanders. But divide the rest between East and West as that better reflects the differences in Staten Island. This will also create two majority minority districts that will give an opportunity for representation to the more than one-third of Staten Island that is non-white. It will also create a Western District that is more competitive than the current Mid-Island seat.

I connected the Northeastern seat with Manhattan to reflect two things. First, Staten Island takes the ferry, shops, works, and interacts with Southern Manhattan far more than it ever will southern Brooklyn. And second to reflect the new reality of the recently passed State Assembly maps. They are already linked by one and it makes sense to link them in the other.

I'll post a sample map I made to reflect these ideas.

Thank you very much for your patience.

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