

I live in Castleton Corners, which is in the 50th Council district. The 50th is allegedly the Mid-Island district. I say allegedly because it does not contain where I lived from 94-06, New Springville, Heartland Village and the mall area, which are the neighborhoods most Islanders associate with Mid-Island. These neighborhoods are in the Mid-Island 63rd Assembly district, but inexplicably are part of the South Shore Council. Also inexplicably, the East Shore is part of the mid-Island district, while the Mall is not.

Let's compare Staten Island geography to a U.S. map. Castleton Corners, where I reside, would be Ohio and the Mall... Missouri. The East Shore would be Maryland. Maryland is centrally located in the Eastern seaboard. Being centrally located on the East Coast, does make it one of the Central States or part of the Midwest. It is a Mid-Atlantic state, stressing the word Atlantic.

The current 50th Council district sans the East Shore, and the South Shore's mid-Island neighborhoods share many things in common that it doesn't have with the Eastern neighborhoods.

True Mid-Island neighborhoods like the Midwest are landlocked. The true Mid-Island neighborhoods, which includes the South Shore district's neighborhoods that belong in the 50th, are not near the water. More impactfully, True Mid-Island precincts are unfortunately not served by SIRT trains, while Eastern areas like New Dorp and South Shore locations like Tottenville have train stations. Mid-Island neighborhoods are any where from a mile and a half to five miles from the closest local trains.

Unless you live in St George (which also is on the train line), the SIRT is the quickest way to get to the Ferry. SIRT trains take much less time to get to the boat than local buses or driving. Despite being further away from Manhattan, some South Shore denizens near trains have shorter commutes to the city than Mid-Islanders, who must endure 45 minute trips to the boat plus the Ferry ride or take long and expensive express bus trips into the City. When it comes to the commute, Heartland Village has more in common with Bullshead than it does with Eltingville and Willowbrook more in common with Graniteville than it does with New Dorp.

50th district components Willowbrook and Manor Heights and the 51st's New Springville and Heartland village have Richmond County's largest Jewish populations. Despite Willowbrook and New Springville having shared borders as well as demographics, these neighborhoods instead share districts with less Jewish areas like Great Kills and Arrochar.

When I lived in the 51st, my council reps ignored our neighborhood and only paid attention to the Southshore, and when I resided in the 50th my reps paid much more attention to the East Shore than the landlocked trainless enclaves.

Despite this, my request to switch the true Mid-Island neighborhoods in the 51st with those of the 50th's East Shore would be politically neutral.