

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Barbara Van Benschoten
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2022 5:19 PM
To: George.Conklin@co.sullivan.ny.us; Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Need a 4th Map Option

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To: George Conklin George.Conklin@co.sullivan.ny.us
Legislator District 5
Annmarie Martin Annmarie.Martin@sullivanny.us
Clerk of the Legislator

Re: Need a 4th Map Option for Redistricting Legislative Districts

I live in Jeffersonville, in the current District 5. I am writing to urge you to not accept any of the proposed maps, but to ask for another option. The new option should try to respect town boundaries.

In Map Options #2 & #3 Jeffersonville is carved out of the Town of Callicoon. In Map Option #3 the Town of Callicoon is divided into 3 districts. This is very confusing for the residents and for the voters. It also violates a common state rule for redistricting which is "to follow political boundaries, like county, city, town, or ward lines, when drawing districts."

I understand that Map Option #1 is being presented as the preferred option, and I strongly oppose that option. While Jeffersonville does remain with the rest of the Town of Callicoon in Map Option #1, the Town of Liberty is divided into 3 districts. And the village of Liberty is combined with Monticello.

I listened to the June "Let's Talk Sullivan" podcast with Mr. Doherty describing that he felt that by combining the villages of Liberty and Monticello, it would be for "their better representation." I don't agree with that statement as it looks to me like combining the two largest villages in our county, which also happen to be two of the three Democratic leaning districts, this map is essentially gerrymandering and stifling the voices of the residents in those two villages.

Thank you for working towards fairness.
Barbara Van Benschoten
Jeffersonville, NY

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Barbara E. Van Benschoten

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Kevin McDonough
Sent: Sunday, July 17, 2022 12:04 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: County Redistricting

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I am a member of the Tusten Town Council. At our most recent board meeting, we made our displeasure with "Option One" known. We passed a resolution opposing it. Tusten is too small a town to be bifurcated in this matter.

Respectfully

Kevin McDonough
Tusten

Martin, AnnMarie

From: willie johnson
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 12:59 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: SC Redistricting Maps

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon. I do not have a lot of input on the proposed Sullivan County redistricting maps, but I do have 1 critique that I feel strongly about. Option # 2 separates the community of Davos in Woodridge, which is outside of the Village. The Davos community consists of 3 separate sections: The Pointe, The Woods, and Fox Run. Redistricting proposal # 2 separates representation, with The Pointe moving to a separate district from The Woods and Fox Run. That does not make sense and would be harmful to the Davos community as a whole. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns.

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Kyoshir
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 9:40 AM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Proposed County District Maps

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I am totally outraged at even the proposal of any re-districting option that **splits downtown Narrowsburg and the Flats off from the rest of Tusten** and attaches it by a narrow strip of land to Mamakating in the far southeast corner of the county. Are you people morons???????

Kyoshin Penelope Lohr
Manager
Western Sullivan Public Library
Narrowsburg NY 12764

Martin, AnnMarie

From: M. Gattus - 7>
Sent: Thursday, June 23, 2022 7:19 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Sullivan County redistricting

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To whom it may concern,

Could could please tell me per district what is the percentage deviation between proposed maps 1, 2, and 3?

Sincerely
Michael Gattus - Reinhart

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Brandi Merolla
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 3:45 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Cc: Brandi Merolla
Subject: County Redistricting-Tusten

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To the Clerk of the Legislature,

As a resident of the Town of Tusten, I adamantly object to Option 1 of the proposed redistricting map in Sullivan County where our Town of Tusten has been split up.

Our residential community known as "The Flats" on the Delaware River along with our Main Street has been separated from the rest of our town. Our town should be considered as a whole. Literally dividing our town would be a big symbolic mistake.

Option 1 should not be under consideration. Connecting our residential community and business district on Main Street with the far southeast corner of the county makes absolutely no sense.

Thank you for your consideration,

Brandi Merolla

6/29/22

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Benjamin Younger
Sent: Wednesday, June 29, 2022 8:57 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Redrawing

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I am not in favor of option 1 of the redistricting that is up for decision.

Please do not re-draw the lines as such.

Ben Younger

Narrowsburg, NY 12764

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Charles Blanchard
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 1:24 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: redistricting

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Please do not vote for Option #1....please leave Narrowsburg alone!!!

Charles Blanchard

Narrowsburg, New York 12764

Sent from Mail for Windows

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Charles Blanchard
Sent: Monday, July 4, 2022 9:47 AM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Redistricting

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I vigorously object to Option Number 1.

Charles Blanchard
101 Main Street
Narrowsburg, New York 12764
Sent from Mail for Windows

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Greg Triggs
Sent: Sunday, July 3, 2022 5:19 AM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: County Redistricting Concern

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms Martin - I have a concern I would like to share with you.

I've recently seen the proposed redistricting options, one of which divides the town of Tusten into 2 districts. I cannot understand how this would be in the best interest of the state, county or Tusten. Please support and move forward one of the other two options and support Tusten being in District 5.

Should the other choice move forward I would love to hear the rationale and how it is in anyone's best interest.

Thanks for all you do on behalf of Sullivan County.

Best,

Greg

Greg Triggs

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Star
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2022 10:51 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Cc: Supervisor >> Tusten Supervisor
Subject: Tusten must be kept whole! No to Option 1
Attachments: No Option 1 keep Tusten whole 220707.doc

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Hi Annmarie, as Clerk of the Legislature would you please forward this protest of the currently proposed redistricting options to all SC Legislators and anyone else in County government who is involved with this redistricting vote. The current 3 redistricting options are totally unacceptable as they contain blatant gerrymandering designed to disrupt and/or eliminate existing districts in an obvious and heavy handed effort to secure future political advantage in County Legislature voting. The entire group of 3 should be scrapped and redone, but at the very least Option 1 of the redistricting proposals must be eliminated as it arbitrarily split and places the Town of Tusten in two different two districts. Thank you for forwarding this information to County Legislators before the July 21 scheduled vote on this matter. Thank you for the wonderful job you do as Clerk of the Legislature. Always so helpful Star D. Hesse, Narrowsburg, current District 1

To: All Sullivan County Legislators
Date:

**Sullivan County Legislators must say NO to Option 1!
Keep Tusten Whole**

All 3 of the proposed redistricting options are flawed and need to be redone, but Option 1 is especially odious. This option must be eliminated from consideration, because it separates the Town of Tusten into two separate districts, **downtown Narrowsburg and the Flats** in District 5 and the **rest of the Town of Tusten in District 2**. This contorted and contrived separation eviscerates the Town of Tusten's voting clout by gerrymandering it out of existence. By splitting Tusten into two different districts, Option 1's underhanded manipulation of district boundaries will adversely affect the Town's voting strength in all future County Legislature elections.

This is not just happening to Tusten. The current redistricting Options all need to be revised, to eliminate the underhanded practice of splitting whole towns into different districts to dilute and manipulate their voting strength. Legislators must reject Option 1 out of hand, to preserve proper representational voting in the Town of Tusten and do the same with Options 2 and 3 for any other towns thusly affected. Legislators must honor their pledge to represent and act in the best interests of all Sullivan County constituents and residents. Now is the time to stand up and be counted. We will be watching. I thank you for acting responsibly to preserve proper representational voting among all people in the new districts.

Star Hesse, Narrowsburg, current District 1

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Susan Sullivan
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Redistricting

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a 30 year resident of Narrowsburg, in the Town of Tusten. **I adamantly oppose Option 1** being offered for consideration by the Sullivan County Legislature. It is absolutely unacceptable. We have the right to vote as one Town. Splitting the Town of Tusten is gerrymandering at its worst.

Best Regards,

Susan Sullivan
Narrowsburg, NY

FRANCIS CAPE

Narrowsburg NY 12764

July 25th 2022

To: Sullivan County Legislature

RE: County Redistricting Options

I write to object in the strongest terms I can muster to Option One of the three proposals for the redistricting of Sullivan County.

The Independent Redistricting Commission of the State of New York was created in an amendment to the New York State Constitution and went into effect on January 1st, 2015.

Sullivan County, being in the State of New York is bound by the Constitution of the State of New York.

Nevertheless, the proposal for redistricting set out in Option One of the three options before the legislature contravenes two of the five State and federal requirements set out under the Laws and Requirements that must be followed under that amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York.

The two in question are:

The maintenance of existing districts, pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, towns, and communities of interest.

Districts must consist of contiguous territory and shall be as compact in form as practicable

The Town of Tusten is both a pre-existing political subdivision as clearly set out above, and a community.

Ignoring this political, geographic and social fact, Option One divides the Town of Tusten in the most drastic manner imaginable. Narrowsburg, which is the heart of Tusten, and includes the Town Hall, the library, and all its churches, is severed from the body of the town and attached by a thin strip of land some twenty miles long, and a mere 1200 feet wide at its narrowest, to five other towns.

By the same token, that thin long strip of land that tenuously attaches the heart of the town to the bulk of the District 2 territory in Option One cannot be described as "compact in form" by any stretch of the most overheated imagination.

While I recognize it may be necessary to divide some towns in the interest of achieving parity of population, the severing of the head of a town from the body of that town, and claiming contiguity of territory by means of a scrawny spit of land sandwiched between a state highway and the state border contravenes both the spirit and the letter of the Constitutional Amendment.

I urge you to choose one of the other options before you.

I thank you for your time and consideration to this vitally important matter.

Your sincerely,

Francis Cape
Resident, Town of Tusten

Martin, AnnMarie

From:
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2022 8:31 AM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: A note from a fulltime Tustin resident and registered voter to voice my discontent with option 1. Donovan Sylvest. Thanks.

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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Jack Weiser
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2022 5:37 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie

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Why is Summitville being divided into two in the redistricting plan?
Really dumb idea and unacceptable to we voters! Please discard this
manipulation. jack weiser

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Christine Saward
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Cc: Christine Saward
Subject: Redistricting maps

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please add this to public comment on the three maps being considered for redistricting. Mamakating is already divided into two legislative districts. Not only would all of these maps now divide the town into three districts, but it also divides the Hamlet of Summitville. None of these three options are acceptable. Please reconsider and find an option that does not further divide the Town of Mamakating.

Christine Saward

Summitville

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Miriam Hernandez
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 11:32 AM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: New Redistricting Maps Should Be Drawn

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

AnneMarie Martin
Clerk of the Sullivan County Legislature

Dear Ms. Martin,

The County Legislature has a legal obligation to follow the law and it has not demonstrated that it has done so by providing three maps with no associated data, context or research. So far, the public interest has not been served. New maps should be drawn in service of the public.

Why would the County Legislature vote to carve up towns, and our Village of Jeffersonville, when it is reasonable to keep within the population restrictions and keep a town as intact as possible?

Respectfully,

Miriam Hernandez

Jeffersonville, NY 12748

Martha Scoppa
Liberty, New York 12754

Public Comment
Sullivan County Legislature
Monthly Full Board
Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

Good morning.

I am Martha Scoppa from Liberty.
I am also a member of the Senior Legislative Action Committee (SLAC).

I attended the Recessed Public Hearing on Redistricting this morning at 8:30 a.m. I came prepared with a Public Comment to read at this podium.

The Hearing was called to order and there was a roll call. There was no Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Dougherty made a motion to adjourn, and the Hearing was closed. At first, I didn't understand what had happened. I thought I had heard wrong. Adjourn? Close a Public Hearing without having Public Comment?

The reason the Public Hearing for Redistricting was recessed from last week was because there were suggestions and questions from Legislators that had not been answered. This morning Chairman Doherty and Legislator George Conklin, who seconded the motion to adjourn, both chose to eliminate the opportunity for further discussion on redistricting.

It was shocking behavior. It was an insult to me and others who attended the Hearing with the assumption that there would be Public Comment.

Here is what I would have said at 8:30 this morning. It may be moot.

I am concerned about the timing of the Legislature's vote on redistricting. It is a very important vote, and the County will live with the outcome for ten years. The timing of a decision could have been smoother. When the three proposed maps were received last month, there should have been a Public Hearing right away. And, I think, the maps should have been displayed in the lobby for the public to see. Not everyone has Internet or the ability to print in color. We learned last week that there are concerns about deadlines and the enormous amount of work to be done by the Board of Elections and

Real Property Tax Services once a decision has been made. The vote should not be rushed.

I don't understand why Main Street Communications will not be present to speak about the three map-based proposals. Whatever the wording of their contract, it is obvious that there are many questions that need answers, as evidenced last Thursday during the first Public Hearing. The presentation by the County Manager and the Director of Real Property Tax Services was helpful, but also lacking. There were enough questions from Legislators and the public to extend the Public Hearing until today. It makes good sense to request input from the company that created the maps.

It is important that each and every Sullivan County Legislator understands the maps before voting.

Thank you.

Martha Scoppa
Liberty, New York 12754

Public Comment
Sullivan County Legislature
Recessed Public Hearing on Redistricting
Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

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It is important that each and every Sullivan County Legislator understands the maps before voting.

Thank you.

Public Comment – Aug. 11, 2022

Re: County Redistricting Plans Require More Information

My public comment today will be the same as it was at the July 11 hearing, because despite numerous requests from many people, that **all** information used to draft the proposals to redraw the County's nine Districts be made available, there is no more information on the criteria used to create these options today than there was on July 11. All 3 of the current proposed redistricting options are flawed. No decision on any plan should be made until the criteria used to draft them is made available to those who must choose. Here is why.

The proposed options for redistricting Sullivan County will affect all County residents. Gerrymandered boundaries are drawn up using a political matrix skewed to benefit specific people within those districts. Despite numerous requests from the public and Legislators alike, the criteria used to create these 3 flawed redistricting options has not been forthcoming. If you compare the largely straight forward NYS redistricting boundaries for Sullivan County in the new District 19 (Att: 1), with the contorted boundaries that run all over the map, splitting towns asunder, and adversely affect both the Legislators and the residents in the three Sullivan County redistricting plans (Att:2), the mangled manipulation of the nine SC District boundaries is clear to see. There is no question that neither Legislators nor residents can make informed redistricting choices without knowing the criteria used to arrive at any of the given options. The only way to make an informed decision on redistricting is for new redistricting plans to be drawn up and reissued, with a clear **explanation of the criteria used for each**. This is the only way to we'll get the best re-districting plan for all Sullivan County residents.

Star D. Hesse, Narrowsburg, current District 1
2 Attachments

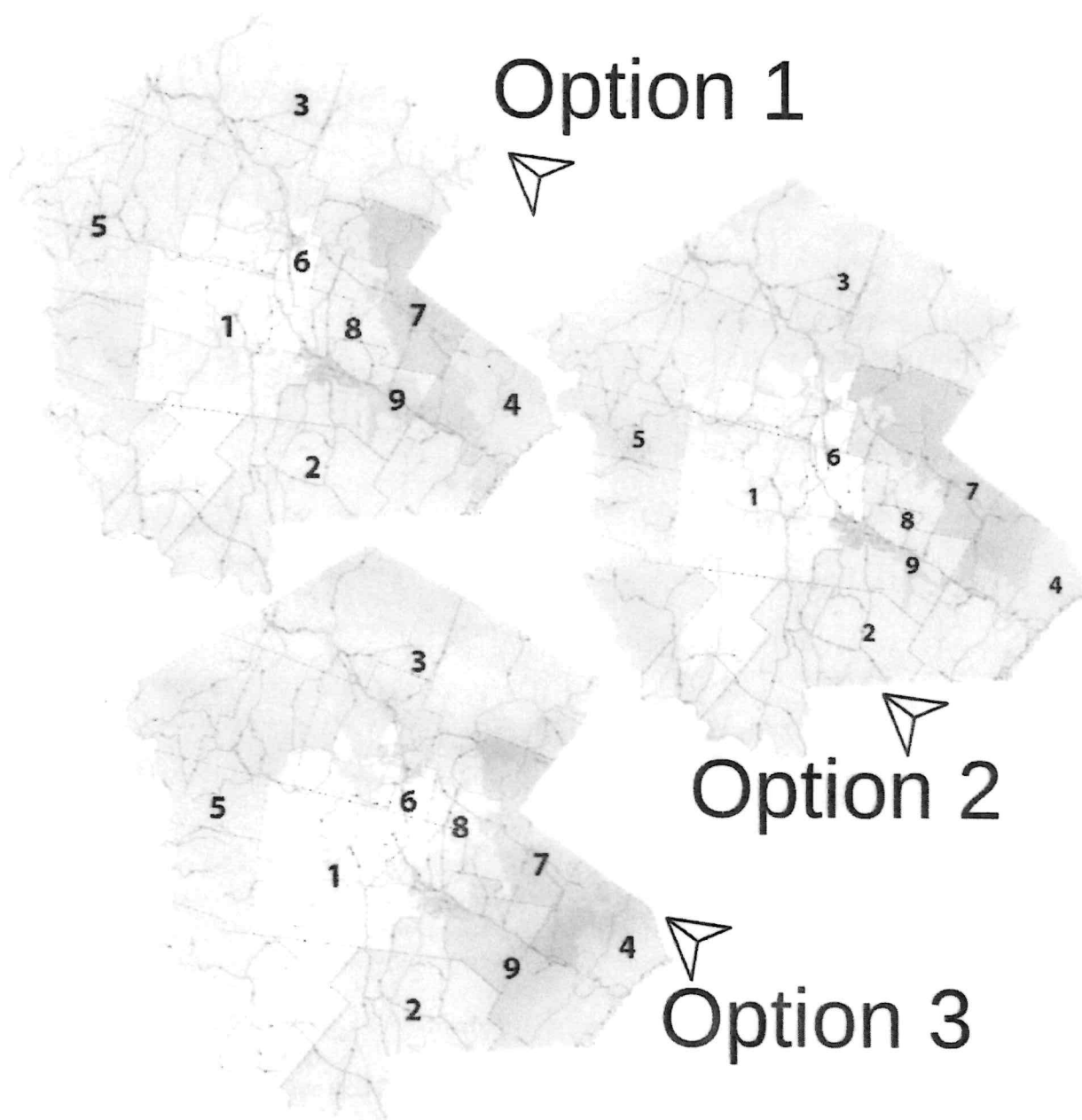
REDISTRICTING - WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Even though we go through it every 10 years on the local, State and Federal levels, it's easy to be confused by the various redistricting plans put in front of us for review.

State and Congressional lines have already been redrawn - and redrawn again - in a contentious process that didn't rely very much on population. However, the number of people living in Sullivan County - specifically, where they live - is the primary factor in the redistricting of the County Legislature.

Legislators hired an independent consultant to redraw the boundaries of the nine legislative districts so as to ensure each encompasses approximately the same amount of people.

Three maps have been developed by the consultant to illustrate what those new districts may look like, and legislators will pick one before the end of 2022. To see these maps up close and for an informative fact sheet, visit www.sullivanyny.us/Departments/Legislature/Redistricting.



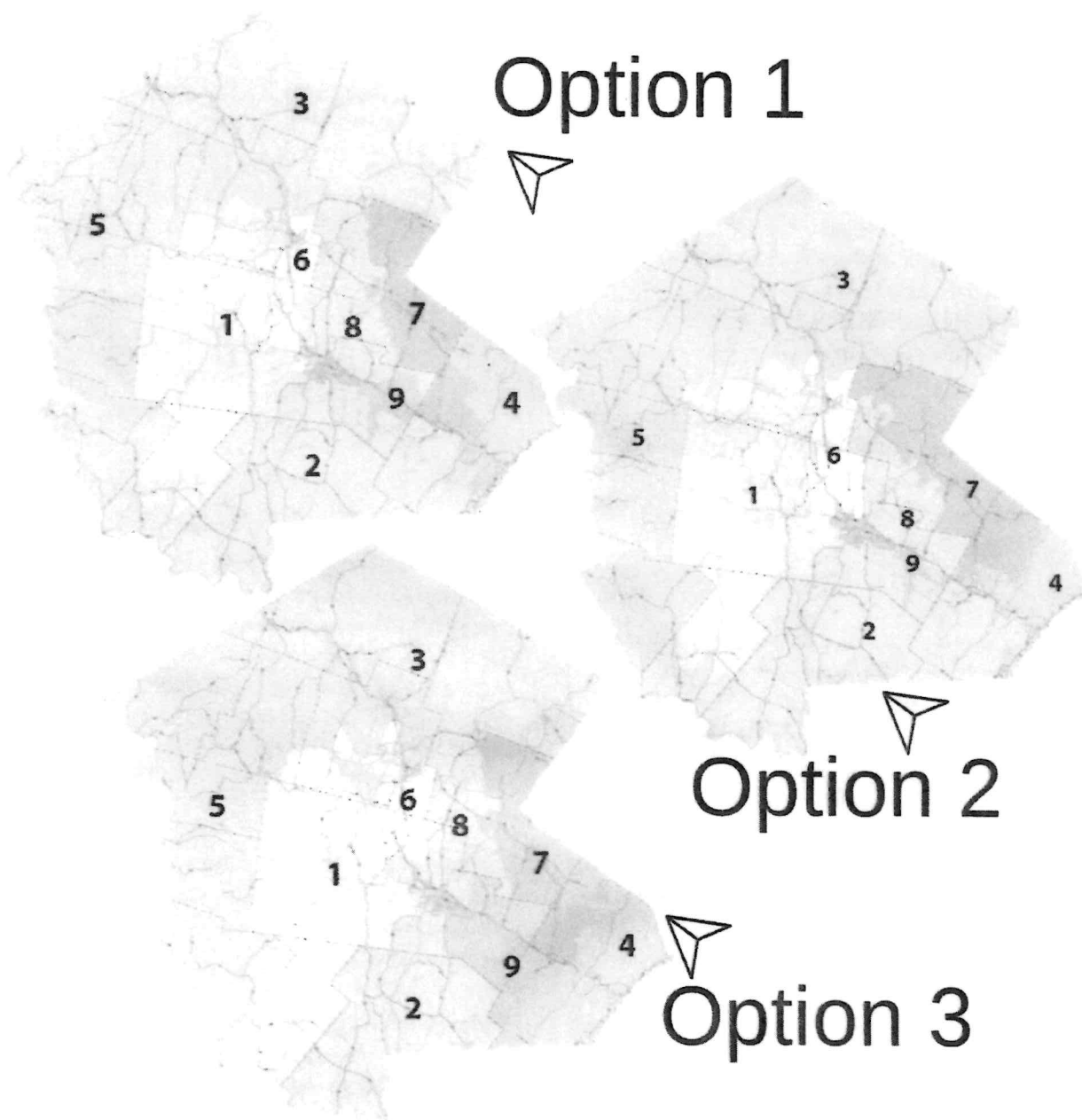
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Legislators hired an independent consultant to redraw the boundaries of the nine legislative districts so as to ensure each encompasses approximately the same amount of people.

Three maps have been developed by the consultant to illustrate what those new districts may look like, and legislators will pick one before the end of 2022. To see these maps up close and for an informative fact sheet, visit www.sullivanyny.us/Departments/Legislature/Redistricting.



New York
Congressional
District 19



August 11, 2022

Dear County Legislators

Last October, Governor Hochul signed legislation (S.5160-B/A.229c) amending section 34 of the municipal home rule law that provides that regardless of any local law to the contrary, county reapportionment of members of local legislative bodies is first and foremost subject to state and federal constitutional requirements ensuring fairness and equity, and in furtherance of the principle of one person one vote. The legislation adopted a number of standards that counties must comply with and directed an order of priority for compliance with those standards.

It's not clear that any of the three maps offered for Sullivan County follow these provisions.

"a. If such plan of districting or redistricting includes only single-member districts, such districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable; the difference in population between the most and least populous district shall not exceed five percent of the mean population of all districts."

No data has been supplied with each map to show compliance with this provision.

"b. Districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minority groups to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice."

No data has been supplied with the maps to show compliance with this provision. Without supporting data, it cannot be determined that the law has been followed. In some maps, there appears to be a possibility of non-compliance.

"c. Districts shall consist of contiguous territory."

While these maps may be contiguous, their contiguity is tortured in many instances.

"d. Districts shall be as compact in form as practicable."

The proposed maps, particularly options 1 & 3, and the Liberty area in option 2 are not compact.

"e. Districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties. The maintenance of cores of existing districts, of preexisting political subdivisions including cities, villages, and towns, and of communities of interest shall also be considered. To the extent practicable, no villages, cities or towns except those having more than forty percent of a full ratio for each district shall be divided."

All three of these maps miss the mark. Perhaps the most egregious example is that the Town of Thompson may be divided into five districts. The county website states that each district should contain approximately 8,267 population. 2020 Census data shows that the Town of Thompson has a population of 16,821. In a map respecting maintenance of the cores pre-existing political subdivisions, one would think that the goal would be two districts, not five. Similarly, 2020 Census data shows that the Town of Liberty has a population of 10,421. In a map respecting the same, one would think that the goal would be two districts, not three.

"f. Districts shall be formed so as to promote the orderly and efficient administration of elections."

Election Districts are separated in each of these maps and would result in additional costs to the taxpayers for the fair administration of elections.

Why would the County Legislature vote to carve up towns when it is reasonable to keep within the population restrictions and keep a town as intact as possible? Take Liberty, for example.

Option One -- Liberty is divided into three districts. The Village is intact. District 6 extends into the Town of Thompson through Harris and then down to Coopers Corners on 17B. It also includes part of the Village of Monticello. Why put Thompson in the district when there are parts of Liberty that could be included in the district? Why carve up the Village of Monticello in this way?

Option Two -- Liberty is divided into three districts. The Village is intact. District 6 does not go into the Village of Monticello in this map, but instead moves further east to Anawanda Lake Road. Again -- why not include more of Liberty in District 6? It seems feasible to do so, but without data to prove it isn't, we can only guess why.

Option Three -- In some ways, this is the worst map of all. The boundaries of District 6 are completely contorted. Part of the Village is cut out. A little bit of the Town of Callicoon is included in this map. The proposed district also includes a piece of the Town of Bethel and of the Town of Thompson. Why do that rather than, as in all three maps, carve out a part of Swan Lake and White Sulphur and put it into District One?

Other areas to consider:

Option 1 also separates the hamlet of Narrowsburg from the rest of the Town of Tusten.

Option 1 keeps the Town of Highland split, which wasn't a good option ten years ago, either.

The proposed District 1 includes four towns, and separates the Village of Jeffersonville and a small section nearby from the rest of the Town of Callicoon.

The Town of Highland is still split in half.

Option 3 separates the Village of Jeffersonville from the rest of the Town of Callicoon and puts it into District 1, while putting part of the Youngsville area into District 6.

Additionally, Option 3 separates the Village of Monticello into three districts.

Cores of existing districts and communities of interest don't seem to have been considered. I realize that there will be a presentation at today's hearing, and that some explanations may be forthcoming, but I doubt that in a short public presentation all of the data and rationale for each map will be provided.

The County Legislature has a legal obligation to follow the law and it has not demonstrated that it has done so by providing three maps with no associated data, context or research. So far, the public interest has not been served. New maps should be drawn in service of the public.

Anne Hart,
Liberty

Martin, AnnMarie

From: Lise Kennedy
Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 11:41 AM
To: Martin, AnnMarie
Subject: Public Comment

ITS ADVISES CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Annie - here's my comments from today's Full Board meeting.

Public Comment 8/18/22

If you don't allow public comment at a public hearing, it's not actually a public hearing. The arrogance and disrespect this Chair shows for the public is consistent, it's not just disrespect for the public he perceives as enemies, but for everyone who was unable to comment on the redistricting maps, including his colleagues, and for democratic process, and I hope that those watching will vote accordingly when they have an opportunity. There may very well come a time when you are adversely affected by one of Mr. Doherty's projects to privatize public services and to export the provision of services to providers outside the county, as well as to funnel money to his allies and away from his constituents who are not businessmen.

There is nothing ok about the Department of Health moving to Middletown and leaving 4 employees in the new satellite office at Public Health, and nothing that Mr. McGuire said has reassured me that Sullivan County will receive the same level of services, if that level can even be considered adequate at this point. I've heard anecdotally that there are many open camps hosting a largely undervaccinated population enjoying the beauty of our county, with few permits. This is again, part of the erosion of Sullivan's health resources, along with the gradual closing of our hospital services, one department at a time. We have heard that the Chair of this legislature's sympathies are entirely with the CEO of Garnet Health, rather than with our community, which is still rated 61 out of 62 in the state in terms of health outcomes. I hope the next legislature will put the community's health the number one priority.

Lise Kennedy