

Redistricting

ann jamison <ajamison02476@gmail.com>

Tue 11/2/2021 3:56 PM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

NOTICE: This email originated from **outside** of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Dear Onondaga County Legislators,

Please do not hurry the redistricting process for Onondaga County and please consider having a non-partisan group (like the League of Women Voters) take charge of drawing the lines equitably and inclusively. Thank you for allowing public comment on this important issue.

Ann Jamison

411 Wolcott Ave.

Syracuse, NY 13207

315.727.0193

Map comment

Bryn Lovejoy-Grinnell <brynlj@gmail.com>

Wed 11/3/2021 8:10 AM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

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Hi,

I live in the 15th leg district, at 412 Robineau Rd, Syracuse, NY 13207. I have reviewed the draft maps and I do not understand why you would not put the city's 12th ward in with the rest of Strathmore in leg district 15. It makes no sense to have part of my road, Robineau, in the 16th and part in the 15th, when this is clearly a defined neighborhood. It seems like a cutout of the Strathmore neighborhood, with the result that it will dilute the power of this important city neighborhood. If anything, the 11th ward should be added to the 16th leg district so that the 12th ward can be kept with the 15th leg district.

PLEASE SLOW DOWN THIS PROCESS! Stop moving ahead so quickly before people have had a chance to engage with this process!

Bryn Lovejoy-Grinnell

Onondaga County Redistricting

Deborah Rose <dcurryrose@gmail.com>

Wed 11/3/2021 9:54 AM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

NOTICE: This email originated from outside of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

To the Redistricting Committee:

I attended a “public meeting” on the Onondaga County redistricting plan on October 27 thinking the meeting was an opportunity for members of the Reapportionment Commission to hear the concerns of the public and answer questions, but the Chair opened the meeting stating that it was strictly a “listening” session and the Committee would not answer questions. At this session and at the other public meetings on the redistricting effort, county residents voiced serious concerns about the committee makeup and the speed and transparency of the redistricting process. Many questions were left unanswered, and time will tell how well Commission members listened.

District lines that the County draws now are the lines that we'll live with for the next ten years. In light of the fact that the Commission is politically unbalanced and the Chair has not demonstrated a respect for public participation, I'm deeply concerned about the creation of non-partisan districts, which is what we were promised. All residents of the county deserve to know the principles and criteria that are being used, within the limits of legal requirements, to create fair district maps that:

- Preserve communities of interest (racial, social, cultural, etc)
- Are geographically as regular and compact as practical
- Don't dilute the voting rights of any citizen, specifically on account of race, ethnicity, political affiliation

- Don't intentionally protect incumbents

There are significant discrepancies between the newly-published proposed maps developed by the Republican and Democratic members of the Commission and no explanation of how the lines were drawn or the differences will be resolved. It's deeply troubling to have this important process taking place in such a non-transparent, no-questions-asked partisan environment that does not respect the public's investment and interest in the process. Without seeing the guidelines and principles guiding the Commission's work, it's difficult to assess the fairness and equity of the proposed maps. I request that the Chair publish the criteria and principles before moving forward to the next steps of the process.

It is also critical that the Commission put forward a new district map only after the public has had an opportunity to review, ask questions and comment on it, and all comments have been carefully reviewed to identify any revisions that are warranted. If the timeframe needs to be extended to do this, it should be extended. The public will trust that we're moving into the next ten years with a fair Onondaga County district map only if an open and transparent process is used in its creation.

Deborah Rose

110 Kensington Pl

Syracuse, NY 13210

315-428-0566

Comments on redistricting

Diana Ryan <diana.ryan3@gmail.com>

Wed 11/3/2021 9:33 AM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

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I prefer proposed map 1.0

This process has been a sham - rushed & squeezed into the early voting period when voters have their attention on elections & the elections' commissioners are forced to split their time and attention between overseeing elections & participating in redistricting hearings. The hearings were not scheduled at opportune times for public participation. More time and notice should be made for more comments from the public to compensate for the rushed time frame.

Diana Ryan
8538 Amelia Trail
Manlius, NY 13104
Town of Pompey

Comment on Redistricting and Maps

Jonah Minkoff-Zern <jonah.zern@gmail.com>

Wed 11/3/2021 9:08 AM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

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While the balance of registered voters in Onondaga County shows a larger number of Democrats, the County Legislature has considerably more Republicans than Democrats in large part to do districts drawn to intentionally exclude Democrats. The impact of this is to exclude the voices of those who are in more impoverished areas of the County from it's decision-making process..

The County has not been making wise or transparent decisions in using its \$1 billion budget and stimulus funding in addressing extraordinary inequality and poverty that exists within its boundaries.

It has been shutting those who are in most need of support out of its decision-making process; while it should be doing the exact opposite. It should take every measure possible to include people who have the greatest need in thinking through how to operate and allocate its funds. The county should be prioritizing providing support to address the fact that Syracuse has one of the highest poverty rates in the nation.

As a Syracuse resident, we deserve a voice and our City deserves the representation and consideration that is necessary to build a better county. By lifting up those in most need, you will best serve all of us in our county.

There should be a longer, more transparent process in deciding the maps. Absent that, I believe that the maps labeled 1.0 and 1.5 do a

better job ensuring that there will be fair representation.

Jonah Minkoff-Zern



Public Comment - Redistricting- Onondaga County Election Districts

Pat Williams <pxwillia@yahoo.com>

Tue 11/2/2021 4:53 PM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

NOTICE: This email originated from outside of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

My public comment:

I am very concerned about the redistricting process in Onondaga County. It is imperative that we have a process in place that does not favor one political party over another. We need either a non-partisan process or a bipartisan process. In the interest of free and fair elections you must halt the process that does not accommodate a transparent and fair process. Thank you

Patricia Williams
608 Tompkins Street
Syracuse, NY 13204
315-492-1817

Re: Reapportionment Comments (phone contact)

Peter King <pking27@pm.me>

Wed 11/3/2021 10:10 AM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

NOTICE: This email originated from **outside** of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Hello Reapportionment Commission,

I am simply adding my phone # here, in case you have any questions. Thank you.

Phone = 315-560-3019

~ Peter King, 606 Thurber Street, Syracuse
NY, 13210

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Reapportionment Comments

Date:Wed, 3 Nov 2021 10:00:33 -0400

From:Peter King <pking27@pm.me>

To:onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net, Ryan McMahon
<Ryanmcmahon@ongov.net>

A few days ago, I attended a hearing of the County's "Reapportionment Committee" on Oct. 27, 2021.

If I had to decide now, I would select Map 2,
However, these are my comments on the

'Reapportionment Commission'

> > **Short process and 'public comment' period**

* The Reapportionment Commission needs to extend the schedule for this Reapportionment process, to allow for drawing reasonably informed maps, and for enabling reasonable public process, expert testimony and news media coverage.

* The Legislature has compressed this entire process into a 3-week period, scheduled exactly around voting day, when most of the 'public' including myself are busy figuring out whom we should vote for.

* I have not heard nor read of the Legislature's rationale for this short Reapportionment process period.

* I know nothing about how long redistricting should be. However, I do see the League of Women voters and Campaign Legal Center suggest a "reasonable public comment period", citing a Michigan law requiring a

minimum 45-day comment period (pg.20, 2021, League of Women voters and Campaign Legal Center, 'Designing a Transparent and Ethical Redistricting Process: A Guide to Ensuring that the Redistricting Process is Fair, Open, and Accessible' URL =

https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Transparency_Report_FINAL.pdf)

* I was motivated on attending this hearing, when hearing Reapportionment Commission appointee and scholar Sharon Moran make a critical comment on this year's process = "

* "There are reapportionment commissions like this across the country. None of them take place in a matter of days. They take weeks. They take months. They have serious technical input, professional support, as well as public participation. I'm not seeing any of that right now, and I'm very frustrated"

(WAER News Oct 19, 2021, Onondaga County Commission To Begin Using New Census Data To Redraw Legislative District Maps

<https://www.waer.org/news/2021-10->

[19/onondaga-county-commission-to-begin-using-new-census-data-to-redraw-legislative-district-maps](#)

>> We 'the Public' can 'comment' but not participate.

* My sense is, when we the public must obtain perspectives as I cite above only from the news, this indicates breakdowns in communications and democratic procedure.

* My sense is, public comments on Redistricting should exist within a framework openly encouraging a two-way dialog. but instead what I saw occur live on Oct. 27th was, the County's Committee moderator denying the public's right for posing questions.

* The moderator began with and insisted several times for emphasis, "we're not here to answer questions". e.g. at 21:56 during a 29:50 minute video, & also in the minutes at URL = <http://ongov.net/legislature/documents/102721-PublicHearing.pdf>. Video is on YouTube = '10 26 21 Legislature Public Hearing Part 1', URL

=

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFQ5rLXDBz0>

>> Regarding any Rationale for such a short process, I cannot find adequately justified by the Legislature or Commission.

* Discord has been apparent in this process from the start, which does not support the Committee leadership's claim = "this is going to be a simple redistricting process because there's been very little change in the county's population; it's increased by 2% in the past decade." (WRVO, Oct 15, 2021) Though Knapp changed this claim since, the Committee has not expanded the entire process, at the very least for reflecting a larger scope of change (Syracuse.com Oct 16, 2021).

* Democrats outraged at Onondaga County redistricting, Republicans say they're overreacting | WRVO Public Media

<https://www.wrvo.org/politics-and-government/2021-10-15/democrats-outraged->

[at-onondaga-county-redistricting-republicans-say-theyre-overreacting](#)

* In surprising turn, GOP leader calls current Onondaga County district boundaries a mistake
- syracuse.com

<https://www.syracuse.com/politics/2021/10/in-surprising-turn-gop-leader-calls-current-onondaga-county-district-boundaries-a-mistake.html>

Hurried process, equals incomplete details.

* For example, the Reapportionment Committee has not posted their last meeting minutes for Oct. 27th, only the public presentation held that evening. I attended the 4pm meeting, which included much open disagreement between some appointees and the Committee leadership. I understood from speaking then with Commission members and Legislators, the Commission leaders had only emailed out the newly revised maps late on the evening before, on Oct 26th.

* Target Impact date = The next election this redistricting may impact will likely be in 2023, not 2022.

This redistricting does not fit the new law enacted in late October by NYS Legislature =
'Legislation (S.5160-B/TA.229c) Requires County Redistricting to Follow Specific Guidelines Requiring Districts Be Drawn to Be Nearly Equal in Population, Contiguous and Not to Favor Incumbents or Parties'

* This new law supports the current need for a deeper process.

Wider context = inequitable political geography, and City sovereignty issues.

There are substantial economic and social inequalities which need addressing in detail, in this Reapportionment.

* City Sovereignty within county agency influence needs addressing = For example the County's Industrial Development Agency (OCIDA) has gone around the City of Syracuse's Development Agency (SIDA), in allowing several

developers tax breaks on their private schemes. As well, transportation planning in the City has become a point of City-County contention, esp. regarding the I-81 project located mostly within the City, and impacting mostly City residents. Often the wealthier County politicians have seemed adversarial towards City sovereignty issues, regarding 'accessing' the City.

- * Often the County seems to have favored wealthier developers contra the community, for example giving the large Mall owner Destiny USA more tax breaks for their hotel, despite Destiny having taken many tax breaks for their Mall at the edge of Syracuse city limits.

- * The County has seemed opposed to comprehensive planning in general, though this may be changing now by popular demand.

- * Planning ethics should at very least mandate a decent public comment period, like at least 30 days, better 45 days, not 2 and a half weeks 'out of the box'.

Peter King,

606 Thurber Street

Syracuse NY 13210

On 11/1/2021 1:21 PM, Abbey McHugh, Common Cause New York wrote:

Hello, Peter

Good news -- the written public comment period for input on Onondaga's countywide redistricting has been extended to 10am this Wednesday!

For years, grassroots advocates worked to establish a transparent redistricting process in Onondaga County that favored no political party -- these efforts were shot down by the county legislature and were met with vague promises that these concerns would not be valid for the upcoming redistricting cycle.

Now, we are seeing what activists warned about come to fruition -- a Republican-led panel is rushing to get maps through years

before they're needed, all in an attempt to lock in a majority before voters weigh in in November.

Even though the in-person meetings are now over, **we're encouraging you to speak out by submitting written public comments by 10am on Wednesday.**

Submit your public comment by emailing it to onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net -- You MUST include your FULL NAME & HOME ADDRESS.

We need people like you who care about a fair redistricting process to write and let the commission know that county maps must not be unbalanced to favor one political party over another.

To help craft your comments, [find the proposed commission maps](#). We have resources to help you provide compelling testimony -- reply to this email and we will send more information.

Thank you for fighting for a fair redistricting process with us,

Abbey McHugh, Grassroots Organizer

And the team at Common Cause NY

Common Cause New
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york](http://commoncause.org/new-york)
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Reapportionment Commission

Sarah Cole <sarah.cole66@gmail.com>

Wed 11/3/2021 9:58 AM

To: Office of the Onondaga County Legislature <OnondagaCountyLegislature@ongov.net>

NOTICE: This email originated from **outside** of Onondaga County's email system. **Use caution** with links and attachments.

Hi.

This letter is in support of maps 1.0 and 1.5. I just wanted my voice to be heard. Sorry this is so short notice but I see I only have until 10 am and well, that's 2 minutes from now!!

Thank you.

Sarah Cole
64 State Street
Tully, NY 13159