

Honorable Patrick McAllister
New York State Supreme Court
3 E Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Dr. Jonathan Cervas
Special Master
3 E Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Your Honor and Special Master:

During today's presentation to the Court by petitioner's attorney, he mentioned that the petitioner's congressional district map creates a Nassau-Queens-Brooklyn Orthodox Jewish district. To do so would be a disservice to Orthodox Jews and to our communities.

While there are large numbers of Orthodox Jews living in each of these counties, we have major differences in our local community concerns and interests. Nassau County is suburban. Life in Nassau County is different from living in Nassau County. Our communities in Brooklyn and Queens may both be in New York City, but each have distinct and different interests from each other. To "lump" Orthodox Jews into one district based on religion smacks of religious gerrymandering at its worst.

We have already suggested how to group Orthodox communities together in Brooklyn and in Rockland counties. Those suggestions are being made by well recognized and respected Orthodox Jewish leaders. The suggestion that Orthodox Jews be grouped together in an arching three county district was developed by petitioners for their purposes, not ours.

Please avoid poorly developed concept of the petitioner's Orthodox Jewish district. It is gratuitous and improper.

Thank you.

Leon Goldenberg

