

To: The Court and Special Master  
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Re: Submission in Opposition to Plaintiff's Maps Submitted to the  
Court in the Matter of

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I currently serve as the co-chairman of the Young Israel of Woodmere, the largest modern Orthodox Synagogue on Long Island, with more than 1200 member families.

After reviewing the maps submitted by the plaintiffs in the above-captioned matter, it is clear that some key benchmarks have not been given priority - or even considered - when it comes to complying with the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, and the maps submitted by the plaintiffs do not adequately follow the recognized goals of providing for compactness of congressional districts, preserving community borders within districts, respecting community character, retaining villages intact within the boundaries of districts, as well as protecting the voice of minority communities, including religious minorities, among other priorities.

More specifically, the County of Nassau has a unique suburban identity that is separate and distinct from that of neighboring New York City. In the maps submitted by the plaintiffs, NY-4 starts at its easternmost point in the Town of Hempstead (hamlet of Oceanside) and traverses along the south shore of Queens County and continues through the south shore of Brooklyn. The priority of respecting the suburban character of Nassau County is completely ignored in the plaintiffs' map. The County of Nassau and the Town of Hempstead, which is entirely contained within Nassau County, has little in common with New York City communities of Queens and Brooklyn. Nassau and the Town of Hempstead are represented by wholly different local governments, are served by a completely unique school systems, and feature mostly different bus and other mass transportation networks. What's more, the importance of preserving the religious minority community (Orthodox Jewish) in the Five Towns of southwestern Nassau County, as well as the Orthodox Jewish community in the hamlet of West Hempstead can not be overstated.

At the same time, it is recognized that certain Nassau County communities may need to be included in a district that crosses the border between New York City and Nassau to comply with the Voting Rights Act imperative of ensuring the voice of minority communities. Indeed, the attached map does provide for the inclusion of parts of Valley Stream, Elmont and other neighbors in NY-5, which preserves a robust minority voice. At the same time, the maps submitted, retain seven separate school districts intact, as well as the incorporated Villages of Valley Stream and South Floral Park. These communities have strong minority representation on their village boards, making their inclusion in a district which empowers and enhanced their voice desirable (NY-5).

The attached maps meet the goals and priorities stated above, and they comply with the clearly outlined imperatives of redistricting. Thank you to the Court and the Special Master for their consideration of this statement of opposition to the maps presented by the plaintiffs in this matter.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

**X** /s/ Ari Schulman

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Ari Schulman