



80 Broad Street, #2703

New York, NY 10004

212.691.6421

[www.commoncause.org/ny](http://www.commoncause.org/ny)**New York***Holding Power Accountable*

## COMMON CAUSE/NY CONGRESSIONAL MAP DISTRICT BY DISTRICT EXPLANATION

### MAP:

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/1bcedbd2-4777-4b52-91d0-553a56390d5a>

### Introduction

Common Cause/NY is a nonpartisan statewide grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy with more than 65,000 members and activists in every county in New York. We work to create open, honest, and accountable government that serves the public interest; promote equal rights, opportunity, and representation for all; and empower all people to make their voices heard in the political process. For the last several decades, we have worked to advance redistricting processes and maps that provide every New Yorker with an equal opportunity to select candidates of their choice, regardless of zip code, race, or partisan affiliation. In the 2010 redistricting cycle, Common Cause/NY drafted and proposed a statewide congressional map that significantly influenced the final map drawn by Special Master Nate Persily and adopted by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.<sup>1</sup> During the passage of the most recent redistricting constitutional amendments, Common Cause/NY regularly weighed in on the underlying policy, including on the specific criteria that should guide the map making process. We submitted detailed comments to the Redistricting Commission regarding their proposed maps. Our proposed map not only follows the constitutional criteria, the federal Voting Rights Act, and all other relevant law, but it prioritizes protection of the voting rights of language and racial minorities.

In preparing our statewide reform congressional map, Common Cause/NY has been guided by the criteria set forth in Article III, sec. 4(c) of the New York State Constitution, as well as general fair redistricting principles. Wherever possible, we have prioritized the voting rights of racial or language minorities to provide them with an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice pursuant to the command of Article III, sec.4 (c) (1). Our map has used the existing congressional districts as its starting point and we have respected the cores of existing districts to the maximum amount possible, given the demographic changes reported by the United States Census data. We have sought, wherever possible, not only to avoid splitting counties and towns, but also to respect communities of interest, pursuant to Article III, sec.4 (c) (5). And, of course, our map is drawn on a non-partisan basis, pursuant not only to the charge in Article III, sec.4 (c) (5), but

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., <https://casetext.com/case/favors-v-cuomo-10>



also our organizational mission. The Common Cause/NY map is drawn to come as close to exact equivalence of population as reasonably possible (-1 to +1).

## District by District Explanation

### DISTRICT 1

*Districts in Long Island also take into account Village/Census Place boundaries where drawing boundaries within towns.*

Common Cause/NY ("CCNY") District 1 covers the East End and South Shore of Long Island, from the eastern tip of Montauk to just past the Town of Islip. Compared to the 2012 NY 1, the district includes more of the South Shore including the entire Town of Islip and drops the North Shore portions of Brookhaven and Smithtown. This geography brings the growing Latino communities in Islip together with those in Brookhaven (namely the Patchogue, North Bellport and Gordon Heights areas) and Riverhead, allowing for a district that has a higher percentage of Hispanic/Latino VAP (24.3%) than any of the 2012 Long Island districts. Long Islanders also tend to identify by North Shore vs. South Shore and keeping the Long Island districts divided along north-south lines is consistent with this identification.

### DISTRICT 2

CCNY District 2 is a North Shore Long Island district stretching from the eastern border of Brookhaven (East Shoreham) to the border of Glen Cove in Nassau County. In Brookhaven, the District boundary mostly runs along Middle Country Road until bending south to the border of Islip. The district includes the entirety of Smithtown and Huntington and the eastern sections of Oyster Bay. Including most of central Long Island north of the LIE, this North Shore district would make intuitive sense as a community of interest to most Long Islanders.

### DISTRICT 3

CCNY District 3 is a northeastern Nassau County and inner Long Island Sound district that includes communities on the north shore of Nassau County and central Nassau County, northeastern Queens, and wraps along the shoreline of the inner Long Island Sound to include Long Island Sound shore communities along the Bronx and southern Westchester including Pelham, New Rochelle, and Larchmont.

When reaching this part of the map, significant decisions must be made, since it is necessary for District 3 to gain additional population within New York City and/or Westchester and this should ideally be done without disrupting Districts 5 and 6 which represent important voting rights districts for the Asian and Black communities in Queens. The two main choices are a District 14 that runs all the way from Astoria/Long Island City, Queens into Westchester, or a District 3 that wraps around the Long



Island Sound to bring Westchester shore communities alongside North Shore Nassau County communities. The second option presents less disruption to the current Voting Rights districts in New York City and the UNITY Map plan and Westchester residents have testified that southern Westchester communities like New Rochelle and Larchmont have more in common with the North Shore of Nassau County than they do with communities like Astoria and Corona in Queens.

#### **DISTRICT 4**

CCNY District 4 is a South Shore Long Island district that includes all of the south shore of Nassau County and most of the Town of Babylon in Suffolk County. The District brings together Black and Latino communities in Lakeview, Hempstead, Freeport, Westbury, and New Cassell (whose residents have historically argued for their inclusion together in districts such as in Nassau County Legislature District 2 and the current NY 4) alongside Amityville and Wyandanch just across the Suffolk border, increasing the representation of these communities compared to the current District 4 (CCNY District 4 is 21.9% Hispanic/Latino VAP and 16.2% NH Black VAP compared to the current District 4 at 20.5% Hispanic/Latino VAP and 13.7% NH Black VAP)

***WITHIN NEW YORK CITY, THE CCNY PLAN FOLLOWS THE “UNITY MAP” WITH ONLY MINOR DEVIATIONS NOTED BELOW***

#### **DISTRICT 5**

CCNY District 5 is a compact Southeast Queens district that is closely aligned with the current NY 5 and the UNITY Map NY 5. The district includes all of Southeast Queens and the Rockaway Peninsula and includes the Elmont-Valley Stream area of adjacent Nassau County which forms a community of interest with neighboring Southeast Queens areas with growing Haitian and other Caribbean communities. Compared to the UNITY Map the CCNY District 5 includes Howard Beach and a bit more of the Valley Stream area and less of the Queens Village and Terrace Heights areas (a factor of having to balance the NY 3 and 4 populations and avoid an unnecessary Brooklyn-Queens crossing of NY 8). The District maintains its clear NH Black VAP plurality (43.5%).

#### **DISTRICT 6**

CCNY District 6 is a compact Northeast Queens district that is closely aligned with the current NY 6 and the UNITY Map NY 6, including East and South Asian communities across this portion of Queens to form a nearly Asian majority district (47.2% NH Asian VAP). The current NY 6 was drawn to connect the majority-Asian neighborhoods of Flushing and Elmhurst and was the first plurality-Asian district in New York, resulting in the election of New York’s first Asian-American Congress Member. The adjustments compared to the current NY 6 suggested by the UNITY Map (adding more of the



Woodside area instead of Ridgewood and Glendale) consolidate Asian representation (from 43.8% NH Asian VAP) in line with the over 25% growth in NH Asian VAP in Queens from 2010-2020.

## **DISTRICT 7**

The shape of NY 7 -- connecting Latino communities from Ridgewood and Woodhaven in Queens to Cypress Hills, Bushwick and Williamsburg in Brooklyn with those in the Lower East Side of Manhattan and Sunset Park in Brooklyn -- was first drawn several cycles ago in order to bring these communities together for an opportunity to elect a Latino representative. CCNY District 7 is closely aligned with the current NY 7 and the UNITY Map NY 7 in maintaining this important voting rights district as a Hispanic/Latino plurality (increasing to 38.1% Hispanic/Latino VAP compared to 37.1% in the current NY 7) and maintaining this established shape of the district connecting these communities throughout three boroughs. The district slightly deviates from the UNITY Map in keeping all of Bushwick whole within NY 7, which causes minor adjustments elsewhere such as in Glendale in Queens and the Lower East Side to balance populations to zero.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CCNY District 8 is closely aligned with the current NY 8 and the UNITY Map NY 8 in maintaining the first of two Black plurality districts in Central Brooklyn. The only minor differences with the UNITY Map are that Bushwick is entirely contained within NY 8 and that the district contains a small portion of Sheepshead Bay and Gerritsen Beach in Southern Brooklyn rather than cross into Howard Beach in Queens (CCNY District 8 is entirely within Brooklyn). Both CCNY Districts 8 and 9 are approximately 43.5% NH Black VAP, maintaining the voting strength of the current districts

## **DISTRICT 9**

CCNY District 9 is closely aligned with the current NY 9 and the UNITY Map NY 9 in maintaining the second of two Black plurality districts in Central Brooklyn, with only minor deviations from the UNITY Map NY 9 among a handful of precincts along the borders.

## **DISTRICT 10**

CCNY District 10 is almost precisely aligned with the UNITY Map NY 10 in maintaining the shape/core of the current NY 10 while adding more of the Bensonhurst area to keep that growing Asian community within the district as much as possible.

District 10's elongated shape, connecting the west side of Manhattan with the Borough Park and Bensonhurst area in Brooklyn is often assumed to be a gerrymander of some kind but it is actually largely a product of "domino effects" from the voting rights districts 7, 8, and 9. There is an excess population in southern Brooklyn that must somehow be joined with an additional district as the Staten



Island-based district NY 11 fills up. There are only two ways to do this – out along the Brooklyn coastline to Manhattan as in the current lines, or out east through the Rockaways and up to Central Queens -- which disrupts NY 5 and 6.

#### **DISTRICT 11**

CCNY District 11 again follows the lead of the UNITY Map NY 11 in maintaining the existing configuration of NY 11 including all of Staten Island and the Bay Ridge/Dyker Heights area of southern Brooklyn, then adding additional population by wrapping around Bensonhurst into the Gravesend and Midwood neighborhoods. (see above NY 10 description)

#### **DISTRICT 12**

CCNY District 12 closely matches the UNITY Map NY 12 and the current NY 12 covering the east side of Manhattan, northernmost Brooklyn and Long Island City in Queens.

#### **DISTRICT 13**

CCNY District 13 closely matches the UNITY Map NY 13 and the current NY 13 covering Upper Manhattan and the Northwest Bronx with majority Latino voting age population and including the historic Black community in central Harlem. CCNY District 13 includes slightly less of the Morningside Heights area in Manhattan and adds Riverdale in the Bronx for a more compact NY 13 including the full length of NYC's upper Hudson River shoreline communities which are connected by the #1 Subway line.

#### **DISTRICT 14**

CCNY District 14 closely matches the UNITY Map NY 14 and the current NY 14 in combining northern Queens and the eastern Bronx in a highly diverse urban district with a Latino VAP plurality.

#### **DISTRICT 15**

CCNY District 15 closely matches the UNITY Map NY 15 and the current NY 15 as a compact district centered on southern and central Bronx



**DISTRICT 16**

CCNY District 16, like the current NY 16, is a compact district covering southern Westchester and the Wakefield-Eastchester-Co-Op City area of the Northern Bronx. This area forms a community of interest with adjacent Mount Vernon in Southern Westchester and is traditionally kept together within districts (as in the current NY 16 or State Senate District 36). District 16 is where one observes the effect of the larger districts in the new 26-district map as the district must push further north in order to fill out at the new larger target population. This pushes the district to just past the I-287 expressway that cuts across Westchester from the Tappan Zee Bridge to Port Chester and is a traditional boundary line for “southern” Westchester vs. the northern less densely populated part of the county.

**DISTRICT 17**

CCNY District 17 maintains the core of the current NY 17 in Westchester and Rockland counties but must push a bit further north due to the new district populations. It can accomplish this most compactly with the fewest county splits by taking the rest of Westchester, the whole of Putnam County, and just the southern edge of Orange County.

**DISTRICT 18**

CCNY District 18 includes the northern half of the current NY 18 in Dutchess and Orange Counties and adds the whole of Dutchess County, Columbia County, and southernmost Ulster County to reach the new required population. The district remains a regional Mid-Hudson/Eastern Hudson Valley district including New York City’s northernmost suburbs, the small cities of Middletown, Newburgh, Beacon and Poughkeepsie, and the eastern bank of the Hudson Valley.

**DISTRICT 19**

CCNY District 19 includes the core of the current NY 19 and portions of current NY 22 and 23 to form a relatively compact district covering the Catskills and Central NY. Due to the population shifts in New York, Upstate is where the state’s “lost” district is located, necessitating the remaining Upstate districts to shift west/northward. Shifting this district to the west allows for CCNY 18 to remain centered on the Mid Hudson Valley, CCNY 20 to remain centered on the Capitol Region, and Fulton, Montgomery, and Herkimer Counties to slide into CCNY 21 together to keep this part of the Mohawk Valley together with the North Country, all while maintaining the current core of the district in the Catskills/Central NY and dividing as few counties as possible.



**DISTRICT 20**

Like the current NY 20, CCNY District 20 is a compact district centered on the Capitol Region, including Albany, Rensselaer, and Schenectady Counties alongside southern Saratoga County. Unlike the current plan, Rensselaer County is kept whole in this Capitol Region district and Montgomery County is kept whole within the North County/Mohawk Valley CCNY 21. Saratoga Springs also shifts to the North Country based NY 21.

**DISTRICT 21**

CCNY District 21 is a regional North Country district including nearly all of the current NY 21 with just a few exceptions. The southern half of Jefferson County is included in CCNY 23 (which covers the eastern Lake Ontario shore) but Watertown and Fort Drum remain in CCNY 21. Montgomery County is now whole within this district along with almost all of Herkimer, while some swapping of population occurs to balance with CCNY 20 in Saratoga County.

**DISTRICT 22**

CCNY District 22 is a compact combination of the Syracuse and Utica-Rome metropolitan areas, consisting of Onondaga, Madison, and Oneida counties and only a small portion of Herkimer County in order to balance population deviation. As small and mid-size Upstate cities connected by the NYS Thruway and the historic connection of the Erie Canal, Syracuse, Utica, and Rome have more in common with one another than with surrounding more rural counties.

**DISTRICT 23**

CCNY District 23 combines portions of current NY 23, 24, and 27 and small portions of NY 21 and NY 22 to form a new district centered on the central Finger Lakes and Southern Tier and extending north to the eastern Lake Ontario shoreline.

Following traditional redistricting criteria and keeping communities of interest and regions together leads to four relatively compact districts in Upstate NY centered on Buffalo (CCNY 25) Rochester (CCNY 24) Syracuse and Utica-Rome (CCNY 22), and the Capitol Region (CCNY 19), which in turn results in several very large predominantly rural districts covering the rest of Upstate NY (CCNY 20, 21, 23, and 26 in this plan). These districts by necessity become geographically large in order to cover the required population.



**DISTRICT 24**

CCNY District 24 maintains the whole of the current NY 25 -- which was drawn directly from the districts submitted by the Common Cause Plan in 2012 -- and adds the necessary new population for the new cycle by adding the whole of Monroe County and approximately half of neighboring Orleans County.. As with the current NY 25, this district is compactly centered on Rochester and its surrounding region.

**DISTRICT 25**

CCNY District 25 maintains the whole of the current NY 26 -- which was drawn directly from the district submitted by the Common Cause Plan in 2012 -- and adds the necessary new population for the new cycle by adding the towns of Wheatfield and Niagara. As with the current NY 26, this district is compactly centered on Buffalo and its surrounding region, including the nearby city of Niagara Falls which shares many demographic characteristics with Buffalo.

**DISTRICT 26**

CCNY District 26 maintains the core of the current NY 27 as a district covering the rural regions of Western New York. Compared to the current NY 27, the district adds the westernmost southern tier counties of Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany and retreats from Ontario County with the boundary line now dividing Livingston County instead.

