

Commission on Reapportionment Public Hearing Minutes

DATE & TIME: May 16, 2022 – 7:00 PM
LOCATION: Modena Fire House, 1953 Route 44-55, Modena, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Regis Obijiski
STAFF: Fawn Tantillo and Robert Leibowitz
PRESENT: 1st Deputy Chair Sarah DeStefano (via zoom), 2nd Vice Chair Andy Monk, Donna Lutz, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask, and Kathleen Waithe
ABSENT: None
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Herbert Litts, Kevin Roberts, Supervisors Mary Beth Majestic, John Valk; Ralph Lorenzo, Glenn McNitt, Harry L. Ross; Katherine Morrison; Jane Rascoe; Anne K Barnhart; Richard Barnhart; Norman Miller, Annette Laskowski, Donna Vertullo; Norma Zapata; Mici Simonofski; Betty Diorio; Marisa McClinton; Tom Kruglinski; Jen Bruatil; Laura & Sayer Ivchenko; Annie O’Neill; Linda Goldsmith; Rick Remsnyder; Elizabeth Lee; Carol Nolan; Dean DePew, Sr; Mary Ann DePew; Rachel Busher; Susanne Cordon; Paul Kuklinski; Valerie Gross; Diane Reynolds; Ornella Lepri Mazzuca; Sandra Gottesman; Morey Gottesman; Jane Schanberg; Holly Shader; Kim Mayer; Debra Clinton; Lindsey Clinton

Chair Obijiski called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Leibowitz projected a copy of the draft redistricting map and displayed sections as needed.

Chair Obijiski, 1st Vice Chair DeStefano and 2nd Vice Chair Monk welcomed the attendees and gave a brief overview of how the commission was created, the enabling legislation, language of the Ulster County Charter and laws that govern redistricting and the priorities the commission used in creating these districts.

Public Comment

Legislator Herbert Litts (Lloyd) – He felt the detail on the map is hard to see. He requested the maps of each district be made that show the roads so it is clear where the new district line are located.

Supervisor John Valk (Shawangunk) – He noted that the Town of Shawangunk has been divided into 3 districts for many years but always had one district that was entirely within the township. He expressed concern that all 3 of the proposed districts go outside the town limits and the town could have 3 legislators who don’t live in the town. He asked the commissioners to consider making at least one district within the town limits to ensure at least one legislator was from the town.

Supervisor Mary Ann Majestic (Gardiner) – She appreciated that the entire Town of Gardiner had only one legislator and expressed concern that this proposed map cut the town almost in half. She feels that the concerns of a municipality like Gardiner are very different from New Paltz. She wanted the town to remain whole.

Ralph Lorenzo (Gardiner) – He expressed concern about both the national and the local redistricting process and potential partisan politics behind the proposed map that divided Gardiner and asked that the town be kept whole. He feels the town is a stable unit now and is concerned that the town will not get the same level of support from the county for local initiatives if it is divided this way.

Susan Rachel “Birdie” Condon (Gardiner) – She remarked that the people of Gardiner worked together to protect the environment and eliminate animosity. She briefly described efforts to “Save the Ridge” and concerns people had about property rights and said working through these differences make the town better. She expressed concern that dividing the town into two districts might undo much of this progress.

Morey Gottesman (Gardiner) – He represented “Friends of Tillson Lake” and noted that the town of Gardiner was divided into 3 school districts and the one constant has been that the Town was in a single legislative district. He would like the Town of Gardiner to stay in one Legislative District

Glenn McNitt (Gardiner) – He felt that Gardiner, New Paltz and Shawangunk each had a distinct culture and economy. He expressed concern that the Town of Gardiner might not have a representative from Gardiner if this proposed map was adopted.

Mici Simonofski (Marlboro) – Asked how the college students in New Paltz were counted in the census and wondered if they were counted at all due to COVID. She asked if this might skew the numbers. Her second concern was about election district 1 in Marlboro being divided. She asked if the election district 1 could be kept whole.

Jane Shanberg (New Paltz) – She questioned the accuracy of the New Paltz Village census numbers and also questioned how SUNY New Paltz students were counted. She believes the town and village of New Paltz are slowly moving to consolidation of government. She noted the difficulty they have finding candidates. She suggested they check the census numbers.

Legislator Kevin Roberts (Plattekill) – He noted they are standing in the newly proposed district 12 but if they crossed the street they would be in the new district 13. He said this proposed map divides the hamlet of Modena in half. He did not like the way Gardiner was split up and was concerned that District 9 covered parts of 3 towns.

Elizabeth Lee (New Paltz) – She also had questions about how SUNY New Paltz students were counted in the census. The Commissioners reiterated that they were required to use the numbers provided by the State.

Holly Schaefer (Gardiner) – She moved to Gardiner because of the unique qualities and feared that this new legislative district would be dominated by the New Paltz culture.

Annie O’Neill (Gardiner) – She extolled the virtues of Gardner and felt that being in a single legislative district was a stabilizing factor.

Paul Kuklinski (Gardiner) – Enjoys the character of Gardiner and wants the town in one legislative district.

Linda Goldsmith (Gardiner) – New to the area and just learning about the issues. She shares the concern about the town being split into two districts.

Dean DePew (Modena-Plattekill) – He note the town had 5 school districts and that means that people on one side of town don’t get the opportunity to meet with people on the other side of town. They have 3 volunteer fire departments and EMS and it is tough to get new members. When the legislative districts are split across town lines the town has a representative sitting in another town and he feels that doesn’t work.

Tom Kruglinski (Gardiner) – Supports keeping Gardiner whole. He asked the commissioners to examine the process they used and see if they start the process in the southern part of the county the map might look very different. He asked that whatever process they use to be sure it is fair and equitable to the entire county.

Laura Chenko (Gardiner) – Lives near the proposed dividing line. She pointed out that Gardiner residence pay extra fees to take part in activities that are less expensive for New Paltz residence such as the pool and they pay for the New Paltz library. She feels it is important for Gardiner to remain a whole community and it is important for people to learn from each other and talk to friends and family on the other side of town.

Katherine “Sis” Morrison (Gardiner) – She feels that each time the county is redistricted, the southern towns are shortchanged. She was also concerned SUNY New Paltz college students, here for only a few years, could impact the neighboring town.

Harry Ross (New Paltz) – He feels that it is important to recognize a community’s “sense of place” and to divide the town of Gardiner would take away the last line of defense for the community. He suggested the fix the densest populated areas first and work their way out to the more rural areas.

Deborah Clinton (Gardiner) – She has lived in several Ulster County towns and asks the Commissioners to respect the unique character of each by giving them their own legislative districts. She agrees they need to reconsider how the southern end of the county is divided. She feels dividing off part of the town of Gardiner and lumping it in with New Paltz does a disservice to both.

Kim Mayer (Gardiner) – She feels the Town of Gardiner has been represented well and this new configuration may be detrimental to the Town’s representation.

Jen Bruatil (Gardiner) – She has family and friends who live in New Paltz and at times feels overwhelmed by New Paltz. She asked the commissioners to be mindful of these concerns.

Annette Laskowski (Plattekill) – She expressed concerns about splitting election districts within the town. She also asked the commissioners to rework the districts starting in the southern part of the county.

Jessica Kluetmeyer (Gardiner) – She opposes the division of the Town of Gardiner and feels there is a sacred responsibility to care for the town’s natural areas.

The commissioners thanked the participants and recognized that this public input was an important part of the process. They briefly clarified some of the math behind the map - that 10 municipalities are so large they must be divided and 14 were so small they required adding populations. They explained that this was not the “final” map, the next steps and time line for completing their work.

Motion Made By: Commissioner Monk
Motion Seconded By: Commissioner Rusk
No. of Votes in Favor: 7
No. of Votes Against: 0
Time: 8:34PM

Respectfully submitted by: Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved: June 8, 2022

**Ulster County
Commission on Reapportionment Public Hearings
Introduction Outline
May 16 & 19, 2022**

- Purpose:
 - To solicit commentary from the public regarding noticed final draft reapportionment plan.
- Note:
 - Presentation should be brief – no longer than 10 minutes to allow for maximum public commentary
 - Commissioners should avoid debating or engaging in back-and-forth commentary with members of the public
- Regis:
 - Commission is an independent body from other county institutions like the legislature and executive
 - Commissioners are volunteers
 - Who are the commissioners
 - Regis Obijiski - Chairman - Town of Ulster
 - Sarah DeStefano - 1st Vice Chair - Town of Olive
 - Andy Monk - 2nd Vice Chair - City of Kingston
 - Donna Lutz - Town of Marlborough
 - Kenneth Panza - Town of Woodstock
 - Travis Rask - City of Kingston
 - Kathleen Waithe - Town of Saugerties
 - In alignment with the County Charter:
 - 4 appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the UC legislature from list of self-nominated eligible candidates
 - Remaining 3 chosen by initial 4 appointed members from same eligible list
 - Role: Redistricting the 23 legislative districts according to the population count of the 2020 US Census.
 - Commissioners may be registered voters of a political party, however their work is expected to be non-partisan
 - Purpose of Hearing:
 - “Final draft” being presented for public review, not necessarily the final product.
 - Commissioners are committed to seeking public input into their work, but ultimately retain independence and responsibility over the final map to be delivered to the County Board of Elections on or before July 20, 2022.

- We wish to acknowledge County resource personnel that assisted us at every step: Fawn Tantillo, Senior Legislative Staff; Kristin Gumaer, First Assistant County Attorney; and from the County Planning Office: Rob Leibowitz, Head Planner, and Dennis Doyle, Director of Planning

- Sarah: Commission's Work:
 - In alignment with Section C-10 of County Charter:
 - "keeping districts compact and contiguous while taking also into account existing town, city, village and election district boundaries, defining geographic features, and equal population within applicable law, but giving no consideration to providing advantage to one or another political party."
 - Principle Considerations:
 - The 2020 US Census count, including adjustment pursuant to the Prison Gerrymandering Law, is 179,743.
 - (The 2010 census count without this law was 182,493)
 - That number divided by 23 districts is 7,815
 - Equal Population per district that allows a deviation of $\pm 5\%$ of 7,815
 - No district may be larger than 8,206 persons or smaller than 7,424 persons
 - Contiguity:
 - Possible to travel between any two points in a district without crossing into a different district
 - Compactness:
 - Principle that constituents residing within a district should live as near to one another as possible; measured as a ratio of the circumference of a district and its total area.
 - No gerrymandering: should not favor or disfavor particular political parties, candidates, or incumbents
 - Other consideration:
 - NYS Law on Prison Gerrymandering:
 - Those incarcerated in Ulster County now counted for Census purposes at their last residential address prior to incarceration, rather than UC
 - Confirmed with NYS Legislative Taskforce on Demographic Research and Reapportionment
 - As a result, Shawangunk's Census count was reduced by 1,039 and Wawarsing's Census was reduced by 1,374.

- Andy: Additional Criteria:
 - District numbering: keep as similar as possible to 2011
 - Some criteria were related to limiting the division of municipalities:

- Keep 4 towns in NW of county together – District near 0% deviation
 - Hardenburgh
 - Denning
 - Shandaken
 - Olive
- Kingston: keep whole in 3 districts
- Keep 3 villages whole
 - Saugerties
 - New Paltz
 - Ellenville
 - Easy targets for splitting to make numbers work in the past
 - Small area of Ellenville was divided
 - Separated by cliffs from rest of village
 - More geographically tied to neighbors in Cragmoor
- Remaining municipalities - keep whole as much as possible
 - Three municipalities are in three districts each
 - Town of Ulster
 - Marbletown
 - Shawangunk
 - Taking prison pops out of southern areas necessitated shifting population down from the north to maintain compliance
 - Change to one district affects all others - more in next section
- Some criteria were related to the shape and size of districts:
 - All districts must contain equal population
 - 7,815 residents per district; max deviation of +/- 5%
 - Start with census block groups
 - Larger groups of residents as created by census bureau
 - Then use individual census blocks to fine-tune as needed
 - When fine-tuning:
 - User areal views
 - Zoom into neighborhoods to understand where lines are drawn in the real world – using main roads versus neighborhood streets where possible
 - Consider topography and geological features
 - Mountains
 - Valleys
 - Streams
 - Other natural divisions
 - Awareness that each change to one district will likely necessitate adjustments to one or more other districts
 - Examine maps that were submitted by the public, who may have more in-depth local knowledge

- Keep in mind that local concerns must be balanced with general guidelines and the map as a whole
- Commissioners presented our own maps and reached consensus about which map to use as a starting point for further adjustments

ULSTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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MEMO

To: Sara DeStefano, Donna Lutz, Andy Monk, Regis Obijiski, Kenneth Panza, Travis Rask, Kathleen Waithe – Members of the Ulster County Commission on Reapportionment

From: Ashley Dittus, Commissioner
John P. Quigley, Commissioner

Re: Proposed Ulster County Legislature District Map, Public Comment

Date: May 17, 2022

The Board of Elections is tasked with implementing the redistricted County Legislative districts once they are finalized and applying those final political subdivisions to the Ulster County voter rolls. To that end, we have reviewed the proposed draft map of County Legislative districts for public consideration and have the following concerns:

- 1. Municipal boundaries are not lined up with proposed County Legislative District boundaries:** There exist multiple examples of County Legislative districts that closely, but do not exactly, line up with existing municipal boundaries. Municipal boundaries are fixed and cannot be moved. All voters who are registered within a municipality will have, with frequency, at least once every two years on the odd numbered years, contests to vote upon that are municipal based offices, i.e., Town Supervisor, Town Council, Town Justice, Town Clerk, Town Highway Superintendent, etc. When those municipal offices are on the ballot, all voters who reside within that political subdivision (Town/City) must have the above referenced contests appear on their ballot. When a voter is redistricted into a separate County Legislative District that is different than the rest of the voters in their municipality; those outlier voters will have a separate ballot style and be coded into a separate "micro-election district" for voting purposes. In other words, the "micro-election district" voters simultaneously reside in the town requiring those municipal contests and

the County Legislative District, requiring ballot placement of the candidate(s) running in the voter's assigned County Legislative District.

When the Board of Elections build ballot styles for the electorate, we do so by coding voters into Election Districts wherein all voters share the same political subdivisions. When a town or city has multiple political subdivisions within their boundaries the Board of Elections must conform election districts to meet this criterion. This is described under Election Law 4-100.3 which states:

Each election district shall be in compact form and may not be partly within and partly without a ward, town, city, a village which has five thousand or more inhabitants and is wholly within one town, or a county legislative, assembly, senatorial or congressional district.

In the below cited examples, we have observed the number of voters who have a dissimilar County Legislative District than their Town/City neighbors, amounting to, on average, less than 50 residents within these would be "micro-district" boundaries. Due to this low number of residents, and therefore a lower pool of registered voters, there exists a great risk of lost voter privacy, particularly in the event of a Primary when even less voters may be eligible to cast a ballot.

- a. Town of Ulster District 1 on the border of Hurley (see map) with cross streets of Hoyer Rd, Swamp Rd, Station Rd, to name a few, are districted in the proposed District 18, assigning their Town Ballot as Ulster and their Legislative District as 18. This would create a micro-district as the other Town of Ulster voters in their proximity are in Legislative District 4. Please note: This concern does not show up on the Mapitude software, however this issue does appear on the ARC GIS platform that the County IS Department provided to our office for use. We ask that this is reviewed to confirm that municipal voters are not subdivided.
- b. Town of Woodstock District 6 on the border of Town of Ulster (see map) with cross streets of Sawkill Rd and Morey Hill Rd are districted in the proposed District 4, assigning their Town Ballot as Woodstock and their Legislative District as 4. This would create a micro-district as the other Woodstock voters in their proximity are in Legislative District 23. Estimated population: 14 residents

Recommendation: We believe there may be other instances in the mapping program where municipal and proposed County Legislative boundaries do not line up. We respectfully request that an audit of these boundaries is performed before the maps are finalized and adjustments are made to respect municipal boundaries before the final adopted plan is tendered to our department for administrative application.

2. Village boundaries are not lined up with proposed County Legislative District

boundaries: There are multiple examples in which voters will be isolated from their Village municipal boundary in the Village of New Paltz and the Village of Ellenville. This presents the same set of issues we have already illustrated with municipal boundaries. The Ulster County Board of Elections ballots village offices for Ellenville and New Paltz during odd numbered years during the Primary and General Elections, the same years, and the same ballots in which the County Legislature is voted upon. By isolating those residents from their Village boundaries, the Commission is creating a scenario in which a small number of voters will be identifiable based on the different County Legislator they have from the rest of the residents of the Village in which they reside. Election Law 4-100 as referenced

above also cites Village district boundaries as being a requirement of Election District creation.

- a. Village of New Paltz along Springtown Rd. (see map) is districted in the proposed District 17, assigning their Village Ballot as New Paltz and their Legislative District as 17. This would create a micro-district as the other Village of New Paltz voters are in Legislative District 20. The estimated population of this micro district is 1-10 residents.
- b. On the northern border of the Village of New Paltz (see map) encompassing residents on Hummel Rd, Van Alst St, Juniper St, Willis Rd. etc., those voters are non-Village residents but have been districted into the same legislative district as Village residents. This will create a micro-district of this area as they are not entitled to a Village contested ballot but are entitled to a ballot with the Legislative candidates from the proposed District 20. Estimated population: 250-300 residents
- c. Village of Ellenville, along Sam's Point Rd. (see map), is districted in in the proposed District 14, assigning their Village Ballot as Ellenville and their Legislative District as 14. This would create a micro-district, as the other Village of Ellenville voters are in Legislative District 15. Estimated population: 5-50 residents.

Recommendation: We implore the Commission to reconsider the division of Village municipal boundaries. Both the Village of New Paltz and the Village of Ellenville are relatively small and currently both villages are wholly contained within County Legislative District boundaries. We ask that for the sake of those residents that you consider composing districts that do not divide a Village into separate Legislative boundaries.

3. City of Kingston Ward boundaries are not lined up with proposed County Legislative

District Boundaries: The City of Kingston is responsible for redistricting their Ward boundaries which renders them equivalent to a municipal or village boundary in that they are fixed and cannot be altered by the Board of Elections. Election Law 4-100 as referenced above also cites Ward district boundaries as being a requirement of Election District creation. Six of the nine Wards in the City of Kingston become fractured in the proposed County Legislative District map: Wards 2,3,4,5,6 and 9.

Like the above referenced Village and municipal examples, the Board of Elections ballots Aldermanic contests, by Ward and then election district, during odd numbered years at the Primary and General Elections, the same years, and the same ballots in which the County Legislature is voted upon. When a ward is split along a County Legislative district boundary it will result in the formation of "micro-districts" within the City of Kingston. In our calculations this would result in the division of nine election districts: Ward 2 District 2, Ward 2 District 3, Ward 3 District 3, Ward 4 District 1, Ward 5 District 2, Ward 6 District 3, Ward 9 District 1, Ward 9 District 2 and Ward 9 District 3. These splits range from an estimated population of 10-400 residents. In the scenarios where less than 100 residents are affected, the issues of voter privacy are at the forefront of our concerns. In the scenarios where more than 100 people are affected our concern shifts to the creation of additional election districts.

It should also be noted that the proposed US House of Representatives Congressional District map divides the City of Kingston into two districts. If that map becomes adopted by May 20th, and if adjustments are not made to the County Legislative District map, there will exist an added scenario wherein Wards are further divided. i.e., a resident of the City of Kingston Ward 3 District 3 will have both a different Congressional representative and a different County Legislator than the rest of their neighbors in the remaining parts of Ward

3. Further, due to the added layering of political subdivision (Congressional, Ward and County Legislature) multiple “micro-districts” will need to be created at great risk of voter privacy and efficiency in conducting elections within the City of Kingston.

Recommendation: At the very least, we recommend remediations that keep election districts whole if the Commission agrees to divide up Wards into separate County Legislative Districts. However, as an alternative, given the new proposed deviations for Legislative Districts 5, 6 and 7 are 2.35, 4.86 and 2.42, respectively we would propose that the current active County Legislative districts of 5,6, and 7 with deviations of 1.3, 3.9 and 4.4, respective be reconsidered for adoption.

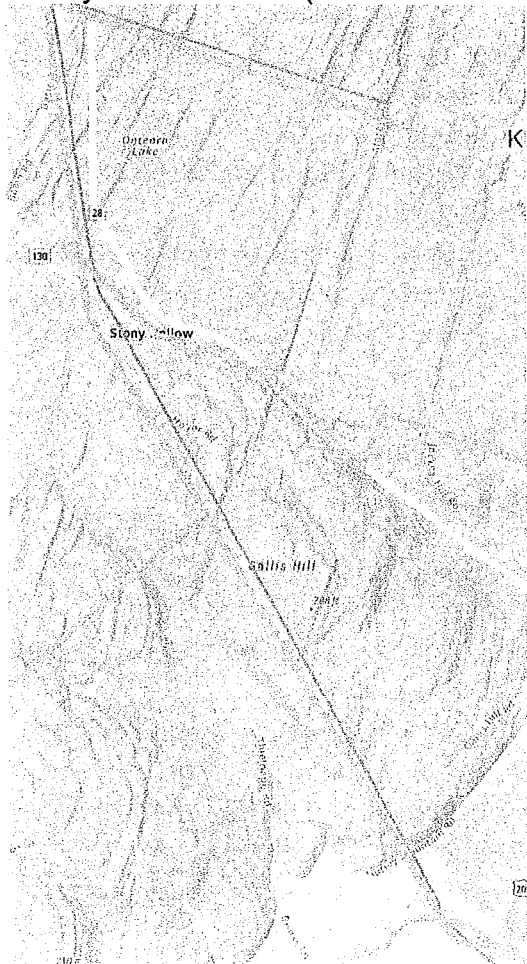
To be clear, the implications of the current map are deeply concerning. The creation of smaller election districts will result in voter confusion, the risk of voter privacy being compromised and an added expense to the programmatic budget of the Board of Election. We are required to ballot our General Elections by election district, therefore, for every newly comprised election district created we must hire and train additional election inspectors, order unique ballot styles and program our voting systems to accommodate the requirements of the Election Law.

We have created a version of the map using the Mapitude software that reflects many of the above-mentioned changes we wish to see adopted. That map is shared and titled “Ucboe/Ucboe Recommendations – UCBOE Recommendations”

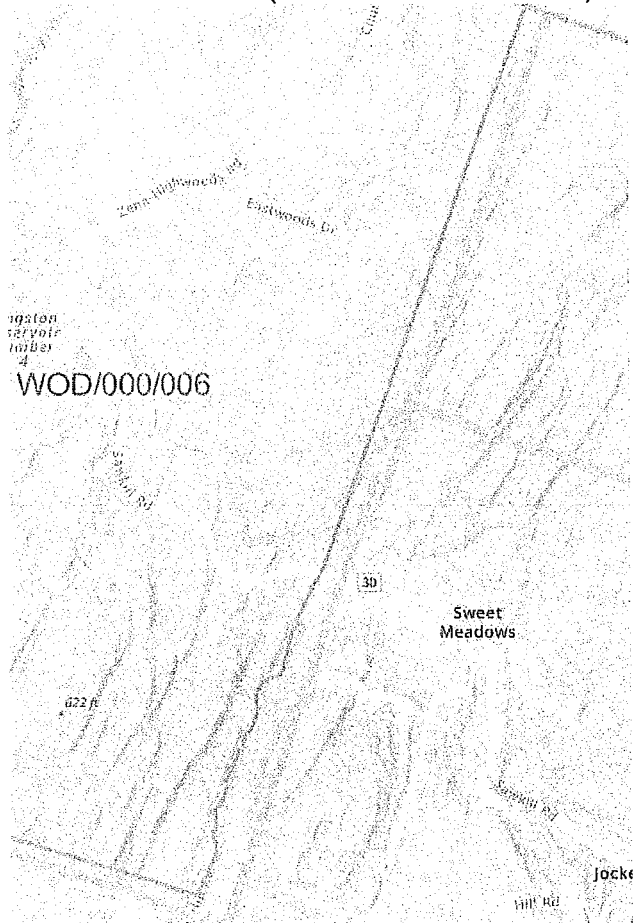
Our office is available and willing to assist with any questions that may arise from our concerns.

Map Attachments:

Hurley-Ulster Border (referenced above 1.a)



Woodstock-Ulster (referenced above 1.b.)



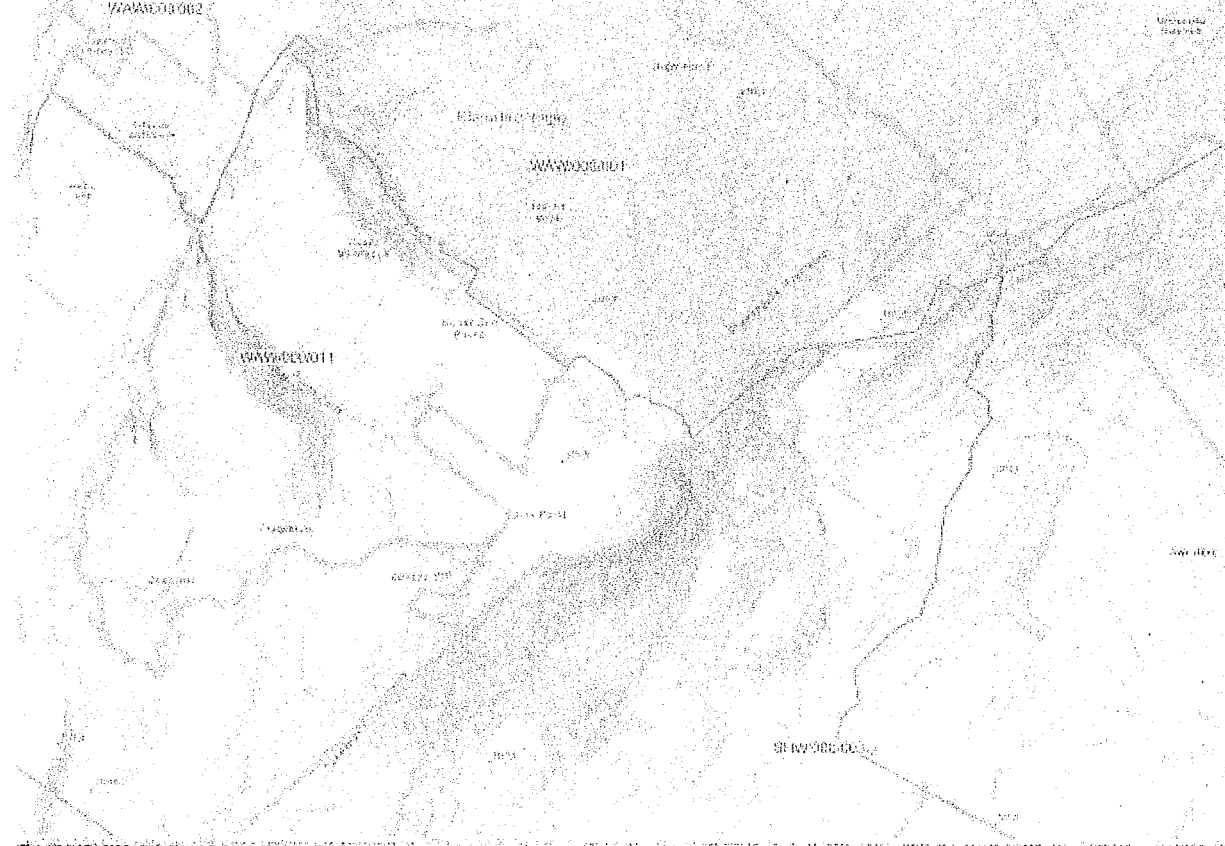
Village of New Paltz (referenced above 2.a.)



Village of New Paltz (referenced above 2.b)



Village of Ellenville (referenced above 2.c)



County Legislature Reapportionment

Proposed Amendments to Draft Map as Shown on

Map Submitted by Mike Baden, May 19, 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Ulster County Legislature reapportionment. The commissioners are to be commended for their volunteer efforts on this project and all their hard work. I would like to address my analysis of the proposal and offer suggestions to better achieve the statutory requirements of redistricting. I believe the draft map district lines can be revised to better meet the statutory framework established by the state constitution, municipal home rule law and Ulster County charter. I would like to offer amendments to your draft map which, I believe will improve compliance with these statutes, and decrease any unintended harm to our communities. I hope you will review and consider these amendments to your proposal.

My starting map began with the commission's proposed work product. I offer no change to districts 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,19, and 22 from the commission's proposed map. **I offer my amendments and have shared my proposal on the Maptitude site labeled MB_May 15_2022 for you to review.**

1. Keeping municipalities and communities intact, when possible.

The draft map establishes districts that divide, unnecessarily, several towns, villages and communities. The district boundaries in the southern half of the county in particular appear disjointed. Current legislative districts in the southern half of the county include four intact municipalities (Town of Gardiner, Town of New Paltz, Village of Ellenville, Village of New Paltz), three municipalities divided into two districts, and two municipalities divided into three districts. In the draft map, not a single municipality in southern Ulster is left intact. Eight municipalities are divided into two districts, and one is divided into three districts.

These proposed amendments to the draft map adhere more fully to the unambiguous criteria set forth in Municipal Home Rule Law Article 4, §34, Subsection 4, and the Ulster County Charter § C-10, by preserving, as much as practicable, the existing municipal boundaries and pre-existing political subdivisions while maintaining district contiguity as required by statute. With my proposal no hamlet in Ulster County is divided into more than 1 Legislative District.

- a. **Hamlet of Kerhonkson** —For at least the last decade, all of the hamlet of Kerhonkson was contained in a single legislative district. The amended map keeps the hamlet of Kerhonkson whole by moving the portion of Kerhonkson that is in

the Town of Wawarsing from District 15 into District 21, and moving the southwest portion of Marbletown from District 21 into District 18. The boundaries of Districts 14 and 15 within the Town of Wawarsing are adjusted to balance population requirements.

- b. Town of Marbletown** — For at least the last decade, the Town of Marbletown has been represented in two districts — District 18 and District 19. Placing the southwest corner of Marbletown into District 21 unnecessarily dilutes the voices of the people of Marbletown, fragmenting their representation into a tiny portion of another district. The amended map moves the portion of Marbletown that is in District 21 back into District 18, and accommodates the population change by placing all of the hamlet of Kerhonkson in District 21.
- c. Village of Ellenville** — The draft map fractures the existing boundaries of the Village of Ellenville, creating micro-districts containing very small population numbers that negatively impact the administration of our local elections. The amended map moves all of the Village of Ellenville into District 15.
- d. Town of Gardiner** — of Gardiner has always been contained in a single district. The amended map restores Gardiner to sit entirely in District 16 by removing the portion of District 16 from the Town of Shawangunk, removing the portion of District 17 from Gardiner, and extending District 16 into a portion of the Town of Plattekill.
- e. Village of New Paltz** — The draft map fractures the existing boundaries of the Village of New Paltz, creating micro-districts containing very small population numbers that negatively impact the administration of our local elections. The amended map moves all of the Village of New Paltz into District 20.
- f. Town of New Paltz** — The entirety of the Town of New Paltz has always been contained in a single district. The amended map restores the Town of New Paltz to sit entirely in District 17 by removing the portion of District 17 in Gardiner, removing the portion of District 9 from the Town of New Paltz, and extending District 17 into a portion of the Town of Esopus to include the hamlet of Rifton, as currently exists. The map also brings District 9 up to the required population threshold after making this adjustment by moving the northernmost portion of the Town of Plattekill into District 9. This change also acts as a benefit to the Hamlet of Clintondale, which is now fully intact within District 9.

- g. District 4/District 23 Border** – In the commission’s draft map a single census block located in the Town of Woodstock (District 23) has been included with District 4. This error must be corrected as it would require a micro voting district for these 14 residents.

2. Keeping Districts Compact and Contiguous

Both state and local law set forth that districts should be compact and contiguous. The draft map does neither in several instances. The map as amended sets forth district lines that are significantly more compact and contiguous and which fall squarely within the ambit of existing state and local Law.

Boundary between District 23 and District 18 — In the draft map, the Town of Hurley's Election District 5 is part of District 18, but it is disconnected from the rest of District 18 because of the Ashokan Reservoir. On paper, it appears contiguous, but due to the reservoir, it cannot be reached from the rest of the district without leaving the district first. Town of Hurley's Election District 5 is also a part of the Glenford community, which is part of the core of the existing District 23. The charter statutory authority specifically mentions **defining geographic features** be taken into account. I submit the Ashokan Reservoir is a defining geographic feature. The amended map moves Hurley ED 5 from District 18 into District 23, as is the case in the current District 23. To comply with the population requirements, the portion of Town of Woodstock east of Zena Road is moved from District 23 into District 4.

Relevant Statutory Authority

New York State Municipal Home Rule Law

Article 4, §34, Subsection 4 *(As Amended on October 27, 2021, S.5160, A.229c)*

4. “Notwithstanding any local law to the contrary, any plan of districting or redistricting adopted pursuant to a county charter or charter law relating to the division of any county, except a county wholly contained within a city, into districts for the purpose of the apportionment or reapportionment of members of its local legislative body **shall be subject to federal and state constitutional requirements and shall comply with the following standards, which shall have priority in the order herein set forth, to the extent applicable:**

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. If such plan of districting or redistricting includes multi-member districts, the plan shall provide substantially equal weight for the population of that county in the allocation of representation in the legislative body of that county; and

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; and

c. **Districts shall consist of contiguous territory; and**

d. **Districts shall be as compact in form as practicable; and 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 pre-existing 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; and**

e. **Districts shall be formed so as to promote the orderly and efficient administration of elections.”**

Ulster County Charter

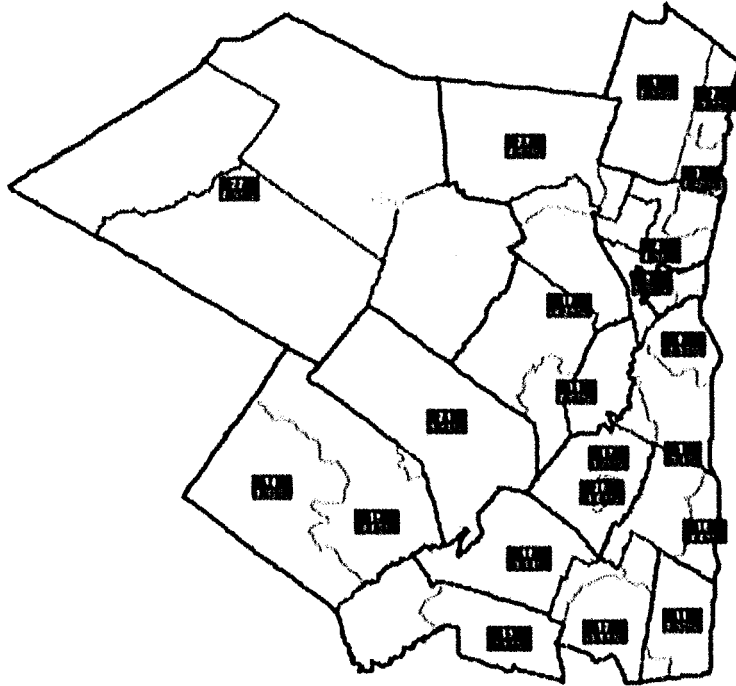
§ C-10. Commission on Reapportionment.

A. A Commission on Reapportionment shall be established as soon as practicable after the availability of data from the census of 2010 to create 23 single-member districts for the Ulster County Legislature and thereafter to meet and evaluate existing legislative districts no later than 60 days after the necessary census data becomes available from the decennial federal census and **reapportion them as necessary to meet established standards in state and federal law for equal and fair representation of all people in Ulster County, keeping districts compact and contiguous while taking also into account existing town, city, village and election district boundaries and defining geographic features but giving no consideration to providing advantage to one or another political party.** This Commission shall consist of seven members who are County residents, are eligible to register to vote and are not public officers or employees...

PROPOSED MAP

Mike Baden

5/19/2022



MB_May 15_2022 file on Maptitude Share