

Commission on Reapportionment PUBLIC HEARING

DATE & TIME: December 27, 2022 – 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, 244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
PRESIDING OFFICER: Commissioner Regis Obijiski, Chair
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Fawn Tantillo
PRESENT: Commissioners Sarah DeStefano, Donna Lutz, Andy Monk, Kenneth Panza and Travis Rask and Kathleen Waithe (on Zoom)
ABSENT: Nonez
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislators Tracey Bartels, Herbert Litts, III and Megan Sperry; Robert Liebowitz, Department of Planning; Morey Gottesman, Gardiner; Beth Keneller, Esopus; Tom Kruglinski, Gardiner; Carol Nolan, New Paltz; Jeff Collins, Woodstock; Supervisor Mike Baden, Town of Rochester; Lanny Walter, Saugerties; Laura Hartman, Town of Ulster; Alex Danon, Shawangunk; Betty Dorio, Plattekill; Gladys Figueroa, Plattekill; Mike Hartner, Gardiner, Linda Lover, Woodstock; Mid-Hudson News

Chair Obijiski called the meeting to order at approximately 5:20 and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He made several housekeeping announcements then asked each of the Commissioners to introduce themselves.

Morey Gottesman, Gardiner – President of Friends of Tillson Lake. He noted that Gardiner has unique challenges and opportunities such as a luxury resort and state park. He was concerned that the town was divided in a previous map submission but pleased to see it was whole in the map presented.

Alex Danon, Shawangunk – Shawangunk Town Board. He noted that Shawangunk is also unique and was pleased that this map only divided the town into two districts with one of those districts completely in the town thereby insuring that the town would have at least one representative who lived in the town.

Carol Nolan, New Paltz – She expressed her gratitude to the Commissioners for their hard work and cooperation and said she was proud to live in Ulster County.

Jeff Collins, Woodstock – He shared a small correction of a micro-district of 17 that needed to be corrected. He also shared a proposed change to the Plattekill area that would keep the town in two districts rather than three with one district entirely within the town. He noted that this new proposal would encompass a larger Hispanic population that did not discriminate against and racial or language minority groups.

Betty Diorio, Plattekill – She expressed concerns that the map presented divided Plattekill into 3 legislative districts and supported the changes to the map offered by Mr. Collins.

Gladys Figueroa, Plattekill – President of the Plattekill Latino heritage Association. She asked the Commission to consider the changes offered by Mr. Collins.

Supervisor Mike Baden, Town of Rochester- He had attended most of the Commission meetings and thanked them for their hard work. He supported the changes offered by Mr. Collisn.

Thomas Kruglinski, Gardiner – He expressed his appreciation for the Commission's efforts over the past two weeks and apologized for his intemperate comments a few weeks earlier.

Michael Hartner, Gardiner – He supported this map and the proposed changes offered by Mr. Collins.

Chair Obijiski thanked the attendees and announced that the Public Comment would remain open for 24 hours. He invited written comment be emailed to Redistricting@co.ulster.ny.us or hand delivered to the Commission on Reapportionment in care of the Legislative Office on the 6th floor of the County Office Building at 244 Fair Street in Kingston. He announced the next meeting was scheduled for December 29th at 5:15.

Chair Obijiski asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion Made By:	Commissioner Monk
Motion Seconded By:	Commissioner Lutz
No. of Votes in Favor:	7
No. of Votes Against:	0
Time:	5:48 PM

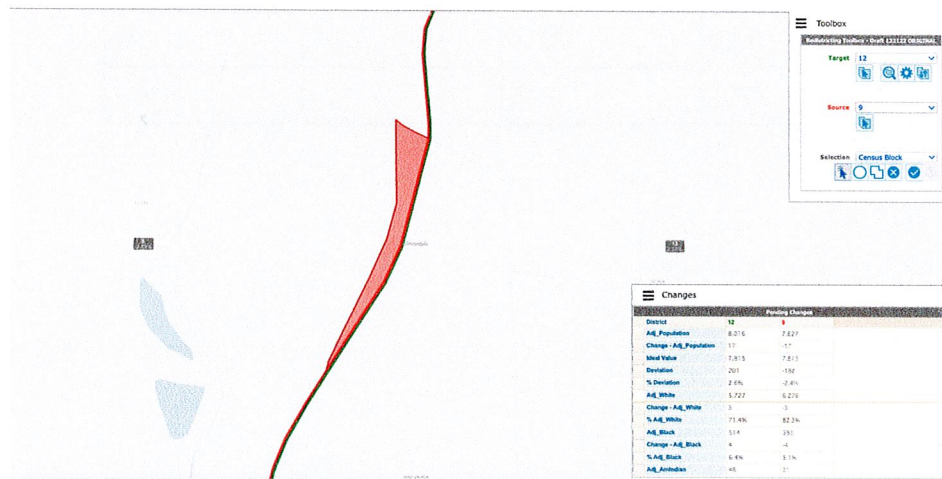
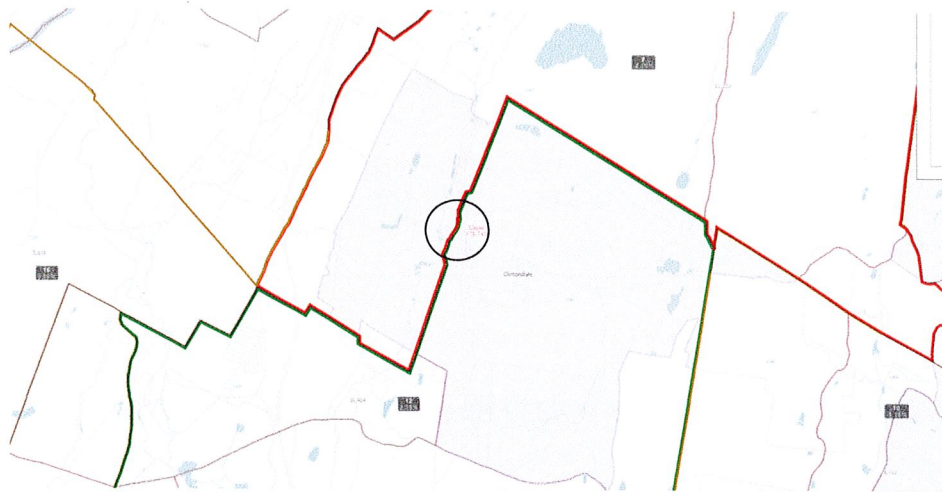
Respectfully submitted by:	Fawn Tantillo
Minutes Approved:	December 29, 2022

Comments on Draft Map 12-21-2022

COMMENT 1

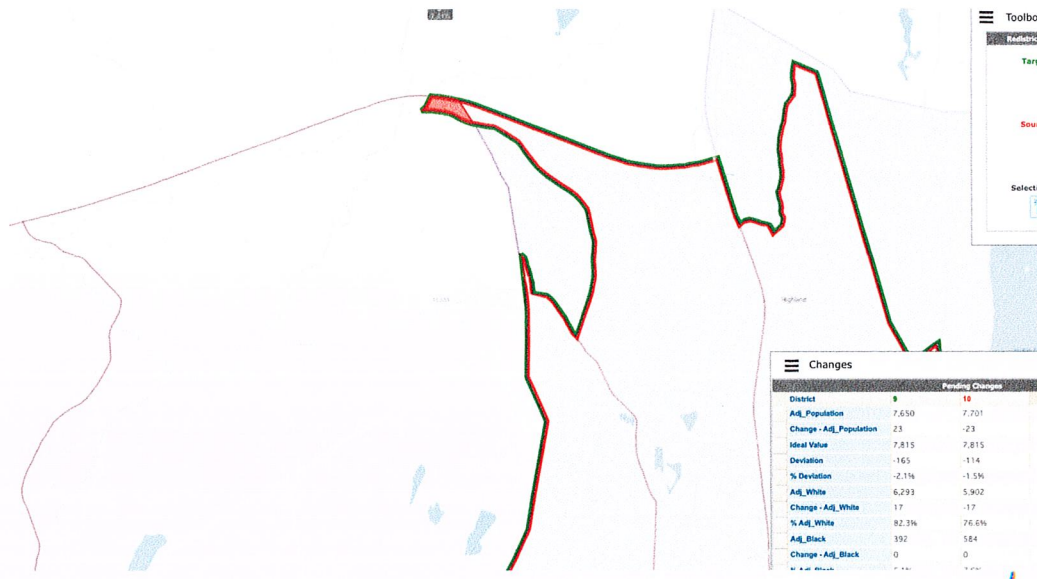
There is an error in the boundary between Legislative District (LD) 9 and 12.

The Draft Map appears to inadvertently put a tiny US Census block of 17 people who live in the Town of Plattekill into LD9.



This can be corrected, while maintaining the size of LD9 (more or less) by moving that US Census block from LD9 into LD12, and moving a small block from LD10 into LD9.

LD9 goes down to -2.41% of mean after moving the Town of Plattekill block into LD12. If the block shown in light red below (which is on the outskirts of Highland in LD10) is moved into LD9, LD9 can easily stay within the sizing requirements.



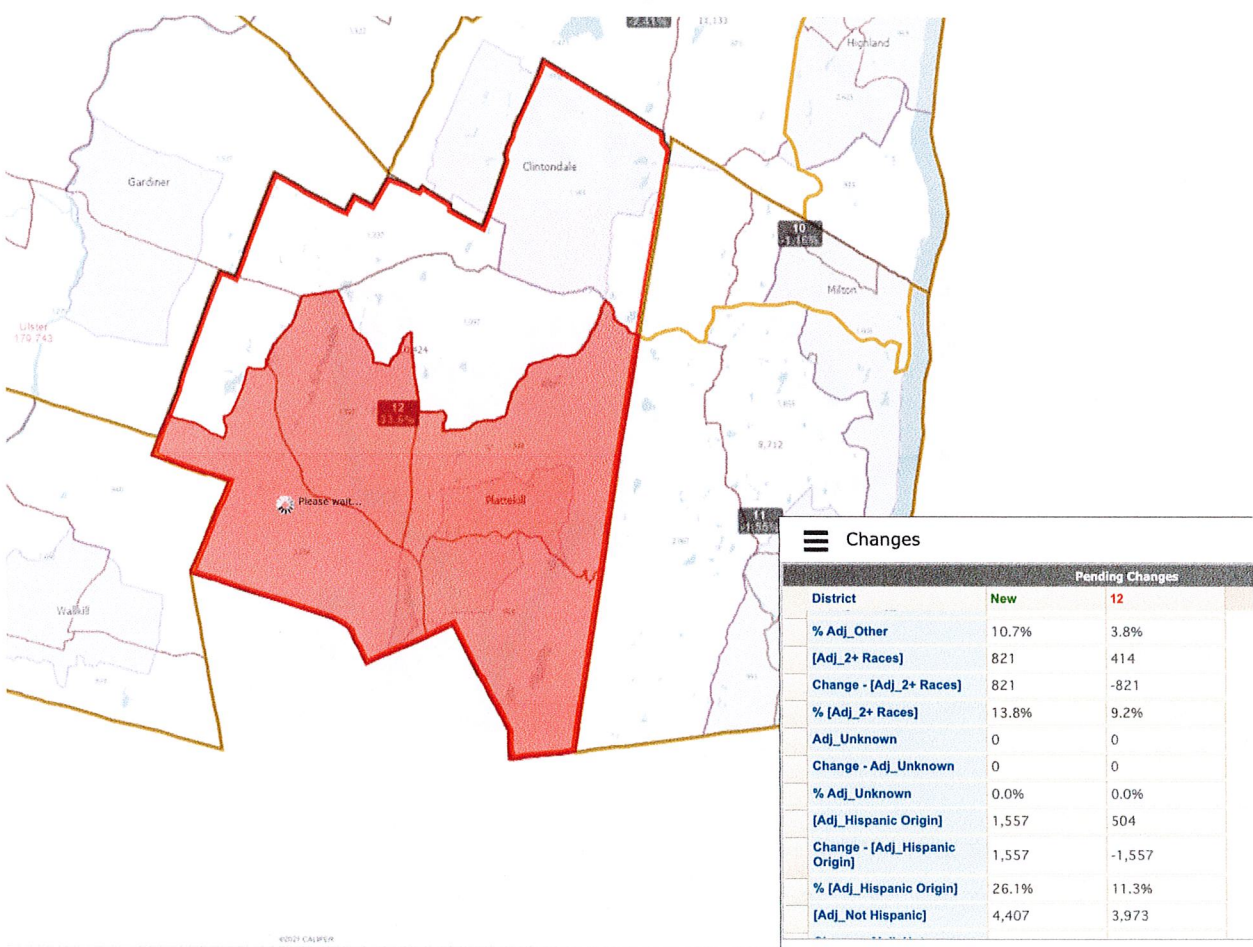
Making this adjustment, the sizes of LD9 and LD10 are changed to:

LEG DISTRICT	POPULATION	MEAN	DEVIATION	DEVIATION %
LD9	7650	7815	-165	-2.11%
LD10	7701	7815	-114	-1.46%

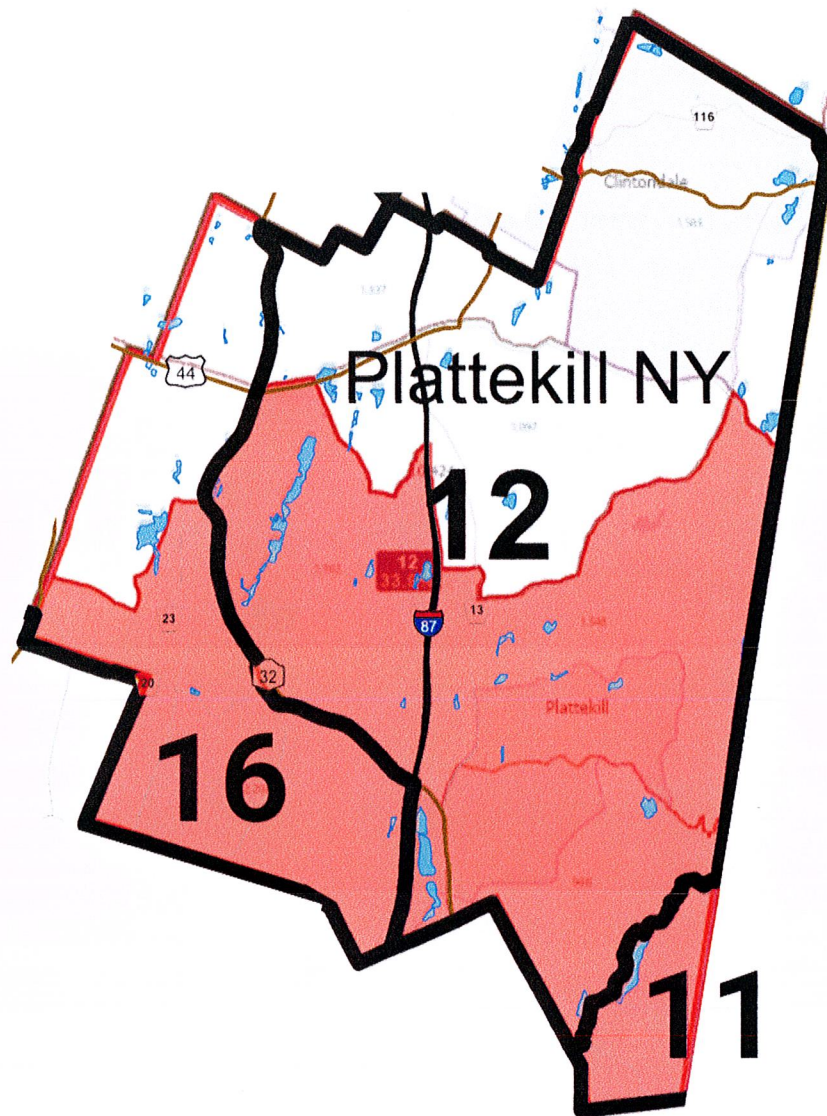
COMMENT 2

The Hispanic Community in the southern half of the Town of Plattekill should be kept in a single district.

Of Plattekill's 10,441 residents, 2,061 are identified in the US Census as being of Hispanic origin (19.7%). **Just over three-quarters of these Hispanic residents, 1,557, live in the lower half of the town** (shaded in red below).

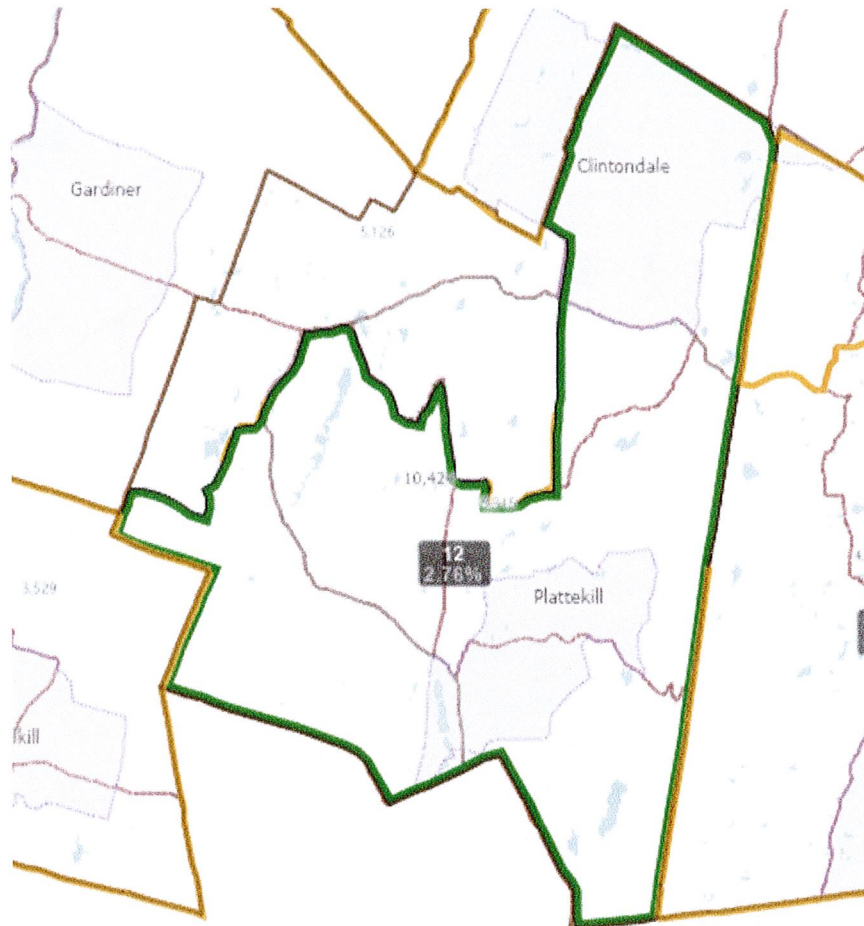


In the Draft Map, these 1,557 residents are divided into LD11, LD12 and LD16.



According to Municipal Home Rule Law, the top priority is to keep districts within the sizing requirement. The second highest priority is not drawing districts that discriminate against racial or language minority groups. Dividing Plattekill's Hispanic Community as shown in the map above is unfair to this community.

This proposed revised map of LD12 and LD16 keeps the Hispanic Community in the lower half of the Town of Plattekill intact, while meeting the district sizing requirements. It also keeps the hamlet of Clintondale intact.



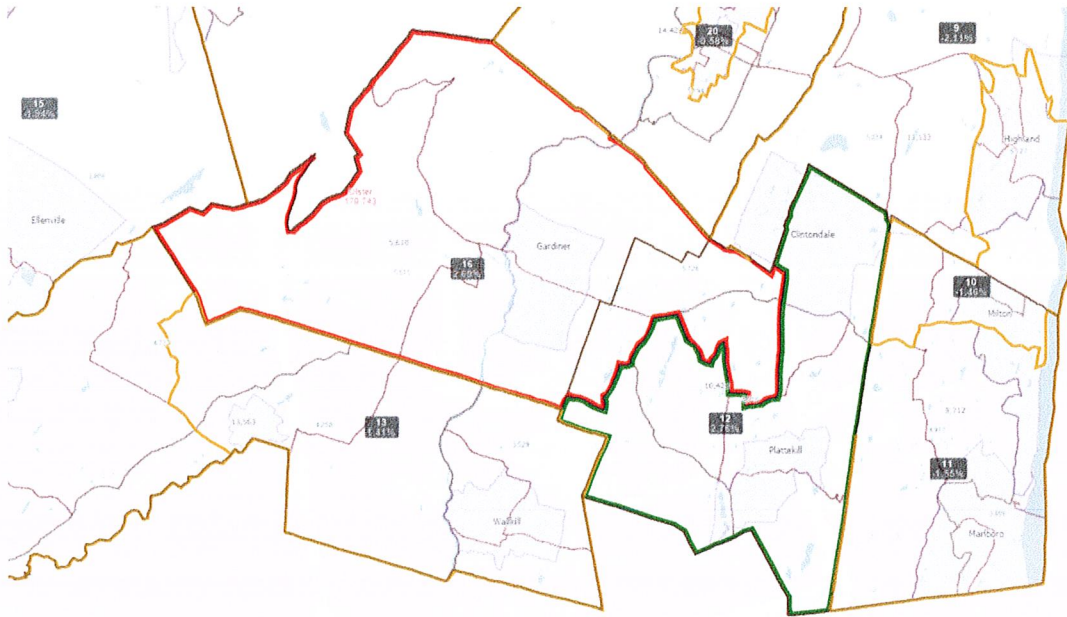
District Changes if this map is adopted (and assuming the boundary between LD12 and LD9 is corrected as per Comment 1):

- LD11 pop. 7,694 — 121 below mean (-1.55%)
- LD12 pop. 8,031 — 216 above mean (2.76%)
- LD16 pop. 8,025 — 210 above mean (2.69%)

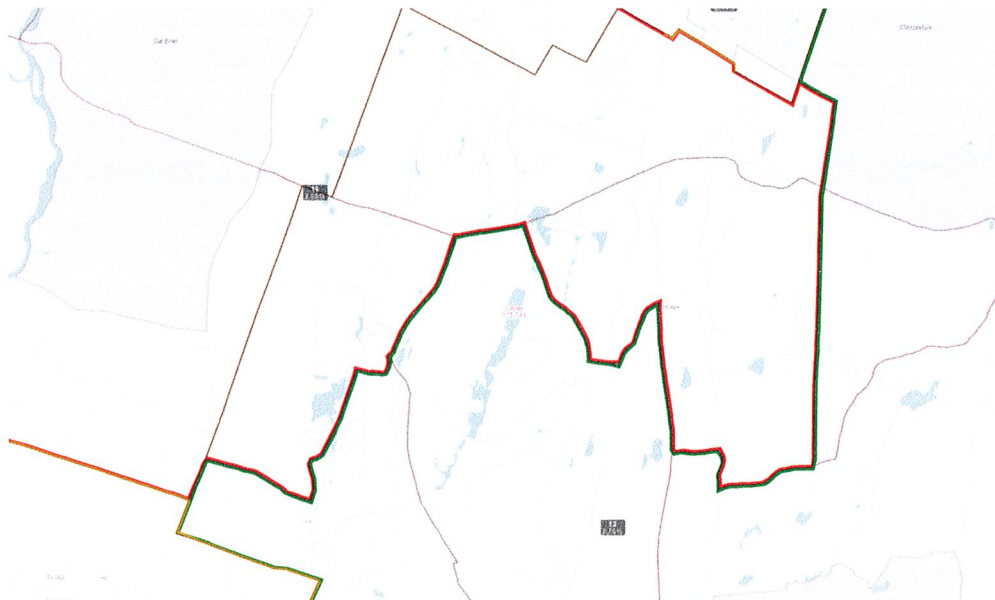
In this revised map, The difference between smallest and largest district of the full map if Comment 1 and Comment 2 are adopted meets the sizing requirement, at 381 people (4.87% of mean).

- LD9 - smallest district at pop. 7,650 — 165 below mean (-2.11%)
- LD12 - largest district at pop. 8,031 — 216 above mean (2.76%)

Revised LD12 and LD16



Close up of boundary between LD12 and LD16:



Public Comment received via email

Opposition to Esopus Districts (2)

Kathie Quick, <cquick2121@aol.com>

On Dec 28, 2022, at 6:42 AM, UPDATE:

Dear Reapportionment Committee,

I was planning to attend yesterday's meeting, but I could not.

Splitting Esopus into 3 districts (we already have 2 as they took Rifton away 10 years ago and added it into New Paltz) is not fair to Esopus.

Being involved in Town Government for 10 years, I know that our town (composed of 9 hamlets), due to geography and low population density, has left many people in the southern part of the Town feeling left out. That includes ED 3, 7 and 6. We have been working on ways to help the folks who live in Rifton (ED 4) Union Center, Esopus, West Park and Ulster Park feel included. Many of these people who live in those hamlets have expressed the feeling that the Town only cares about Port Ewen (which is the major part of where our population lives). It's not fair to further isolate the folks in West Park, Union Center, Esopus and Ulster Park and force them to be represented by an official from the Town Of Lloyd that they don't know.. They don't identify with the Town Of Lloyd.

I see that the committee noticed that it's not good to cut up the Town of Plattekill, but I guess cutting The Town Of Esopus into 3 districts is fine? They just don't care about the Town Of Esopus???

Sincerely,
Kathie Quick, Councilman
Town Of Esopus

Lin Sakai <linsakai@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 6:51 PM

While I very much appreciate the Commission's expedient and thoughtful review of the updated maps, I'd like to go on record to express my concern about the combining of Esopus with Lloyd to form District 9. Our communities do not share schools, local police, and cultural/recreational institutions that would facilitate effective representation in the County Legislature. I understand the math behind the district lines, but do not believe the best interests of both municipalities can be realized thru the new mapping.

Sincerely,
Linda Sakai, Town of Esopus

Support for new map (1)

Harold chorny <hadochor@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 12:30 PM

I am happy with the new map.

Harold Chorny

Support for new map with Jeff Collins suggested changes to Plattekill (7)

Melissa Fairweather <MeLLLIssa@hvc.rr.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 10:28 AM

As a resident of Ulster County, I would like to let you know I support the new draft map with the incorporated change suggested by Jeff Collins.

Melissa Fairweather

Heather Illingworth <hillingworth@hotmail.com>

Reapportionment

Tue 12/27/2022 10:40 PM

Good evening,

I, Heather Raven Kort, living at 1064 Old Ford Rd, New Paltz, NY and in the town of Gardiner, support the new draft map which keeps my town in one legislative district, with the incorporated change suggested by Jeff Collins that allows Plattekill to be divided into just 2 districts not 3.

I have 3 children ages 7,5,3 and could not attend the meeting on Kingston tonight, but would have been there to voice my support in person.

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Heather Kort

Stephen Weir <sweir12525@gmail.com>

Reapportionment

Tue 12/27/2022 11:07 PM

I reviewed the latest map as corrected by Mr. Collins and support its adoption.

Kim Mayer <kjwalkermayer@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 5:36 AM

To the Ulster County Reapportionment Commission

I support the new draft map with the incorporated change suggested by Jeff Collins.

Thanks for your work on this and happy holidays,

Kim Mayer, Gardiner

Frank Leon Rose <frankleonrose@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 8:43 AM

I support the new map with changes suggested by Jeff Collins to reduce division in Plattekill.

Thanks,

Frank Rose, Gardiner, NY

Janet Kern <jkny256@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 1:12 PM

I support the new version which now includes the Plattekill re-draw proposed by Jeff Collins.

Janet Kern Hershberger, Gardiner

Doris Chorny <dchorny6@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 9:13 PM

To the Commission:

I support, and hope you will too, Jeff Collins' idea that part of Plattekill be joined to Gardiner as this would divide Plattekill into two districts rather than three. The rest of the draft map seems good.

Sincerely,
Doris Chorny

Barbara Edelman <barbedelman@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 4:52 PM

Commissioners: Please be advised that my husband, my voting-age daughter, and myself all support the new draft of the above map, plus incorporation with Jeff Collins's suggested changes which address the unfortunate division of Plattekill. We live at 143 Guilford Schoolhouse Road in Gardiner.

Cordially,

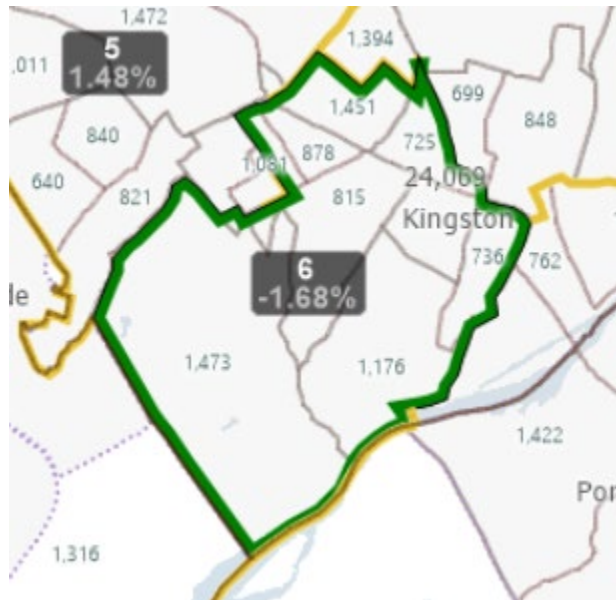
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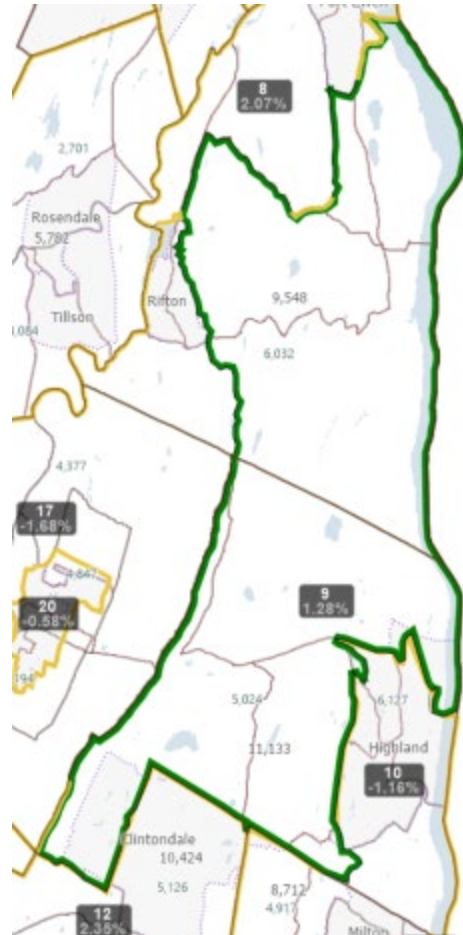
Other Comments

Laura Hartmann <laura@ivanhart.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 4:47 PM





To the Reapportionment Commission:

I am sorry I was unable to be at the meeting last night due to a family holiday gathering.

As you know from my past comments, I have expressed dissatisfaction with how the Town of Ulster is divided up. While this new map is generally very good, it still does a disservice to our town. I understand there can be no less than three LD's within the Town of Ulster, and I realize the shape of our town makes dividing it up difficult.

But, having ED's 4, 13 & 6 in LD8 is just really bad for the voters. There is a way to change that, which was well received in Mike Baden's version, by moving LD7 up into E. Kingston. I am attaching maps for each of the LD's that would require changes.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider this in your final deliberations.

Thank you, Laura Hartmann

Tom Kruglinski <tom.kruglinski@gmail.com>

To: Reapportionment

Wed 12/28/2022 6:01 PM

All, thank you for your good work over the past three weeks. As I noted in my remarks last night you have created a map that is both legal and fair.

I would like to join with the comments of Laura Hartmann regarding Supervisor Baden's version of the divisions in Kingston and Town of Ulster. If you could make that fit appropriately with the rest of the map that would be great.

Sincerely,

Tom Kruglinski

tom.kruglinski@gmail.com

(914) 475-3601