

Hello, my name is Halie N [REDACTED]. I currently reside just off Wolf Rd on Aviation Road, and have been watching the County redistricting process with interest. I am currently in the 24th County Legislative District and would be in the 23rd Legislative District based on the May 11th maps proposed by the Albany County Redistricting Commission (ACRC). The 23rd District, as proposed by the ACRC, in large part is well drawn and is reflective of the Colonie and Latham neighborhoods it represents with a few exceptions which can be addressed with relatively minor changes.

I am a graduate of Siena and have spent a better part of the last decade in the area, and I have several thoughts relating to the proposed 23rd as drawn by the ACRC. On the eastern end of the proposed district, Campus View Drive, Steeple View Drive, Springwood Manor Drive, and other adjacent streets in the “triangle” between Old Niskayuna Rd and Route 9 – as well as entire neighborhoods east of Route 9 - have been added to the proposed 23rd. I believe this region should remain with the 21st District in order to maintain a cohesive Siena College-centric community. The very names “Campus View” and “Steeple View” are evocative of their relationship with Siena College and should not be made part of a distinct legislative district, and they share very little with the neighborhoods “behind” them to the west. The current 21st District included a boundary line of Old Niskayuna Road running northwest to southeast and Hills Rd running from Old Niskayuna Rd up through other roads to Route 9, which I believe should be restored in some form.

Closer to where I live, positive changes were made which have changed the district to include the Crossings of Colonie area and my residence along Aviation Rd in the district. I believe this is a positive change and is reflective of the contiguous neighborhoods of our area. The only issue with how it is currently drawn is that it does not go far enough in including the entire area. I believe that the northwestern boundary of the district should run from the intersection of Albany Shaker Rd and the Northway up to Watervliet Shaker Rd. The currently drawn version separates local neighborhoods by adding them to an unrelated 22nd District north of the Northway, much of which is geographically connected by the airport.

The changes I’ve described can be relatively easily accommodated while remaining within the population parameters. By creating the Northway boundary for the 23rd, enough population exists within the district to exchange the Siena-adjacent regions back to the 21st District. In order to ensure population within the deviation, the 22nd District would then take portions of Latham separated from the 21st District by Blue Creek Elementary School and Shaker High School along Loudon Rd north of the 23rd District, making more geographical cohesion within the eastern part of the 22nd District. These proposed changes create more compact districts and better address the communities of interest of Latham, Loudonville and Newtonville.

These districts will create better cohesion in my community and better reflect the ties that exist “on the ground”. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Halie N [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Albany, NY 12205