

**Honorable Inez Barron**  
**Member of the NYS Assembly**  
**Legislative Office Building – Room 553**  
**Albany, NY**

**Honorable Charles Barron**  
**Member of the NYC Council**  
**250 Broadway**  
**New York, New York**

Re: Redistricting

Three-Judge Panel  
Federal Court  
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Judges,

As a members of the State and City legislative bodies, we write to express our objections regarding the Report and Recommendations and Proposed Redistricting Map submitted by U.S. Magistrate Joann L. Mann for the congressional districts of New York State.

While there have been modifications made to the present Eighth and Ninth Districts, the proposed Seventh District as well as the congressional districts for the areas of Buffalo, Erie and Niagara do not in fact have lines that provide for fair representation of the common interests of the ethnic groups located in those communities.

The intent of the Voting Rights Act is to insure that the communities in protected areas are not disenfranchised nor is there any dissolution to their opportunity to select a representative of their preference. By the addition of communities that lessen the percentage of the target community in the proposed Seventh District, the majority-minority community is greatly diminished. By “cracking” the targeted communities of Buffalo, Erie and Niagara, the nomination and voting strength of the community is fractured. This fracturing is “de facto” a reformed version of gerrymandering.

While there has been mandates in other areas of the country has brought about requirements that are leading to the twentieth century equivalent of a poll tax, the presentation of lines in New York’s congressional districts is problematic and tantamount to modern day disenfranchisement of the very communities that look to the federal system for protection.

We urge you to present district lines that more adequately reflect the populations of people whose voting rights are being marginalized and who are being disenfranchised.

We look forward to seeing lines that appropriately reflect the letter and the intent of the Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

Inez Barron  
Member of the NYS Assembly

Charles Barron  
Member of the NYC Council