

Murtari for Congress
34 Franklin Street
Lyons, NY 14489
May 17, 2022

The Honorable Patrick McAllister, Supreme Court Justice
Steuben County, New York

Dear Judge McAllister,

I'm a Republican candidate for US Congress: registered with the Federal Election Commission, live in Wayne County, and running in the 24th District since last September. I hope you and Mr. Cervas will consider my comments and revise the draft maps released Monday.

I'm a Cum Laude graduate of the Air Force Academy with a Bachelors in Astronautical Engineering and also have a Masters in Computer Science. I've been active in social/justice issues my entire life → <https://VoteCitizenJohn.Com/about-john> In many ways I'm the classic 'little guy' facing huge obstacles. I don't ask for any special advantage, but just a level playing field.

The 24th District was transformed from it's compact form into a snake that extended from the Thousand Island to Niagara Falls. In the draft map, I still feel the district does not meet the requirements of our State Constitution, "Each district shall be as compact in form as practicable."

I'm familiar with computer analysis algorithms. The programmer and management have to decide which factors are most important, and how items are weighted. It appears the draft placed a high priority on keeping entire counties within the same district. This may have caused the 24th to still be one of the most distorted districts. I hope that can be adjusted.

While County integrity is a valid goal, I also feel Congressional Districts don't benefit from this co-identity. The result is a very rural, Republican district, with a one-sided general election in November. Perhaps the factors can be tuned to reduce county integrity, but still keep individual towns and cities intact. I hope that would generate more compact districts.

As a small candidate, extended geographic areas are difficult to overcome. The result of metro-focused and rural districts allows for one-sided elections. It also reduces the opportunity for real dialog with both sides of an issue during a campaign. We need more civil discourse.

Lastly, those candidates that prospered with the unconstitutional maps and received enough signatures to be on the ballot, can now run in any district. I could not meet the signature goal and now face a reduced time threshold. It gives those folks a large boost. I'd like a level playing field.

Sincerely yours,
SIGNED
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CC: Mr. Jonathan Cervas, Special Master