



STEVEN M. FULOP
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February 9, 2022

The Honorable Philip S. Carchman
New Jersey Apportionment Commission
c/o Office of Legislative Affairs
State House Annex
P.O. Box 068
Trenton, NJ 08625-0068

Dear Judge Carchman:

I submit this letter on behalf of myself and the City of Jersey City in objection to the “Turnpike Map” currently before the New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission.

The “Turnpike Map” currently under consideration by the New Jersey Legislative Apportionment Commission (“the Commission”) violates the Constitution of the State of New Jersey by proposing to improperly and unnecessarily divide the City of Jersey City amongst three legislative districts – the 31st, 32nd, and 33rd. The Commission must not approve any proposed map that divides Jersey City amongst more than its two current legislative districts, the 31st and 33rd.

As one of the two Cities of the First Class in the State of New Jersey, the City of Jersey City is also one of the two municipalities, along with Newark, to be represented by more than one state legislative district. Under the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, municipalities and counties are not to be divided in the district boundary creation process except where proportional representation mandates require it:

The Assembly districts shall be composed of contiguous territory, as nearly compact and equal in the number of their inhabitants as possible, and in no event shall each such district contain less than eighty per cent nor more than one hundred twenty per cent of one-fortieth of the total number of inhabitants of the State as reported in the last preceding decennial census of the United States. **Unless necessary to meet the foregoing requirements, no county or municipality shall be divided among Assembly districts.** .

N.J. Const., Art. IV, Sec. II, Para. 3. (emphasis added)

The 2020 Census certified the population of the State of New Jersey at 9,288,994 persons, and the population of the City of Jersey City at 292,449. Per the New Jersey Constitution, the “one-fortieth” figure of the state population is 232,225. As the only two municipalities whose populations exceed that baseline number, only Jersey City and Newark should be divided into two legislative districts. No further divisions are “necessary” within those municipalities, per the State Constitution, and therefore no further divisions are permitted.

Based on the foregoing, the “Turnpike Map,” as well as any other maps that purport to divide the City of Jersey City into three or more legislative districts, should be rejected by this Commission

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fulop', with several loops and a horizontal stroke at the bottom.

STEVEN M. FULOP
MAYOR, CITY OF JERSEY CITY

cc:

Commission Co-Chairs:

LeRoy J. Jones, Jr., Co-Chair

Al Barlas, Co-Chair

Commissioners:

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New Jersey Office of Legislative Services