

Three Questions About the Current Senate District Status

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The first question is about one person one vote and equal representation. According to the Census 2000 of New York State, every state senate represents 306,072 voters in NYS in average. However, if we look at the number geographically, it is obviously biased over the state: in the state other than New York City, the average is 299,690 voters for one senate seat; in the New York City, the number is 313,334, which is much higher than the average in the state exclude the New York City, and even higher than the overall average in the state. Obviously, this is not fair to the voters within the city. And it is even not fair when we find out that even the district with smallest population in the city is higher than any district in the state other than the city. Technically, it is not a problem to redistricting the election districts precise. As a comparison, the congress districts are drawn so that the population difference between every district is limited to one or two persons. I do not see why it cannot be done for the state senate districts. To me, the conclusion is obvious: New York Voters are seriously under represented!

The second question is bit more geographical. It is about the compactness. From the demographic point of views, any district should be drawn as closely to the natural geographic and street boundaries as possible. By any standard for servicing the people of a district, any district should be bounded together naturally. However, in the current districting status, this rule is not followed closely. One of the interesting examples is district 16. Have a look at this district, it is geographically centered at the Middle Lake, close to the Queens College of CUNY, but it has many arms and legs like a crab. Tell me, how could the senate of this district easily prioritize his/her tasks of serving the people? Why don't we have a district like its neighbor district 13?

The last question is also about the community and the compactness in demography. In the same example, district 16, its boundary was drawn in a weird shape, definitely not with the attempt of keeping the community together. Take a look at the Asian population, the lines cut through the middle of community in many places.

Then, we can have the following conclusions:

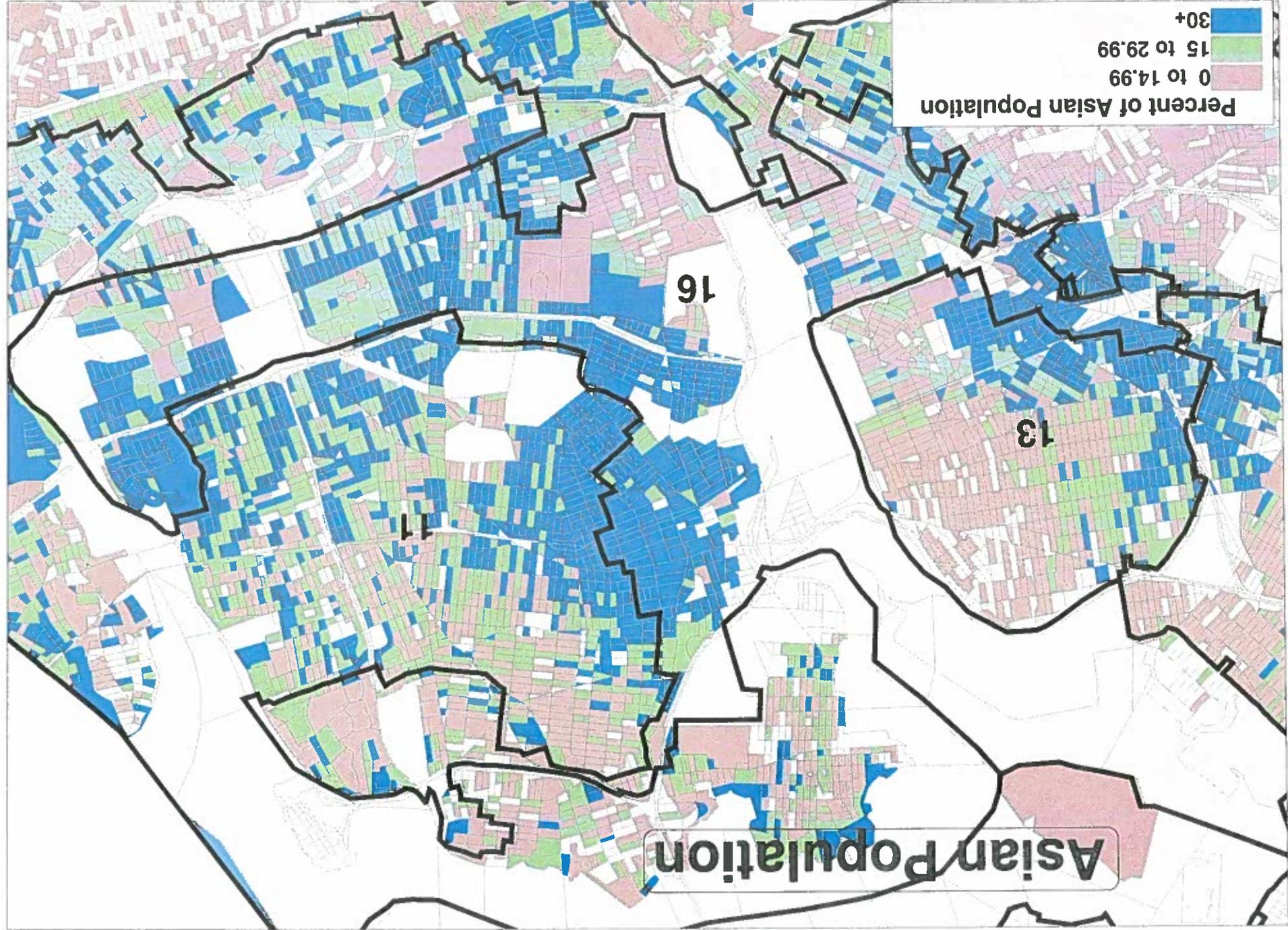
1. The current districting cannot catch up with the changes of the census; we do not want to be under represented.
2. The boundaries need to be redrawn for the purpose of being better served by the senates;
3. The boundaries need to be redrawn with more consideration of the demographic situations.

District	Population	District	Population
01	305,989	32	311,260
02	305,990	33	311,258
03	305,989	34	311,260
04	305,991	35	311,259
05	305,990	36	311,259
06	305,993	37	311,260
07	305,991	38	320,851
08	305,990	39	305,749
09	305,990	40	303,372
10	318,481	41	301,528
11	318,482	42	301,290
12	318,484	43	302,261
13	318,484	44	302,248
14	318,481	45	299,603
15	318,484	46	294,565
16	318,483	47	291,303
17	311,260	48	290,925
18	311,260	49	291,303
19	311,258	50	291,303
20	311,259	51	291,482
21	311,259	52	291,961
22	311,260	53	294,378
23	311,259	54	291,303
24	311,258	55	301,947
25	311,258	56	301,947
26	311,260	57	295,288
27	311,259	58	298,637
28	311,261	59	294,256
29	311,260	60	298,636
30	311,263	61	298,635
31	311,257	62	301,947



16

13



Asian Population

16

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