

Good morning. My name is Mary Jensen. I currently live in the town of Manlius, NY. I have been a resident there for 21 years. Prior to that I lived in the town of DeWitt for some time. I have lived in Central New York for more than 32 years.

I am here today to let you know of my concerns about voting in this county. I have multiple concerns. My husband and I voted in the Presidential election in November 2020. On the first day of early voting, we went and stood in line for 2 hours in some moderately bad Central New York weather. Fortunately, we are able to do that. Not everyone is so lucky. While we are grateful for the option of early voting, we believe that there should be more early voting sites here in Central New York.

My next concern involves the problem of partisan gerrymandering here in Onondaga County. There are approximately 33,000 more registered Democrats than Republicans in this county. I have lived here for a long time, and was quite surprised by this because the county legislature has been controlled by Republicans for more than 30 years. In fact, Republicans outnumber Democrats 11-6 in the County Legislature. Prior to the 2019 election, 9 of the Republicans running for county office signed a pledge that they would “work to ensure fair and representative county legislature districts.” They got elected after signing the pledge, and then voted against this.

There are 6 Districts in Onondaga County that have more registered Democrats than Republicans, but have a Republican legislator. Manlius is one of these districts. Please consider the following 2 towns in our county.

	Manlius	DeWitt
Population:	32,370	25,838
Square Miles:	49.95	33.86
Zip Codes:	5	1
	(13057, 13066, 13082, 13104, 13116)	(13214)

County Legislative

Districts: 1 5

Party Affiliation of

Town Supervisor: Republican Democrat

Unless something is done to stop the politicians from choosing their voters, Manlius, with its increasing number of registered Democrats, will be gerrymandered too. That is not how democracy is going to thrive.

Additionally, when are we going to catch-up to states like Washington? My daughter lives in Seattle. She, along with all the other registered voters there, receives a ballot in the mail prior to each election. In addition to the ballot, she receives a booklet that lists the candidates, and any initiatives that are being voted upon in that cycle. She then has 2 weeks to research the initiatives, so she can vote with confidence. On more than one occasion, I have stood in the voting booth reading and re-reading something to be sure I was voting in a manner that matched my intent.

Finally, I would like to publically thank Mr. Dustin Czarny. Mr. Czarny does a tremendous job as the Onondaga County Democratic Elections Commissioner.

Thank you for your time.