

# Resolution

## In Opposition of the Newly Drawn District 3 Lines

Whereas under the City Charter, every ten years City Council district lines are required to be redrawn by the New York City Districting Commission, taking into account population changes as reflected by the most recent census,

Whereas the number-one priority of redistricting is to ensure equal representation for all citizens of New York City, and the means to this goal is in creating districts of approximately equal size,

Whereas while the City Charter allows a maximum disparity of ten percent between the most populous and the least populous of City Council districts, this disparity is allowed only if it is necessary to achieve other specified goals of the districting process, such as ensuring that communities of interest remain together, district lines are geographically compact, and minority communities are given an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice,

Whereas this allowance for disparities in population among districts is frequently abused in order to create gerrymandered districts, meaning that some groups are deprived of voting power and subsequently of political representation, while others are granted enhanced power and representation, with a recent example of this abuse being that of the New York State Senate redistricting plan, whereby the State Senate Republican majority “packed” Democratic-voting urban residents into districts with the maximum legally allowable number of voters and placed upstate Republican and suburban voters into districts with the fewest legally allowable voters in order to minimize the number of Democrats and to maximize the number of Republicans elected,

Whereas the new City Council District 3 has been drawn to be the most populous of all the 51 City Council districts,

Whereas this means that there are ten percent more residents in City Council District 3 than in City Council districts in northeastern Queens and southern Staten Island, among other places, and therefore in relation to these other districts, it requires ten percent more people on the westside of Manhattan to qualify for one vote and to have one representative on the City Council; and westside residents have ten percent less voting power in the City Council than their counterparts in the other, aforementioned districts,

Whereas there is absolutely no appropriate rationale or justification for packing extra voters into City Council District 3, as the new lines are not drawn to keep particular communities intact or to keep the district geographically compact, but serves only to dilute the voting power within this district,



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Whereas with the influx of new residents living at newly opened residential buildings located at 245 10th Ave.; 303 10th Ave.; 300 W. 18th St., 320 W. 38th St.; 350 W. 53rd St.; 401 W. 25th St.; 431 W. 37th St.; 456 W 19th St.; 500 W. 23rd St., 505 W. 37th St.; and 350 W. 53rd St., among other large residential buildings, the population of City Council District 3 may be even greater than the ten percent allowable margin for population disparity,

Whereas City Council District 3 was identified in the 2010 census as the fastest growing district in New York City; and in light of approved re-zonings, and of the great number of enormous residential-developments planned and soon to be built, City Council District 3 will likely continue to grow considerably faster than the rest of New York City, rendering it likely that the current ten percent disparity in representation and voting power will grow to at least 20 or 30 percent before the next redistricting,

Whereas the lines of the new City Council District 3 have shortchanged more than 6,000 residents of their voting power (a number greater than the population of Chelsea Elliot Housing),

Whereas on a per capita basis, the new City Council District 3 lines shortchange district residents in terms of city funding, which is split among all 51 Council districts; therefore, be it

Resolved that members of the Chelsea Reform Democratic Club demand the reduction of City Council District 3, rendering its lines consistent with the already dense and ever-growing population in this district, so that residents of the west side of Manhattan and Chelsea will again be granted representation and access to funding equal at least to that of the average New York City Council district, and returning us to a fair system of redistricting, in keeping with both the spirit and letter of the law as outlined under the New York City Charter.

Submitted by,

Chelsea Reform Democratic Club  
**Steven Skyles-Mulligan**  
Steven Skyles-Mulligan, President  
April 30, 2013