

Testimony on new congressional district map

Hello my name is Roman Zhukov. I am President of NE Phila Connected and a resident of Far Northeast Philadelphia. In my area, I see a very diverse community of more than twenty national and ethnic groups. They represent almost entire Eurasia. As an example, Indian community is 15,000 plus registered members in they association, Arab close to 17,000, Turkish and Azerbaijani communities close to 9,000 people, and post-soviet that includes Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Uzbek, Georgian, Armenian, Jewish and many thousands more.

This large immigrant population has settled from Cottman Ave in Northeast Philadelphia and goes up to Lower/Upper South Hampton, Huntingdon Valley and surrounding Borrows.

Most of the immigrants and their families either own a business or are employed at in a different county from where they reside. So, by the end of the day, their interests are split between two congressional representatives. This minimizes the interests of this diverse community by not having a representative in Washington who understands both their residential and business needs. Add on top a cultural, language and different mindsets, and you get a thousands of people to be outcast from today's society and any meaningful political impact. Thousands of voices are lost between those lines.

Having single representation of all those groups will create a stronger bond and easier assimilation to those who can be united. Shifting congressional lines beyond the county line (at least a few miles into Bucks county) will give all those immigrant groups that are seeking help and answers, and having single hub to hear them all will eliminate most of the issues they are facing in todays reality.

Covid lockdown has proven, when people are in trouble, they are seeking help. Our organization worked hard to find out our self who is responsible for each square mile to help them all, and that was not an easy task. Now imagine being brand new, legal immigrant, without any language and knowledge to seek for help. Reaching a government agency can become an almost impossible task.

To conclude my statement, I strongly recommend shifting those lines. Single representation can be a solution to those, who feels excluded. Single representation can give help or guidance on "how to" or delegate appropriate resources for almost any concern to be resolved. That will create a bond between newcomers and elected politicians, it will give them faith, that electing a person will give them a solution to upcoming issues they/we may face. A representation not just to a single soul, but their community. While it might not seem to be a problem, it's greater issue as we can think of.