

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DuWAYNE GREGORY
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
FIFTEENTH DISTRICT
15 ALBANY AVENUE
AMITYVILLE, NY 11701



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keeping Communities Whole

Gregory's Legislative Redistricting Amendment to Preserve Communities' Voices

AMITYVILLE, NY— At the Tuesday October 9th meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature in Riverhead, Majority Leader DuWayne Gregory (D-Amityville) laid on the table a bill amending the 10-year, National Census-based redistricting plan adopted by the Legislature earlier this year. Gregory's alternative proposal would keep whole the communities of Wheatley Heights and Copiague in the northern and southern portions of the 15th legislative district.

The map adopted by the Legislature splits the community of Wheatley Heights by placing the 90th election district in the 17th legislative district.

Gregory's alternative proposal (*see attached map*) does not totally disregard the plan adopted by the Legislature. That map added two election districts (34 & 37) in the Hamlet of Copiague into the 15th legislative district, thus keeping the entire hamlet whole. The "New 15th LD", as drafted by Gregory, would also keep intact the Hamlet of Copiague. Gregory currently represents only portions of Copiague already and believes it's important to preserve all voters' voices together within the like communities they reside.

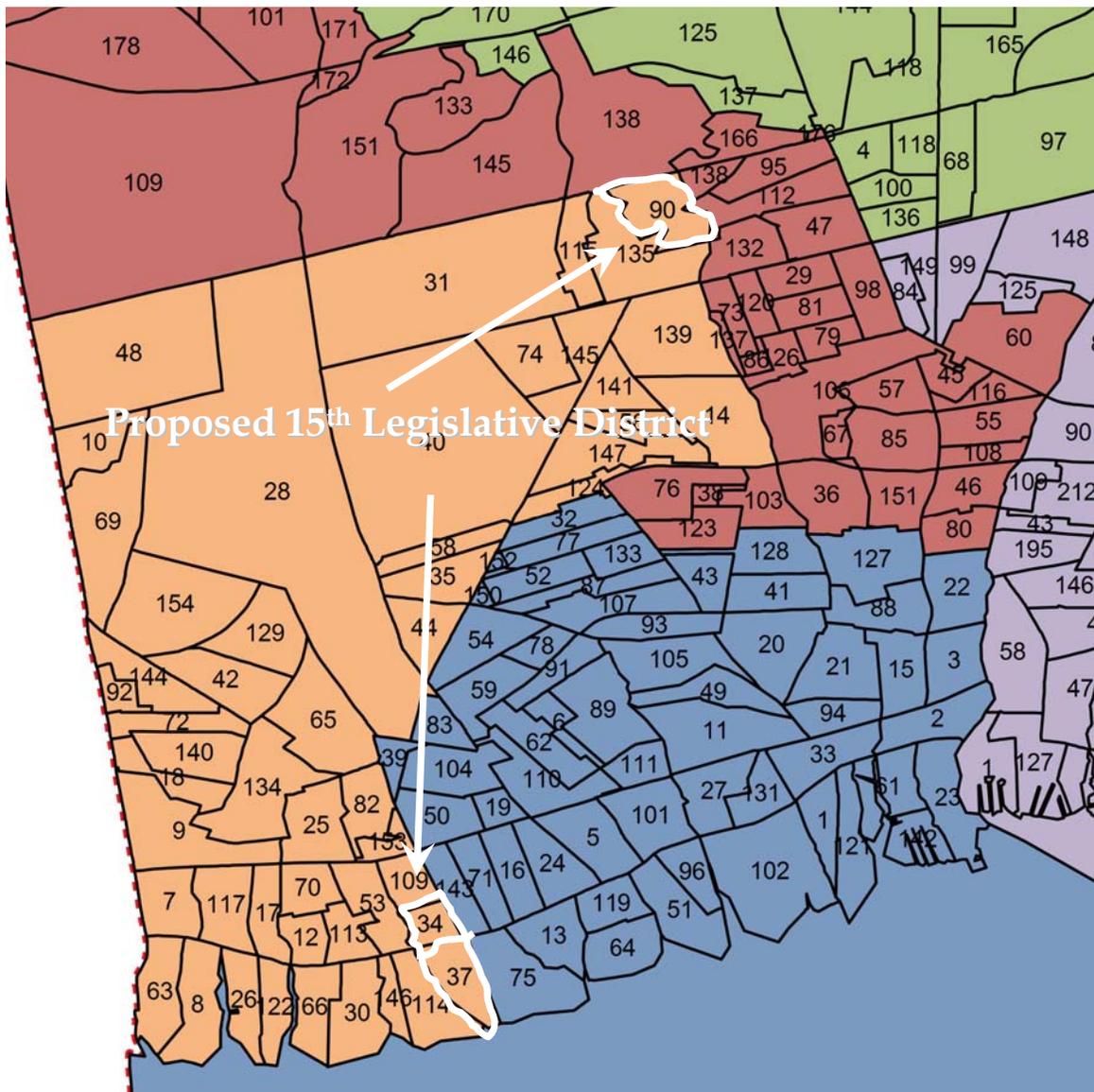
"People don't live their lives in political boundaries but in real communities," says Gregory. "My plan protects voters by keeping the voices of the communities they live in whole. That's how democracy is supposed to work."

— MORE, MORE, MORE —

24 states – including New York – make preserving "communities of interest" a common criterion when drawing legislative districts.

Gregory's legislation (IR.2005) has been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee. Because the initiative is a Local Law, a public hearing must be held and closed before any action can be taken. That public hearing is scheduled for the November 20th meeting of the Legislature at the Rogers Building in Hauppauge. Public hearings begin at 2:30 pm and are considered in numerical order that the resolutions have been assigned.

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Legislator Gregory's Proposed 15th Legislative District Additions