



SPRING VALLEY BRANCH
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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January 26, 2017

Yehuda Weissmandl , President
East Ramapo Central School District
105 So. Madison Avenue
Spring Valley, NY 10977

Dear Mr. Weissmandl:

I am writing on behalf of the Spring Valley NAACP regarding ERCSD proposed redistricting of polling sites for school district elections, voting for budgets and voting on related matters.

We are appreciative of the district's efforts to revise voting process protocol as a means to promoting community participation in local governance. In addition, we wish to express the following concerns:

- a) The revised map shows additional polling places that would alleviate overcrowding at polls where voter turnout has been significant. However, it does not reflect areas of the community where voter turnout has traditionally been low due to the difficulty people have in getting to the polls. This inaccessibility serves as a form of voter suppression in those areas.
- b) The proposal does not address the substantive issue of many voters assigned to different polling places, one for school board elections and budget votes and one for general elections. Others voters in the East Ramapo district vote at one polling place for both elections. This confusion likely suppresses voter turnout. Voters being able to go to the same polling location for both education and general elections will likely lead to greater voter turnout.
- c) Community involvement in these changes is crucial. The timeline proposed does not allow for sufficient community participation and may well be interpreted as being imposed upon them with ulterior motives involved. Therefore, we urge the district to hold off implementation of the School Election Redistricting Project for a year in order to engage community participation in making the project more responsive to the needs of the East Ramapo community.

Sincerely yours,

Willie J. Trotman

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cc: Chuck Szuberla
John Sipple
Dr. Deborah Wortham