

Bringing Council Districts to Huntington

The Concerned Citizens of  
**Huntington**

[www.concernedcitizensofhuntington.com](http://www.concernedcitizensofhuntington.com)

## Vote Yes for Council Districts December 22, 2009

**At every other level of government we rely on election districts. That is the American form of government; don't we want the same representation here in Huntington?**

The Town Council is a legislative body. All legislators need to balance the needs and interests of their constituents with the needs and interest of the Town. Only the current at-large system is out of balance because our Town Council members do not represent and are not accountable to any communities. By creating Council Districts we will create a balance and ensure that the Town Council considers the interests of our individual communities in all decisions.

### A Few Questions and Answers

**"I don't know where the District Lines will be drawn" or "Council Districts will split Communities."** By law, the district lines will be drawn by the Town Board after the measure passes. All districts must be equal in population and must be "contiguous and compact." The lines must keep the Villages intact and should keep hamlets and communities intact. The Town Board will draw the lines in an open process that will allow input from citizens and communities. Drawing new lines is nothing new. We do it every ten years for all our elected positions, so drawing lines for the districts should not present a challenge.

**"Today I can vote for four Council Members, but in a District System I can only vote for one":** We think it is better to vote for one member who is directly accountable to your community than to vote for four members who may not come from or represent your community. This is what we do at every other level of government.

**"Won't the districts pit one part of the Town against another?"** There should be debate and discussion about the different interests and needs for our different communities. That's not chaos; that's democracy. Council Districts will make sure that all communities have a say. With the 100 percent unanimous voting of the Town Council, it appears that not all communities have input or representation at Town Hall.

**"Council Districts will cost money."** This is a scare tactic. Council Districts will not add new layers, new positions, new staff or new offices. Eleven towns in New York and four on Long Island have switched to Council Districts; none of them saw tax increases because of Council Districts. **None of those eleven towns have tried to switch back.** In Brookhaven, where rival parties rarely agree on anything, all parties agree that Council Districts are the better way to go.

**"Three districts will gang up on one district."** Another scare tactic. Can the at-large members of the Town Council "gang up" or ignore a district? Districts create more representation, not less. Four Towns on Long Island have made the switch to Council Districts and **not once** has it happened that districts ganged up on one district. Don't be afraid of making a change for the better.

**"Are the Concerned Citizens of Huntington a Partisan Group?"** We are a true non-partisan group. We have not endorsed or opposed any party, candidate or other political issue. We were not involved in the recent election races. Our members and supporters come from all parties and all parts of Town.