

# Niagara County responds to new census numbers

Redistricting Commission proposes changes; hearings scheduled

BY TERRY DUFFY

Editor-in-Chief

Redistricting is underway in Niagara County.

Coming off the federal government's latest nationwide census count of the past decade, state and local officials have begun the process of getting the area's legislative districts adjusted from changes in population counts.

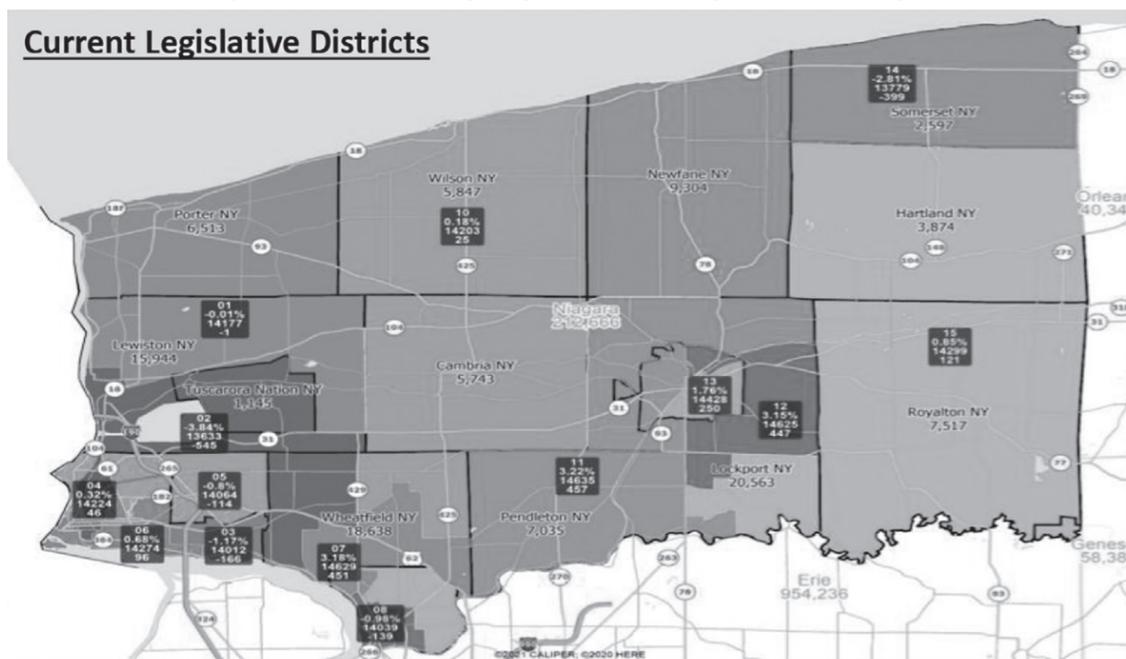
The Niagara County Redistricting Commission, appointed by the Niagara County Legislature, is now reviewing 2020 census data toward developing a plan to adjust district numbers as needed. This week, the commission members – comprised of Steve Brady, Jason Cafarella, Mary Ann Cassamento, Lauren Masse and Bradley Rowles – released a proposed map for the county's 15 legislative districts based on the new 2020 census data.

The commission also announced two public hearings for the public to comment on the plan before it is forwarded to the Niagara County Legislature.

This comes off news that Niagara County, unlike Buffalo and Erie County, has seen yet another population loss over the past decade. 2020 U.S. Census numbers show the county's population count at 212,666 residents – a drop of 3,803 from 2010.

According to the numbers:

- District 2, which includes southern Lewiston, the Tuscaro



ra Nation and parts of the Town of Niagara, saw the greatest loss, down 545 residents, or 3.8%, for a total of 13,633.

- Nearby District 1, which includes northern Lewiston, the Town of Porter and Village of Youngstown, saw a drop of one resident, down to 14,177.

- Others to experience a significant population decline include District 9 in North Tonawanda, down 533 residents (3.8%), to 13,645; District 4, Niagara Falls, down 451 residents (3.2%), to 13,727; District 14 in Somerset/

Hartland, down 399 residents (2.8%), to 13,779; and District 13 in the City of Lockport, down 147 residents (1.0%), to 14,031.

- District 12, encompassing the Town of Lockport, experienced the highest growth with 1,192 new residents (8.4%), for a total of 15,370.

As a result of the losses, the Redistricting Commission has proposed changes that will see certain county residents assigned to new districts, rather than a wholesale realignment.

“After a review of the data, (the

committee agreed unanimously to achieve compliance with the fewest changes possible,” its report said.

Brady, who is chairman of the commission, said, “The five members of the commission reviewed the initial census data and unanimously decided that, given the relative stability in population across the county and the fact the current legislative map was unanimously adopted by the Legislature 10 years ago, our focus would be to bring districts into compliance with a minimal

amount of disruption to the current district map. The map we are proposing would make no changes to 10 of the districts and only slight population adjustments to the other five.”

Under the plan, District 12, which had the highest population with 15,370 residents, will see 745 people moved to districts 13 and 15. District 6, with the second-highest population at 14,771, would see 497 people moved into District 4. No changes are planned for District 2.

The commission will hold two public hearings next week where members will present the map, explain the redistricting process and accept public comments. Hearings will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Niagara Falls City Hall Council Chambers at 745 Main St.; and 6 p.m. Wednesday in the Legislative Chambers, Niagara County Courthouse, 175 Hawley St., Lockport.

“I think it's important for the public to understand the different parameters we have to work under to ensure the redistricting map is constitutional and how that impacts our suggested district lines,” Brady said. “I look forward to their comments.”

The maps and other redistricting information can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/8ybs4v8c>.

## Wheatfield: Slight tax increase in 2022 tentative budget

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO

During Monday's Town Board meeting, Wheatfield Supervisor Don MacSwan announced the 2022 tentative budget is set to feature a slight tax increase primarily meant to cover rising costs related to garbage and recycling services. The town had also approved a similar increase last year.

Wheatfield is by no means alone when it comes to such increases, as many municipalities across Western New York have been struggling with the same service cost increases.

MacSwan read aloud a letter authored by Budget Director Ed Mongold, which briefly summarized the increases:

“Although there are still concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, I am pleased to report that the Town of Wheatfield will be providing the same services that the town has been providing in the past. However, because our costs of providing these services are increasing, the 2022 tentative budget does include a slight property tax increase of \$8.11 from \$522.90 in 2021 to \$531.01 in 2022 for a typical homeowner in the Town of Wheatfield with an assessed valuation of \$125,000 or a market value of around \$235,000. This represents an increase of 1.55% and is due primarily to the increase in garbage pickup and recycling. The cost of garbage pickup and recycling have increased by over \$310,000 since 2019.

“The total budget appropriations for 2022 have been increased by slightly over \$225,000 and estimated revenues have been increased by slightly over \$370,000. The total tax levy for 2022 is increasing \$54,562, from \$3,856,696 to \$3,911,258, or 1.41%, which is

substantially less than the statewide property tax cap of 2%.”

Afterward, MacSwan added, “So, I guess most residents are looking at a tax increase, with an assessed valuation of \$125,000, would be an \$8.11 tax increase. And again, in a nutshell, that's based on the increased cost of garbage pickup and recycling.”

A public 2022 tentative budget work session is scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13.

### Public Hearing on Marijuana Sales

The town set a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the Wheatfield Community Center (2790 Church Road) to provide the general public the opportunity to provide comments and feedback related to New York's Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). The town is seeking public comment on whether to opt-out of cannabis retail dispensaries or onsite consumption licenses from operating within the Town of Wheatfield, as outlined in section 131 of the law.

Per the law, municipalities have until Dec. 31 to opt out. In August, the nearby Town of Niagara passed a resolution (4-1) to opt out, stating it would wait until after the Association of Towns meeting, which usually takes place in February.

Preregistration for the hearing is required by calling the supervisor's office at 694-6680 or the clerk's office at 694-6441. Capacity is limited, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Face masks are required.

### Youth Center Reopened, October Activities Planned

Recreation Director Mike Ranalli announced the Youth Center has reopened as of Sept. 28.

“It's been a long break and we're happy and eager to get back into the swing of things,” he said.

Ranalli also announced a few upcoming events. On Friday, Oct. 15, the Youth Center will hold its first Nerf night of the season. Then, from 6-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, the department will host a Halloween party.

For more information, call 731-3942.

### Halloween 2021 Trick-or-Treating Hours

Speaking of Halloween, the town set trick-or-treat hours from 4-8 p.m. Sunday Oct. 31. It recommends all participants follow state and CDC guidelines and take caution in all Halloween-associated activities. It also noted, “No one in the town is required to participate. Residents who choose not to participate should turn off their porch light during trick-or-treat hours.”

## Orleans/Niagara BOCES

Now Accepting Applications For:

- Behavior Consultant
- Business Education Teacher (Substitute)
- Culinary Arts Instructor
- Music Teacher
- Special Education Teachers
- Speech-Language Pathologists (Part-time and Substitutes)
- Driver Education Instructor
- Adult Education Building Trades Instructor (Part-time)
- Adult Education Certified Nurse Assistant Instructor (Part-time)
- Adult Education English to Speakers of Other Languages Instructors (Part-time)
- Adult Education Health Occupations Instructor (Part-time)
- Adult Education Home Health Aide Instructor (Part-time)
- Adult Education HVAC Instructor (Part-time)
- Adult Education Literacy Instructors (Full-time)
- Adult Education LPN Lab and Clinical Instructor (Part-time)
- Adult Education Machine Tool and CNC Instructor (Part-time)
- Adult Education Teacher Aide/Literacy (Full-time)
- School Nurses
- Account Clerk Typists
- Keyboard Specialists (Typist)
- Secretary I
- Senior Clerk
- Teacher Aides/Personal Care Aides
- Home/Hospital Teachers (Tutors) (Part-time)
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Teacher Aides and Nurses

Please visit our web site employment page at [www.onboces.org](http://www.onboces.org)  
Retirees welcome to apply. EOE

## Real Help For Your Health

Presented by  
**Dr. Glenda R. Rose**  
Chiropractor



### Supporting Your Health

Now more than ever we need to take action to protect our health. Your survival is important to me. The answer lies in the Alternative Health care system. Some common examples of alternative health care may include **Chiropractic, Nutrition Response Testing<sup>SM</sup>, Herbalism, Naturopathy, Chinese Medicine, Homeopathy, Holistic Medicine, and Acupuncture**, to name a few. Some more common examples of Alternative Health care that you may already be using are nutrition, fitness, massage and stress reduction.

Alternative Health care offers simple, workable, effective solutions that you can utilize to help strengthen and repair your body and maintain your health during these times, when the medical system is stressed beyond capacity. Many conditions respond well to a natural, conservative approach.

I have spent the past 40 years practicing and studying to help myself, my patients, their friends, families and co-workers. I want you to know that whatever the condition, if it is not an emergency or life-threatening - **Something Can Be Done about It.**

Rose Chiropractic, P.C. is a natural health care practice focusing on health improvement through Nutrition Response Testing<sup>SM</sup> and chiropractic, located at 435 Ridge St., Lewiston. **Call 754-9039 for your personal program to improved health.**

This article is not intended to diagnose, treat or cure any disease or to make any medical claims. It does not supplant competent medical care, or dissuade anyone from seeking competent medical attention for any injury, illness, or other physical condition.