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August 5 Roundtable Update

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Census Bureau To Release Redistricting Data August 12: The Census Bureau announced today that the PL 94-171 data used for redistricting will be released in “legacy” or raw format on Thursday, August 12 at 1:00 PM eastern time. The data will be posted for downloading on the Bureau’s website. However, it will not be in a “user friendly” format, requiring expert analysis before it can be used by redistricting software.

This datafile includes block level population data from the 2020 decennial census by race, age, and ethnicity. Once the data is user-ready, users will know the new population totals for each legislative district and be able to determine how districts must gain or lose population to meet population equality requirements and other criteria, including Voting Rights Act compliance.

Independent Commission Announces Final “Listening” Hearing: The N.Y. Independent Redistricting Commission will hold a final “listening” tour hearing on Sunday, August 15 at 2:00 PM. This hearing will enable New Yorkers who were unable to testify at one of the regional hearings to testify and present their thoughts for all regions across the state. To register to testify or to view the hearing “live,” go to www.nyirc.gov

After this hearing concludes, the commission hopes to have draft maps available on September 15 (or shortly afterwards) and it will follow up with another round of public hearings beginning in mid-October.

For a copy of New York Law School’s Redistricting Primer, click here:

<https://www.nyls.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NYCRI-Redistricting-Primer-PDF-0521-v1r6-locked.pdf>

N.Y. Public Mapping Project: If your school or public interest organization is interested in participating in a redistricting mapping project to draw congressional and state legislative maps in a competition (and where maps can be submitted to the state commission for consideration), please reply to this email for more information. Free software, data, and instruction will be provided.