

12-6-2021

## December 6 Roundtable Update

Marissa Zanfardino



## **NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE**

### **Independent Redistricting Commission Completes Hearings; Mapping Work Underway**

The NYS Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) completed its series of public hearings on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. According to IRC Chair David Imamura, 12,000 people watched the hearings that were convened since the Summer months. 2,500 pages of testimony were presented to the Commission and 2,750 people registered as users on the Commission's website. There were 612 speakers across the state and over 1,150 individual submissions to the website. Overall, there were 120 maps submitted to the IRC.

The Commission will meet again on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> to consider and vote on the congressional, senate, and assembly maps to be sent to the state legislature for consideration.

The N.Y. Census & Redistricting Institute provides summaries of each IRC hearing. Past hearing summaries can be accessed at: [https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting\\_resources/](https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting_resources/). The hearing summary for the final December 5<sup>th</sup> hearing is attached to this update.

### **State Legislative Leaders Ask IRC For Speedy Action**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins sent a letter to the IRC asking the Commission to submit its map proposals to the legislature as soon as possible and well in advance of the January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 constitutional deadline. The leaders noted their concern that county election boards have enough time to prepare new election districts and that new maps may need to be finalized up to a month before petitioning gets underway for the Spring, 2022 primary. While the 2022 state political calendar has not been finalized by the State Board of Elections, the first day to circulate designating petitions falls on or about March 1, 2022.

The Leaders informed the IRC that plan submissions need to be made as soon as possible before January 15<sup>th</sup>. If the plans are submitted on that date, the earliest date that the legislature could act on the plans is January 18<sup>th</sup>. The leaders indicated their hope that new maps could be sent to the legislature by the commission by the end of 2021.

### **Syracuse Redistricting Commission Meets on December 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Syracuse Redistricting Commission meets on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The commission will hear from Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause NY.

## **Suffolk County Legislature Hearing on County Redistricting Plan on December 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Suffolk County Legislature will hold a public hearing on December 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 AM) regarding Resolution 1964-2021, a proposed local law to redistrict the current county legislative plan last enacted in 2013.

## **Albany, Troy, Schenectady Mayor Want to be Kept in One Congressional District**

The mayors of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy are banding together in an effort to keep their cities in the same congressional district. The three city leaders met at Schenectady City Hall for a press conference this past Wednesday. You can read more here: <https://www.news10.com/news/local-news/albany-troy-schenectady-mayors-want-to-be-kept-in-one-congressional-district/>.

## **Syracuse's Redistricting Commission Takes Politics Out of the Process, Uses Expert Guidance To Help Redraw Lines**

For most of the past several weeks, we've heard how the controversial redistricting process has unfolded in Onondaga County. Many might not know the City of Syracuse is redrawing council district lines using a far more independent and deliberate approach. You can read more here: <https://www.waer.org/news/2021-12-01/syracuses-redistricting-commission-takes-politics-out-of-the-process-uses-expert-guidance-to-help-redraw-lines>.

## **Redistricting Data Hub Upcoming Training**

The Redistricting Data Hub provides training on how to get involved using the data that the Redistricting Data Hub hosts, how to participate and access resources, and provides demonstrations on mapping tools that use data to draw Community of Interest and District Maps. There is an upcoming training session on Racially Polarized Voting (RPV) on issues with and guidance for using RPV data on December 6 at 1 pm. For more information please visit: <https://redistrictingdatahub.org/engage/training/>.

## **Public Mapping Project Complete**

Thank you to those of you who participated in the Public Mapping Project. Completed submissions can be found on our Digital Commons Page here: [https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting\\_resources/26/](https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting_resources/26/).

If you have any questions, please email Marissa Zanfardino at [marissa.zanfardino@law.nyls.edu](mailto:marissa.zanfardino@law.nyls.edu)

## **New York Census Data and Tools**

The New York Census and Redistricting Institute archives all of our work at our Digital Commons page that can be accessed here: [https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting\\_resources/](https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting_resources/).

CUNY Mapping Center New York Tool: The Mapping Service at the CUNY Graduate Center has launched a New York-specific version of its "Redistricting & You" online map, making it easy to compare proposed Independent Redistricting Commission proposed districts with existing lines. The map displays the "Names" and "Letters" district plans from the Commission compared with current congressional, state senate, and assembly districts. The map is fully interactive. <https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org/>

Redistricting Data Hub has new trainings, resources, news, and the state population change charts. You can access the website here: [https://redistrictingdatahub.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwtrSLBhCLARIsACh6Rmhgic5YhW2i6d-NMevsRxe4E6Hf7ge0lsOLCyX13-ERl9HWIBJuH\\_0aAsxZEALw\\_wcB](https://redistrictingdatahub.org/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwtrSLBhCLARIsACh6Rmhgic5YhW2i6d-NMevsRxe4E6Hf7ge0lsOLCyX13-ERl9HWIBJuH_0aAsxZEALw_wcB)

American Statistical Association released a Task Force Report on 2020 Census Analysis and Quality Indicators. You can access the report here: <https://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/POL-CQI-Task-Force-final-report.pdf>

### **Redistricting Primer and Informational Webinars**

Please contact Jeff Wice (by reply email) if you would like to schedule an informational webinar on the state or any local government redistricting process. A copy of the N.Y. Census & Redistricting Institute's basic primer on how New York redistricts can be accessed and downloaded here: <https://www.nyls.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NYCRI-Redistricting-Primer-PDF-0521-v1r6-locked.pdf>