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## February 28 Roundtable Update

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## **NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE**

### **New York State Redistricting Case Update: Harkenrider et al. v. Hochul et al.**

A hearing on the challenge to the new congressional redistricting plan will be held on Thursday, March 3 at 9:30 AM in State Supreme Court before Judge Patrick McAllister in Bath, NY (Steuben County). A motion is pending before the court to add a challenge to the senate map.

On February 24, the Respondents submitted responses to the petitioners (those challenging the maps). The responses included denying the allegations made by the petitioners and making several statements about population growth downstate, in mainly Democratic- leaning areas. Documents in opposition ("Memorandum of Law in Opposition") were submitted challenging the petitioners' procedural argument that the Legislature did not have the authority to enact maps. The Respondents also challenged the Petitioners' claims that the maps gave Democrats a partisan advantage. The Respondents claim that the maps actually benefit Republicans.

The Respondents also challenge the Petitioners' amendment to include the Senate maps as well as the congressional maps. The Respondents claim that there is no compelling reason for this amended complaint. In addition, Respondents also claim that the enacted Senate maps also favor Republicans, and inclusion of these maps in the complaint would cause undue delay.

The Governor and Lt. Governor also challenged their status as Respondents.

Respondents all challenged the Petitioners' request for expedited discovery.

For a more detailed account of the case updates, please see the attached summary of the pleadings.

### **Citizens Union on New York City Council Redistricting**

The Governor and Lt. Governor also challenged their status as Respondents in various documents.

Following the decennial nationwide census, the City Charter mandates that the City Council and the Mayor appoint a Districting Commission to redraw council district boundaries to reflect population and demographic changes. This year, the Districting Commission will have to draw new borders in a city that has undergone significant demographic shifts in the past 10 years. While community groups and elected officials have been focused on the state's redistricting, the city redistricting process is set to begin sooner than many expect, thanks to recent changes to the Charter mandated timeline. Citizens Union recently released a report summarizing the city process and making recommendations on the 2022 cycle. A copy is attached.

## **Albany County and Syracuse Redistricting Hearings**

Albany County's redistricting commission will hold its first public hearing on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. The Syracuse redistricting commission will open a series of public hearings on Friday, March 18 at 3:00 PM.