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March 7 Roundtable Update

Marissa Zanfardino



NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

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

On March 3, Steuben County State Supreme Court Judge Patrick McAllister permitted the challenge against the state's new congressional and state senate maps to proceed, ruling that:

- The case against the State Senate can be added to the case along with the Congressional challenge.
- The motion to dismiss with respect to the standing challenges was dismissed.
- The Governor and Lt. Governor would not be dismissed as respondents as they had requested.
- Limited discovery would be permitted must conclude by March 12.
- The 2022 elections will proceed using the new maps.

On March 1, the Petitioners submitted documents to support their position that the Congressional and State Senate maps are unconstitutional. They alleged that the maps are procedurally and substantively unconstitutional. The petitioners urged the court to pause election-related deadlines and to conduct no elections under the enacted maps. Instead, that alleged that the court should either adopt its own maps or allow a federal court to draw new maps.

The petitioners also submitted a reply by their expert witness further supporting his report that they relied on in their claims. Additionally, the petitioners submitted documents stating that the respondents have no credible basis to contest the proposed amendment to their petition including the State Senate maps and supporting expedited discovery.

On March 2, Governor Hochul and the Lt. Governor submitted a memo in support of their motion to dismiss the claims against them.

On March 3, an appeal was filed in the Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

The Respondents must submit their replies to the Senate amended complaint by March 10.

The parties will be back in court on March 14 and 9:30 am.

Judge McAllister must rule by April 4.

Please see the attached memorandum for a more detailed update.

Mayor Adams Appoints NYC Redistricting Commission Members

NYC Mayor Eric Adams appointed his seven members to serve on the city council redistricting commission today. His appointees include:

Hon. Marilyn D. Go served as a federal Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York from 1993 to 2019. She previously worked as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Civil Division of the Eastern District of New York from 1978 to 1982. She then joined the law firm Baden Kramer Huffman Brodsky & Go, where she became a partner in 1984. Go began her career as clerk for Court of Common Pleas Judge William Marutani.

Maria Mateo, Esq. is a Queens resident and attorney. She founded her firm in 2011. Previously, she worked at the Immigration Tenant Advocacy Project in 2010 and Sanctuary for Families in 2009. Before that, she worked in the Department of Domestic Violence at the Queens District Attorney's Office. Prior, she worked for the Presidency of the Dominican Republic as a bilingual attorney. She is an active member of the Latino Lawyers Association and Women's Bar Association of New York.

Joshua Schneps is the CEO and publisher of Schneps Media, run by his family, which publishes dozens of local newspapers, magazines, and local websites in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester.

Lisa Sorin serves as President of the New Bronx Chamber of Commerce. Before, she was executive director of the Westchester Square District Management Association. Prior to that, she was head of LAS Consulting Services, Inc. She holds a B.A. and an M.S. in Business Leadership from Concordia College.

Msgr. Kevin Sullivan is executive director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York. He previously served as chair of the 9/11 United Services Group, co-founded the Washington Heights-Inwood Coalition and the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, and served as co-chair of the Partnership for the homeless. Before that, he was a parish priest at St. Elizabeth's Church.

Dennis M. Walcott has served as president and CEO of Queens Public Library (QPL) since 2016. Prior to joining QPL, Walcott served as the state-appointed monitor of the East Ramapo School District. In 2014, he was named Honorary Distinguished Fellow at the University of the West Indies and he has been an adjunct professor at Fordham University's graduate program, The Fordham Center for Nonprofit Leaders. Walcott previously served as Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. Prior to his appointment as chancellor, he served as deputy mayor for education and community development.

Kai-Ki Wong is a career civil servant who most recently served as assistant chief plan examiner at the New York City Department of Buildings.

Additional members were appointed by the City Council leadership last month. The Commission will select one member to serve as Chair. Final Maps are due in December.

Tomorrow: Albany County Redistricting Commission Hearing

The Albany County Redistricting Commission will hold a virtual public hearing on Tuesday, March 8th at 4:00 PM. Persons interested in presenting testimony should send an email to redistricting@albanycountyny.gov

Professor Jonathan Krasno: Congressional Plan Not A Partisan Gerrymander

SUNY Binghamton Professor Jonathan Krasno has written a guest column explaining why the new congressional plan is not a partisan gerrymander. He argues that “if anything, the new map does only marginally better at resolving the geographical challenge posed by the concentration and location of NYC with its millions of voters.” His guest column is attached.

Please share this weekly update with your colleagues. To be added to the mailing list, please contact Jeffrey.wice@nyls.edu