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March 28 Roundtable Update

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NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

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

Last week, the Senate and Assembly Respondents submitted several documents in opposition to the petitioners' supplemental requests to alter the 2022 election timeline. They argued that this disruption would have detrimental effects to both voters and candidates, and that it would overwhelm election officials. Since the 2022 elections are already underway, the court should reject the petitioners' request to change the calendar.

NYS Board of Elections Operations Director Thomas Connolly submitted testimony outlining the disruption to the electoral process that would result from altering congressional or state senate district lines in 2022 without taking a position on the litigation. He stated that the operations of elections could be impacted and could impair ballot access and voter registration.

The petitioners responded to these claims and argued that the court could alleviate a lot of these concerns with its own schedule. They also argued that replacement maps would not take a lot of time to adopt.

On March 22, Elections Board Co-Executive Director Todd D. Valentine submitted testimony describing the ability of the county boards to run a court ordered primary election for Congressional or State Senatorial district lines in 2022. He stated that there is no real reason that election officials could not be responsive to changes.

Please see the attached memorandum for a more detailed update.

New York City Suffers Largest Population Loss From 2020 to 2021

The U.S. Census Bureau released its 2021 county level population estimates on March 24, 2022. https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/population-estimates-counties-decrease.html?utm_campaign=20220324msprts1ccpuprs&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery The New York City-Newark-Jersey City metropolitan statistical area suffered the largest population decline of any metro in the United States from 2020 to 2021, 385,455. Manhattan had the greatest percentage decline of any county in the United States, 6.9%, as well as the second-highest total decline after Los Angeles County. Brooklyn, Queens, and The Bronx were also in the ten highest percentage and total drops nationwide. Staten Island declined by a modest 2,028 individuals in comparison to the tens of thousands lost in the other boroughs. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-total.html>. Westchester County had the fifth-largest population decline of any county in New York State, with a loss of 5,350 individuals. Orange and Suffolk Counties experienced the

greatest population growth (one of the few bright spots in New York State's significant population decline), with increases of 3,203 and 2,245, respectively.

The consensus amongst demographers is that the population declines were attributable to deaths associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, delayed births as a result of the pandemic, and migration out of city centers as a result of the pandemic. <https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/03/pandemic-prompted-exodus-new-york-city-gains-upstate>; <https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/nycs-out-migration-fueled-ny-states-record-population-drop/>. This in turn contributed to the population growth in suburban, exurban, and rural areas, as workers were able to take advantage remote work opportunities. International migration to the United States has also declined significantly since the 2020 Census.

Looking across New York State at its economic development regions, this is reflected in modest growth in the Capital and Mid-Hudson regions and moderate declines in all other regions besides New York City.

Region	2020 Census	2021 Estimate	Difference	% Change
Capital	1,106,088	1,106,274	186	0.0%
Central	785,114	780,472	-4,642	-0.6%
Finger Lakes	1,222,868	1,217,005	-5,863	-0.5%
Long Island	2,921,694	2,917,251	-4,443	-0.2%
Mid-Hudson	2,398,150	2,399,452	1,302	0.1%
Mohawk Valley	483,358	480,871	-2,487	-0.5%
New York City	8,804,190	8,467,513	-336,677	-3.8%
North Country	421,694	420,358	-1,336	-0.3%
Southern Tier	640,036	635,042	-4,994	-0.8%
Western	1,418,057	1,411,675	-6,382	-0.5%

From Table 1 of "2021 County and Economic Development Regions Population Estimates" by Cornell Population Center at Cornell University. Developed using information from the U.S. Census Bureau. <https://pad.human.cornell.edu/papers/downloads/V2021highlights.pdf>

	Change between Census 2020 and 2021			
	Census 2020	Estimate 2021	Difference	
			Count	%
New York State	20,201,249	19,835,913	-365,336	-1.8%
Capital Region	1,106,088	1,106,274	186	0.0%
Central New York	785,114	780,472	-4,642	-0.6%
Finger Lakes	1,222,868	1,217,005	-5,863	-0.5%
Long Island	2,921,694	2,917,251	-4,443	-0.2%
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Capital Region, Hudson Valley Saw a Population Bump

The Capital Region was one of just two areas in the state to experience a total population gain between July 2020 and July 2021, the Center for Economic Growth noted after a study of census numbers.

The report indicates that the Capital Region's population grew 0.1 percent, roughly 1,212 people, for a total of 1,106,274.

County Specific Data

- Saratoga (+1,670)
- Greene (+609)
- Schenectady (+228)
- Columbia (+228)
- Rensselaer (-691)
- Albany, Washington, and Warren Counties also experienced population declines

New York City Redistricting Commission News

The 15 members of the New York City Redistricting Commission will be sworn in on March 29th at 6:00 PM in the City Council Chambers in City Hall.