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June 20 Roundtable Update

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NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

Nichols et al v. Hochul et al: Court of Appeals Dismisses Challenge

Petitioners Nichols appealed the Manhattan-based Appellate Division decision that permitted the use of the “procedurally defective” Assembly map for the 2022 elections. On **June 14**, the Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal on the ground that no constitutional question was directly involved. The decision is attached. Manhattan Supreme Court Judge Laurence Love will still need to address the Assembly map, possibly by appointing a Special Master to consider a new map or other option for use in the 2024 elections. Judge Love has not scheduled any further proceedings as of today.

LWV v. NYS BOE: Assembly Challenge Dismissed

The League of Women Voters appealed the denial of their petition in the Appellate Division that argued that the BOE failed to perform its duty imposed on it by law when it certified the 2022 Assembly primary ballot without first properly configuring the Assembly district maps as required by the 2014 Constitutional Amendment. On **June 14**, the Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal upon the ground that no constitutional question is directly involved. The order is attached

Governor Hochul Signs the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act

Today, Governor Hochul signed the New York Voting Rights Act into law. The law creates new legal protections against denying and abridging the right of minority New Yorkers to vote. The law creates a right of action against vote dilution (including already enacted redistricting plans). One remedy against vote dilution in the new law could also result in the creation of new districting plans or revised redistricting plans (such as moving from an at-large to single member districts). The law also creates preclearance coverage to ensure that the right to vote is not denied or abridged on account of race, color, or language-minority group as a result of the enactment or implementation of a covered policy by a local government with a history of past voting discrimination.

Dominican Bar Association Webinar on Redistricting and Local Communities

On June 22 at 7:00 pm the Dominican Bar Association is hosting a redistricting event to discuss its dangers and benefits to local communities. Latino Justice's Cesar Ruiz will present a webinar on redistricting and its importance and impact on local communities in a program sponsored by the Dominican Bar Association.

NYDLC Redistricting Webinar

The New York Democratic Lawyers Council is sponsoring a non-partisan CLE session via ZOOM on Tuesday, June 21 at 6:00 PM moderated by New York Law School's Jeff Wice who will be joined by NY Independent Redistricting Commission Chair David Imamura, litigators Fred Brewington and Jessica Amunson, NDRC's Marina Jenkins, and NYS Board of Elections Director Kristen Stavisky. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3Orgcai>