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## July 18 Roundtable Update

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## **NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE**

### ***Nichols et al v. Hochul et al: Lawsuit Challenges Assembly Map in New York County Supreme Court***

On **June 29<sup>th</sup>**, New York County Supreme Court Judge Laurance Love placed the challenge to the Assembly map on the court's active calendar. Judge Love ordered that all parties shall submit briefs and supporting materials on or before August 8. Judge Love also ordered that all parties shall appear for oral argument at 10:00 AM on August 19.

### ***Updated- Hoffmann et al v. The New York State Independent Redistricting Commission: New Lawsuit to Compel IRC to submit a Second Redistricting Plan***

On **July 14**, petitioners Anthony Hoffmann, Marco Carrión, Courtney Gibbons, Lauren Foley, Mary Kain, Kevin Meggett, Clinton Miller, Seth Pearce, Verity Van Tassel Richards, and Nancy Van Tassel, submitted a [Proposed] Amended Petition for an Order and Judgment Pursuant to Article 78 against the New York Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) to compel the IRC to submit to the legislature a second set of **congressional** redistricting plans and the necessary implementing legislation in order to ensure a lawful plan is in place immediately following the 2022 elections. The changes include altering the petition to only include claims concerning the congressional maps. Changes also include the inclusion of additional petitioners. The Albany County Supreme Court set August 12 at 9:30 am as the date to hear the Respondents. The proposed amended petition is attached.

### **Buffalo Common Council: Tensions High at Common Council Meeting Amid Opposition to Redistricting Maps**

The Buffalo Common Council postponed a vote for redistricting maps slated for July 12, holding a meeting instead to hear an opinion about the council commission's proposed map. Members from Our City Action Buffalo and other groups disrupted the meeting with chants and objections. The demonstration was in continued opposition to what some residents have called gerrymandering and a lack of transparency in the council's reapportionment plans. The Council has still yet to make any decisions on the map. For the full article visit [here](#).

### **Suffolk County Extends Redistricting Deadline**

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone is expected to issue a Certificate of Necessity that would extend the deadline for the county's redistricting commission to complete its work by

September 15th. The commission, created as part of an agreement by the County Legislature and County Executive in January, was supposed to vote on a map to be sent to the County Legislature for approval on July 15th. The commission is now expected to hold additional hearings before the new deadline.

## **New York City Council Preliminary Maps Released**

The New York City Districting Commission released a preliminary plan for new City Council districts. The Preliminary Plan is [comprised of newly drawn maps of each of the city's 51 Council districts](#).

Among the highlights of the new preliminary plan is an Asian opportunity district in South Brooklyn. It will cover parts of Sunset Park, Dyker Heights, and Bensonhurst. The Asian Voting Age Population in this district is approximately 57 percent.

A new plan is drawn every ten years following the U.S. Census. The Commission followed all requirements included in federal, state, and city law.

The city's population grew 8.2 million in 2010 to 8.8 million in 2020, according to the Census. To reflect this increase and bring the city in line with federal, state, and local laws the new plan raises the average number of residents per district from 160,710 to 172,882.

The independent Districting Commission voted on the new preliminary plan on Friday after receiving public testimony from nearly 500 city residents at public hearings held from May through July in each of the five boroughs. Testimony was heard in person and received via Zoom and email.

The maps are available for public review [online](#) and a physical copy will be displayed at the Surrogate's Court 31 Chambers Street.

Next the Commission will hold another five hearings in each of the boroughs to get public testimony on these new maps. Testimony also may be provided via Zoom during the public hearings, by email at [publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov](mailto:publictestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov), and by mail at 235 Broadway, NY, NY 10007.

## **NYC Districting Commission Hearing Notes**

Please see the attached for notes from various NYC Districting Commission public hearings held.