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August 1 Roundtable Update

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NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

Trump Administration Misled Public on 2020 Census

On July 20, US House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chair Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) released a memorandum detailing new findings on the Trump Administration's effort to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. Documents obtained by the Committee as part of a lawsuit against the Trump Administration provide new evidence that the Trump Administration saw the citizenship question as an opportunity to exclude non-citizens from reapportionment and showed that political appointees in the Commerce and Justice Departments coordinated to mislead the public about the Trump Administration's true intentions for adding the question. The press release announcing the findings (with a link to the memorandum) is available here: <https://oversight.house.gov/news/press-releases/oversight-committee-releases-new-documents-and-findings-on-trump-administration>.

An editorial from the Washington Post with stern words about the Trump Administrations efforts and support for Chair Maloney's bill to ensure a nonpartisan, accurate census count in 2030 is available here: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/07/26/trump-assault-census-must-not-happen-again/>.

Common Cause NY Offers NYC Council Redistricting Training

On Thursday, [August 4th at 5:30 pm](#) Common Cause New York will be holding a virtual New York City-specific Redistricting Workshop to go over the redistricting process. On the call, we will go over how you can easily use community mapping to analyze the proposed maps, draw your own and influence this important process. Use the hotlink to register.

Chautauqua County Redistricting

Chautauqua County Legislators will take action on two reapportionment maps when they meet on Wednesday evening in Mayville. The Legislature's four Democratic members support a proposed map that would reduce the number of legislative districts to 17. County Executive P.J. Wendel says he supports the proposal keeping the number of legislative districts at 19. For the full interview visit [here](#).

Commission Completes Redistricting Map for Dutchess Legislature

The Dutchess County Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) has completed the proposed map for the 25 seats in the county legislature. The original IRC was disbanded after then Democratic Minority Leader Rebecca Edwards appointed an ineligible person to serve as a member. Members of the disbanded IRC filed a lawsuit protesting the commission's

disbandment. This lawsuit was dismissed by Supreme Court Judge Hal Greenwald. For the full article visit [here](#).

Rockland County Legislative Districts Will Shift With Population

When Rockland's 17 county legislative districts are redrawn, Ramapo's population growth will have a huge effect. The County Legislature's Special Committee for Redistricting meets at 5 p.m. Tuesday to provide an overview of what's been accomplished to date, as well as a timeline for adopting new legislative district boundaries. Rockland County grew in the past 10 years. Its 2020 census population is 338,329, up from 311,687 in 2010. For the full article visit [here](#).

New York City Districting Commission Releases Online Software to Allow Residents to Draw Their Own City Council District Maps

The New York City Districting Commission today released a customized New York City- version of DistrictR, an online mapping tool, which will allow New Yorkers to draw their own City Council Districts -- and submit their drawings to the Commission as their public testimony. The City is in the middle of the mapmaking process. A new City Council plan is drawn every ten years following the U.S. Census to bring the city into compliance with the Constitutional doctrine of one- person, one vote, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the charter of the City of New York.

DistrictR, accessible through the Commission's website at nyc.gov/districting, allows individuals to draw maps like the city's mapmakers do. The software gives every New Yorker access to data and mapping capabilities like those used by the Commission. This includes population data, census blocks, citizen voting age population data by race, existing Council district lines, Community Board boundaries, and the new five percent population deviation legal requirement.

Next, the Commission will hold another five hearings in each of the boroughs to get more public testimony on the Preliminary Plan. The hearings are scheduled for Aug. 16, 17, 18, 21 and 22. Testimony may be provided via Zoom, in person during the public hearings, and by email at PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov, and by mail at NYC Districting Commission, 253 Broadway, 3rd Floor, NY, NY 10007. The public can submit their DistrictR maps to the Commission by simply hitting "save" on DistrictR and emailing their maps to the Commission at PublicTestimony@redistricting.nyc.gov. The final maps are anticipated to be completed by December 2022.

Buffalo Redistricting Could be a 'Test Case' For New Voting Rights Law

The Buffalo Common Council postponed a vote for several weeks on its redistricting maps as protesters objected to the map, claiming gerrymandering, incumbency protection and failure to properly represent neighborhoods. The council voted earlier this month to approve only slightly amended lines, arguing in part it had limited options under the city charter, with its Commission on Reapportionment concluding work and submitting a map earlier this year. The Council is planning on taking public comment during another scheduled hearing on August 3.

If the maps as is are approved, Our City Action has suggested it will look for a legal remedy. Buffalo may have the opportunity to be an interesting test case for the state's new John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act. The law the governor signed in June is intended to protect voters

from suppression in jurisdictions with a history of voting and civil rights violations. For the full article visit [here](#).