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## October 17 Roundtable Update

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## **NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE**

### **Albany County Legislature Sends Map Back To Commission**

On October 11th, the Albany County Legislature sent a draft county legislative map back to the county's redistricting commission on a 24-15 vote. The legislature's leadership maintained that the map might dilute minority voting strength in Albany City. In 2015, a federal court found the county to have violated the federal Voting Rights Act in the last redistricting a decade ago and ordered that at least 5 minority districts be created. While 5 minority-preferred candidates have been elected since 2015, a 2022 expert racial voting analysis prepared for the commission indicated that racially polarized voting in the county was still prevalent and that a total of 5 districts could be created that would likely continue to elect minority-preferred candidates but that an additional 2 districts could be created offering the potential for minority-preferred candidates to be elected. Despite the expert analysis, the county legislature rejected the proposed plan and asked the commission to go back and consider a new plan with fewer minority districts, opening the door to possible racial packing.

The Commission will meet to discuss "next steps" on October 17th at 7:30 PM.

### **Monroe County Executive Releases Redistricting Analysis**

Monroe County Executive Adam Bello released a report produced by voting rights expert Dr. Lisa Handley analyzing voting patterns by race in recent Monroe County elections. Dr. Handley's research concluded that there are currently 5 legislative districts (22,25,27,28,29) in which black voters are electing their candidates of choice. A sixth district (LD 21) sometimes elects the preferred candidate of the black community. Last week, County Executive Bello weighed on the ongoing Monroe County Legislature redistricting process, calling for a restart to a process marred by name-calling and divisive rhetoric and announcing that his administration would produce a redistricting a map using the data analysis conducted by Dr. Handley that is compliant with all applicable legal requirements under federal, state, and local law, including the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act that seeks to create six effective black districts if possible.

### **Zoom Event on Buffalo Redistricting Tonight**

Buffalo to Syracuse: The Fight for Fair Maps

At 5:30 PM tonight, a ZOOM event is being held to look at the recent Buffalo City Council redistricting. You can view the event here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wlgR85JpT7ml4CYIq1PNFw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wlgR85JpT7ml4CYIq1PNFw)

Last month, Syracuse made history by approving the first resident-drawn district maps in New York State. It's the first time in 30 years the city will be getting new maps, made possible by resident activists and Syracuse Commissioners working together to do what's best for the people.

Join a discussion with Syracuse Commissioners, Common Cause/NY, Buffalo's Jim Anderson, OCAB member leaders, and others as we explore the importance of redistricting, and the power of co-governance in moving our cities forward.

## **U.S. Census Bureau Brooklyn Census 2030 Workshop**

The U.S. Census Bureau, currently in its planning stages for the 2030 Census, has published a Federal Register Notice to solicit direct input from partners and the public on several topics regarding the design of the 2030 Census.

To supplement this effort, the U.S. Census Bureau is planning a series of six in-person workshops throughout the country, one of which will be held in Brooklyn. These workshops are an opportunity for you and your community to interact with other participants and Census Bureau officials to share ideas for shaping the next decennial census.

All comments received as part of the FRN process, including feedback received during these workshops, will be summarized and shared publicly.

**This in-person workshop is primarily focused on Brooklyn and is intended for Brooklyn activists and census-involved organizations.**

Host: Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

Co-Host: NY Census & Redistricting Institute, New York Law School

Date: Monday, October 24, 2022

Time: 1:00pm-3:00pm

**FOR MORE INFORMATION and/or to REGISTER CLICK HERE:** [2030 Census Workshop New York Region](#)

## **Census Bureau Releases Operational Census Metrics**

In a surprise but welcome move, the US Census Bureau has released operational census metrics at the county and tract level. This information will aid community organization efforts to determine the effectiveness of their census outreach. Information is broken down by self-response (and additionally by internet self-response by physical address) and, for non-responses, household interview, proxy, and administrative records. Non-responses do not add up to 100%, likely because of the Census Bureau's anonymization practices. County level data also contains information about what percent of the population was imputed. Additional information is available at: [https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/2020-census-operational-quality-metrics.html?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2022/2020-census-operational-quality-metrics.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

## **Upcoming Redistricting Hearings**

### Nassau County

The county's advisory redistricting commission has scheduled the following public hearings to hear public comments about redistricting. All of the meetings begin at 6:00 PM.

Oct. 20 at Albany Avenue Community Center, 214 N. Albany Ave., North Massapequa;

Oct. 25 at Elmont TBA;

TBA at Hicksville.

## **Redistricting Institute Resources**

The New York Census and Redistricting Institute has archived many resources for the public to view on our Digital Commons Page.

Our Redistricting Resources page contains notes from previous NYC Districting Commission hearings as well as resources on the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act. You can access the page here: [https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting\\_resources/](https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting_resources/)

Our Redistricting Roundtable Updates page contains all archived Roundtable Updates. You can access the page here: [https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting\\_roundtable\\_updates/](https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting_roundtable_updates/)