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December 18 Roundtable Update

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NEW YORK REDISTRICTING ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

The Redistricting Roundtable Update will not be published next week. The next issue will come out in early January.

Rockland County Legislative Map Challenged

Acting as his own attorney, a local activist has filed a motion in state court (*Parietti v Day et al*) to invalidate the county's recently enacted county legislative map. Michael Parietti argues that the map was drawn to benefit incumbent legislators and to strengthen the influence of the county's large Hasidic Jewish community at the expense of other communities.

State Court Rejects County Legislative Map

On December 13th, Judge Bryant in Ulster County State Supreme Court rejected the county's legislative map over the failure to follow new state criteria included in a law enacted in 2021. The county had refused to redraw the map even after it was discovered and acknowledged that the map's districts went over the maximum 5% deviation limit. The court has given the county's redistricting commission until January 3rd to come up with a new map. The court is also considering the appointment of a special master to draw a map if the county fails to do so itself. The case is *Kruglinski et al v. Contreras*.

Another Monroe County Lawsuit Filed

In addition to an already pending case, another challenge has been filed in the western district U.S. Federal Court asking the court to appoint a special master to redraw the Monroe County Legislature's map. The complaint alleges that the county has violated the 14th amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the federal Voting Rights Act, the state constitution (even though the state constitution does not govern county redistricting), and the state Municipal Home Rule Law.

Common Cause NY's 2023 Election Law Priorities

Common Cause/NY released its 2023 election-related priorities last week. Those include repealing resolutions calling for an Article V convention, reforming the Board of Elections (as well as fully funding local ones), expanding voting rights, and more. You can see the complete list here: <https://bit.ly/3G2VFXy>

In Other Related News:

Independence Can't Be Used As Party Name: Governor Hochul signed legislation (A.1819A) that restricts the use of "independence" or "independent" on the election ballot to help reduce voter confusion when they intend to be truly independent voters and not registered with a party using the word as a political party name. In past years, many voters registered with or supported candidates running on the "Independence Party" line, thinking that the line was for independent voters.

"A party known for preying on independently-minded New York voters to inflate its rolls should have no place in our democratic system," said state Sen. James Skoufis, a Democrat from the Hudson Valley who sponsored the measure with Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz of the Bronx (and as quoted in NY State of Politics.)

The use of "American," "United States," "National," "New York State," and "Empire State" are also prohibited.

New Chief Judge Nomination: Governor Hochul has until Friday to nominate a new Chief Judge of the State Court of Appeals. The new chief could be expected to rule on redistricting appeals in the *Hoffman* (congressional) and *Nichols* (state assembly) appeals, determining whether to follow the *Harkenrider* precedent that prevents the legislature from enacting new maps unless the Independent Redistricting Commission completes its tasks or taking another approach, perhaps providing greater flexibility to the legislature. The Governor's nomination goes to the state senate where early session confirmation is required.

Independent Redistricting Commission Assembly Hearing Schedule

Monday, January 9, 2023

5:00 PM

Buffalo Public Hearing

Location: Buffalo State College (SUNY)

Burchfield Penney Art Center 1300 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo, New York 14222

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

5:00 PM

Rochester Public Hearing

Location: Rochester EOC (SUNY UCAWD)

Multi-Purpose Room 161 Chestnut Street Rochester, New York 14604

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

5:00 PM

Syracuse Public Hearing

Location: Syracuse University College of Law

Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom Dineen Hall, 950 Irving Avenue Syracuse, New York 13210

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

5:00 PM

Albany Public Hearing

Location: *University at Albany (SUNY)*

Page Hall - Downtown Campus 135 Western Avenue Albany, New York 12203

Monday, January 30, 2023

4:00 PM

White Plains Public Hearing

Location: *Haub School of Law at Pace University*

Gerber Glass Moot Courtroom 78 North Broadway White Plains, New York 10603

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

4:00 PM

Bronx County Public Hearing

Location: *TBD*

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

4:00 PM

New York County Public Hearing

Location: *Hunter College (CUNY)*

*Kaye Playhouse (entrance between 68th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues)
New York, New York 10065*

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

4:00 PM

Richmond County Public Hearing

Location: *TBD*

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

4:00 PM

Kings County Public Hearing

Location: *Medgar Evers College (CUNY)*

Room TBD Brooklyn, New York 11225

Thursday, February 16, 2023

4:00 PM

Queens County Public Hearing

Location: *Queens Borough Hall*

*Helen Marshall Cultural Center 120-55 Queens Boulevard Kew Gardens, New York
11424*

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/

Our Redistricting Roundtable Updates page contains all archived Roundtable Updates. You can access the page here: https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/redistricting_roundtable_updates/

Please share this weekly update with your colleagues. To be added to the mailing list, please contact Jeffrey.wice@nyls.edu

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