NEW YORK STATE
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The following document shares high-level themes and key points that were raised during the summer listening sessions planned by the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission. It also provides a list of organizations in each region that were identified during the speakers' testimony and attempts to capture the communities of concerned that were named.

To watch or listen to the listening sessions, visit NYS Independent Redistricting Commission - YouTube

Nassau/Suffolk Key Takeaways: There were many, many requests for the process to respect school district lines in drawing Senate and Assembly districts. Relatively few (compared to hearing speakers in the Queens session) said they were affiliated with a civic organization. While Nassau and Suffolk have many Black and Latinx communities that have long complained about their district lines, not very many of the speakers were BIPOC themselves, although several of the White speakers commented on the obvious "packing and cracking" of BIPOC communities in the existing district lines. Many speakers named specific towns that were split in half by district lines. It wasn't just low-income places that had issues, several people from middle-class communities said they didn't want to be grouped with wealthy areas because their concerns were very different.

Organizations Named:

- Delta Sigma Theta
- Elmont Cultural Center
- League of Women Voters Nassau
- Make the Road NY
- Mapping Our Future Coalition (New York Immigration Coalition)
- Sayville Citizens for Grassroots Activation
- SEPA Mujer

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- Bayshore (divided)
- Bayville (divided)
- Brentwood (divided) (2)
- Elmont (divided)
- Freeport (divided)
- Hempstead (the town's 5 villages Lawrence, Cedarhurst, Woodmere, Hewlett and Inwood get are divided)
- Hicksville (gerrymandered) (2)
- Lake Ronkonkoma (should be grouped with Ronkonkoma)
- Long Beach (not compact, don't consider school district lines)
- Riverhead (divided)
- Rockville Center (over-population creates dilution)
- Sayville (divided)
- Stony Brook (it has three villages, which are divided)

Queens Key Takeaways: Clearly APA Voices had worked hard to get a lot of people to come out and state their priorities, and creating a set of districts that brings together the South Asian dominated communities of Richmond Hill and Ozone Park is at the top of the list of priorities. Perhaps not surprisingly, this was the most diverse hearing of the first three, still, there were vast swaths of Queens that were not discussed or represented at all. The borough is about 25% White, 21% Black, 28% Hispanic and 27% Asian, but the discussion and speaker representation was heavily weighted toward the concerns of Asian communities – in part because those communities have been specifically cracked and gerrymandered in the past. Nonetheless, it would be valuable to hear more from neighborhoods where there are concentrations of Hispanic and Black communities because they are also affected by oddly drawn districts.

Organizations Named:

- AALDEF / Unity Mapping Coalition
- *Asian* American Community *Coalition* on Redistricting and Democracy (*ACCORD*)
- APA Voices Redistricting Coalition (4)
- Caribbean Equality Project
- Central Queens Redistricting Coalition (3)
- Hispanic Federation
- Jahajee Sisters
- Korean Community Services
- Minkown Center
- South Asian Community Services

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- Bay Terrace (gets attached to Congressional Dist. mostly in Nassau, ignored by Rep.)
- Bayside & Auburndale (should be kept whole)
- Central Queens (including Forrest Hills) (should be its own district)
- Dutch Kills/Long Island City – AD-37 (gerrymandered)
- Eastern Queens – Senate Dist. 11 (Senate and Assembly districts are drawn to crack Asian communities and unite White ones) (2)
- Elmhurst (divided)
- Flushing (should remain the center of any district) (2)
- Glen Oaks to Briarwood (keep together)
- Glen Oaks and nearby communities (large South Asian populations are split up)
- Jackson Heights & Elmhurst (very different and should NOT be grouped together)
- Jackson Heights-Elmhurst-Corona should be kept together for districts
- Jamaica (keep this a center of a districts)
- Kew Gardens Hills (Orthodox community should not be split apart and should be grouped with Jewish neighborhoods to the East of it)
- North Queens/Central Queens – AD-27 (gerrymandered runs vertically from College Point down to Kew Gardens)
- Northern Corona and Jackson Heights (its Latinx populations should be kept together)
- Rego Park in Central Queens (divided, no representation living in its split districts) (5)
- Richmond Hill (should be its own district) (2)
- Richmond Hill & Ozone Park (should be together and a South Asian CoI) (9)

- Southern Queens (divided)
- Sunnyside (divided, and should be grouped with Astoria and Woodside)
- *Other:* Large and growing South Asian communities or Queens constitute a separate CoI and have large enough populations for distinct districts.

Manhattan/Bronx Key Takeaways: This session was completely dominated by people wanting to maintain the voting power (and cohesive districts) of the West Side of Manhattan. There was very little input from the Bronx – only one expression of keeping Dominican neighborhoods of South Bronx and Upper Manhattan connected and one voice for moving one small central Bronx neighborhood into a different district. There were several calls for keeping the portion of the Lower East Side connected to Sunset Park (Congressional District 7), which had support from both APA Voices folks as well as Latinx folks.

Organizations Named:

- AALDEF/Unity Mapping Coalition
- APA Voices (2)
- Chinese Progressive Association
- Dominicanos USA
- NY Immigration Coalition/Mapping Our Future

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- 29th Senate District – Small portion of UWS, East Harlem and South Bronx (gerrymandered district groups communities that don't belong together)
- 32nd Senate District in the Bronx (is totally gerrymandered)
- Bronx (is generally gerrymandered for Senate and Assembly districts).
- Chinatown (should not be divided in any district) (2)
- Lower East Side is linked to Chinatown (is rightly connected to Sunset Park)(4)
- Park Chester and East Chester in the Bronx (keep together)(2)
- Pelham Parkway communities (not clear what neighborhoods, should be kept together)
- South Bronx and Upper Manhattan (should stay together in Congressional district)
- South Street Seaport (should be connected to Wall Street and Battery Park in all districts)
- Upper East Side (all the medical institutions of the UES should be kept together in a single Congressional district)
- Upper West Side (its Senate districts are chopped up into numerous districts)
- Upper West Side should be connected to Brooklyn Heights (because of Jewish populations)
- West Side of Manhattan (keep entire West side together from UWS to Battery Park, Separate from East Side) (13) (+1 include Morningside Heights)
- Van Nest in the Bronx (has always been considered part of the East side of Bronx but split in 2 assembly districts, Senate districts also split it)

Brooklyn/Staten Island Key Takeaways: The vast majority of voices for this two-borough session were from Brooklyn. The relatively few voices from Staten Island were those calling for districts that rectify the division of North Shore communities that split POC voting power in Assembly and Senate districts. There were several themes that were frequently voiced in Brooklyn. A few were voiced in the context of keeping an incumbent in office, e.g. keeping the district that pairs Staten Island and a few select communities of Southern Brooklyn together, as well as Congressional Districts 9 and 10. But the much larger number of voices asked for (1) most prominently, calls for Senate and Assembly districts that

unite the growing Asian communities of Sunset Park-Bensonhurst-Homecrest-Sheepshead Bay (these speakers also frequently noted the natural tie to Manhattan's Chinatown and the desire to keep that Congressional district as it is); Jewish communities asking to keep the 10th Congressional District that is gerrymandered to tie together the Upper West Side of Manhattan to Borough Park section to form a "the most Jewish congressional district in the United States"; (3) voices from current Congressional District 9 centering Crown Heights asking that it stay mostly as it is now centering the Afro-Caribbean community; and (4) many in Bay Ridge's Muslim community asking that it no longer be divided up among various districts, which has diluted its voting power and representation.

Organizations Named:

- AALDEF / Unity Maps Coalition
- APA Voice (2)
- Arab American Association of Bay Ridge
- Borough Park Jewish Community Council
- Center for Law & Justice at Medgar Evars College/Unity Maps Coalition (2)
- Draw Democracy NYC (2)
- Dyker Heights Community Civic Assoc.
- El Puente de Williamsburg
- EmGage NY Metro
- Jewish Community Alliance
- Latino Justice/PERLDEF
- Make the Road NY
- Muslim Sisters of Staten Island
- NAACP Brooklyn
- NAACP Staten Island (2)
- New York Immigration Coalition / Mapping Our Future (4)
- New York Jewish Agenda
- New Yorkers for Fair Districts (Common Cause initiative?)
- United Jewish Associations
- Yalla Brooklyn
- Yemeni Americans Merchants Assoc.

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- 20th Senate District (gerrymandered)
- 23rd Senate District (gerrymandered/splits Latino neighborhoods)
- 25th Senate District (gerrymandered)
- 8th&9th Congressional Districts (keep as is) (7)
- 8th Congressional District (is gerrymandered and picks up parts of South Brooklyn it shouldn't)
- Arlington & Port Ivory on Staten Island (should be kept together)
- Bay Ridge (should have its own Senate district, Arab communities split into multiple Assembly districts) (5)
- Bed-Stuy/Crown Heights/Williamsburg (should be drawn together to create a Yiddish-speaking CoI)
- Bed-Stuy/Crown Heights (is a majority Black neighborhood, and district lines should reflect that)
- Borough Park (should stay connected to UWS in 10th Congressional District) (4)

- Borough Park (should NOT stay connected to UWS in 10th Congressional District, gerrymandered) (2)
- Borough Park (split into several Senate districts) (2)
- Brighton Beach & Sheepshead Bay (Russian populations are split across Assembly Districts, should be kept whole)
- Brownsville (divided, should be kept whole in districts, its hospital is in a separate district) (2)
- Crown Heights (is the center of the Caribbean community and should be the center of majority Black districts) (2)
- Flatbush (its Jewish population is a CoI, and should be paired with Russian populations nearby) (2)
- Flatbush (is a Caribbean neighborhood and should be paired with other Black CoIs)
- North Shore of Staten Island (split into 2 Assembly districts and disenfranchised) (2)
- Ocean Hill & Brownsville (should be drawn together into districts)
- Southwest Brooklyn (should stay connected to Staten Island for congressional district) (3)
- Southwest Brooklyn (should NOT stay connected to Staten Island for congressional district)
- Sunset Park (is split up in many state districts, keep whole) (2)
- Sunset Park (Asian populations should be drawn together with those of Bensonhurst, Homecrest and Sheepshead Bay for senate district) (6)
- Sunset Park (should be kept together with Chinatown for congressional district) (3)
- Williamsburg & Bushwick (in North Brooklyn should be grouped with Ridgewood, Queens)

Mid-Hudson Valley/Capital District Key Takeaways: There were very few voices from the Capital District, the vast majority were from "Mid-Hudson Valley," although some in Westchester County seemed to question whether lower Westchester was really part of "Mid-Hudson" or had more in common with the NYC region. Those few in Capital District emphasized their desire to keep counties above and near Albany grouped together and not part of a North Country Congressional district. In Mid-Hudson, the largest number of voices were for creating districts that better represent the interests of Ramapo, which is currently split across several Assembly districts. There were several voices from Northern Westchester saying their interests are very different from that of Southern Westchester. And in Southern Westchester, several speaking for keeping certain communities grouped together in districts, such as the villages within the town of Greenburgh (Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Elmsford, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington and Tarrytown); Pelham Manor & Mount Vernon; and White Plains-Scarsdale-Ardsley-Hartsdale-Edgemont. Several also said Orange County should be kept whole (and separate from Westchester).

Organizations Named:

- American Latino Coalition
- Delta Sigma Theta
- JCC Rockland
- League of Women Voters Saratoga Co.
- League of Women Voters Westchester
- Make the Road NY

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Montgomery counties (should stay together in a single Congressional district)
- Greenburgh (town of), Westchester Co. (its 7 villages are split up and should be drawn together) (2)
- Hastings-on-Hudson, Westchester Co. (the river towns all have similar interests, leave districts as they are)
- Orange county (should be its own unified district)
- Ossining (doesn't belong in the district it is grouped with across the river)
- Ossining (split into multiple Assembly districts)
- Mount Kisco (keep Congressional district as is)
- New Castle, Westchester Co (has been split apart)
- Pelham/Pelham Manor (should not be grouped with NYC districts)
- Putnam county (is split for partisan advantage)
- Ramapo, Rockland County (the Orthodox communities centered around here are split into numerous districts) (9)
- Saratoga County (has population of a level of 1.5 assembly districts, please divide no more than once, rather than the 4 districts it is. Most folks in area are oriented toward Capital District rather than North Country)
- Scarsdale (should be kept whole in all districts)
- Stony Point in Orange County (should not be grouped with Westchester)
- Ulster County (split into multiple Senate and Assembly districts) (2)
- Ulster County (is rural has more in common with NYC-city/suburb region than rural upstate)
- Washington County (its 17 towns split across many districts. For Congressional districts, should be grouped with Warren, Rensselaer counties rather than the North Country regions).
- Westchester County (its large prison populations should NOT be counted in its districts)
- Westchester County (North part of county very different from South part, North part should be grouped with Putnam County) (2)
- White Plains & New Rochelle (should be drawn together)
- White Plains, Scarsdale, Ardsley, Hartsdale, Edgemont etc. (are one community but divided across congressional districts)

North Country / Mohawk Valley Key Takeaways: Only three people testified, no real themes. Keep towns whole. Don't cut slivers of counties to go into other districts. Don't group Mohawk Valley with areas to the West.

Organizations Named:

- None

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- Herkimer County (is split apart)

Southern Tier / Central NY Key Takeaways: This hearing had a pretty light turnout, but with very strong support for preserving an all-rural district (the current 23rd) in its current basic configuration and NOT being tied to any cities (Ithaca, the largest city in the current district, has a population of about 30,000). But there were also several voices saying that the counties linking Ithaca and Binghamton (Tompkins,

Tioga, Courtland and Broome) have a lot in common with a lot of commuters back and forth, and therefore should be grouped together, not with Western NY counties.

Organizations Named:

- Community Foundation of Elmira Corning and the Finger Lakes
- Corning Community College
- Three Rivers Development Corp.

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- 23rd Congressional District (Please preserve majority-rural composition, don't group with cities)
- Ithaca (Cornell University is split across districts)(7)
- Corning (Keep in a majority rural district, not grouped with any city)
- Corning (The 3 counties surrounding it (Steuben, Chemung & Schuyler Counties) should not be separated) (3)
- Jamestown (Keep in a majority rural district, not grouped with any city)
- Madison County (keep its districts as they are)
- Syracuse (Syracuse University is split across districts)
- Tioga County, Owego, Village (don't split, linked to the Susquehanna Valley, Binghamton and Ithaca)
- Tompkins County (Ithaca area cracked into multiple districts, keep intact. Tompkins Co has most in common with Courtland County, so should be linked.
- Tompkins (Ithaca), Tioga, Courtland and Broome (Binghamton) Counties form a community of interest (academic, tourism, economic interests) (4)

Finger Lakes & Western NY Key Takeaways: Among those living in Chautauqua County, there is a clear split between those who think the three most Southwestern NY counties should be grouped with only rural counties to the East or in an all-Western district that might include urban areas of Erie County. Rochester appears to be ground zero for unfair Assembly and Senate district maps, not just the city itself, but the counties surrounding it also have many complaints about how they are grouped in illogical ways in various directions.

Organizations Named:

- Access of Western New York
- Delta Sigma Theta Rochester
- NYIC / Mapping Our Future (2)
- League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara
- League of Women Voters Rochester
- League of Women Voters Tomkins County
- Push Buffalo

Communities of Concern Named (# of times mentioned):

- 56th Senate District (is gerrymandered to disempower BIPOC communities of Rochester) (2)
- 138th Assembly District (is gerrymandered with a "lemur tail" that wraps around Rochester and disenfranchises voters of the city)
- 26th Congressional District (keep as is, don't include any outer ring suburbs or rural)
- Auburn & Oswego (should be paired together in districts)

- Buffalo & Niagara (constitutes a region that has many shared concerns)
- Chautauqua County (DON'T link with Buffalo, link with only rural counties) (3)
- Chautauqua County (DO place in a Western-NY centered district when drawn to standards of compactness and competitiveness, not a sprawling Southern Tier) (2)
- Chautauqua County (should always be grouped with Cattaraugus & Allegany Counties in districts) (2)
- Livingston County, (directly south of Monroe County, but gets put in districts that align with Erie County, should be linked to Rochester.
- Mount Morris, NY (should not be districted out of the Senate district)
- North Tonawanda (Should be grouped with Niagara County (which it is located in), not Erie County).
- Penfield & Webster outside Rochester (should be paired together)
- Rochester (is divided into multiple districts, specifically cracks BIPOC communities) (3)
- Williamson, NY in Wayne County (is part of Greater Rochester Area but put into the Congressional district of Syracuse)