



# New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

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January 4, 2024

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**Statement from the New York Independent Redistricting Commission  
on the passing of Commissioner Dr. John Flateau**

It is with extreme sadness that we announce the passing of Commissioner Dr. John Flateau, on the morning of December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Dr. Flateau was a dedicated member of this Commission since its founding, marking his sixth cycle of redistricting work in the state of New York. The entire Commission is lucky to have benefitted from his enormous experience with voting and civil rights, his knowledge of New York political history, and his great sense of humor. *“John leaves behind a significant legacy, and I am committed to embracing and carrying it forward. His enduring impact will be remembered”* said Chairman Ken Jenkins. In New York’s redistricting history, Dr. Flateau’s legacy has indelibly changed the way New Yorkers are represented for the better, beginning with his success in the landmark federal case in 1982 *Flateau v. Anderson*. Additionally, Dr. Flateau served as a Commissioner on the New York City Districting Commission in the 2002-2003 cycle, as well as served as its Executive Director from 2022-2023.

Beyond his many contributions to the field of redistricting, Dr. Flateau was a tenured professor at Medgar Evers College (CUNY), where he was the first Director of the DuBois Bunche Center for Public Policy and served as the chair of the Public Administration department. He had dedicated his life to public service, serving as Chief of Staff to Mayor David Dinkins, aide to Assemblymember Al Vann, Executive Director of the New York State Black, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus. He proudly served as a Commissioner on the New York City Board of Elections, and was senior vice president of the Empire State Development Corporation. Dr. Flateau also was the author of *Black Brooklyn: The Politics of Ethnicity, Class and Gender*. He received his bachelors degree from New York University, and his PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center. Beyond his great professional legacy, Dr. Flateau was known amongst many New Yorkers for his generosity of knowledge and great sense of levity he brought to this work. The entire state of New York is a better place because of the work Dr. Flateau has done, and he will be greatly missed. In the words of Dr. Flateau, “power to the people!”